

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET FIRED AT NOAA?

Senator Scott Brown

During a June 20, 2011 field hearing in Boston, Senator Scott Brown [asked](#) then-NOAA fisheries administrator Eric Schwaab, “What does it take to get fired at NOAA?” This followed earlier Inspector General findings of massive mismanagement, abuse of fishermen, financial irregularities, and improper “shredding parties” throughout NOAA’s fisheries arm. To date, no employees at NOAA have been fired as a result of the following abuses:

- Abusive treatment of fishermen, resulting in decimation of the fleet.
- Investigations motivated by money.
- Improper fines, leading to foreclosure and bankruptcy.
- “Shredding parties” destroying 75%-80% of OLE documents.
- Lying to Inspector General investigators.
- Discouraging cooperation with the Inspector General.
- Misleading Members of Congress.
- \$300,000 party boat purchased with fishermen’s fines.
- \$12,000 in party boat expenses paid with fishermen’s fines.
- \$30,000 engine destroyed by NOAA employee on weekend vacation while using “undercover” NOAA craft.

Resources:

[7/1/10 – Review of NOAA Fisheries Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Fund](#)

[9/23/10 – Final Report – Review of NOAA Fisheries Enforcement Programs and Operations](#)

[10/20/10 – Gloucester Times “Documents shed new light on NOAA shredding effort”](#)

[4/2011 – Report and Recommendation of the Special Master Concerning NOAA Enforcement Action of Certain Designated Cases](#)

[7/1/11 – OIG Investigation of Improprieties In Northwest Enforcement Division, NOAA](#) (Report revealed 2/16/12 after Senator Brown’s FOIA request)