



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Inspector General
Washington, DC 20230

March 21, 2011

Michael W. Cotter
United States Attorney
District of Montana
901 Front St., Suite 1100
Helena, MT 59626

Dear Mr. Cotter:

In response to your letter of March 15, 2011, enclosed are two charts depicting the civil and criminal caseload of the Office for Law Enforcement (OLE), including a breakdown of the caseload by region. We derived these charts from data in NOAA's Law Enforcement Accessible Database System (LEADS). The enclosed charts cover the four-year period of January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2010. Please be aware that we are unable to provide you with caseload statistics for a five year period because case data is only available in LEADS back to January 1, 2007. As noted in our January 2010 report, we found significant limitations to NOAA's management information systems.

Regarding your request that we identify NOAA's future criminal enforcement priorities, please be aware that NOAA continues to implement our recommendations, the reforms undertaken by the Secretary and Under Secretary for NOAA, and other associated actions—including the NOAA-commissioned fishery management review currently underway in the Northeast. As such, we would expect the various ongoing processes and actions to have a significant bearing on how NOAA sets its future enforcement program priorities and resource commitments. Accordingly, you may wish to inquire directly of NOAA about the current status of its determination process.

We look forward to meeting with you and other members of the Environmental Issues Working Group on March 28 to discuss the results of our examination of NOAA fisheries enforcement. Please contact me or my Deputy, Scott S. Dahl, at 202-482-4661 should you desire any additional information in advance of our meeting.

Sincerely,

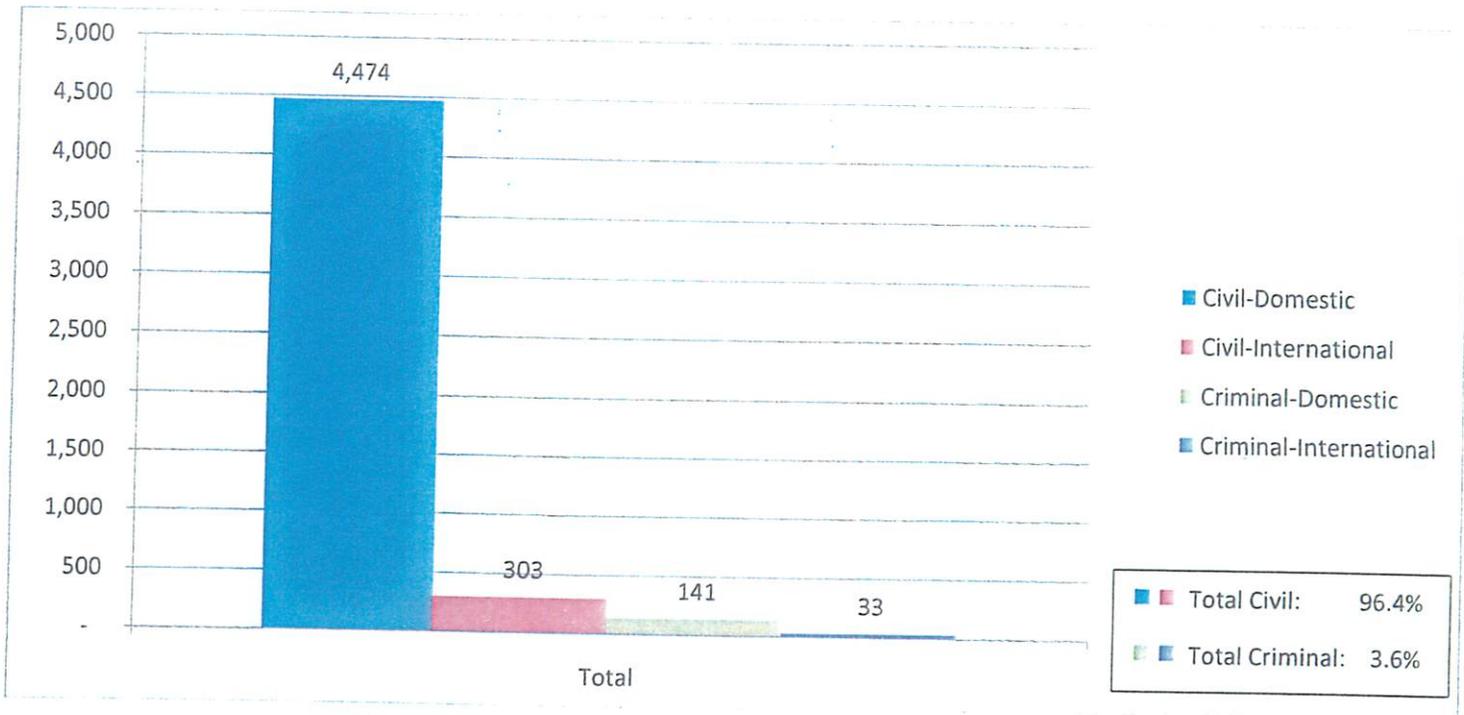
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd J. Zinser".

