

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
Fourteenth Coast Guard District

300 Ala Moana Blvd., #9-232
Honolulu, HI 96850
Staff Symbol: dre
Phone: (808) 535-3370
FAX: (808) 535-3369

16214
01 June 2015

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

Dear Mr. Ebisui:

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 of March 1, 2015 to May 31, 2015.

From February 21st to March 17th CGC SHERMAN deployed on a multi-mission patrol. During this deployment CGC SHERMAN patrolled the U.S. EEZs of the Main Hawaiian Islands and Kingman Reef/Palmyra Atoll and the foreign EEZ of Cook Islands. CGC SHERMAN completed eight boardings, assisting the embarked Cook Islands shiprider with boarding three U.S. flagged purse seine vessels located inside the Cook Islands EEZ under the Cook Islands/U.S. shiprider agreement. No violations of Cook Islands or U.S. law were observed. CGC SHERMAN completed four boardings under the authority of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) High Seas Boarding and Inspection scheme with no violations observed. Enforcement actions on the high seas have a derivative deterrent effect in the U.S. EEZ and help compel foreign fishers to respect U.S. EEZ boundaries. CGC SHERMAN also completed one domestic boarding of the Honolulu based longline fleet with no violations observed.

From March 2nd to 8th CGC GALVESTON ISLAND patrolled the U.S. EEZ of the Main Hawaiian Islands, no foreign vessel incursions were detected. CGC GALVESTON ISLAND completed ten boardings on the Honolulu based longline fleet, noting safety violations on four of the vessels and citing two vessels for lack of a U.S. Coast Guard approved boarding ladder.

From March 15th to 22nd CGC KISKA patrolled the U.S. EEZ of the Main Hawaiian Islands, no foreign vessel incursions were detected.

From March 15th to 24th CGC SEQUOIA patrolled the U.S. EEZ of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, no foreign vessel incursions were detected.

From March 23rd to May 4th CGC KUKUI deployed on a multi-mission patrol. During this deployment CGC KUKUI patrolled the U.S. EEZs of the Main Hawaiian Islands, American Samoa, and Kingman Reef/Palmyra Atoll and the foreign EEZ of Kiribati (Line Islands). CGC KUKUI completed eight boardings, assisting the embarked Kiribati shiprider with boardings of three foreign flagged longline vessels registered to fish in the Kiribati EEZ, one violation was noted for an excessive amount of shark fins. Five boardings were conducted on the American Samoa based longline fleet. Multiple safety violations were noted on three of these vessels, one of which had its voyage terminated due to an especially hazardous condition.

From April 13th to 17th CGC GALVESTON ISLAND patrolled the U.S. EEZ of the Main Hawaiian Islands, no foreign vessel incursions were detected. CGC GALVESTON ISLAND conducted eight boardings on the Honolulu based longline fleet, noting safety violations on five of the vessels and citing one vessel for lack of a U.S. Coast Guard approved boarding ladder.

On April 16th and 23rd CGC WASHINGTON patrolled the U.S. EEZ of Guam. No foreign vessel incursions were detected.

From 26th April to May 1st CGC MELLON patrolled the U.S. EEZ of the Main Hawaiian and Northwest Hawaiian Islands. Their embarked aircraft flew patrols of the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. No foreign vessel incursions were detected.

From April 27th to 30th CGC ASSATEAGUE patrolled the EEZ of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. No foreign vessel incursions were detected.

Between March and June, District Fourteen C-130 aircraft flew multiple patrols of the U.S. EEZ of the Main Hawaiian Islands and American Samoa, one patrol of the Northwest Hawaiian Islands, and one patrol of Kingman Reef/Palmyra Atoll. No foreign vessel incursions were detected.

The District 14 enforcement staff participated in several fisheries enforcement-related meetings during this reporting period. These meetings included an introduction to the new WCPFC Executive Director and Compliance Manager, meeting with the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary staff to discuss proposed regulations, the NOAA National Observer program report meeting, the Annual False Killer Whale Take Reduction Team meeting, and the Northwest Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council meeting.

Sector Honolulu established a new process to follow up commercial fishing vessel safety examinations identifying machinery, electrical, or structural deficiencies with further assessment by Marine Inspectors. Since implementing this policy, there has been an approximate 65% reduction in reportable marine casualties from these vessels. Some examples of reportable casualties include loss of steering, loss of main engine propulsion, and loss of generator power.

Sincerely,



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