

Annual Report FY 2008

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Office of Law Enforcement



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Program Overview

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement is to protect wildlife resources. Through the effective enforcement of Federal laws, we contribute to Service efforts to recover endangered species, conserve migratory birds, preserve wildlife habitat, safeguard fisheries, combat invasive species, and promote global wildlife conservation.

Service Law Enforcement focuses on potentially devastating threats to wildlife resources – illegal trade, unlawful commercial exploitation, habitat destruction, and environmental hazards. The Office investigates wildlife crimes; regulates wildlife trade; helps Americans understand and comply with wildlife protection laws; and teams with international, Federal, State, and Tribal counterparts to conserve wildlife resources. This work includes:

- Breaking up international and domestic smuggling rings that target imperiled species;
- Preventing the unlawful commercial exploitation of U.S. resources;
- Protecting wildlife from environmental hazards and safeguarding wildlife habitat;
- Enforcing Federal migratory game bird hunting regulations and working with States to protect other game species and preserve legitimate hunting opportunities;
- Inspecting wildlife shipments to ensure regulatory compliance and detect illegal trade;
- Working with international counterparts to combat illegal trafficking in protected species;
- Training other Federal, State, Tribal, and foreign law enforcement officers;
- Using forensic science to analyze evidence and solve wildlife crimes; and
- Conducting outreach to increase compliance with wildlife protection laws.

The Office of Law Enforcement fields a force of special agents (criminal investigators with the authority to enforce wildlife laws anywhere in the United States) and wildlife inspectors (uniformed import/export control officers stationed at ports of entry and border crossings). Most are “officers on the beat” who report through seven regional law enforcement offices.

A headquarters office provides national policy and direction for law enforcement operations; trains law enforcement personnel; fields a special investigations unit; provides intelligence support; oversees professional integrity; manages budgetary resources; and provides technical and administrative support for the organization.

The National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory conducts scientific analyses to help solve wildlife crimes. The Office also operates the National Wildlife Property Repository, which supplies confiscated wildlife items to outside groups for educational use, and the National Eagle Repository, which provides Native Americans with eagle parts for religious purposes.

The Office of Law Enforcement’s accomplishments in protecting U.S. and global resources are presented in the pages that follow. This report also documents progress in facilitating legal wildlife trade, maintaining effective partnerships with other enforcement agencies, and conducting outreach to promote compliance. In addition, it looks at managerial improvements and contributions in the areas of forensic and intelligence support.

Protecting America's Wildlife

The Office of Law Enforcement investigates crimes that involve the unlawful exploitation of federally protected resources, including endangered and threatened animals and plants native to the United States, migratory birds, and marine mammals. We work in partnership with industries to reduce the effect of their activities and facilities on wildlife resources. We team with State, Tribal, and other Federal enforcement agencies to improve protections for fish, wildlife, and plants nationwide, including resources under State and Tribal stewardship. We also work to promote compliance with wildlife laws through outreach to hunters, landowners, industry, and others.

FY 2008 Accomplishments

Illegal Commercialization

- The pastor of a San Francisco Bay area church who was indicted for violating the Lacey Act in a scheme to harvest and sell undersized California leopard sharks was sent to prison for one year and ordered to pay \$100,000 in restitution. A church member implicated in the conspiracy was put on probation for three years and ordered to pay \$40,000 in restitution while the owner of an aquatics business must pay a \$5,000 fine and \$20,000 restitution.
- Agents in Tennessee continued the investigation and prosecution of subjects involved in the illegal take and export of freshwater mussel shells to Japan and other countries. One defendant, who pleaded guilty to a felony count, agreed to pay \$50,000 in restitution and cooperate with the investigation of others involved in this illegal trafficking.
- A New York man who bought two juvenile ocelots from an Oregon woman was convicted of violating the Endangered Species Act and ordered to pay \$20,000 to the Endangered Species Justice Fund.
- An Alaska man was sent to prison for eight months for conspiring to sell walrus ivory and other walrus parts in violation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. A co-defendant previously pleaded guilty and was sentenced to six months in prison, a \$15,000 fine, and \$5,000 in restitution. Another Alaska man was fined \$3,000 for selling marine mammal parts (including polar bear skulls and walrus heads) to a Service undercover agent; three other individuals were also prosecuted in this case.
- A Florida man was fined \$5,000 for selling bald and golden eagle feathers; pawnshops in Wisconsin and Mississippi were also prosecuted for feather sales.
- Prosecutions continued in a Service/State investigation of the unlawful harvest and interstate sale of ginseng in Kentucky. The sentencing of a dealer to pay a \$15,000 fine brought the number of defendants in the case to 25. Fines to date total more than \$127,000; two defendants also forfeited more than \$37,000 worth of wild ginseng.

- A North Carolina businessman was fined \$10,000 for interstate ginseng trafficking.
- An Indiana man (one of 22 paddlefish poachers arrested in a joint Service/State investigation) was convicted of a State felony violation and sentenced to 18 months in prison, 18 months supervised probation, a \$10,000 fine, and suspension of his hunting and fishing privileges for five years. He also forfeited his truck, boat, trailer, and fishing gear.
- Prosecutions wrapped up in a case that documented illegal interstate trafficking of live Gila monsters and other protected reptiles from Arizona. Six of the 11 defendants pleaded guilty to felony charges; together they paid more than \$39,000 in fines and restitution.
- The operator of a Nevada business pleaded guilty to Lacey Act violations in connection with the illegal acquisition and interstate smuggling of venomous snakes; the defendant was fined \$10,000 and must spend five years on probation.
- A Nebraska meat processor who illegally sold deer meat in interstate commerce was fined \$10,000 and required to forfeit \$20,000 worth of meat processing equipment.
- An Arkansas man pleaded guilty to Federal charges for illegally harvesting and selling roe from paddlefish caught in a Missouri lake. The defendant, who sold 387 pounds of paddlefish caviar to a Tennessee company in January 2008, had over 75 pounds of unprocessed roe in his possession and another 91 pounds at his home at the time of his arrest.
- In another caviar case, a subject pleaded guilty to a felony Lacey Act count in connection with the unlawful harvest, transport, and interstate sale of more than 660 pounds of shovelnose sturgeon and paddlefish caviar.
- A Florida caviar dealer and his company were charged with conspiracy, false labeling of export shipments, and the illegal export of American paddlefish roe to Europe. The defendant's shipments lacked required CITES permits and were labeled as "bowfin," a species exempt from Service regulation.
- The Service teamed with NOAA-Fisheries and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to expose a Miami commercial fisherman running a large-scale lobster poaching operation in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Over 1,500 spiny lobster tails were recovered; officers also seized boats, vehicles, and a trailer.
- A Colorado man pleaded guilty to Federal wildlife charges in connection with the sale of eagle parts valued at more than \$310,000.
- A Colorado fisheries company was ordered to pay \$100,000 in fines and restitution for introducing State-banned injurious crayfish into Wyoming waters.
- A Texas man who unlawfully brought invasive grass carp into that State for algae control in golf course ponds was fined \$2,000 and ordered to pay \$8,186 in restitution.

