



**2022 Year in Review**  
**February 2023 NPFMC Meeting**

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**List of Abbreviations**

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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 U.S. high seas fisheries law enforcement operation designed to detect and deter Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activity. U.S. Coast Guard District 17 (D17) focuses on large-scale High Seas pelagic Driftnet (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 D17's at-sea enforcement contribution to a multilateral effort by North Pacific rim nations to eliminate IUU fishing activity from the North Pacific. Operation NPG supports the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), and North Pacific Anadromous Fisheries Commission (NPAFC) RFMOs.

Operation NPG 2022 resulted in 11 FF/V boardings on the high seas under NPFC and WCPFC authorities, finding five potential violations, including two potentially serious violations. Seven PRC fishing vessels also refused a boarding, which is a serious violation under the NPFC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs). There were no detected HSDN fishing activities during this period. Coast Guard C-130 deployments to Misawa, Japan yielded six enforcement flights that spotted 12 additional potential violations.

D17 is working with Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement (OLE), and Global Fishing Watch to plan Operation NPG 2023.

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

FF/V activity along the U.S.-Russian EEZ boundary in the Bering Sea and Chukchi Sea was moderate during the majority of 2022, with high activity occurring from May to September. There were no detected incursions of U.S. fishing vessels operating on the Russian side of the MBL.

Following an increase of FF/V activity in the vicinity of the MBL in May, the Russian trawler F/V IKHTIOLOG committed a total of nine incursions into the U.S. EEZ between 31 May and 03 June. Based on the vessel's course, speed, and duration inside the U.S. EEZ, it was assessed that this vessel was fishing in the U.S. EEZ. As a result, D17 increased surface and air presence along the MBL to deter future incursions, including several C-130 flights and CGC BERTHOLF patrolling the MBL and issuing the vessel warnings over VHF radio. The Russian Border Guard investigated D17's report and fined the owner of the vessel for failing to notify the Russian Federation of an MBL crossing. Since these incursions by F/V IKHTIOLOG, D17 has not detected any other incursions along the U.S.-Russian 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 2022. There were no detected incursions by foreign fishing vessels into the U.S. EEZ in 2022.

### **IV. Marine Protected Resources and Critical Habitat Enforcement**

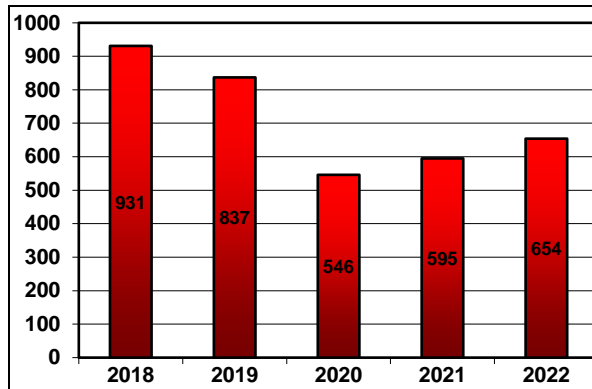
D17 monitors more than 151 critical habitat areas around Alaska each month as part of routine cutter and aircraft patrol activity. During 2022, the Coast Guard conducted 20 sorties from Kodiak, Nome (via FOL Kotzebue), and Sitka in support of Marine Protected Resources and NOAA's Protected Resources Division (PRD). No violations were detected on these flights, but the flights were instrumental in collecting and reporting marine mammal stranding data. Four flights with NOAA personnel out of Nome for the Whale and Walrus Survey Initiative (WWSI) identified deceased marine mammals in support of the Gray Whale and Ice Seal Unusual Mortality Events (UME). Alaska Marine Mammal Stranding Network partners were able to conduct six survey flights of coastal Kodiak, four Copper River Marine Mammal Survey flights, and three flights around Sitka to locate reports of deceased a humpback whale. Air Station Sitka conducted an emergent Marine Mammal Survey flight for a reported dead Stellar Sea Lion entangled in fishing gear on shore at Sea Lion Cove near Sitka. As a result, NOAA was able to conduct necropsies of the entangled Stellar sea lion and one deceased whale. During a separate WWSI flight, NOAA personnel also collected seawater samples and sampled multiple dead walruses to alert communities to any dangerous harmful algal blooms.

D17 also issued multiple Broadcasts Notice to Mariners regarding known geographic locations of endangered North Pacific Right Whales and entangled marine mammals. These broadcasts warned mariners about the potential for whale strikes and asked mariners to report entangled or injured whale locations.

