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October 3, 2019

Mr. Archie Soliai, Chair  
Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council  
1164 Bishop Street Suite 1400  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Soliai:

I am pleased to report to the Council the following summary of U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) fisheries law enforcement activities in the Western and Central Pacific region for the period of 01 June through 31 September 2019.

From 10-23 June, a U.S. Navy vessel with a Coast Guard boarding team conducted a patrol on the high seas in support of Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission High-Seas Boarding's and Inspection (HSBI) scheme. During this patrol, no boarding's were conducted.

On 23 July, an injured monk seal was transported from Kalaupapa, Molokai via an HH65 dolphin helicopter, then subsequently an HC-130 aircraft after the helicopter was retasked and diverted to a Search and Rescue (SAR) case. The injured monk seal was then taken to Ke Kai Ola, Marine Mammal Center in Kona for rehabilitation.

From 25 July-30 August, USCGC WALNUT and USCGC JOSEPH GERCZAK patrolled the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surrounding Hawaii and the EEZ of America Samoa, as well as conducted ship rider boarding's in Samoa in support of OP AIGA, the Samoan word for family. This operation was designed to identify and deter illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in Oceania. The two cutters patrolled simultaneously conducting domestic and international boarding's under Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and in accordance with a bilateral shiprider agreement with an embarked Samoan fisheries officer. The USCGC WALNUT cutter crews assisted the fisheries officer from Samoa with boarding three foreign-flagged longline vessels registered to fish within the Samoan EEZ with no violations being observed. One WCPFC boarding was conducted and one boarding conducted on a domestic fishing vessel. The USCGC JOSEPH GERCZAK conducted five boarding's during this patrol, four inside the U.S. EEZ and one on the high seas.

On 13 August 19 the HC-130 departed Honolulu for Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia to preposition for planned patrols to counter potential IUU fishing. The aircraft was diverted to Palau in flight for Search and Rescue (SAR) tasking. On 14 Aug 19 the HC-130 flew a SAR sortie out of Palau, successfully locating the distress vessel. The aircraft resumed patrol intentions and completed an IUU patrol of Palau EEZ returning to Air Stations Barbers Point 19 August.

On 03 September, four monk seals were transported by Air Station Barbers Point via HC-130 from Oahu to Kona for rehabilitation.

From 20 September, a C-130 aircraft from Air Station Barbers Point conducted an enforcement and surveillance operation in support of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. During this patrol, the aircraft flew over 11 hours conducting a morning and evening flight. The aircrew reported multiple sightings but observed no evidence of illegal fishing.

From 16-30 September, The USCGC JOSEPH GERCZAK was scheduled to patrol the Main Hawaiian Islands in support of living marine resources enforcement, recreational boating safety, and counter drug operations. Unfortunately on 17 September, the Coast Guard received a report of a vessel fire aboard the CFV MISS EMMA. The USCGC JOSEPH GERCZAK was diverted to assist along with Coast Guard Station Honolulu response boat and an aircraft from Air Station Barbers Point. All crew members from the vessel along with a NOAA observer were safely rescued at sea.

District Fourteen enforcement staff participated in several living marine resources enforcement related meetings and events this reporting period, including the Marine Mammal Commission's annual meeting.

Sincerely

J.W. Holstead  
LT, U.S. Coast Guard  
Fourteenth Coast Guard District