- A fugitive wanted on a felony indictment for illegal big game guiding in Alaska returned from New Zealand to negotiate a plea agreement. The man was fined \$25,000.
- An investigation of a North Dakota hunting lodge secured the prosecution of 103 individuals and the lodge itself. Fines and restitution in the case, which involved both Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Lacey Act violations, totaled \$119,995.
- A cooperative Service/State investigation of an illegal outfitting operation that involved individuals from Montana, Pennsylvania, and New York resulted in the successful prosecution of 11 defendants. These individuals paid over \$32,000 in fines and restitution and lost 204 months worth of hunting privileges.
- A Nebraska hunting guide and his partner were each sentenced to pay more than \$26,000 in restitution after being convicted on felony Lacey Act charges.
- The owner of a South Dakota outfitting business pleaded guilty to Lacey Act felony charges in connection with unlawful hunts on the Rosebud Indian reservation. The defendant paid fines and restitution totaling \$33,600.
- Landowners in Texas, Alabama, and North Carolina who baited their property for commercial dove hunts were fined \$12,000, \$9,050, and \$9,000 respectively.

Illegal Take and Habitat Destruction

- A railroad company responsible for a soybean spill that killed 42 federally endangered mussels in Yellowleaf Creek in Alabama agreed to pay \$491,976 in restitution to the State.
- A commercial tomato grower in North Carolina was assessed over \$11,300 in civil penalties and other payments for his over-application of fungicide, which killed fish and other aquatic wildlife in the Mills River (home to the federally endangered Appalachian elktoe freshwater mussel).
- An oil company involved in the illegal harassment of three polar bears in Alaska agreed to pay \$30,000 to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for use in polar bear research.
- An Alaska power company pleaded guilty to destroying a bald eagle nest while building a hydroelectric project. The company must pay a \$50,000 fine and \$75,000 in restitution.
- A Montana rancher whose predator poisoning efforts killed a bald eagle and two golden eagles was ordered to pay \$15,000 in restitution after pleading guilty to Federal charges.
- A Florida real estate company pleaded guilty to one count of taking, molesting, or disturbing a bald eagle and agreed to place a conservation easement on some 15 acres of wetlands in lieu of paying a \$143,887 fine.

- A Colorado pesticide applicator who killed more than 2,200 migratory birds when he misapplied a chemical insecticide to a 95-acre sunflower field was fined \$15,000 and ordered to pay \$15,000 in restitution, make \$30,000 worth of wildlife habitat improvements to lands he owns, and give up his pesticide applicator's license.
- Two brothers were fined a total of \$90,000 for poisoning protected birds on their farm in Champaign County, Illinois.
- A Kentucky man who pleaded guilty to Federal charges in connection with the misuse of Furadan and the poisoning of protected birds was fined \$50,000.
- A Colorado-based corporation responsible for a chemical spill at its uranium processing plant that poisoned migratory birds was sentenced to pay a \$15,000 fine and \$15,000 in restitution.
- Seven defendants charged in a Service investigation that documented the killing of hawks and other protected birds by pigeon club members in California pleaded guilty to Federal violations. Together they must pay \$55,290 in penalties.
- A North Dakota outfitter who pole-trapped owls and other raptors was fined \$20,000, while a South Dakota man involved in this same activity paid \$6,250 to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's raptor rehabilitation fund.
- A California man who unlawfully hunted trophy elk in Oregon pleaded guilty to felony wildlife charges and was sentenced to pay a \$50,000 fine and \$4,700 in restitution.
- Two big game hunters from Nebraska paid more than \$16,000 in penalties for unlawfully taking elk in Colorado.
- Seven North Carolina hunters who unlawfully took and transported trophy deer from Kansas and Iowa paid State fines and Federal restitution totaling more than \$49,000; they also forfeited some \$53,000 worth of equipment.
- Fifteen hunters who pleaded guilty to migratory game bird hunting violations in Mississippi were fined a total of \$15,500 in connection with a Federal/State investigation that also exposed drug trafficking and firearms violations.
- Three hunters who unlawfully killed trophy elk and mule deer on the Ute reservation were ordered to pay \$3,400 in fines and \$16,000 in restitution to the tribe.

Industrial Hazards

- A Wyoming oil company must pay a \$10,000 fine and \$10,000 in restitution for electrocuting golden eagles. The company has also spent approximately \$988,000 retrofitting powerlines and developing an Avian Protection Plan.

- Service investigations of companies responsible for the electrocution of eagles secured needed powerline retrofits and/or the development of Avian Protection Plans in Wyoming, Utah, and Nebraska. In the latter State, a rural utility service voluntarily invested in more than \$230,000 worth of retrofitting.
- A Wyoming company paid \$15,000 in fines and restitution for the take of migratory birds at two of its wastewater disposal facilities.
- A Denver-based company was fined \$10,000 for killing migratory birds at oil pits in Montana.
- Two oil companies in Montana paid \$5,000 in penalties for unlawful take of migratory birds.
- Oil field inspections in north-central and northwestern North Dakota resulted in the issuance of eight violation notices with penalties totaling \$3,500. A Service investigation of nine other companies in the State netted \$5,550 in penalties.
- Oil field inspections on the Texas Panhandle resulted in citations for 14 companies responsible for killing migratory birds and the collection of more than \$30,000 in fines.

Combating Global Wildlife Trafficking

The United States is one of the world's largest markets for wildlife and wildlife products. Illegal trafficking remains a significant threat to species around the world.

The Office of Law Enforcement upholds U.S. responsibilities to police wildlife trade and shut down U.S. markets for species that are off limits under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and U.S. laws and regulations. The Office also helps protect U.S. wildlife resources and wildlife habitat by preventing the importation and interstate transport of injurious species.

Both Service special agents and wildlife inspectors contribute to global protections for wildlife by helping other nations around the world improve their wildlife law enforcement infrastructure. Accomplishments involving global liaison and international training programs are presented in the "Building Enforcement Partnerships" section of this report.

FY 2008 Accomplishments

Interceptions of Illegal Wildlife Trade

The Office of Law Enforcement's wildlife inspection program provides the Nation's frontline defense against illegal wildlife trade. Inspectors are stationed at the Nation's major international airports, ocean ports, and border crossings, where they maintain import/export controls and interdict smuggled wildlife and wildlife products. A representative sampling of seizures and penalties secured in FY 2008 appears below.

- A woman caught smuggling some 400 medicinal products made from CITES wildlife or plants via Atlanta pleaded guilty and was fined \$2,000.
- An importer in Memphis was assessed a \$2,500 civil penalty for an unlawful commercial importation of python skins from Italy, and a gallery paid \$5,000 for importing black coral jewelry from Canada without the required CITES permit.
- A Houston importer caught importing 1,383 strands of CITES-protected coral without a permit was fined \$10,000 and ordered to forfeit the wildlife.
- An individual in Dallas who unlawfully imported a black face impala shoulder mount was fined \$3,525.
- An individual was caught with two live conures hidden in his vehicle at the border-crossing in Nogales, Arizona; the man was fined \$1,000.
- An outfitter from Mexico paid a \$5,000 penalty for importing a CITES Appendix I oryx trophy without the required U.S. CITES permit.

