

Appendix 5

United States Coast Guard Enforcement Activities

The following United States Coast Guard (USCG) report has been extracted from reports given to the Council at its 126th, 127th, 129th, and 131st Council Meetings. This summary provides a report on USCG fisheries law enforcement activities from October 1, 2004 to February 18, 2006.

In 2005, the USCG did not conduct any dedicated law enforcement patrols in support of the State of Hawaii's bottomfish closed areas. Additionally, the USCG cutters and aircraft, while conducting other primary missions, did not note any violations associated with the bottomfish closed areas.

From October 1, 2004 to January 31, 2005, there were three suspected foreign fishing vessel encroachments in the Wake Island Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and one suspected foreign fishing vessel encroachment in the Howland and Baker EEZ. The USCG did not respond to these possible encroachments due to the unavailability of assets or time late information. The USC also conducted scheduled aerial patrols of the EEZs surrounding the Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI), American Samoa, Kingman/Palmyra, Wake, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI). No foreign fishing vessel incursions were detected.

The USCGC POLAR STAR transited through the Howland/Baker EEZ enroute to Australia and conducted two helicopter sorties. NO foreign fishing vessel incursions were detected.

The USCGC GALVESTON ISLAND patrolled the Guam and NMI EEZ. Several foreign fishing vessels were boarded with no violations detected.

The USCGC WALNUT conducted a law enforcement patrol south of the MHI that focused on the domestic longline fleet. All of the violations USCGC WALNUT detected were minor, such as no High Seas Fishing Compliance Act permit onboard, expired Protected Species Workshop card, and floats not properly marked. USCGC WALNUT terminated one fishing vessel for insufficient lifesaving equipment.

In January of 2005, five USCG personnel from station Maui assisted NOAA after two pigmy sperm whales were stranded on the beach in front of the Kihei Canoe Club, Maui. Eventually, the NOAA S/A secured the use of a local flat bed truck, and with help of USCG personnel and numerous volunteers, loaded both whales onto the truck for transport to the Maui Ocean Foundation.

During the period of February 1, 2005 to April 30, 2005, the USCG had five foreign vessel encroachments in the Guam EEZ. The USCG deployed a C-130 to Guam in response to a possible encroachment inside the Guam EEZ. The C-130 patrolled the area in coordination with USCGC GALVESTON ISLAND. Although six foreign fishing

vessels were found operating outside the US EEZ within 10 nautical miles of the US boundary, no violations were detected. The USC also conducted aerial patrols of the EEZs surrounding the MHI, and Kingman/Palmyra. No foreign fishing vessel incursions were detected.

The USCGC POLAR STAR patrolled the Kingman/Palmyra EEZ en route to Seattle, Washington. No foreign fishing vessel incursions were detected.

The USCGC GALVESTON ISLAND participated in Operation Big Eye, patrolling on Guam's side of the Guam/Federated States of Micronesia EEZ border. Operation Big Eye is a maritime surveillance operation conducted in coordination with the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Australia, and New Zealand.

The USCGC WASHINGTON and USCGC ASSATEAGUE conducted law enforcement patrols offshore south of the MHI that focused on the domestic longline fleet. No fisheries violations were detected; however, a high level of compliance with the Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Act requirements was noted.

The USCG continued active surface and aerial patrols of the Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale National Sanctuary. No violations were detected during this period.

During the period of May 1, 2005 to September 30, 2005, the USCG conducted scheduled aerial patrols of the EEZs surrounding the MHI, American Samoa, Kingman/Palmyra, Howland/Baker, and Guam. No foreign fishing vessel violations were detected.

The USCGC SEQUOIA conducted surveillance of the Guam EEZ in May 2005, with no foreign fishing vessel violations detected.

The USCGC JARVIS conducted operations with the Russian National Border Directorate vessel VOROVSKY and the Chinese Fisheries Law Enforcement Command vessel ZHONG GUO ZHENG 202 in June and July of 2005. The USCGC JARVIS conducted both operations in support of a cooperative enforcement effort in the western Pacific Ocean to combat illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing such as high seas driftnetting, as partners of the North Pacific Heads of Coast Guard Agencies (NPHCGA). Although JARVIS did not detect any violations, a US fisherman took digital pictures of a foreign vessel hauling in large-scale driftnets, approximately 800 nautical miles east northeast of Tokyo, Japan. These pictures were forwarded, through the Coast Guard, to the Department of State for further action.

The USCGC WALNUT and the USCGC ASSATEAGUE patrolled the southern EEZ of the MHI, as well as the Kingman/Palmyra and Jarvis EEZs in June and July of 2005. No foreign fishing vessel violations were detected.

The USCGC KUKUI conducted a law enforcement patrol south of the MHI and the EEZs of Kingman/Palmyra, Jarvis, American Samoa, and Howland/Baker that focused on foreign fishing vessels and the domestic longline fleet during July and August of 2005. USCGC KUKUI terminated two US fishing vessels in American Samoa for insufficient lifesaving equipment and a non-US Master. No foreign fishing vessel violations were detected.

Sector Honolulu units and the USCGC KITTIWAKE conducted fisheries boardings of the domestic longline fleet in August and September of 2005. Two US fishing vessels were cited for safety violations relating to lifesaving equipment and one was cited for having a non-US Master.

Both the USCGC KUKUI and USCGC WALNUT conducted marine debris removal operations in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) during August and September of 2005, removing over 42,000 pounds of plastic, nets, and other marine debris.

During the period of October 1, 2005 to February, 18, 2006, the USCG conducted scheduled aerial patrols of the EEZs surrounding the MHI, Wake, Johnston, Jarvis, Kingman/Palmyra, American Samoa, Howland, and Guam. On November 25, 2005, a USCG C-130 observed the Taiwanese fishing vessel HSIN YUN YI NO. 8 actively retrieving fishing gear approximately fifteen nautical miles inside the US EEZ, approximately 500 nautical miles north northwest of Guam. A case package documenting the illegal activity was sent to NOAA Enforcement for further follow-up.

From October 17-31, 2005, USCGC WALNUT and USCGC WASHINGTON conducted a multi-unit law enforcement patrol (MULEPAT) in the MHI. Twenty US fishing vessels of the Hawaii-based longline fleet were boarded by the cutters. These at-sea boardings resulted in 26 safety violations and 14 separate minor fishing violations. One violation of the Shark Finning Prohibition Act was also noted. Case packages documenting the fishing violations were provided to NOAA Enforcement for further follow-up.

The USCGC SEQUOIA patrolled the Guam and NMI EEZs in early December 2005 as part of MULEPAT with USCGC GALVESTON ISLAND and a USCG C-130. No foreign fishing vessel violations were detected.