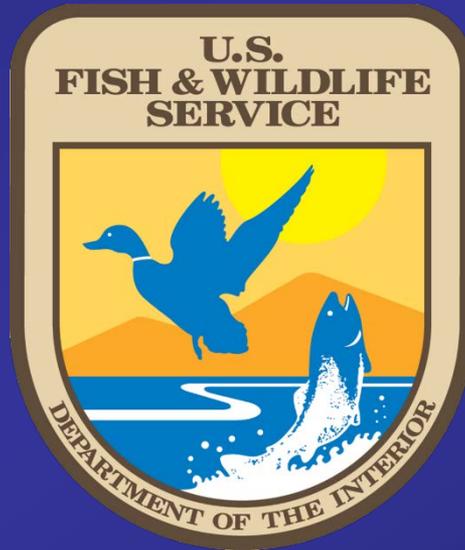


U.S. Ports of Entry: Balancing Border Security and Customer Service



Luis Santiago
Special Agent in Charge
Southeast Region

USFWS Wildlife Inspectors: Part of the front line securing U.S. borders



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mission

Working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.



History of Wildlife Inspection Program

- Wildlife Inspection Program created over 40 years ago
- Wildlife Inspectors facilitate the movement of legal wildlife shipments, while ensuring compliance with U.S. laws and international wildlife treaties
- Provide a deterrent against the smuggling of wildlife
- Work closely with all government and non-government organizations involved in international trade issues



Wildlife Inspectors

- 116 Wildlife Inspectors
- 7 K-9 teams
- 15 Supervisory Wildlife Inspectors
- 4 Senior Wildlife Inspectors