- A jewelry company in Alaska paid an \$85,000 penalty for the illegal importation of 34 separate shipments of shell and coral products. Two other jewelry companies paid penalties totaling \$7,500 and \$6,900.
- Wildlife inspectors in Newark discovered that a company was smuggling paint brushes made from CITES-listed Siberian weasel by ocean freight.
- Inspectors in Chicago intercepted a shipment of tropical fish from Indonesia that contained four boxes of smuggled live CITES-protected sea horses; 42 of the animals were seized.
- Wildlife inspectors in Detroit stopped an individual who tried to import sea turtle specimens (including infertile eggs) from Indonesia using a U.S. CITES permit issued to the National Marine Fisheries Service.
- Detroit inspectors discovered 12 live beluga sturgeon in a shipment of tropical fish imported from Taiwan.
- Seizures in Atlanta included elephant ivory jewelry and tusks; sea turtle meat; a leopard skin; tiger plasters and dried sea horses; and a large shipment of coral pieces.
- During a three-month period, Miami inspectors intercepted six undeclared shipments of live corals from the Pacific imported without CITES permits. Some 400 corals were seized.
- In another three-month period, Miami enforcement staff seized nearly 300 sea turtle eggs and approximately 20 pounds of sea turtle meat being smuggled in by passengers arriving from such countries as Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, and Cuba.
- Seizures in Miami also included a shipment of saltwater crocodile skin boots that originated in Indonesia and three coolers packed with 229 pounds of queen conch meat arriving with an air passenger from the Bahamas.
- Seizures in Tampa included sea turtle meat; CITES coral and queen conch shells; reptilian leather goods made from CITES species; five stuffed hawksbill sea turtles smuggled in a shipment from Vietnam manifested as ceramic vases; and a 54-piece coral shipment from the Cayman Islands.
- Interceptions in San Juan included whale meat from St. Vincent and sea turtle products from the Dominican Republic.
- Proactive inspections in Louisville resulted in seizures of seal skin sporrans; sea turtle and whale meat; crocodilian products; a shipment that contained 140 threatened leopard cat skins; and an undeclared commercial entry from Mexico that contained CITES Appendix I whale teeth and Appendix II stony coral.
- Inspectors in Houston seized \$185,000 worth of elephant ivory carvings and jewelry found hidden inside a shipment of drums from Ethiopia.

- Interceptions in Houston also included 58 pounds of queen conch meat; sea turtle eggs; iguana meat; and improperly tagged leopard trophies.
- In Dallas, inspectors seized three leopard trophies from Tanzania, Mozambique, and Botswana; violations involved CITES tagging irregularities and expired U.S. CITES import permits.
- Seizures of sea turtle eggs being smuggled into the United States from El Salvador launched three investigations in Dallas.
- In Laredo, the Service wildlife inspector seized seven skinned iguanas being smuggled in from Mexico.
- Seizures along the Canadian border at Dunseith and Pembina, North Dakota, and Sweetgrass, Montana, included a shipment of 274 smuggled watchbands made from CITES-listed reptiles; black bear meat and hides; Asian medicinals made from CITES species; and a shipment containing nearly 100 eagle and migratory bird feathers.
- Interceptions at the border port of Champlain, New York, include two smuggled injurious snakehead fish seized from a Canadian woman on her way to Washington, D.C.

Special Inspection Operations

Proactive inspection efforts designed to intercept smuggled wildlife were mounted at ports of entry across the Nation. Examples include:

- Inspectors and agents in south Florida teamed with State and Federal counterparts to “blitz” international flights arriving at the Orlando and Sanford International Airports in sync with the International Reptile Breeders Exposition in Daytona, Florida. Service inspectors and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers conducted a similar operation at Miami International Airport.
- Inspectors from Memphis, Louisville, and Miami conducted a five-day “post-Olympics” inspection blitz to intercept ivory and other unlawfully imported “souvenirs” from Beijing.
- A similar operation in New York conducted by that port’s Special Operations Team (SOT) resulted in the seizure of elephant ivory jewelry and other wildlife items.
- Other inspection efforts by New York’s SOT focused on African cargo shipments (resulting in the seizure of 20 carvings) and bushmeat importations.
- A two-week inspection blitz at Logan International Airport in Boston targeted flights identified as “high risk” for sea turtle product smuggling.
- As members of a perishable enforcement strike team, inspectors in Boston helped conduct an inspection blitz of 50 refrigerated ocean containers at the Conley Terminal Seaport.

- In Seattle, inspectors helped plan and conduct an interagency inspection blitz at the international mail facility; seizures included 26 shipments of hoodia from Canada, CITES Appendix II butterflies, and shell and coral jewelry.

Investigative Efforts

Service special agents and wildlife inspectors team to disrupt global wildlife trafficking in the United States. Seizures at ports of entry often lead to investigations that document and dismantle large-scale smuggling operations. Service efforts to protect global species include investigations of illegal interstate commerce in foreign fish, wildlife, and plants. The Office of Law Enforcement also works to stem the importation and interstate movement of injurious species.

- A Canadian citizen was sent to prison for five years and fined \$100,000 for illegally smuggling elephant ivory valued at \$158,000 from Cameroon to the United States. The defendant, who operated art and export businesses in Canada and Cameroon as a front for her illegal activities, ran a sophisticated scheme to smuggle ivory involving local artists and craftsmen, operatives within international commercial shipping companies, contacts in the black market ivory trade, and partners in all three countries.
- A foreign national was arrested in New York for smuggling 36 pieces of elephant ivory from Africa aboard a passenger flight; he was sent to prison for 16 months and fined \$5,000.
- A Florida businessman who imported large quantities of queen conch and spiny lobster from the Bahamas in violation of the Lacey Act was fined \$75,000. He and his company also forfeited \$13,930 worth of seafood and a \$300,000 fishing vessel to the Government and donated 223 acres of undeveloped land in the Florida Keys to a State park.
- A Nigerian citizen who smuggled four leopard skins and numerous big cat teeth into the United States via two different California airports pleaded guilty to smuggling and Lacey Act violations. He was sent to prison for six months and ordered to pay \$10,000 restitution.
- A U.S. hunter convicted of a felony for smuggling leopard skins from South Africa through Zimbabwe and on to the United States with fraudulent CITES documents was ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine and donate \$5,000 to a wildlife conservation fund. Another hunter involved in this scheme was fined \$5,000.
- A Georgia man who illegally imported a leopard skin and skull from South Africa using false documents was fined \$20,000 and forfeited the valuable trophy.
- A big game hunter who participated in an unlawful hunt in Russia pleaded guilty to Lacey Act charges and was fined \$20,000.
- A husband and wife in El Paso who pleaded guilty to smuggling commercial quantities of exotic leather products into the United States from Mexico were sentenced to six months

home confinement, four years probation, and \$1,500 in fines. They also forfeited some \$8,700 worth of smuggled goods.

