



16214
28 February 2014

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

Dear Mr. Palacios:

I am pleased to report to you and the rest of the Council the following summary of U.S. Coast Guard fisheries law enforcement activities in the Western and Central Pacific Region for the period October 1, 2013 to February 28, 2014.

October 4th to 6th, CGC WALNUT patrolled the U.S. EEZ of Kingman/Palmyra Atoll. No foreign vessel incursions were detected. While on patrol, CGC WALNUT conducted one boarding of a vessel on the high seas under the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission High Seas Boarding and Inspection scheme. No violations were observed.

November 10th to 11th and 18th to 20th, CGC KUKUI patrolled the U.S. EEZ of Johnston Atoll. No foreign vessel incursions were detected.

December 21st to 23rd, CGC POLAR STAR patrolled the Howland/Baker EEZ. No foreign vessel incursions were detected.

January 1st Coast Guard air and surface assets began OP KOHOLA Guardian to educate the boating public and enforce the 100yd no approach rule to humpback whales around the Main Hawaiian Islands. The Coast Guard conducts this surge operation annually during the peak humpback whale season. During this operation the Coast Guard works closely with NOAA OLE and State Enforcement Officers.

January 13th to February 3rd a Coast Guard law enforcement detachment (LEDET) deployed on board the U.S. Navy asset, USS KIDD, in support of the Oceania Maritime Security Initiative phase II patrol. USS KIDD patrolled the U.S. EEZs of Main Hawaiian Islands and Johnston Atoll and the foreign EEZs of the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), and Nauru. The LEDET completed 13 boardings. Three of these boardings were conducted on U.S. flagged distant water tuna fleet purse seine vessels. No fisheries violations were observed. The LEDET also assisted the embarked Republic of Marshall Islands shiprider with five boardings of fishing vessels located inside the RMI EEZ under the RMI/U.S. shiprider agreement. No violations of RMI law were observed. Additionally the LEDET assisted the embarked Nauru shiprider with five boardings of fishing vessels located inside the Nauru EEZ under the Nauru/U.S. shiprider agreement. One violation of Nauru law was observed.

February 3rd to 16th, CGC KISKA patrolled the Main Hawaiian EEZ and conducted 14 boardings of domestic longline vessels based out of Honolulu. Overall fisheries compliance was high with only minor violations, however, there were numerous safety violations with two vessel's voyages being terminated for especially hazardous conditions.

February 13th to 23rd, CGC SEQUOIA patrolled the U.S. EEZs of Guam and CNMI. While on patrol, CGC SEQUOIA conducted one boarding of a vessel on the high seas under the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission High Seas Boarding and Inspection scheme. The foreign flagged fishing vessel was

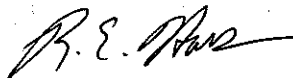
14 September 2013

fishing within 18 NM of CNMI's EEZ, but not broadcasting on WCPFC VMS. As a result of the WCPFC high seas boarding and inspection, the Coast Guard was able to reach out to the foreign nation and the WCPFC Secretariat raising concerns about the fact that the vessel was not broadcasting on VMS. The WCPFC Secretariat informed the nation that they were not in compliance with the WCPFC VMS conservation and management measure and subsequently the vessel data was added to the WCPFC VMS system. We consider this a very successful boarding as it identified a vessel fishing near the U.S. EEZ which could not be monitored by the U.S.

Between October and February, District Fourteen C-130 aircraft flew multiple patrols of the U.S. EEZ of the Hawaiian Islands, three patrols of the Johnston Atoll EEZ, one patrol of the northwest Hawaiian Islands, one patrol of the American Samoa EEZ and one patrol of the Jarvis and Kingman/Palmyra EEZs. No foreign vessel incursions were detected.

The District 14 Enforcement staff attended several fisheries enforcement-related meetings during this reporting period. Meetings included the 9th Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory council, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Corral Reef Ecosystem RAC, and Papahānaumokuākea MNM Logistics Coordination meeting.

Sincerely,



R. E. Howes
Commander, U. S. Coast Guard
Chief, Enforcement Branch