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October 10, 2019

Mr. William Ailā Jr., Chair
Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve
Daniel K. Inouye Pacific Regional Center
1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 176
Honolulu, HI 96818

Dear Mr. Ailā:

I am pleased to report to the Council the following summary of U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) fisheries law enforcement activities in the Western and Central Pacific region for the period of 01 June through 31 September 2019.

From 10-23 June, a U.S. Navy vessel with an embarked Coast Guard boarding team conducted a patrol on the high seas in support of Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) scheme. During this patrol, no boardings were conducted.

On 22 July, Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 aircraft transported a rehabilitated Hawaiian monk seal from Ke Kai Ola Marine Mammal Center in Kailua-Kona to Kauai.

From 23-24 July, Air Station Barbers Point provided transport of a critically injured Hawaiian monk seal from Moloka'i to Hawaii Island for medical care. Air Station Barbers Point initially supported the request for transport with an HH-65 helicopter. However, the HH-65 helicopter was diverted for a search and rescue (SAR) case. The helicopter unloaded the monk seal on Oahu where the animal remained overnight at a NOAA facility. On 24 July, Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 aircraft transported the monk seal to Ke Kai Ola Marine Mammal Center in Kailua-Kona.

From 25 July - 30 August, USCGC WALNUT and USCGC JOSEPH GERCZAK supported a deployment to American Samoa and Samoa where they conducted fisheries law enforcement and strengthened relationships with partner nations. This patrol allowed USCG to assist Samoa during a time when they had a gap in their patrol boat capabilities, ensuring resource security and maritime sovereignty. Additionally, the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surrounding Hawaii and American Samoa were patrolled. The USCGC WALNUT crew assisted Samoa law enforcement officers in boarding three foreign-flagged longline vessels registered to fish within the Samoa EEZ, with no violations observed. One WCPFC boarding was conducted and one boarding conducted on a domestic fishing vessel. The USCGC JOSEPH GERCZAK conducted five boardings during this patrol, four inside the U.S. EEZ and one on the high seas.

On 13 August, Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 aircraft departed Honolulu for Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia to preposition for planned patrols to counter potential IUU fishing in support of Operation Island Chief. While en route, the aircraft was diverted to Palau for SAR tasking. On 14 August, the aircraft completed SAR activities and successfully located the vessel in distress. Following, the aircraft resumed patrol intentions to complete an IUU patrol of the Palau EEZ and returned to Honolulu on 19 August.

On 03 September, four malnourished Hawaiian monk seal pups rescued from the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands were transported by Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 aircraft from Oahu to Ke Kai Ola Marine Mammal Center in Kailua-Kona for rehabilitation.

On 20 September, Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 aircraft conducted an enforcement and surveillance operation in support of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. During this patrol, the aircraft flew over 11 hours between the morning and evening flights. The aircrew reported multiple sightings, but observed no evidence of illegal fishing. Additionally, the aircraft provided transportation of NOAA, USFWS, and State of Hawaii DLNR leadership to Midway. During the flight, USCGC OLIVER BERRY coordinated with the HC-130 to provide a CASPER demonstration for passengers.

On 30 September, USCGC WALNUT was en route to Midway to complete ATON servicing and came across a fishing net within Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. USCGC WALNUT recovered the net and found two buoys attached to it. Notification to NOAA was completed.

From 16-30 September, USCGC JOSEPH GERCZAK was scheduled to patrol the Main Hawaiian Islands in support of living marine resources enforcement, recreational boating safety, and counter drug operations. However, the Coast Guard received a report of a vessel fire aboard the CFV MISS EMMA on 17 September and USCGC JOSEPH GERCZAK was diverted to assist along with Coast Guard Station Honolulu response boat and an aircraft from Air Station Barbers Point. All crew members onboard CFV MISS EMMA and a NOAA observer were safely rescued at sea.

District Fourteen enforcement staff participated in several living marine resources enforcement related meetings and events this reporting period, including the Marine Mammal Commission's annual meeting. Additionally, D14 units hosted high school students from the WPRFMC Marine Science summer school class in June to provide tours of USCG helicopters, boats, and cutters, and a presentation on USCG living marine resources and marine protected resources missions.

Sincerely



C.M. Norman
U.S. Coast Guard
Fourteenth Coast Guard District