

17th COAST GUARD DISTRICT ENFORCEMENT REPORT



January – March 2021

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List of Abbreviations

AVDET – Aviation Detachment	NPSC – North Pacific SAR Coordinator
CFVS – Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety	NVG – Night Vision Goggles
CGC – Coast Guard Cutter	PD – Police Department
DIW – Dead in the Water	POB – Persons on board
EPIRB – Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon	SAR – Search and Rescue
FBS - Russian Federal Border Service	SARSAT – Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking
FF/V – Foreign Fishing Vessel	SMC – SAR Mission Coordinator
FOL – Forward Operating Location	UMIB –Urgent Marine Info Broadcast
GOA – Gulf of Alaska	WLB –225ft Buoy Tender
HC-130 – USCG Fixed-Wing Aircraft	WPB – 110ft Patrol Boat
HEC/MEC – High/Medium Endurance Cutters	
HFP – Health Force Partners	
HH65/60 – CG helicopter	
HSDN – High Seas Drift Net	
IFQ – Individual Fishing Quota	
IUU – Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported Fishing	
IVO – In the vicinity of	
MARB – Marine Assistance Request Broadcast	
MBL – US/Russian Maritime Boundary	
MEDEVAC – Medical Evacuation	
MEDICO – Passing of medical advice at sea by electronic communications	

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

There were no HSDN enforcement activities conducted during the reporting period. Operation North Pacific Guard (NPG) is an annual high seas U.S. fisheries law enforcement operation designed to detect and deter all types of 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.

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

There was very low activity along the MBL January through March. Overall there was an average of less than 1 vessel per day detected within 20 nautical miles of the MBL. There have been no detected incursions by F/FVs into the U.S. EEZ this season. There was significantly increased US fishing activity, primarily crabbing vessels, within 20 nautical miles of the MBL compared to previous years, averaging almost 8 vessels per day in March.

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

There was light fishing activity during the reporting period along the U.S.-Canadian EEZ boundary in the vicinity of Dixon Entrance. All Canadian fishing vessels sighted were south of the A-B line and no incursions into U.S. waters were detected.

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. On March 14th, an Air Station Sitka flight reported a deceased beached humpback whale on Kruzof Island. NOAA Protected Resources Division requested a flight to relocate the whale after a storm, and then requested another flight to transport a necropsy team to the whale. On March 18th, a 6-person necropsy team was flown to the whale and conducted a 5.5 hour necropsy, the first humpback whale necropsy in five years for the Sitka Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

V. Commercial Fishing Vessel Boarding Statistics

There were 40 federal fisheries boardings conducted by the U.S. Coast Guard during the reporting period. These boardings resulted in a total of 6 fisheries violations onboard 4 vessels. Figures 1 and 2 show the historic trends for boardings and violations. Appendices B and C list the boardings that occurred during the reporting period.

Figure 1. Fisheries Boardings By Year

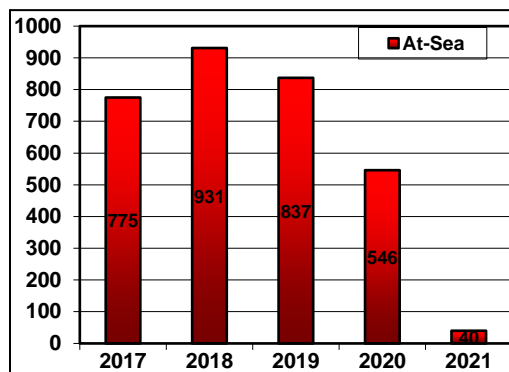
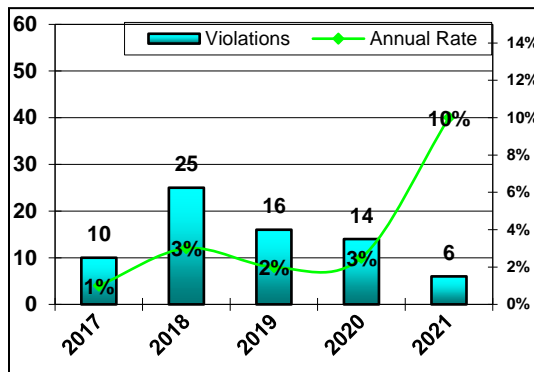


Figure 2. Fisheries Violations by Year



Jan – Mar 2020 Boardings

F/V Boardings (at sea):44
 Boardings w/fisheries violations:2
 Violation Rate:4.5%

Jan – Mar 2021 Boardings

F/V Boardings (at sea):40
 Boardings w/fisheries violations:4
 Violation Rate:10%

VI. Halibut and Sablefish Enforcement

Coast Guard patrols completed 11 boardings on commercial, charter, and recreational vessels targeting halibut and sablefish during the reporting period. All 11 boardings were of Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) halibut or sablefish vessels, detecting 2 fisheries violations on 1 vessel for not having IFQ permits onboard. A Coast Guard unit seized 8 illegally retained halibut during a boarding on a commercial longliner targeting Pacific Cod since no one onboard had an IFQ permit and the commercial halibut season had not begun.

