

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
Fourteenth Coast Guard District

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16214
13 June 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 March 1 to June 10, 2014.

From March 9th to 22nd, CGC ASSATEAGUE deployed on a multi-mission patrol. During this deployment CGC ASSATEAGUE patrolled the U.S. EEZ of Guam. CGC ASSATEAGUE also completed three international boardings. These boardings were high seas boardings of foreign flagged fishing vessels conducted under the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission High Seas Boarding and Inspection scheme or bi-lateral assisted boardings within the respective EEZ of the Federated States of Micronesia. No violations were observed. Enforcement actions on the high seas and foreign EEZs adjacent to U.S. EEZs have a derivative deterrent effect in the U.S. EEZ and help compel foreign fishers to respect the EEZ boundaries.

From March 11th to 12th a United States Navy P-8 aircraft patrolled the U.S. EEZs of Guam and CNMI. While patrolling CNMI EEZ the aircraft identified two foreign flagged fishing vessels outside of the EEZ boundary that were not broadcasting on WCPFC VMS. This information was passed to the flag state and the WCPFC secretariat.

From April 28th to May 1st, CGC SEQUOIA patrolled the U.S. EEZs of Johnston Atoll and the Main Hawaiian Islands. No foreign vessel incursions were detected.

CGC WALNUT deployed on a multi-mission patrol from April 30th to June 10th. During this deployment CGC WALNUT patrolled the U.S. EEZs of Main Hawaiian Islands, Kingman/Palmyra Atoll, Jarvis Island and American Samoa. No foreign vessel incursions were detected. While on patrol, CGC WALNUT also conducted six international boardings. These boardings were high seas boardings of foreign flagged fishing vessels conducted under the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission High Seas Boarding and Inspection scheme or bi-lateral assisted boardings within the respective EEZ of Western Samoa and Cook Islands. No violations were observed. CGC WALNUT conducted two domestic boardings of the U.S. distant water tuna fleet with no violations. CGC WALNUT also conducted nine domestic boardings of the Honolulu or American Samoa based longline fleets. Numerous safety and two minor fisheries violations were observed.

From April 21st to May 25th CGC MUNRO patrolled the U.S. EEZs of the Main Hawaiian Islands, Kingman/Palmyra Atoll, Jarvis Island and Howland Baker Island. No foreign vessel incursions were detected. While on patrol CGC MUNRO completed six domestic boardings of the distant water tuna fleet. One potential violation of the Marine Mammal Protect Act was identified. CGC MUNRO also conducted two domestic boardings of Honolulu based longline fleet with no violations observed.

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Between March and June, District Fourteen C-130 aircraft flew multiple patrols of the U.S. EEZ of the Hawaiian Islands, one patrol of the northwest Hawaiian Islands, one patrol of the American Samoa EEZ, three patrols of the Jarvis and Kingman/Palmyra EEZs, one patrol of Howland/Baker EEZ and one patrol of Wake Island EEZ. No foreign vessel incursions were detected.

The District 14 Enforcement staff attended several fisheries enforcement-related meetings during this reporting period. Meetings included a meeting with NOAA Marine National Monument staff to discuss coordination of Monument patrols, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Corral Reef Ecosystem RAC, Papahānaumokuākea MNM Logistics Coordination meetings, and a planning meeting for Unnamed Aerial System deployment to the Northwest Hawaiian Islands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. E. Howes, CDR".

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