

FIFTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT ENFORCEMENT REPORT



December 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021

Presented to the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council

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List of Abbreviations

CFVS – Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety	SAR – Search and Rescue
HC-130 – USCG Fixed-Wing Aircraft	WLB – 225’ Buoy Tender
WPB – 87’ Patrol Boat	P/C – Pleasure Craft
STA – USCG Small Boat Station	F/V – Fishing Vessel
EPIRB – Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon	A/S – Air Station
WMEC – 210’ or 270’ Medium Endurance Cutter	SEC - Sector
M/V – Motor Vessel	M/T – Motor Tanker
FRC – 154’ Fast Response Cutter	

I. Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Enforcement and Marine Protected Species Operations

Operations Summary

During this period, Fifth District law enforcement units conducted 51 fisheries boardings and responded to four marine protected species incidents. Boarding numbers are aligned with our FY21 projections for operating in a COVID environment.

Boarding Statistics (Note: "This Period" data should be considered preliminary and is subject to change)

<u>01 December 2020 – 31 January 2021 Activities</u>	<u>Comparison to FY20</u>
Fisheries Boardings.....	51..... 112
Fisheries Boardings w/ Fishery Violations.....	2..... 3
Violation Rate.....	3.9%.....2.6%
<u>Activities Fiscal Year 2021</u>	<u>Comparison to FY20</u>
Fisheries Boardings.....	145..... 290
Fisheries Boardings w/ Fishery Violations.....	24..... 11
Violation Rate.....	16.6%.....3.7%

Violation Summary

Violations were issued for illegal gear configuration, TED bars had opening larger than four inches between bars.

Marine Protected Species Support Summary

1. On 09 Dec, CGC BLUEFIN experienced a potential marine mammal strike. While transiting, the cutter felt a bump on the hull. No water discoloration or submerged object was observed immediately prior. The crew observed several small pieces of what appeared to be animal flesh floating on the surface. The crew retrieved some and put it on deck. It smelled rotten and it is believed to have been in the water for an extended period of time. No blood was observed in the area or in the flesh retrieved on deck. The cutter remained on scene for 45 minutes, but no marine mammals or additional objects were observed by the crew.
2. On 11 Dec, CGC PELICAN responded to a deceased 15ft whale approximately 6NM east of Cape Henry, VA. Sector VA notified VA Aquarium Response Team and assisted as needed. VA Aquarium Response Team determined the whale was not a Right Whale and declined further action.
3. On 05 Jan, Sector VA was notified by VA Aquarium Stranding Response Team (SRT) of an entangled humpback whale approx. one nautical mile northeast of Cape Henry, VA. Station Little Creek launched with the VA Aquarium SRT onboard and were able to locate the whale. Unfortunately, the team was unable to untangle the whale. The SRT successfully placed a locator and tag on the whale.
4. On 11 Jan and 19 Jan, CGC RICHARD SNYDER worked with Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium on the NC Sea Turtle Project. They successfully released 20 turtles on 11Jan21 and 4 turtles on 19Jan21.

II. Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Efforts

(December 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021)

Fishing Vessel Dockside Safety Examinations	This Period	Fiscal Year to Date
<u>Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examinations</u>	56	115
<u>Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Decals Issued</u>	50	99
<u>Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety At-Sea Boarding</u>	89	139
<u>Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety At-Sea Boarding with violations (safety/fishery)</u>	17	27
<u>Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Terminations</u>	0	4
<u>Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Casualties</u>	2	4

III. Search and Rescue Highlights

From December 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021 there were **2** marine casualties / terminations reported involving commercial fishing vessels:

- Allision – **0**
- Capsize – **0**
- Collision – **0**
- Damage to Environment (Pollution/Hazmat) – **0**
- Death/Missing – **0**
- Fire – **0**
- Flooding – **0**
- Fouling – **1**
 - SHADOWFAX (O.N. 581520) 04 December 2020 – The crew of the F/V SHADOWFAX fouled their propeller with their own net while attempting to remove a cable entangled in their fishing gear. The F/V MAIZEY JAMES towed them to port safely without further incident.
- Grounding – **1**
 - SALTY BOY (O.N. 631547) 30 December 2020 – The F/V SALTY BOY lost steering after grounding near the New River Inlet. After the loss of steering, the F/V SALTY BOY drifted onto a sandbar and began taking on water. The Turkey Creek Fire Department safely rescued all crewmembers before the vessel sank.

- Injury – 0
- Loss of Propulsion/Steering – 0
- MEDEVAC – 0
- Fall(s) Overboard – 0
- Sinking – 0
- Terminations – 0

IV. Outreach - CFVS Information

- CGD Five (dpi) finalizing commercial fishing vessel social media outreach campaign preparations with CGD Five (de).