VII. Forward Operating Locations

Air Station Kodiak deployed one MH-60 to Cold Bay on 14 January for the Bering Sea crab season. Air Station Kodiak is planning to end their Cold Bay deployment in April when fishing activity subsides.

VIII. Crab Fisheries

CGC STRATTON conducted 1 boarding on a fishing vessel targeting crab in the Bering Sea with no violations.

IX. Continuing Operations during COVID-19

In the early onset of the Coronavirus epidemic, there was a significant decrease in boarding activity due to early risk assessments in conjunction with medical and industry measures. Based on efforts in industry abiding by the Alaska State Health Mandates and Advisories, and the Coast Guard’s own safety and health guidance and policy, the Coast Guard has resumed all enforcement efforts and patrols with the exception of circumstances that arise on a case by case basis. The Coast Guard has taken very measured precautions to ensure the safety of its members and the public while carrying out its mission sets. The Coast Guard is committed to ensuring the

health and safety of the public and are closely monitoring local COVID-19 trends. Our crews are following all the latest CDC safety guidance as we continue to perform our statutory missions in Alaska. Boarding safety precautions include determining COVID-19 exposure risks by asking a series of pre-boarding questions and ensuring boarding team personnel are wearing full personal protection equipment including masks and gloves. We are committed to safely conducting critical operations while maintaining precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Coast Guard has a vaccination program that has been prioritizing vaccines amongst personnel at operational units that interface the most with the public.

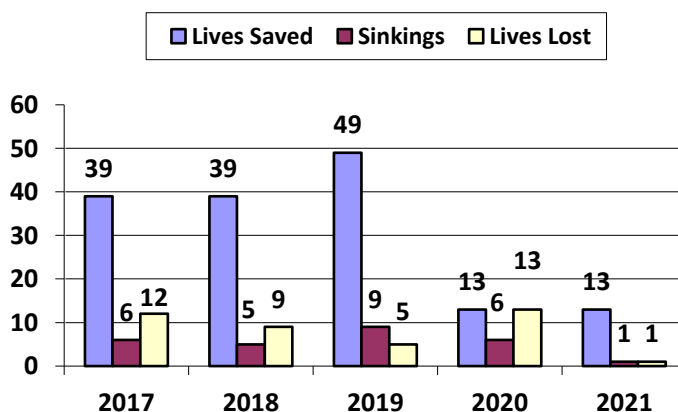
Multiple Coast Guard members participate in the weekly AFISHC and Alaska Industry calls to mesh best practices and work with State and Industry to build a safe working environment. Swift and decisive measures taken by the fishing industry and the State of Alaska have all assisted with Coast Guard actions to maintain operational readiness.

X. Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety/Search and Rescue Cases

During the reporting period, 3 safety violations were detected on 3 vessels. A comprehensive list of violations can be found in Appendix C.

There were 13 search and rescue (SAR) cases involving fishing vessels in U.S. waters, resulting in 9 lives saved, 1 life lost, and 1 vessel lost during the reporting period. Appendix A provides a comprehensive list of SAR cases involving fishing vessels over the reporting period.

Figure 3. Historical Overview of CFVS Statistics
Safety Statistics by Year



XI. Coast Guard Resource Summary

Figures 4 - 7 show the *annual* aircraft law enforcement hours, Medium and High Endurance Cutter days, and Patrol Boat hours used in the Seventeenth District. Figures 8-9 show the same information over the last three years for major cutters and patrol boats over the *reporting period only*.