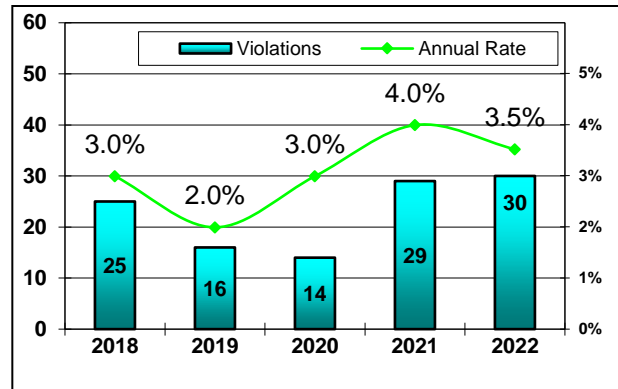
### **V. Domestic Fishing Vessel Boarding Statistics**

D17 conducted 654 federal fisheries boardings during 2022, detecting 30 violations on 26 vessels. In coordination with NOAA OLE, Coast Guard Boarding Officers seized catch on three fishing vessels. 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 on fishing gear.

**Figure 1. Fisheries Boardings by Year**



**Figure 2. Fisheries Violations by Year**



## VI. Halibut and Sablefish Enforcement

In 2022, D17 conducted 140 boardings of commercial IFQ vessels targeting halibut or sablefish, resulting in 13 fisheries violations representing 43% of the commercial violations detected. The top violations included: not having an official logbook onboard, no IFQ permit and/or FFP onboard, illegally retaining and/or mutilating halibut, and failure to retain and/or log disposition of bycatch. D17 conducted 111 boardings on charter halibut vessels, detecting four violations on one vessel. D17 conducted 342 boardings on recreational vessels targeting halibut, detecting no fisheries violations. However, one recreational vessel was suspected of being an illegal charter operation and was reported to NOAA OLE for additional investigation.

## VII. Forward Operating Locations (FOL) Summary

Air Station Kodiak deployed one MH-60 to Cold Bay on 04 January for the Bering Sea crab season for 72 days. Air Station Kodiak deployed one MH-60 to Cold Bay on 06 May for Bering Sea SAR coverage and law enforcement for 26 days. Air Station Kodiak deployed one MH-60 and/or one MH-65 to Cordova on 14 April for Gulf of Alaska/Prince William Sound SAR coverage and law enforcement for 47 days. Air Station Kodiak deployed one MH-60 and/or one MH-65 to Cordova for Gulf of Alaska/Prince William Sound SAR coverage and law enforcement intermittently throughout the reporting period until 27 September. On 20 July, Air Station Kodiak deployed two MH-60s to FOL Kotzebue for SAR coverage for 86 days.

Due to the Bristol Bay Red King Crab fishery being closed, and resulting lower fishing vessel activity in the Bering Sea during October and November, Air Station Kodiak deployed aircraft to Cold Bay for intermittent periods of high Bering Sea fishing vessel activity from October through December.

### VIII. Crab Fisheries

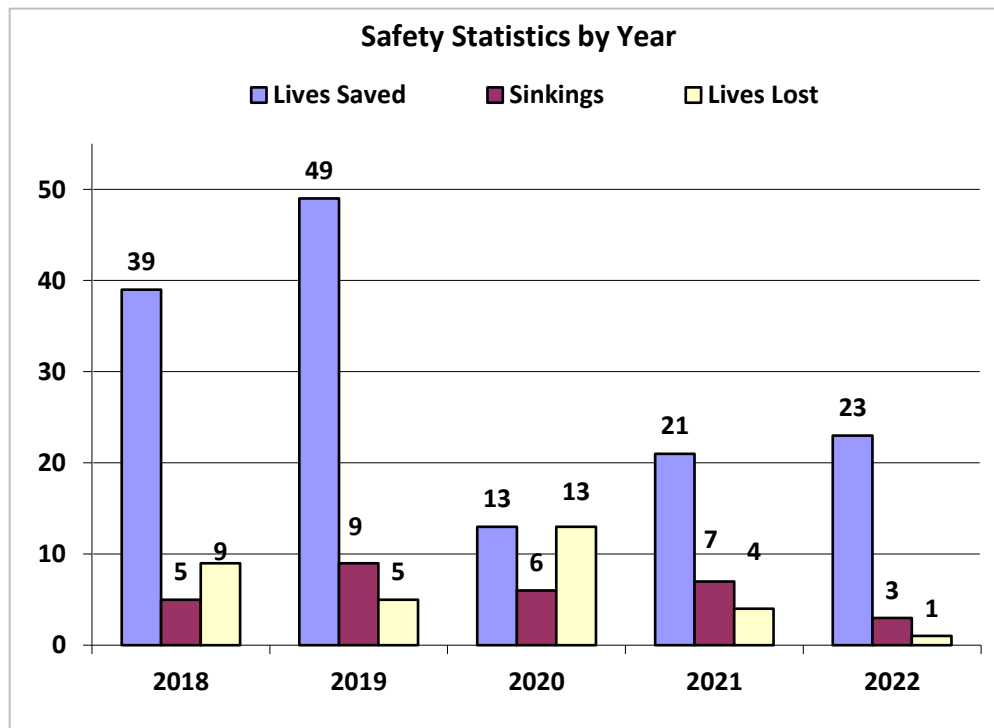
D17 units conducted 25 boardings on fishing vessels targeting crab throughout Alaska, including two in the Bering Sea. The quantity of boardings in 2022 was depressed due to the closure of Bristol Bay Red King Crab fisheries.