- A senior government scientist who smuggled a walrus oosik into the country via Nome, Alaska, pleaded guilty to violating the Marine Mammal Protection Act and was fined \$5,000.
- Three individuals involved in the commercial smuggling and interstate sale of guitar picks made from hawksbill sea turtle shell pleaded guilty to Federal wildlife charges. Fines assessed totaled 3,000.
- A Florida orchid dealer pleaded guilty to illegally importing over 1,400 wild orchids from the Philippines using false documents showing the plants as artificially propagated.
- Two Canadian citizens who were caught smuggling endangered Asian arowanas into the United States via upstate New York pleaded guilty to Federal felony violations; the pair helped implicate a Brooklyn resident in the commercial smuggling scheme.
- Two Minnesota women were indicted for conspiring to smuggle wildlife and distribute steroids; the pair brought protected wildlife items from Asia (including Asian elephant parts) into the country for sale as medicinal products at the International Marketplace in St. Paul.
- Service agents in New York arrested two individuals who separately smuggled singing finches from Guyana into the United States.
- An Oregon woman was arrested for smuggling three leopard skins into the United States.
- Additional U.S. arrests in a Service/Environment Canada investigation that exposed large-scale trafficking in queen conch meat saw a Canadian national and a Haitian businessman face Federal charges for their participation in this black market operation.

Facilitating Legal Wildlife Trade

The Office of Law Enforcement's mandate to enforce wildlife trade laws encompasses a concomitant responsibility to deal fairly and efficiently with the businesses, organizations, and individuals that import and export wildlife. By law, virtually all wildlife imports and exports must be declared to the Service and cleared by Service wildlife inspectors.

The speed and efficiency of wildlife inspection operations affect the ability of businesses to engage profitably in legal wildlife trade as well as the international movement of wildlife for purposes that range from scientific research to public entertainment. The Service's trade monitoring efforts also determine the ease with which individual Americans can travel internationally with wildlife or wildlife items, move hunting trophies across U.S. borders, or ship household goods made from wildlife overseas and back again.

Service officers provide guidance to individuals and businesses to help them obey wildlife laws and expedite their legal import/export transactions. "Customer service" efforts focus on using technology to facilitate trade, streamline the import/export community's interactions with the Service, and improve public access to information about wildlife trade laws and regulations.

FY 2008 Accomplishments

- In FY 2008, Service wildlife inspectors processed 186,959 wildlife shipments with a declared value of more than \$2.8 billion.
- Use of "e-Decs" (the Service's electronic system for declaring wildlife imports and exports) increased, with 77.8 percent of all declarations being submitted electronically.
- The Service inspected wildlife shipments at 18 designated port locations. (The designated port system funnels wildlife traffic through a limited number of locations to facilitate trade monitoring and maintain the efficiency of inspection operations.)
- The Service staffed 20 other ports of entry, including locations along the Nation's northern and southern borders that handle North American wildlife trade moving by land.
- The designated port of New York, which received 32,585 shipments, remained the Nation's busiest port of entry for wildlife trade.
- Los Angeles was the second busiest port of entry for wildlife imports and exports. The 23,467 shipments processed at this location included many containing live wildlife. On the East Coast, inspectors in Miami also handled a significant volume of live wildlife trade.
- Inspectors in Anchorage processed 13,489 shipments, making that city the Nation's third busiest designated port.

- The Service published a proposed rule to increase wildlife import/export inspection fees; these revenues support compliance enforcement operations and trade facilitation work.
- Efforts continued to ensure full Service participation in the International Trade Data System (ITDS) – an interagency initiative to link all importers/exporters and all Federal agencies involved in regulating international trade.
- The Office of Law Enforcement issued public bulletins to alert the wildlife trade community about the listing of black carp as injurious; CITES universal labeling requirements for sturgeon caviar; new Appendix III listings; Appendix III permit and certificate requirements; validation of CITES documents; CITES country-specific trade restrictions; and changes in the personal effects exemption for sturgeon caviar.
- Inspectors in Miami worked with the trade on a pilot project that allows customs brokers to scan supporting documents that accompany entries; such procedures promise to expedite the processing of routine shipments.
- Outreach via the Miami Chamber of Commerce resulted in increased compliance by seafood companies importing squid, sea cucumbers, and other marine products.
- Inspection staff in Baltimore met regularly with representatives of the local brokers association and other Federal inspection agencies.
- The Service inspector in Tampa participated in meetings of the Florida Trade Association to provide information on compliance and trade issues.
- Service officers reviewed import/export requirements at a meeting of the Portland Brokers Association in Oregon.
- A Service presentation to the Los Angeles Brokers Association resulted in increased use of electronic options (including eDecs and corporate billing).
- Wildlife inspectors in Anchorage provided training on wildlife import/export requirements to new Federal Express employees.
- Inspectors in Dallas/Fort Worth worked with representatives of a major department store to assist them in utilizing e-Decs and the system's corporate billing option.
- Wildlife inspectors in New York City, Champlain, and Buffalo reported increased use of e-Decs and corporate bulk payments.
- Inspectors in Atlanta worked to help an air carrier expedite processing of perishable shipments requiring multi-agency clearance.
- Wildlife inspectors in Louisville met with staff at the United Parcel Service Welcome Center to help them work with customers importing or exporting wildlife.

Managing for Excellence

The Office of Law Enforcement's success in protecting wildlife depends on the quality of its staff and how well it uses its staff, budget, and other resources. Effective management requires ongoing strategic planning and performance monitoring as well as a sustained commitment to building and maintaining a highly skilled, appropriately deployed workforce.

The Office of Law Enforcement leverages technology to better support investigative and inspection efforts and program management. Such efforts include ongoing improvements to the Law Enforcement Management Information System (LEMIS) as well as work to integrate the program's IT infrastructure with new Service and interagency systems.

Service Law Enforcement is also working to improve professional accountability. A Professional Responsibility Unit responds to public concerns and identifies and resolves systemic issues involving the conduct and integrity of law enforcement operations.

FY 2008 Accomplishments

Strategic Planning and Performance Monitoring

- The Office of Law Enforcement completed its third year of managing enforcement activities to address strategic goals and investigative priorities under its 2006-2010 Strategic Plan.

Workforce Management

- Regional Law Enforcement offices continued implementing regional workforce plans.
- A working group developed plans for restructuring the Office of Law Enforcement's computer forensic program to provide more timely support to agents in the field.
- The program recruited and hired a class of 27 new special agents – the first full class hired since 2004.
- A class of new wildlife inspectors completed the 8-week Wildlife Inspector Basic School.
- National in-service training programs for agents and inspectors were held at the National Conservation Training Center.

Leveraging Technology

- Enhancements to the Law Enforcement Management Information System (LEMIS) included improvements in system security and report distribution functions.

