

17th COAST GUARD DISTRICT ENFORCEMENT REPORT



2021 Year in Review

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List of Abbreviations

AVDET – Aviation Detachment	MBL – US/Russian Maritime Boundary
CFVS – Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety	MEDEVAC – Medical Evacuation
CGC – Coast Guard Cutter	MEDICO – Passing medical advice at sea
DIW – Dead in the Water	NOV – Notice of Violation
EPIRB – Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon	NPSC – North Pacific SAR Coordinator
FBS – Russian Federal Border Service	NVG – Night Vision Goggles
FCH – Charter Fishing Vessel	PCC – Cabin Cruiser
FLL – Long Line Vessel	PD – Police Department
FF/V – Foreign Fishing Vessel	POB – Persons on board
FOL – Forward Operating Location	PRA – Pleasure craft, run about
FPB – Pot Fishing Vessel	PRC – People’s Republic of China
FTS – Stern Trawl Vessel	RFMO – Regional Fisheries Management Org.
GOA – Gulf of Alaska	SAR – Search and Rescue
HC-130 – USCG Fixed-Wing Aircraft	SARSAT – Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking
HEC/MEC – High/Medium Endurance Cutters	SEZ - Seizure
HFP – Health Force Partners	SMC – SAR Mission Coordinator
HH65/60 – CG helicopter	TERM - Termination
HSDN – High Seas Drift Net	UMIB – Urgent Marine Info Broadcast
IFQ – Individual Fishing Quota	WHEC – 378ft High Endurance Cutter
IUU – Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported Fishing	WLB – 225ft Buoy Tender
IVO – In the vicinity of	WMSL – 418ft National Security Cutter
MARB – Marine Assistance Request Broadcast	WPB – 110ft Patrol Boat

I. IUU Fishing & High Seas Drift Net (HSDN) Enforcement

Operation North Pacific Guard (NPG) is an annual high seas U.S. fisheries law enforcement operation designed to detect and deter illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activity, including large-scale high seas pelagic drift-net (herein HSDN) fishing, in accordance with multilateral and bilateral international agreements to which the United States is party. Operation NPG advances U.S. goals for the conservation and management of high seas fisheries resources and is our at-sea enforcement contribution to a multilateral effort by North Pacific rim nations to eliminate IUU fishing activity from the North Pacific. This is in support of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), and North Pacific Anadromous Fisheries Commission (NPAFC) regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs).

CGC BERTHOLF provided 51 days of support to Operation NPG 2021. Operation NPG also included support from an AIRSTA Kodiak C-130, Canadian DSH-8 aircraft, seven international ship riders from Canada and Korea, and two NOAA Office of Law Enforcement ship riders. BERTHOLF conducted 28 boardings (19 NPFC and 9 WCPFC) and detected 42 violations including 25 serious violations of RFMO Conservation and Management Measures. Of note, 689 Shark fins and 25 salmon were discovered on these boardings and reported to the respective RFMOs. During the patrol, ten PRC and one Russian Flagged NPFC-registered vessels refused boardings, resulting in a potentially serious violation for each of those vessels. U.S. Head of Delegation has submitted 11 of those vessels to the NPFC for consideration to be labeled as IUU vessels.

II. U.S./Russian Maritime Boundary Line (MBL) Enforcement

Foreign fishing vessel activity along the U.S.-Russian EEZ boundary in the Bering Sea and Chukchi Sea was moderate during the majority of 2021, with high activity occurring from June to September, averaging eight to nine vessels per day within 20 nautical miles of the MBL. There were no detected incursions by foreign fishing vessels into the U.S. EEZ in 2021. There were also no detected incursions of U.S. fishing vessels operating on the Russian side of the MBL.

III. U.S./Canadian EEZ Boundary (Dixon Entrance) Enforcement

Canadian fishing activity along the U.S.-Canadian EEZ boundary in the vicinity of Dixon Entrance was low throughout 2021. There were no detected incursions by foreign fishing vessels into the U.S. EEZ in 2021.

IV. Marine Protected Resources and Critical Habitat Enforcement

The Coast Guard monitors more than 151 critical habitat areas around Alaska each month as part of routine cutter and aircraft patrol activity. During 2021, the Coast Guard conducted 14 flights out of Kodiak, Nome (via FOL Kotzebue), and Sitka in support of Marine Protected Resources and NOAA's Protected Resources Division (PRD). No violations were detected on these flights, but were instrumental in collecting and reporting marine mammal stranding data, including for the gray whale and ice seal unusual mortality events (UMEs). Alaska Marine Mammal Stranding Network partners were able to conduct eight surveys of coastal Kodiak (the largest effort to date), respond to a live gray whale stranding, and a dead sperm whale north of Kodiak. Three of

the first ten strandings of 2021 were reported to NMFS by the USCG during these flights. On March 18th, a six person necropsy team was flown to a whale on Kruzof Island and conducted a 5.5 hour necropsy, the first humpback whale necropsy in five years for the Sitka Marine Mammal Stranding Network. A virtual necropsy was developed by the University of Alaska Southeast as a result of this event which has been widely viewed and used as an educational tool.

