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15 July 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 (LMR) activities in the western and central Pacific Ocean for the period of April 1 to June 30, 2016.

During this period, our operational units conducted approximately twenty-four domestic and thirty-two international fishing vessel boardings, ensuring compliance among all fleets and an equal playing field for our U.S. fishers. Additionally, we supported six marine protected species conservation requests for Endangered Species Act protected animals.

From April 4th to 9th CGC KISKA patrolled the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the main Hawaiian Islands. No foreign vessel incursions were detected.

From April 8th to May 8th CGC SEQUOIA deployed on a multi-mission patrol. During this deployment, CGC SEQUOIA patrolled the U.S. EEZ of Guam and the foreign EEZs of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). CGC SEQUOIA completed one domestic boarding of a U.S. tuna purse seine vessel and six foreign vessel boardings. CGC SEQUOIA assisted the embarked RMI shiprider with three boardings of foreign flagged vessels registered to fish in the RMI EEZ. CGC SEQUOIA, along with an Australian Fisheries Management Authority officer, completed three joint boardings of foreign flagged vessels under the authority of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission's High Seas Boarding and Inspection scheme, with no violations observed.

From April 11th to 22nd CGC ASSATEAGUE patrolled the U.S. EEZs of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). No foreign vessel incursions were detected.

On April 14th, NOAA Fisheries requested assistance in transporting seven rehabilitated Hawaiian monk seals from the hospital in Kona to Oahu for subsequent transfer to a NOAA research vessel and release in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Air Station Barbers Point (ASBP) supported this request via C-130 airplane, marking the largest single transfer of animals in recent history.

On May 4th, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service notified USCG Sector Honolulu of an oiled albatross on Laysan Island. Field biologists noted the animal along with an orange colored substance in the water off the remote island. An ASBP C-130 airplane responded to survey the scene and

determined the cause of the suspected oil. The Coast Guard aircrew was able to track the source material back to a deceased whale in the vicinity of the island.

From May 17th to 22nd CGC ASSATEAGUE patrolled the U.S. EEZ of Guam. No foreign vessel incursions were detected.

From May 23rd to 27th CGC KISKA patrolled the U.S. EEZ of the main Hawaiian Islands. This patrol was also supported via an ASBP C-130 airplane. No foreign vessel incursions were detected.

On May 27th, NOAA Fisheries requested assistance in transporting a critically injured Hawaiian monk seal from Kauai to Oahu. The seal had ingested a fish hook and needed to undergo surgery. Air Station Barbers Point supported this request via a C-130 airplane.

From June 1st to 6th CGC ASSATEAGUE patrolled the U.S. EEZ of Guam. No foreign vessel incursions were detected.

On June 2nd, NOAA Fisheries requested assistance in transporting a post-op Hawaiian monk seal, originally transported on May 27th, from Oahu to Kauai. The animal had undergone successful removal of the fish hook and was medically cleared for release. Air Station Barbers Point supported the request via a C-130 airplane.

On June 4th, two off-duty Coast Guardsmen successfully rescued three green sea turtles that were trapped in a derelict fishing net off the west side of Oahu, and brought the net to shore for disposal.

From June 8th to 10th CGC ASSATEAGUE patrolled the U.S. EEZ of CNMI. No foreign vessel incursions were detected.

On June 10th, NOAA Fisheries requested assistance in transporting a second Hawaiian monk seal from Kauai to Oahu that had ingested a fish hook. Air Station Barbers Point supported the request via a C-130 airplane.

On June 14th, NOAA Fisheries requested assistance in transporting a post-op Hawaiian monk seal, originally transported on June 10th, from Oahu to Kauai. The animal had undergone successful removal of the fish hook and was medically cleared for release. Air Station Barbers Point supported the request via a C-130 airplane.

District Fourteen enforcement staff also participated in several LMR related meetings during this reporting period. These meetings included the annual Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Team meeting as well as the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting.

Sincerely,



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