- Work continued on the interagency International Trade Data System (ITDS), which promises improvements for trade enforcement and trade facilitation.
- The Office of Law Enforcement and other Service programs began working on upgrades to the Service Permit Issuance and Tracking System. Work also got underway to develop an electronic permitting capability for Service permitting programs.

Professional Responsibility

- The Professional Responsibility Unit dealt with 42 cases involving allegations of possible misconduct by Service law enforcement officers and employees in both the Office of Law Enforcement and the National Wildlife Refuge System. Unit investigators conducted 13 investigations while 29 complaints were handled through administrative inquiries.

Other Accomplishments

- The Branch of Investigations (INV) in headquarters prepared new Service Manual chapters dealing with firearms, flying armed, domestic violence, and wildlife inspection policy.
- INV policy issuances included Chief's Directives providing guidance on use of soft body armor, designation of firearms clearing and cleaning areas, implementing CITES validation requirements, CITES wildlife hybrids, import/export of shellfish and fishery products, and disposal of forfeited or abandoned wildlife and plants.
- INV completed and published a proposed rule outlining new wildlife import/export license and fee requirements as well as a new five-year inspection fee schedule.
- The Chief, Office of Law Enforcement provided testimony to Congressional committees dealing with illegal wildlife trafficking and its links to other criminal activities; the Service's position on proposed legislation to increase protections for bears and prohibit interstate transport of non-human primates; and the use of outreach and education to combat illegal wildlife trade.
- Legislative liaison activities also included providing input on amendments that added protections for foreign timber and plants to the Lacey Act and working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Justice Department to address concerns related to proposed amendments to the Marine Mammal Protection Act.
- INV staff served on a technical advisory group working with the Department of the Interior's Wind Turbine Advisory Committee, which was formed to develop guidelines for reducing this industry's impacts on migratory birds.
- INV staff represented Service Law Enforcement on bureau, Interior Department, and interagency working groups involved with such issues as new bald eagle permit regulations, illegal logging, injurious species, emergency response, avian influenza, and ITDS implementation and development.

Building Enforcement Partnerships

Strong and effective partnerships with other law enforcement agencies are essential to the success of wildlife law enforcement. Service officers work closely with other Federal, State, and Tribal officers to safeguard the Nation's wildlife resources. These efforts include joint investigations, compliance inspections and task force operations, and cross-training programs.

Cooperation is also vital to Service efforts to promote global wildlife conservation. Service Law Enforcement maintains liaison with the CITES Secretariat and wildlife law enforcement counterparts around the world. Service special agents and wildlife inspectors are often the instructors of choice when other nations seek to improve their wildlife enforcement capabilities.

FY 2008 Accomplishments

Multi-jurisdictional Cooperation

- The Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, U.S. Coast Guard, and local law enforcement agencies continued working together to enforce boat speed laws that protect manatees.
- Agents in the Southwest teamed with officers from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and U.S. Forest Service to form a Mexican Wolf Enforcement Partners Working Group.
- The Service is participating in Federal/State environmental task forces in Kentucky, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and other States.
- Inspectors stationed along the northern border from Maine to Washington conducted multiple inspection operations in partnership with Customs and Border Protection (CBP), other Federal and State agencies, and Canadian Federal and Provincial officers.

Federal Partnerships

- Cooperative case work in FY 2008 included joint investigations with such Federal agencies as NOAA Fisheries, the Environmental Protection Agency, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Food and Drug Administration, FBI, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. Many of these investigations are featured in the "Protecting America's Wildlife" and "Combating Global Wildlife Trafficking" sections of this report.
- The Service is one of more than 20 Federal trade regulating agencies drawn from 10 Cabinet departments that are working directly with CBP to design and develop the International Trade Data System.

- Service officers participated as instructors for training programs for enforcement staff with other Federal agencies. Examples include training on wildlife laws for rangers with the National Park Service in Kentucky, Tennessee, south Texas, and Wyoming; training on endangered species issues and the Archeological Resources Protection Act for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff in the Dakotas; backcountry horseback patrol training for U.S. Forest Service officers in the West and the Vice-President’s Secret Service protection detail; and training on enforcing manatee protections for U.S. Coast Guard staff in Florida.
- Service Law Enforcement used cross-training to expand its enforcement reach, particularly with respect to policing wildlife trade. During the reporting year, 2,450 new CBP officers received instruction in wildlife import/export requirements during their basic training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.
- Import/export cross-training was provided to new CBP agriculture inspectors and new U.S. military customs clearance agents.
- Wildlife inspectors throughout the country also provided wildlife import/export training to CBP staff. Inspection offices conducting such training included those located in Blaine, Boston, Dunseith, Houston, El Paso, Miami, New York, Newark, Nogales, Pembina, Sweetgrass, San Diego, and Tampa.
- Service inspectors provided import/export training to military customs inspectors or conservation officers at Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base in California, the Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota, and Fort Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska. Training was also provided to officers at the San Diego Naval Air Station in California and via remote broadcast to naval stations in Everett, Washington, and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- Service inspectors along the U.S./Mexico border teamed with CBP and other Federal partners to conduct border check operations to intercept smuggled wildlife.

State Partnerships

- Service special agents worked numerous joint investigations with State counterparts that exposed illegal commercialization of wildlife resources, unlawful hunting and guiding, and other wildlife crimes. Many of these investigations are highlighted in the “Protecting America’s Wildlife” section of this report.
- Ongoing liaison with State fish and game agencies and other State entities addressed an array of mutual enforcement concerns, ranging from seabird conservation in California to pesticide misuse in Virginia.
- Cooperative migratory game bird hunting enforcement work included joint Federal/State enforcement operations in Colorado, the Dakotas, Florida, Maine, New Mexico, New York, Puerto Rico, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Utah, and other States.

- Service special agents conducted training for State conservation officers in California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and other States.
- Agents helped the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency conduct a Covert Investigations School for 16 officers from Tennessee and Kentucky. Agents in the Southeast also provided training to 24 officers from different States who attended a covert investigations course in Decatur, Alabama, and another 25 State conservation officers who completed a week-long Investigations Training Academy sponsored by the Southeastern Association of Wildlife Investigators.

Tribal Partnerships

- Agents in the Southeast taught a two-day wildlife crime scene investigation course for game wardens from the Miccosukee Indian Nation.
- An agent in South Dakota briefed representatives of Native American tribes on the enforcement and monitoring of archeological sites on tribal lands.
- Service agents in the Southwest worked with officers from the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe to resolve an intertribal enforcement issue and provided training to officers from the San Carlos Apache tribe.
- The National Eagle Repository filled 2,714 requests from Native Americans for eagles and eagle parts for religious use.

