



16214
November 1, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Johns:

I am pleased to report to you and the rest of the Council the following summary of U.S. Coast Guard Living Marine Resources activities in the Western and Central Pacific Region for the period of July 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016, including one patrol which began in June.

From June 21st to August 1st CGC KUKUI deployed on a multi-mission patrol. During this deployment, CGC KUKUI patrolled the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Hawaiian Islands, Kingman Reef/Palmyra Atoll, and American Samoa and the foreign EEZs of Tuvalu and Cook Islands. CGC KUKUI boarded a U.S. flagged longline vessel based out of American Samoa noting safety violations for improperly marked life rings and insufficient charge on a fire extinguisher. CGC KUKUI also boarded a U.S. flagged purse seiner where no violations were observed. CGC KUKUI assisted the embarked Tuvalu shiprider with three boardings of foreign flagged longline vessels registered to fish in the Tuvalu EEZ, noting safety violations on one vessel. CGC KUKUI assisted the embarked Cook Islands shiprider with four boardings of foreign flagged longline vessels authorized to fish in the Cook Islands EEZ where one violation was noted for the lack of markings on fishing gear. CGC KUKUI completed six boardings under the authority of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) scheme with no violations observed.

From July 18th to 22nd CGC ASSATEAGUE patrolled the U.S. EEZ of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. No foreign vessel incursions were detected.

From July 18th to 24th CGC GALVESTON ISLAND patrolled the U.S. EEZ of the Hawaiian Islands. No foreign vessel incursions were detected.

From August 8th to 13th CGC GALVESTON ISLAND patrolled the U.S. EEZ of the Hawaiian Islands with an embarked NOAA uniformed officer. During this patrol CGC GALVESTON ISLAND boarded 21 U.S. flagged longline vessels based out of Honolulu noting 81 safety violations on 15 of the vessels. Three vessels voyages were terminated due to especially hazardous conditions. There were also five violations issued for lack of turtle mitigation gear.

From August 29th to September 22nd CGC SEQUOIA deployed on a multi-mission patrol. During this deployment, CGC SEQUOIA patrolled the U.S. EEZ of Guam and the foreign EEZ of Palau. CGC SEQUOIA assisted the embarked Palau shiprider with eight boardings of foreign flagged longline vessels authorized to fish in the Palau EEZ noting a potential violation of the Forum Fisheries Agency vessel monitoring system. CGC SEQUOIA completed six boardings under the authority of the WCPFC HSBI scheme with several potential violations observed on four vessels including excessive shark fins, no turtle mitigation gear, no daily catch logs, and no licenses.

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Between July and September, District Fourteen C-130 aircraft flew multiple patrols of the U.S. EEZ of the Hawaiian Islands, including three dedicated patrols of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument; three patrols of Kingman Reef/Palmyra Atoll; and two patrols of Johnston Atoll. No foreign vessel incursions or domestic violations were detected.

District Fourteen enforcement staff participated in several Living Marine Resources related meetings during this reporting period. These meetings included the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, the WCPFC Permanent Advisory Council, and the WCPFC Technical and Compliance Committee.

Sincerely,



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