The USCG also issued multiple Broadcasts to Mariners regarding known entangled whales. These broadcasts notified mariners about potential navigational hazards, and also kept people safe by asking them to report entangled whale locations without taking actions into their own hands, a potentially dangerous endeavor.

V. Commercial Fishing Vessel Boarding Statistics

District 17 conducted 595 federal fisheries boardings during 2021. Figures 1 and 2 show the historic trends for boardings and violations. The top five fisheries violations were: logbook discrepancies, no IFQ permit onboard, expired or no FFP onboard, sea-bird avoidance gear not onboard or improperly constructed, and improperly marked buoys.

Figure 1. Fisheries Boardings By Year

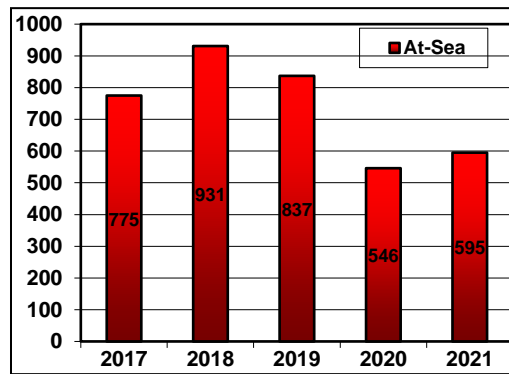
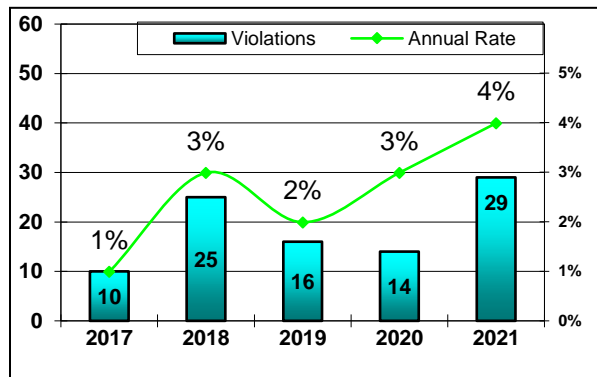


Figure 2. Fisheries Violations by Year



VI. Halibut and Sablefish Enforcement

In 2021, Coast Guard patrols conducted 515 boardings on commercial, charter, and recreational vessels targeting halibut and sablefish. District 17 conducted 152 boardings of IFQ halibut or sablefish vessels, detecting 22 fisheries violations, representing 76% of the commercial violations detected. The top violations included logbook discrepancies, no IFQ permit and/or FFP, onboard, sea-bird avoidance gear not onboard or improperly constructed, improper marked buoys, and failure to retain Pacific cod. District 17 conducted 108 boardings on charter halibut vessels, detecting zero violations. District 17 conducted 255 boardings on recreational vessels targeting halibut and detected one violation for improper filleting at sea, which resulted in a seizure of the catch, and one violation for no subsistence halibut license onboard.

VII. Forward Operating Locations (FOL) Summary

Air Station Kodiak deployed a MH-60 and air crew to FOL Cold Bay from 14 January 2021 through 09 April 2021 for increased activity in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Island crab and trawl fisheries.

Air Station Kodiak deployed a MH-60 and air crew to FOL Cordova from 01 May 2021 to 30 September 2021 to support the increase in fishing vessel activity in the Gulf of Alaska. District 17 stages a helicopter and crew there during the summer each year to increase Search and Rescue coverage and support Law Enforcement and Protected Living Marine Resources.

Air Station Kodiak deployed two MH-60s and associated air crews to FOL Kotzebue from 01 July 2021 to 31 October 2021 to support Search and Rescue coverage, community engagement, and Protected Living Marine Resources activities.

Air Station Kodiak again deployed a MH-60 and air crew to FOL Cold Bay from 06 October 2021 through 02 November 2021 for increased activity in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Island crab fisheries.

VIII. Crab Fisheries

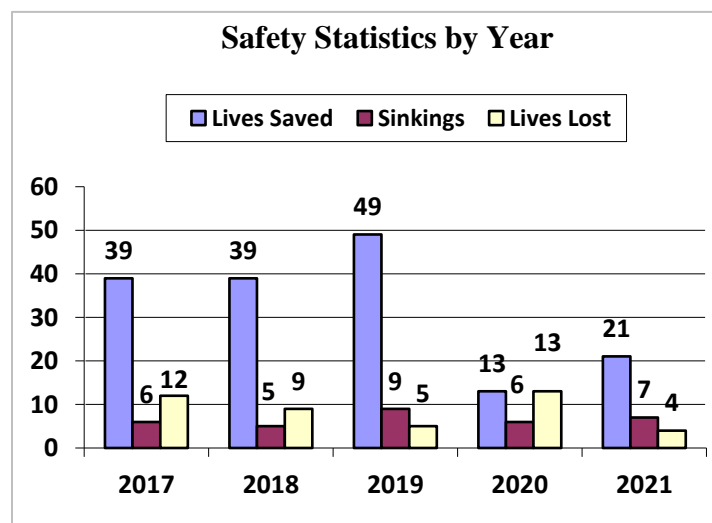
Coast Guard units conducted 13 boardings on fishing vessels targeting crab throughout Alaska, including two in the Bering Sea. The quantity of boardings in 2021 was depressed due to the closure of Bristol Bay Red King Crab, limiting vessel participation.