International Partnerships

- The Service presented a two-week course on investigating wildlife crime as part of the core curriculum at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Gaborone, Botswana; 29 officers from eight sub-Saharan African nations completed the training.
- A Service special agent completed a 10-month assignment as an on-site technical advisor to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-Wildlife Enforcement Network. Efforts included training development, investigative consultation, and intelligence liaison as well as the presentation of multiple in-country training programs.
- Service and Canadian wildlife enforcement officers provided a training session on CITES implementation and enforcement at a conch conservation workshop in Colombia and at a Colombia/U.S. Marine Environmental Security Conference in that country. Attendees included law enforcement personnel not only from Colombia but from other South and Central American nations.

Promoting Compliance

The Office of Law Enforcement works to help Americans understand and obey laws that protect wildlife and wildlife habitat. Outreach efforts that promote compliance focus on such groups as

- Industries whose activities affect wildlife;
- Landowners and developers;
- Guides, outfitters, and hunters;
- Importers and exporters dealing in wildlife and wildlife products; and
- Travelers who buy wildlife products overseas.

Service Law Enforcement works closely with such groups to secure voluntary compliance with wildlife laws. The Office often teams with other enforcement agencies and non-governmental partners to produce and distribute educational materials and conduct outreach campaigns. Compliance-focused outreach supports Service efforts to protect U.S. wildlife resources, stem global wildlife trafficking, and facilitate legal wildlife trade.

FY 2008 Accomplishments

- Service special agents safeguarded endangered and threatened piping plovers by helping a North Dakota oil company protect plover nesting habitat during oil exploration; conducting outreach patrols along the Missouri River during nesting season; and working with officials from the town of Oyster Bay, New York, to spur local efforts to protect these birds.
- Outreach in Florida to protect endangered manatees from boat strikes included briefing organizers and participants in a major fishing tournament on boating regulations and working with the Tampa Bay Manatee Coalition – a group of government agencies, commercial fishing guides, wilderness outfitters, conservationists, and public use advocates formed to promote manatee conservation.
- Agents worked with a Nebraska power district to secure the use of bird diversion devices to protect endangered migrating whooping cranes from powerline collisions.
- Service and State officers in New York conducted outreach patrols along a powerline right of way that serves as habitat for the endangered Karner blue butterfly to alert ATV operators about the harm inherent in their unauthorized use of the area.
- The Service teamed with the South Carolina Department of Transportation to address road grading activities that were sending silt into a creek that is critical habitat for the endangered Carolina heelsplitter mussel.
- Agents in Montana teamed with State officers to conduct a backcountry patrol operation to protect threatened grizzly bears during the spring black bear hunting season.

- In Colorado, an agent worked with a developer, an environmental consultant, and a citizens group to protect burrowing owls (a species of concern) at a site slated for development.
- Agents throughout the country worked with utilities to reduce avian electrocution risks. Examples include liaison with the New Mexico Avian Protection Work Group; participation in an industry training program sponsored by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) in Houston; outreach to the Intermountain Rural Electric Association in Colorado; presentations at an APLIC meeting and workshop in Charlotte, North Carolina; work with the Nebraska Rural Electrical Association on electrocution reporting protocols; and promotion of APLIC's updated guidelines in North Dakota.
- Outreach to prevent migratory bird deaths linked to oil pits and heating devices (“heater/treaters”) used at oil fields included educational efforts with the Permian Basin Petrochemical Engineers Association in Texas; direct outreach to oil and gas industry officials in that State; a presentation to the North Dakota Petroleum Council; work with companies to bring sites into compliance in Colorado; and follow-up compliance inspections in Kansas that demonstrated the efficacy of previous outreach efforts.
- In response to Service outreach, casinos and other businesses in Atlantic City formed a Bird Protection Partnership and agreed to voluntarily report bird collisions and alter buildings to reduce bird strikes.
- Other efforts to protect migratory birds included work with a Wyoming landfill to secure proper netting for wastewater pits; helping the Nebraska Department of Roads identify ways to protect birds during summer highway construction season; efforts that delayed the demolition of a railroad bridge in upstate New York where bank swallows were nesting; and work with a North Carolina town to keep downy woodpeckers from being caught in the community's streetlights.
- An agent in Kentucky prepared articles on pesticide-linked wildlife poisonings for the newsletters of the Kentucky and Tennessee chapters of the Veterinary Medicine Association; teamed with a Service contaminants specialist to produce a factsheet on wildlife poisoning for distribution to public health and wildlife agencies in Kentucky and Tennessee and sportsmen's groups in both States; and presented a program on misuse of pesticides at a national environmental contaminants conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.
- Service special agents in Alaska conducted outreach meetings with villagers on St. Lawrence Island and Alaska's North Slope to improve compliance with Service requirements for migratory game bird hunting.
- A Service agent and biologists visited villages in northwest Alaska to speak with polar bear and walrus hunters about wasteful take prohibitions and tagging requirements.
- Agents helped the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program develop voluntary guidelines for Alaska tour boat operators for viewing marine mammals and other marine wildlife.

- A Service agent and inspector planned and conducted a month-long compliance promotion and inspection operation in sync with the Festival of Pacific Arts in American Samoa; efforts focused on discouraging the sale and trade of protected species.
- Outreach to hunters included staffing a booth at the Safari Club International convention in Reno, Nevada; conducting an outreach seminar for waterfowl hunters at the annual corporate meeting of a North Carolina hunting club; and community presentations on migratory game bird hunting regulations in various States.
- Service agents participated in a news conference at the Monterey Bay Aquarium to announce a \$1.5-million partnership to restore wildlife habitat in the San Francisco Bay – a partnership funded in part by restitution payments from a Federal/State investigation of the illegal harvest and sale of juvenile leopard sharks.
- Agents involved in recent ginseng trafficking investigations were interviewed for a National Public Radio (NPR) story about plant poaching and provided presentations to State regulators seeking to improve protections for wild ginseng.
- Service wildlife trade outreach in advance of the 2008 Summer Olympics in China included efforts to warn travelers and travel agencies about wildlife purchases and follow-up inspection checks at U.S. airports handling passenger flights from China.
- An agent in St. Paul, Minnesota, partnered with officials from the Food and Drug Administration and U.S. Department of Agriculture to conduct an outreach presentation on U.S. trade laws for vendors and Hmong community officials at that city's International Market Place.
- Service agents and wildlife inspectors provided presentations on wildlife law enforcement at the Cleveland Marshall Law School in Ohio; the Vermont Law School; the University of Minnesota; the University of California at Santa Cruz; George Mason University; the University of Massachusetts; and Tufts University. Officers also participated in a Chicago Bar Association seminar on animal-related law and taught a course on wildlife law enforcement at the University of Nebraska.
- Broad-based public outreach included a law enforcement booth at the Kentucky State Fair; outreach at the Louisville Zoo's Earth Day celebration and at the Memphis Zoo for Migratory Bird Day; a Service exhibit at the Red River Valley Trade Show in Fargo, North Dakota; and participation in the annual Whale Watch Weekend festival at Cabrillo National Monument in San Diego.
- Office of Law Enforcement headquarters staff responded to 1,716 requests from the public for information about wildlife laws and law enforcement matters.
- The National Wildlife Property Repository responded to 97 requests for wildlife items from schools, zoos, and other organizations seeking materials for use in teaching the public about wildlife trade; 5,553 items were supplied for such use in FY 2008.