Figure 4. Annual HC-130 Hours

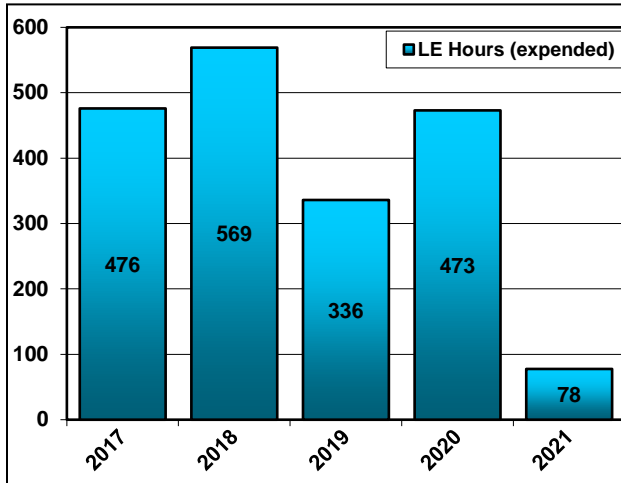
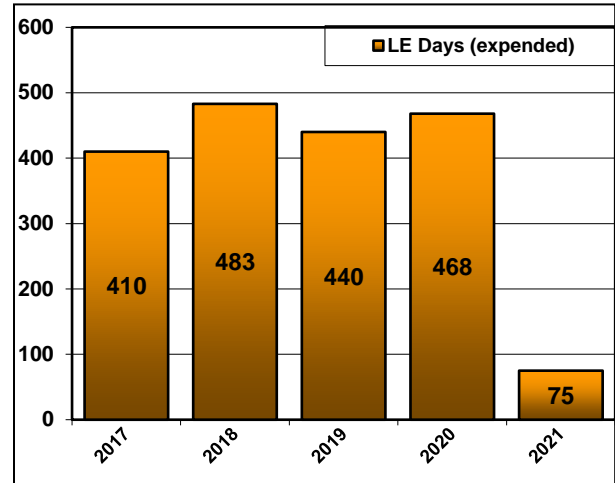


Figure 5. Annual Major Cutter Days



Jan – Mar 2020

0 WMSL patrolled.....0 days
 2 WHEC patrolled.....89 days
 1 WMEC patrolled..... 20 days
 0 WLB patrolled 0 days
 7 WPBs/FRCs patrolled..... 107 days
Total Cutter patrol..... 216 days

HC-130s flew 81 hours
 HH-60/65s flew..... 100 hours

Jan – Mar 2021

1 WMSL patrolled.....31 days
 1 WHEC patrolled.....36 days
 1 WMEC patrolled.....27 days
 1 WLB patrolled11 days
 7 WPB/FRCs patrolled103 days
Total Cutter patrol.....208 days