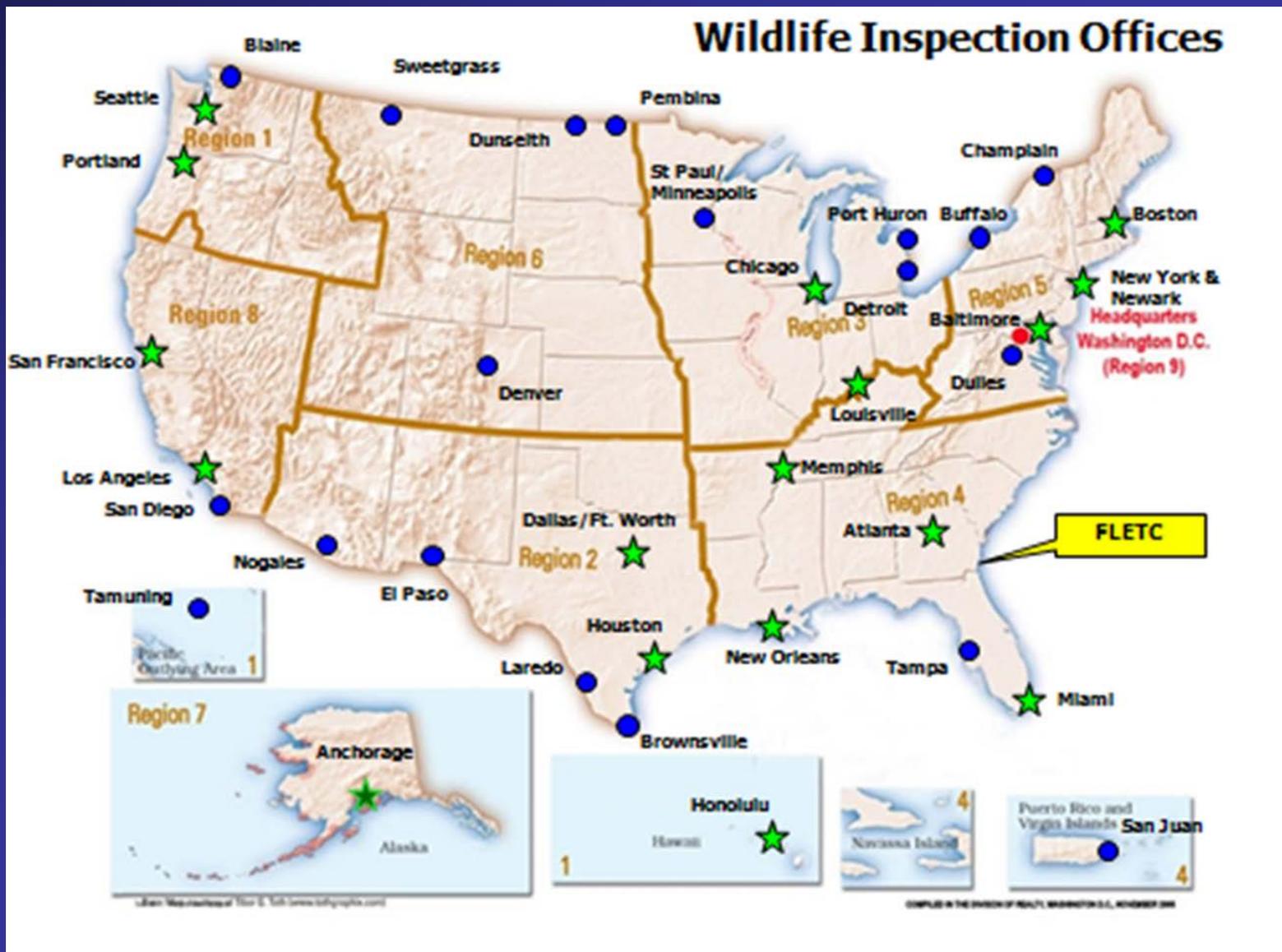
Wildlife Detector Dog Program

- West, Midwest, Midsouth, Southwest, Southeast
- Work where the inspectors work, days, nights, and weekends
- 12-weeks specialized wildlife scent training, certified annually





Wildlife Inspection Offices



Wildlife Inspector Duties

- Physical inspections of shipments
- Evidence handling
- Wildlife identification
- Assist in investigations
- Testify in court
- Document inspections
- Outreach & training
- Customer service
- Live animal care
- Collect import/export fees



Where do Wildlife Inspectors Work?



Ocean Cargo

International Passenger



Air Cargo

Border Crossing



International Mail



Passenger Baggage

- Tourist and personal items
- Small commercial shipments
- Scientific specimens
- Live wildlife
- Food



Air Cargo Inspections

- Live and perishable wildlife
- Hunting Trophies
- Handicrafts
- Garments, footwear and other apparel items



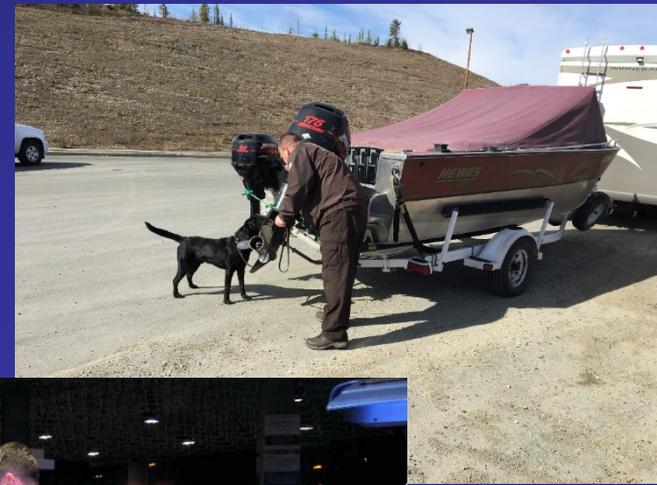
Ocean Cargo Inspections

- Large quantities of both perishable and non-perishable commodities.
- Fashion Accessories
- Garments and footwear
- Handicrafts
- Antiques
- Frozen Meat
- Frozen Frog Legs
- Unfinished Furs and Skins



Land Border Inspections

- Passenger vehicles, commercial trucks, railroads and pedestrians all use border crossings.