Supporting Officers in the Field

Forensics

The National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory, located in Ashland, Oregon, is the world's only full-service crime laboratory devoted exclusively to supporting wildlife law enforcement. Scientists at the Laboratory identify the species of wildlife parts and products seized as evidence. They link suspect, "victim," and crime scene through the examination and comparison of physical evidence; determine the cause of death of wildlife crime victims; and help analyze crime scenes and recover evidence from seized computers. Laboratory scientists also conduct research to develop new analytical techniques needed in wildlife forensics. They provide training to wildlife law enforcement officers and work with such organizations as the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors.

FY 2008 Accomplishments

- For the third time in 10 years, the Laboratory secured accreditation from the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors. Such status is granted based on meeting rigorous standards in all areas.

Forensics Support

- Laboratory scientists worked on 492 cases involving the analysis of over 2,895 pieces of evidence collected during investigations of wildlife crime.
- The Laboratory's Morphology Team conducted more than 563 species identifications based on photographs submitted by email (primarily from Service wildlife inspectors at the Nation's ports of entry). The Laboratory's assistance helped facilitate release of legal shipments and provided probable cause for seizure of specimens in 69 percent of the ornithological identifications, 69 percent of the identifications involving mammals, and 64 percent of those submitted for reptiles.
- Laboratory staff testified in court in wildlife crime cases on five occasions.
- The Laboratory's website (its primary outreach tool) received more than 2.4 million hits in FY 2008 – an average of over 6,655 hits per day.

Research and Analysis

- The Laboratory developed procedures for analyzing the presence of specific chemical compounds including sodium fluoroacetate (Compound 1080), zinc phosphide, and others.

- The Criminalistics Unit developed a new technique for determining the presence of sodium chloride in soil (a technique that can be used to detect the use of salt as bait).
- The Genetics Unit finished a long-term study of the population structure of North American wolves and expanded its capability for identifying species based on mitochondrial DNA sequence analysis to include several South American freshwater turtles, *Oreochromis* species, impala species, and various African species utilized in the bushmeat trade.
- Additional genetics research focused on improving techniques for extracting trace amounts of DNA from such items as shed feathers, cooked meat, and tanned hides.
- The Genetics Unit joined the Service's Conservation Genetics Community of Practice and hosted the group's first meeting; the group's purpose is to strengthen the use and understanding of conservation genetics within the agency.
- The Morphology Unit added 64 species, 139 scans, and 7 additional avian orders to the Laboratory's online Feather Atlas. Enhancements to the Unit's standards collection included 148 bird and 78 mammal specimens.
- The Digital Evidence Unit acquired new equipment for analyzing high-definition video and implemented processing procedures for data recovery and secure access that helped improve turnaround time on forensic computer cases.

Training and Presentations

- The Laboratory provided two weeks of training to personnel from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN).
- A Laboratory scientist was a member of the Service training team that taught a wildlife crime investigations course at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Botswana.
- Laboratory scientists provided training at Wildlife Inspector In-Service and Refuge Officer Basic School. Other training audiences included National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration officers in the Southeast and special agents participating in the Office of Law Enforcement's Computer Forensic Working Group.
- The Laboratory provided lectures on investigating wildlife poisoning cases and handling biological evidence at wildlife crime scenes at a Wildlife Officers Training Workshop sponsored by the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Enforcement Officers.
- A Laboratory scientist organized a symposium on forensic ornithology at a joint meeting of the American Ornithologists Union, Cooper Ornithological Society, and Society for Canadian Ornithology, in Portland, Oregon.
- Laboratory staff participated in a poster session at the 2008 Joint Meetings of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists in Montreal, Canada; served as an invited speaker on firearms

fingerprint analysis at the Northwest IAI Conference; and gave lectures on wildlife forensics pathology at the 2nd Annual Wildlife Symposium in Madison, Wisconsin; on wildlife forensics for the veterinary practitioner at the 1st annual Veterinary Forensic Symposium in Orlando, Florida; and on gunshot wounds as a source of lead in the environment at Boise State University in Idaho.

- Laboratory scientists published scientific articles in such journals as *Applied Herpetology*, *Endangered Species Research*, and the *Journal of Forensic Identification*.

Intelligence

The Office of Law Enforcement's Intelligence Unit collects and analyzes information on all aspects of wildlife trafficking to support Service investigations, inspections, and smuggling interdiction efforts. The Unit also coordinates intelligence sharing with other law enforcement agencies in the United States and other countries. It establishes and maintains a broad network of domestic and international contacts with conservation groups, trade associations, and other entities involved in, or concerned with, wildlife trade and other wildlife crimes.

FY 2008 Accomplishments

- The Unit responded to 665 requests for assistance or leads, primarily from Service special agents and wildlife inspectors.
- Multiple Service investigations were substantially supported by a variety of Unit services, including background, criminal history and financial checks; border crossing, airline and license checks; wildlife valuations; document analysis; trade research; toll record analysis, link chart creation; prior case research; and website mirroring.
- The employment of two new analysts brought the Unit up to full strength.
- Progress continued in building cooperative relationships with other national and international agencies to support the development of wildlife trade intelligence information.
- Intelligence analysts prepared a trade assessment of traditional medicinals made from wildlife.
- The Unit began working with the Interpol Wildlife Working Group to develop a guide for wildlife law enforcement and customs officers on methods of concealment used by wildlife smugglers.
- Unit staff provided presentations at the national intelligence meeting of the Environment Canada Wildlife Enforcement Division in Ottawa and at the 17th annual meeting of the New Zealand Combined Law Agency Group.

Appendix A. Statistical Summary

Law Enforcement Program Facts and Figures

FY 2008 enacted budget \$59.6 million

FY 2008 end-of-year special agent force 201

FY 2008 end-of-year wildlife inspector force 117

FY 2008 investigative case load *

** This number reflects the work of both special agents and wildlife inspectors.*

FY 2008 wildlife imports/exports 186,959

FY 2008 value of U.S. wildlife trade \$2.8 billion

Number of designated ports 17 *

Number of other staffed ports 20

FY 2008 staffed port locations:

Designated Ports

Anchorage, Alaska
Atlanta, Georgia
Baltimore, Maryland
Boston, Massachusetts
Chicago, Illinois
Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas
Honolulu, Hawaii
Houston, Texas
Los Angeles, California
Louisville, Kentucky
Memphis, Tennessee
Miami, Florida
Newark, New Jersey *
New York, New York *
New Orleans, LA
Portland, Oregon
San Francisco, CA
Seattle, Washington

Border, Special & Other Ports

Agana, Guam
Blaine, Washington
Brownsville, Texas
Buffalo, New York
Champlain, New York
Denver, Colorado
Detroit, Michigan
Dulles, Virginia
Dunseith, North Dakota
El Paso, Texas
Laredo, Texas
McAllen, Texas
Nogales, Arizona
Pembina, North Dakota
St. Paul, Minnesota
San Diego, California
San Juan, Puerto Rico
San Diego, California
Sweetgrass, Montana
Tampa, Florida

** New York and Newark operate together as one "designated" port with two locations.*

FY 2008 Investigative Caseload *

Statute	Cases
African Elephant	52
Airborne Hunting	9
Archeological Resources	13
Conspiracy	63
Eagle Protection	303
Endangered Species	8,579
False Statements	36
Hunting on Indian Lands	11
Lacey	2,733
Marine Mammal Protection	314
Migratory Bird Stamp	294
Migratory Bird Treaty	1,860
National Wildlife Refuge	55
Other Federal Laws	129
Permit/License	11
Rhino Tiger Labeling	74
Smuggling	82
State Laws	247
Wild Bird Conservation	68
Total	14,933

* This table reflects investigative cases worked by Service special agents and wildlife inspectors during FY 2007.

