

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



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7 June 2024

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

Dear Mr. Sword:

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 16 March 2024 through 6 June 2024.

During this period, the U.S. Coast Guard responded to 927 cases consisting of search and rescue, law enforcement, marine environmental protection/response, and ports, waterways, and coastal security missions.


One such mission was USCG support to the Forum Fisheries Agency's annual counter IUU fishing surge operation TUI MOANA with a C-130 from CG Barbers Point Air Station and several USCG watchstanders deployed to the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Center in Honiara, Solomon Islands. Operation TUI MOANA, one of four regional counter IUU fishing surge operations, aims to detect and deter illegal fishing activities and non-compliance with international fishery management agreements across the exclusive economic zones of seven participating Pacific Island countries and the adjacent high seas areas. While engaged in the region, the C-130 conducted surveillance flights to capture imagery of fishing vessels operating within the Samoan and Tongan EEZs and in the high seas areas nearby. The flights included enforcement personnel from Samoa and Tonga under the maritime law enforcement bilateral agreements with both countries.

Beyond fisheries enforcement, in April 2024, the U.S. Coast Guard transported Hawaiian Monk Seal RS10 back to Kaua'i via USCG C-130 aircraft following a Marine Mammal Center surgical procedure to remove an ingested hook. RS10 was successfully released near his capture location and has been spotted after release looking healthy and hook-free.

Future Enforcement operations include Coast Guard Cutters HARRIET LANE and OLIVER BERRY deployments to the Central and Western Pacific June-October 2024. The deployments, including visits to American Samoa, will focus on domestic fisheries, bi-lateral law enforcement operations with Pacific Island partners, and WCPFC High Seas Boardings and Inspections. In addition to enforcement operations, the deployments will include Pacific Island port visits, official meetings, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges, ship tours, and community relations events.

During these deployments, USCG District 14 will also support the Forum Fisheries Agency's annual counter IUU/F surge operation ISLAND CHIEF with CGC HARRIET LANE, a USCG C-130, and several USCG watchstanders deployed to the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Center in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Sincerely,

M.D. 
M.D. Stegman
Enforcement Branch
Fourteenth Coast Guard District