### IX. Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety/Search and Rescue Cases

During 2022, D17 detected 74 safety violations on 46 vessels. D17 assets terminated eleven commercial voyages due to unsafe conditions onboard. The top five violations were: expired EPIRB hydrostatic release, expired life rafts, inadequate or insufficient immersion suits, expired/insufficient fire extinguishers, no/expired vessel registration, and not enough Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) for all personnel onboard.

D17 conducted 72 SAR cases involving fishing vessels in U.S. waters, resulting in 23 lives saved, three vessels lost, and one life lost during 2022.

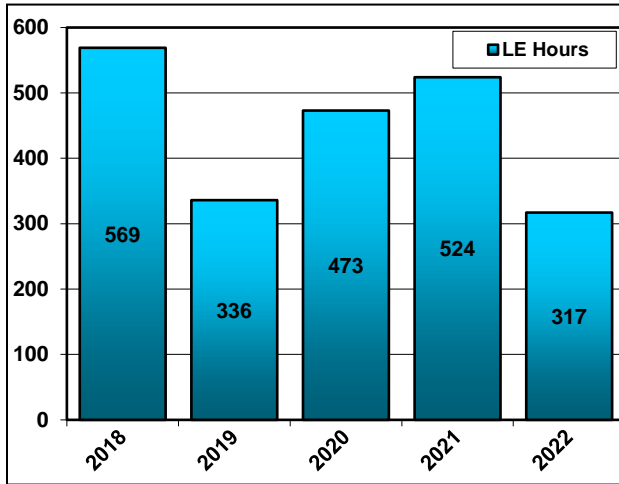
**Figure 3. Historical Overview of CFVS Statistics**



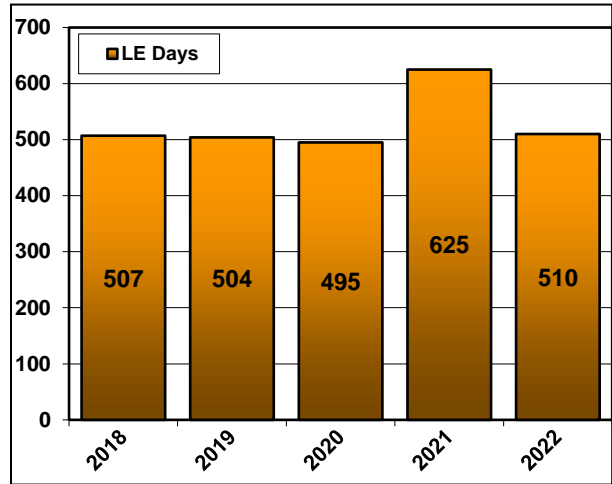
## X. Coast Guard Resource Summary

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

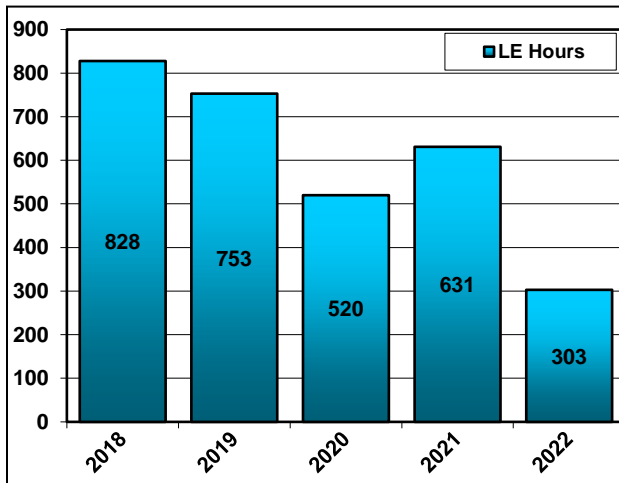
**Figure 4. Annual HC-130 (fixed wing) Hours**



**Figure 5. Annual Major Cutter Days**



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



**Figure 7. Annual Patrol Boat Hours**