Todd J. Zinser

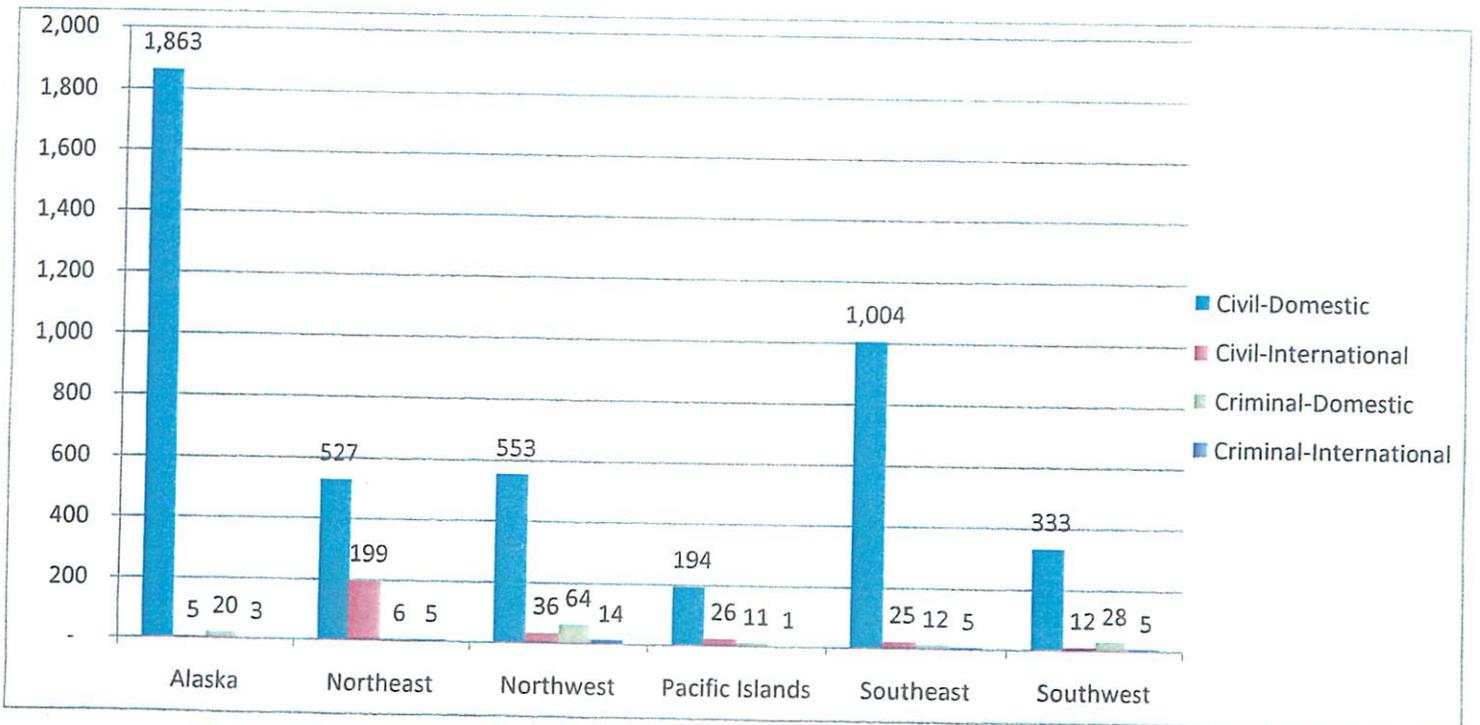
Enclosure

cc: Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere & NOAA Administrator

NOAA OLE Caseload (All Regions)
January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2010



NOAA OLE Caseload by Region
January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2010



Source: NOAA Law Enforcement Accessible Database System (LEADS). Data represents cases opened and closed during specified period.