



August 30, 2023

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) activities in the Western and Central Pacific region for the period of 27 June 2023 through 18 September 2023.

During this period, the U.S Coast Guard responded to 662 cases consisting of search and rescue, law enforcement, marine environmental protection/response, and ports, waterways, and coastal security missions.

One such mission was USCGC MYRTLE HAZARD's subject matter expert exchange with partners from the Papua New Guinea Defense Forces, Customs Services, National Fisheries Authority, and Department of Transport's maritime security division in August. The U.S. Coast Guard was in Papua New Guinea at their invitation to join their lead in maritime operations to combat illegal fishing and safeguard maritime resources following the recent signing and ratification of the bilateral agreement between the United States and Papua New Guinea.

Notably, the U.S. Coast Guard MSST Honolulu conducted Operation Malosi Uso in Pago Pago from 3-24 August. The operation focused on Ports, Waterways & Coastal Security, Maritime Law Enforcement, and Search & Rescue response, LE training, and community outreach with local LE agencies. The team worked with NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement and the American Samoa Dept. of Public Safety, Customs, & Marine Patrol to conduct 50 patrol hours, 24 hours of LE training with local partners, and 45 hours of community relations.

Additionally, as part of a continued commitment to enhancing maritime governance and promoting regional sovereignty, representatives of the United States, Rear Adm. Michael Day, and the Republic of Palau, President Surangel S. Whipps, Jr., sign an expanded bilateral law enforcement agreement on Aug. 23, 2023.

Lastly, the U.S. Coast Guard joined with federal, state and local partners to respond to the devastating wildfires in Maui, HI August 9, 2023. A total of 17 lives were saved from the water and 40 survivors were located ashore by Coast Guard Station Maui boat crews. Response efforts included sorties covering nearly 700 square nautical miles and the establishment of a security zone 3 nautical miles north and south of Lahaina and extending one nautical mile offshore.

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Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.C. McCollum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

J.C. McCollum
LCDR, U.S. Coast Guard
Fourteenth Coast Guard District