



Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam Fish Wrap Nov 2022 – May 2023

34
Fisheries
Boardings

5
Observation
Reports

~154
Days
At Sea



Over the last seven months, our 154-foot Sentinel-class Fast Response Cutter crews in cooperation with shipriders from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of Nauru, and the Republic of Palau, conducted 34 fisheries boardings and five observation reports resulting in 12 potential violations and six warnings on fishing vessels flagged out of 8 different Micronesian and Asia Pacific countries. The issues encountered during these boardings ranged from expired passports to improper use of Vessel Monitoring Systems aboard long-liners, purse seiners, and fish carriers. Our crews carried out these activities under the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission or bilateral agreement authority, including the Enhanced Bilateral Agreement signed in August with FSM. The success of these operations demonstrates U.S. commitment to working collaboratively to protect the valuable resources of the Western Pacific and our role as a trusted partner with a persistent regional presence.



04 Operations Supported
~12K Nautical Miles Transited
5 EEZs Patrolled
4 Bilats Exercised
10 Partner Agencies
+300 Media Results
12K Content Engagement



The U.S. Coast Guard is essential in enforcing fisheries regulations throughout the Western Pacific region in Oceania to counter illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in sovereign exclusive economic zones (EEZs) and on the high seas. This is a highly collaborative effort requiring not only our crews on the water, but a multilateral team in the U.S. and host nations to track and manage the operations ensuring compliance with relevant legal frameworks and authorities and real-time notifications to all involved including the flag state of the vessel in question at the time. In one recent case, what began a fisheries boarding became a medical evacuation for a Vietnamese fisherman who sustained significant injuries from a fall earlier in the day. The USCGC Frederick Hatch (WPC 1143) transferred the man to the cutter and safely transported him overnight to a higher level of medical care in Pohnpei, FSM.

Conducting bilateral boardings with shipriders from partner nations in their EEZs extends their reach to protect their sovereignty and natural resources, thereby ensuring economic and food security which promotes regional stability. These boardings are undertaken per a bilateral agreement between the U.S. and the partner nation, allowing the U.S. Coast Guard to assist in enforcing that nation's fisheries regulations. During these boardings, U.S. Coast Guard personnel work alongside our counterparts to inspect the vessel's documentation and catch, assessing compliance with applicable regulations and take necessary enforcement action. We also keep an eye out for international crimes. In the case of FSM, this activity may employ the Enhanced Shiprider Agreement, allowing U.S. Coast Guard personnel to conduct boardings on behalf of FSM with their prior approval and notification in the FSM EEZ.



On the high seas, these operations are done under the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) authority to conduct boardings of foreign-flagged vessels suspected of IUU fishing. The Fast Response Cutter is a valuable platform for these missions due to its speed, range, and capabilities. These cutters are designed to operate in remote areas and can quickly respond to suspicious activity reports while leveraging their advanced sensors and communications equipment.

Deepening relations with Pacific Island Nations (PINs) is a critical part of the U.S. Coast Guard's effort, in concert with the U.S. Department of State and Indo-Pacific Command, to protect regional security and maintain our reputation as a trusted and committed partner. This close relationship governmental leaders and host maritime forces in the PINs uses joint patrols, training, and other initiatives to build capacity and enhance local capabilities to enforce fisheries regulations and ensure long-term sustainability.