Annual Penalty Statistics, FY 2006 – FY 2008 *

	2006	2007	2008
Fines	\$2,343,638	\$14,216,270	\$4,457,221
Prison (years)	70	31	85
Probation (years)	473	536	551
Civil Penalties	\$4,671,254	\$5,295,158	\$1,635,931

* This table summarizes the results of criminal and civil prosecutions undertaken based on the enforcement efforts of Service special agents and wildlife inspectors.

FY 2007 – FY 2008 Wildlife Inspection Activity

Port of Entry	FY 2007 Shipments	FY 2008 Shipments
Designated Ports		
Anchorage, AK	14,162	13,489
Atlanta, GA	3,656	3,976
Baltimore, MD	2,494	2,476
Boston, MA	2,752	3,270
Chicago, IL	6,396	5,595
Dallas/Fort Worth, TX	8,903	9,448
Honolulu, HI	4,900	4,753
Houston, TX	1,887	2,283
Los Angeles, CA	24,416	23,467
Louisville, KY	11,706	12,102
Memphis, TN	5,552	6,354
Miami, FL	10,825	10,802
New Orleans, LA	965	814
Newark, NJ	7,620	7,719
New York, NY	32,176	32,585
Portland, OR	1,204	1,147
San Francisco, CA	6,814	6,315
Seattle, WA	4,390	4,058
Subtotal	150,817	150,652
Non-Designated Ports		
Agana, GU	1,114	1,079
Blaine, WA	2,531	1,788
Brownsville, TX	303	318
Buffalo, NY	2,383	1,861
Champlain, NY	3,171	2,570
Detroit, MI	867	901
Denver, CO	627	667
Dulles, VA	177	364
Dunseith, ND	1,285	1,349
El Paso, TX	800	668
Laredo, TX	562	664
McAllen, TX	76	58
Nogales, AZ	443	352
Pembina, ND	6,447	5,794
Port Huron, MI	237	240
San Diego, CA	1,114	1,118
San Juan, PR	157	115
St. Paul, MN	770	800
Sweetgrass, MT	1,590	1,849
Tampa, FL	734	736
Subtotal	25,388	23,291
Non-Staffed Ports	11,465	13,016
Total	187,670	186,959

Appendix B. Laws Enforced

The Office of Law Enforcement upholds the Nation's wildlife protection laws. Brief summaries of these statutes appear below.

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668C). This Act makes it illegal to import, export, or take bald or golden eagles, or to sell, purchase, or barter their parts or products made from them, including nests or eggs.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712). Except as allowed by implementing regulations, this Act makes it unlawful to pursue, hunt, kill, capture, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird, including feathers or other parts, nests, eggs, or migratory bird products.

Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718). Commonly referred to as the "Duck Stamp Act," this law requires waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older to purchase and possess a valid Federal waterfowl hunting stamp before they take migratory waterfowl.

Lacey Act (18 U.S.C. 42; 16 U.S.C. 3371-3378). This Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to designate injurious wildlife and ensure the humane treatment of wildlife shipped to the United States. It prohibits the importation, exportation, transportation, sale, or purchase of fish, wildlife, or plants taken or possessed in violation of State, Federal, tribal, and foreign laws. The 1981 amendments strengthened the enforcement of Federal wildlife laws and improved Federal assistance to the States and foreign governments in the enforcement of their wildlife laws. The Act also provides an important tool in the effort to deter smuggling and illegal trade.

Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1361-1407). This Act establishes a moratorium on the take and importation of marine mammals, including parts and products, and defines Federal responsibilities for the conservation of marine mammals. It assigns management authority for the sea otter, walrus, polar bear, dugong, and manatee to the Department of the Interior.

Airborne Hunting Act (16 U.S.C. 742j-1). Section 13 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 is commonly referred to as the Airborne Hunting Act. It prohibits taking or harassing wildlife from aircraft, except when protecting wildlife, livestock, and human health or safety as authorized by a Federal or State license or permit.

National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee). This 1966 Act constitutes an "Organic Act" for the National Wildlife Refuge System. It provides guidelines for administration and management of all areas in the system including "wildlife refuges, areas for the protection and conservation of fish and wildlife that are threatened with extinction, wildlife ranges, game ranges, wildlife management areas, or waterfowl production areas."

Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543). This Act prohibits the importation, exportation, taking, and commercialization in interstate or foreign commerce of fish, wildlife,

and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species. The Act also implements the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Antarctic Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 2401). This Act provides for the conservation and protection of the fauna and flora of Antarctica. The Act makes it unlawful for any U.S. citizen to take any native bird or mammal in Antarctica or to collect any native plant from any specially protected area on that continent. In addition, the Act makes it unlawful for anyone in the United States to possess, sell, offer for sale, deliver, receive, carry, transport, import, export, or attempt to import or export from the United States any native mammal or bird taken in Antarctica or any plant collected in any specially protected area.

Archeological Resources Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 470aa). This Act protects archeological resources and sites on public and Indian lands and fosters increased cooperation among governmental authorities, the professional archeological community, and individuals who own collections of archeological resources obtained before October 31, 1979. The Act makes it illegal for any person to excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface any archeological resource located on public or Indian lands without a permit. In addition, the Act makes it illegal for any person to sell, purchase, exchange, transport, receive, or offer to sell, purchase, or exchange any archeological resource taken from public or Indian lands in violation of Federal, State, or local law.

African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4201-4245). This Act provides additional protection for the African elephant. It establishes an assistance program for elephant-producing countries of Africa and provides for the creation of an African Elephant Conservation Fund. In addition, the Act places a moratorium on the importation of raw or worked ivory from African elephant-producing countries that do not meet certain criteria.

Wild Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4901). This 1992 Act promotes the conservation of exotic birds by encouraging wild bird conservation and management programs in countries of origin; by ensuring that all U.S. trade in such species is biologically sustainable and of benefit to the species; and by limiting or prohibiting imports of exotic birds when necessary.

Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 5301-5306). The 1998 reauthorization of this Act prohibits the import, export, or sale of any product, item, or substance containing, or labeled or advertised as containing, any substance derived from tiger or rhinoceros.