HC-130s flew78 hours
 HH-60/65s flew.....106 hours

Figure 6. Annual H60/65 Hours

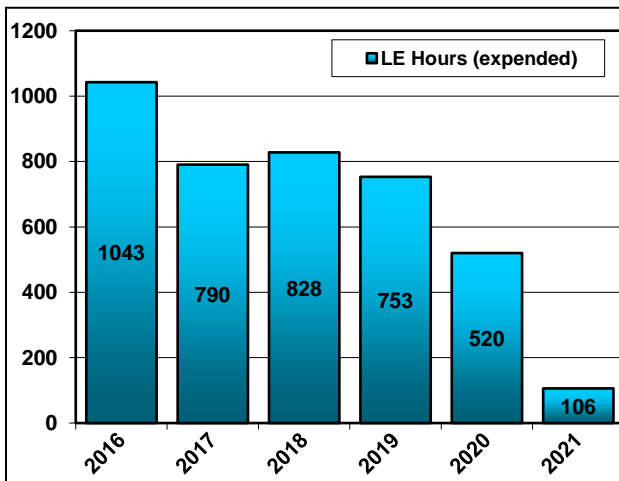


Figure 7. Annual Patrol Boat Hours

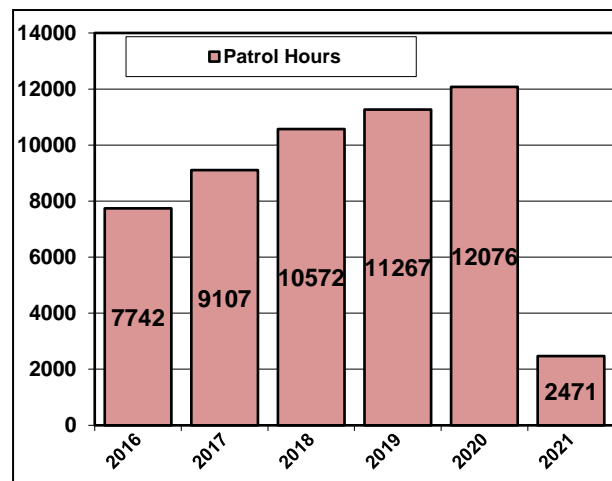


Figure 8. Jan-Mar Major Cutter Days

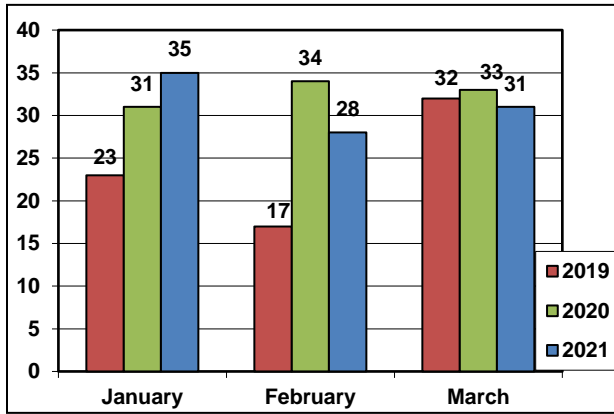
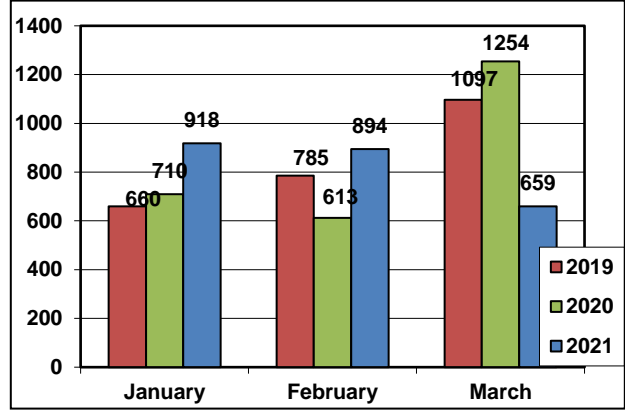


Figure 9. Jan-Mar Patrol Boat Hours



Appendix A
 January – March 2021
 Search and Rescue Cases

Date	Vessel Name	Case Specifics
31-Jan	CHERYL	Old EPIRB inadvertently activated while vessel was moored
3-Feb	ARICA	Medical Evacuation flight for crewmember
9-Feb	DESTINATION	Located overdue vessel
22-Feb	ALASKA OCEAN	Medical Evacuation flight for crewmember
26-Feb	PATRICIA LEE	Medical Consulting Coordination for injured crewmember. Crewmember condition deteriorated rapidly and passed away.
28-Feb	AMERICAN TRIUMPH	Medical Evacuation flight for crewmember
28-Feb	SEAFISHER	Medical Consultation for crewmember
3-Mar	INDEPENDENCE	Monitored crewmember medical evacuation
10-Mar	SCOTCH CAP	Monitored crewmember medical evacuation
13-Mar	PACIFIC BOUNTY	CG Cutter towed disabled vessel into port
14-Mar	ISLAND ENTERPRISE	Medical Evacuation flight for crewmember
20-Mar	WIZARD	Conducted safety boarding of vessel after suffering steering casualty
28-Mar	SITKINAK	Dewatered vessel taking on water
30-Mar	FISH ON	Vessel had a fire onboard while at anchor and sank, no lives lost

Appendix B
January – March 2021
Fisheries Boardings without Violations

DATE	VSL NAME	SPECIES	AREA
1/5/21	AFOGNAK STRAIT	110	519
1/13/21	DELIVERANCE	110	630
1/13/21	ANTHEM	110	630
1/14/21	CLAIRE OCEANA	110	610
1/19/21	CINDRIA GENE	110	630
2/3/21	KAPITAN	110	630
2/3/21	VOYAGER	110	630
2/3/21	PACIFIC CHALLENGER	270	509
2/3/21	ALEUTIAN CHALLENGER	270	509
2/3/21	VANGUARD	270	509
2/4/21	MAR PACIFICO	110	630
2/5/21	NAVIGATOR	110	630
2/17/21	CAITLIN ANN	110	509
2/17/21	NORDIC STAR	110	509
2/17/21	SEAFREEZE ALASKA	110	509
3/8/21	CINNAMON GIRL	200	2C
3/8/21	STARSHIP	200	2C
3/8/21	KEMA SUE	200	3A
3/8/21	RENEGADE	110	630
3/8/21	MINION	110	630
3/8/21	DYNASTY	110	630
3/8/21	CASCADE	110	630
3/9/21	AUGUSTINE	710/200	SE/2C
3/10/21	JODI MARIE	200/710	2C/SE
3/10/21	EVENING STAR	710	SE
3/10/21	IDA LEE	710	SE
3/10/21	CASTAWAY	710	SE
3/10/21	MIS LEAD	200	3A
3/13/21	PACIFIC BOUNTY	200	2C
3/15/21	GOLDEN ALASKA	270	509
3/16/21	ALASKA ENDEAVOR	127	513
3/17/21	SEAFREEZE ALASKA	127	513
3/20/21	WIZARD	932	523
3/25/21	PEGASUS	270	517

Appendix C
 January – March 2021
 Fisheries Boardings with Violations (Commercial, Recreational, and Charter)

DATE	SPECIES	AREA	VIOLATIONS
1/5/21	110	519	Expired Visual Distress signaling devices
1/17/21	110	630	Expired Federal Fisheries Permit and Certificate of Documentation not onboard
2/4/21	110	630	Issued 02 fishery violations for possessing 08 halibut during a season closure and no IFQ halibut permit onboard.
3/14/21	200	2C	Not having 02 IFQ permits onboard
3/15/21	270	509	Expired flares
3/26/21	270	517	Improper log keeping