IX. Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety/Search and Rescue Cases

During 2021, District 17 detected 54 safety violations on 28 vessels. District 17 surface assets terminated five commercial voyages due to not enough personal flotation devices (PFD) onboard or no expired fire extinguishing equipment onboard. The top five violations were: expired visual distress signals, expired/incorrect/insufficient fire extinguishers, no throwable flotation device, no/expired vessel registration, and not enough PFDs for all personnel onboard.

District 17 conducted 24 search and rescue (SAR) cases involving fishing vessels in U.S. waters, resulting in 21 lives saved, seven vessels lost, and four lives lost during 2021.

Figure 3. Historical Overview of CFVS Statistics



X. Coast Guard Resource Summary

Figures 4 - 7 show the annual aircraft law enforcement hours, Major Cutter days, and Patrol Boat hours used in the Seventeenth District.

Figure 4. Annual HC-130 (fixed wing) Hours

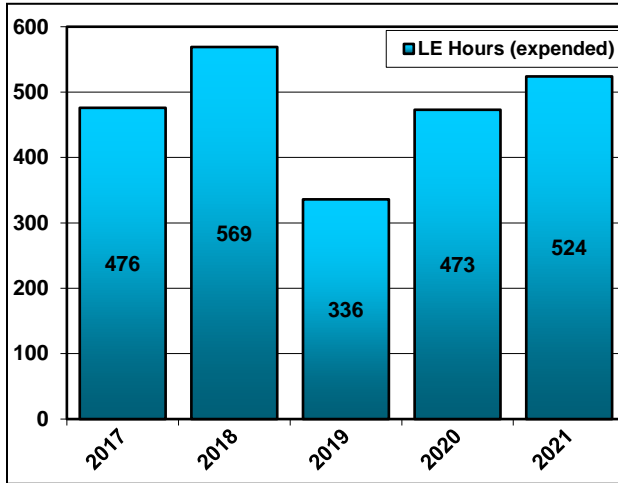


Figure 5. Annual Major Cutter Days

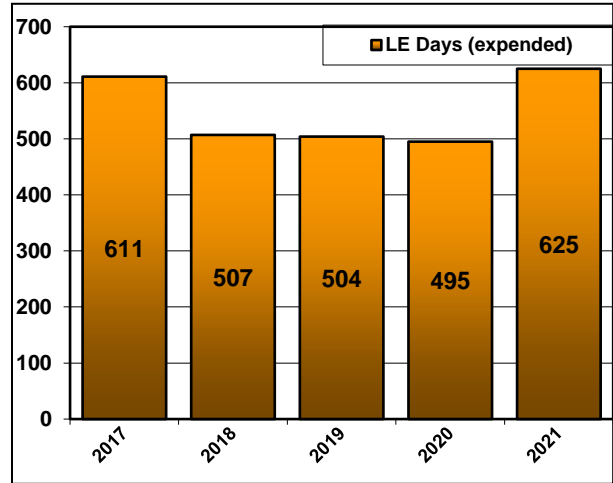


Figure 6. Annual H60/65 (rotary wing) Hours

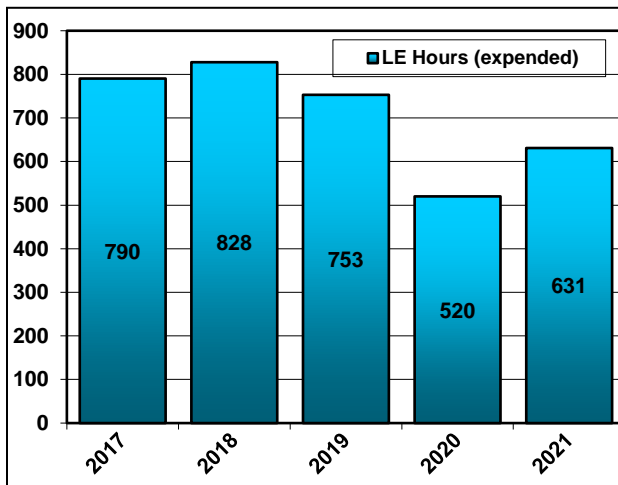


Figure 7. Annual Patrol Boat Hours