Mail Facility

- Personal and tourist items
- Scientific specimens
- Small commercial shipments
- Often contains live wildlife
- Most difficult shipping method to control



Technology and Wildlife Detection

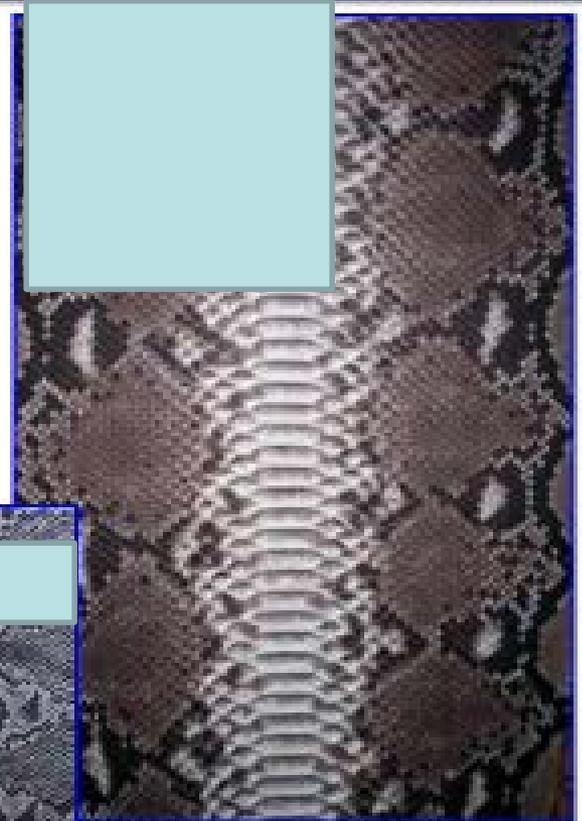
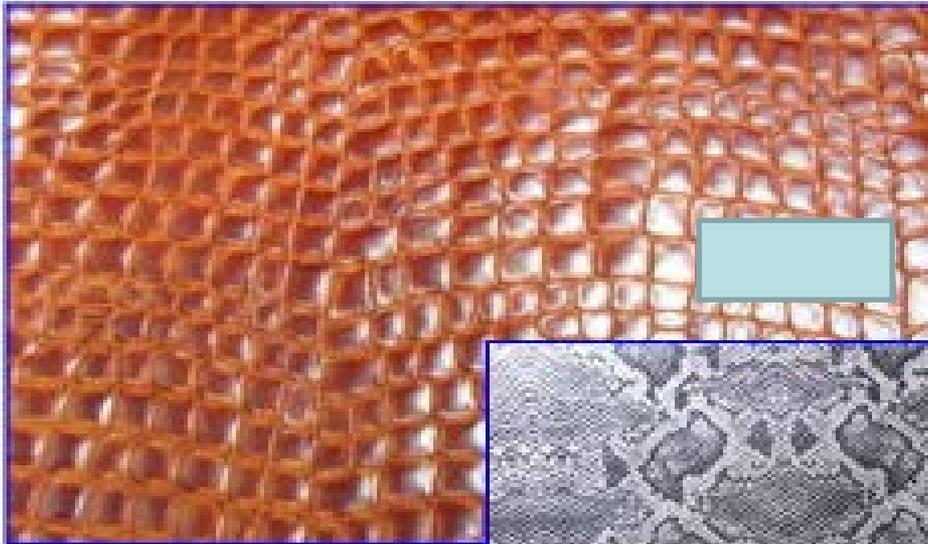


Wildlife Identification



Wildlife Identification

- Real or fake...?



Customer Service

- Explain import procedures to inexperienced importers prior to import of first shipment
- Offering preliminary review of permits prior to import
- Contacting foreign governments for permit verification and issuance of replacement permits
- Correct simple errors on paperwork
- Working nights and weekends
- Outreach



Wildlife Inspectors

- Work with brokers, trade associations, international travelers, and hunters concerning import/export rules and regulations
- Conduct training for Customs and Border Protection Inspectors



Protecting Our Borders

- Work with CDC/CBP/Zoos to stop invasive species and the introduction of exotic wildlife disease in the U.S.
- Train CBP/military police/Tribal police to find illegal wildlife
- Break up international smuggling rings
- Protecting U.S. native plants and wildlife from being smuggled



Thank You!



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Law Enforcement

Protecting Wildlife and Wild Places



Our officers work the "wildlife beat," contributing to conservation in the United States and around the world. We enforce laws and treaties that safeguard animals, plants, and habitat. Our work includes:

- Investigating crimes against wildlife throughout the country.
- Inspecting wildlife trade to prevent trafficking in global species.
- Protecting the Nation's wildlife refuges and the people who visit them.



Questions?



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