



6 September 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 7 June 2024 through 6 September 2024.

During this period, the U.S. Coast Guard responded to 1427 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 ISLAND CHIEF (OPIC24) with a C-130 from CG Air Station Barbers Point and several USCG watchstanders deployed to the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Center in Honiara, Solomon Islands. Operation ISLAND CHIEF, 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 eleven participating Pacific Island countries and the adjacent high seas areas.

Over 353 vessel contacts were made during OPIC24 using air, surface assets and port States, with a total of 153 boarding inspections conducted both in port and at sea. Additionally, 206 aircraft sightings and 1,146 satellite detections were recorded. As a result of Maritime Domain Awareness analysis and inspections, eight vessels of interest (VOIs) were identified and reported to Members for further investigation, with potential infringements related to non-compliance with national and WCPFC conservation management measures.

USCGC HARRIET LANE patrolled 13,400 nautical miles on the high seas and through 12 partner nation Exclusive Economic Zones to enhance maritime domain awareness and to deter IUU Fishing and other illicit maritime activity. Operational highlights included successful bilateral law enforcement operations with Tuvalu, Tonga, Samoa, and the Cook Islands and WCPFC High Seas Boardings and Inspections. HARRIET LANE also executed the rescue of a sick crewmember from a Hawaii based longliner over 450nm south of Oahu. In addition to operations, HARRIET LANE's Pacific Island port visits to Pago Pago, Alofi (Niue), Funafuti, Nuku'alofa, Apia, Rarotonga, and Pape'ete included official meetings, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges, ship tours, and community relations events.


USCGC OLIVER BERRY is successfully strengthening international strategic regional partnerships through Bilateral Law Enforcement operations with the Republic of Fiji and Samoa. Working with our partners from the Fiji Navy, Customs, and Fisheries, operational highlights include over 30 bilateral law enforcement boardings and WCPFC High Seas inspections. In addition to enforcement operations with Fiji and Samoa, OLIVER BERRY's port visits to Pago Pago, Nadi, and Apia include official meetings, subject matter expert exchanges, ship tours, and community relations events.

In other enforcement activities, a U.S. Navy asset with embarked USCG Tactical Law Enforcement Team is currently conducting High Seas Boarding and Inspections in support of the Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

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And finally, in addition to conducting fisheries enforcement patrol in and around the CNMI EEZ, CGC FREDERICK HATCH participated in the Battles of Saipan and Tinian Anniversary Ceremonies and other community relations events including tours for Saipan Women's and Veteran's Associations. The Cutter also visited 3 anchorages in CNMI Northern Islands, supporting CNMI FWC annual surveys and delivering needed supplies to inhabitants of Pagan, Maug, and Agrigan for Northern Islands Mayor's Office.

Sincerely,

M.D. 

M.D. Stegman
Enforcement Branch
Fourteenth Coast Guard District