

FIFTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT ENFORCEMENT REPORT



October 1, 2022 – November 30, 2022

Presented to the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council

Prepared By:

Enforcement Branch

Fifth Coast Guard District

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

Operations Summary

During this period, Fifth District law enforcement units conducted 149 fisheries boardings, which is comparative with FY22 boarding numbers. Emphasis was placed on targeting vessels fishing for squid and HMS while active within the district.

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

<u>October 1, 2022 – November 30, 2022 Activities</u>	<u>Comparison to FY22</u>
Fisheries Boardings.....	149..... 174
Fisheries Boardings w/ Fishery Violations.....	3..... 3
Violation Rate	2%.....2%

Violation Summary

10OCT22: A cutter issued an enforcement action report to a recreational vessel for being in possession of 03 yellowfin tuna without a federal fishery permit on board.

21OCT22: A cutter issued an enforcement action report to a recreational vessel for being in possession of 01 yellowfin tuna and 04 mahi-mahi without a federal fishery permit on board.

22NOV22: A cutter issued an enforcement action report to a commercial vessel for having gear in federal waters without a federal fishery permit on board.

Marine Protected Species Support Summary

11OCT22: Station Barnegat Light responded to a request from NOAA’s Marine Mammal Stranding Center to relocate an injured whale and acquire photos to detail the extent of the injury. A small boat was launched, but the crew was unable to locate the whale and returned to base.

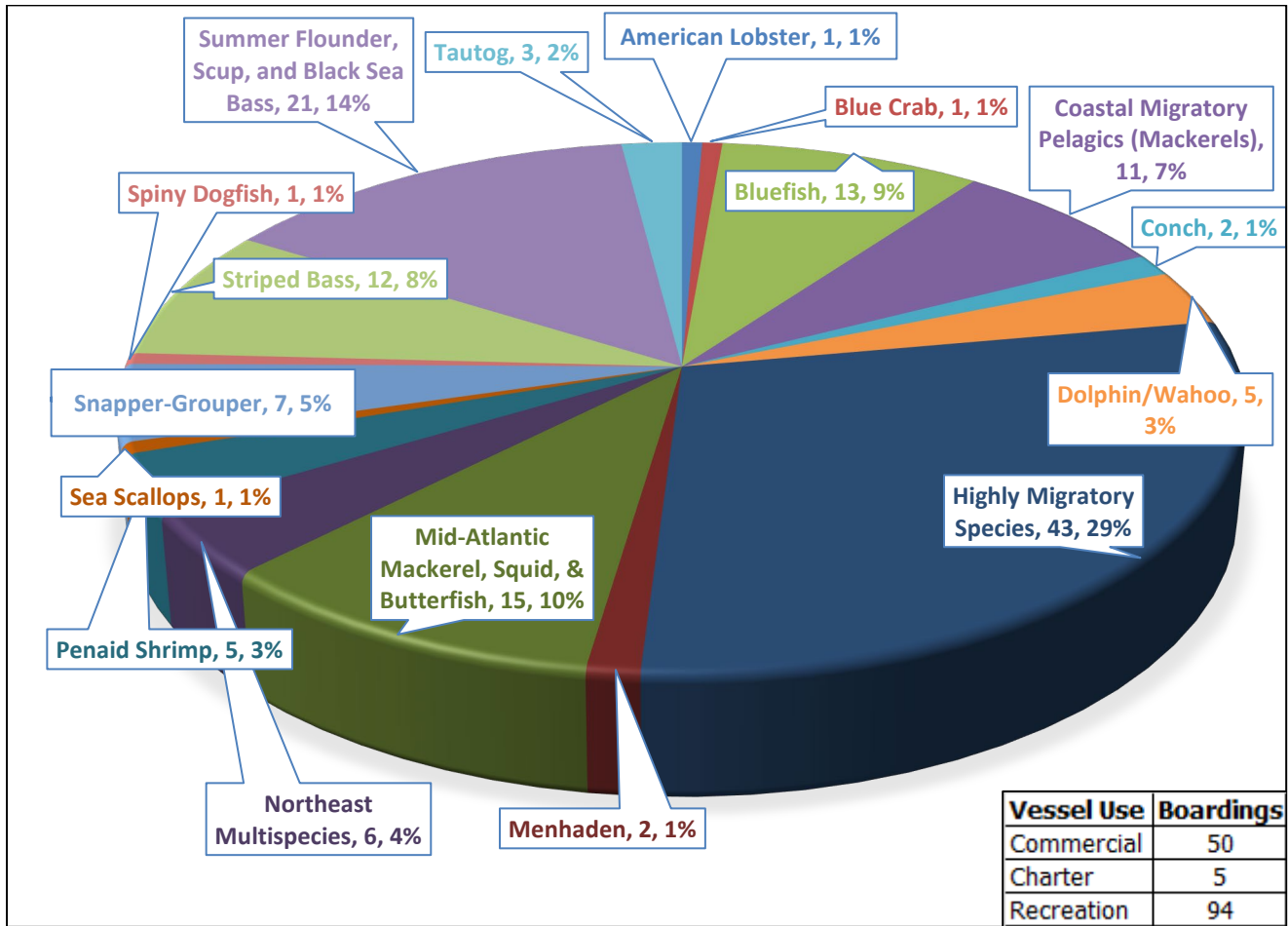
Operations

01NOV22-28FEB23: Op Stars and Striper targets fishers fishing for Atlantic Striped Bass in the EEZ off NJ through VA.

01DEC22-31JAN23: Op Awe Shucks focuses on oyster vessels to check safety equipment in several VA open season harvest areas.

01NOV22-30APR23: Op Right Speed focuses on ensuring vessels 65 ft and larger comply with required Seasonal Management Areas while entering or leaving district ports.

October 2022 – November 2022 District 5 Boardings by Fishery



II. Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Efforts

October 1, 2022 – November 30, 2022 Activities	Comparison to FY22
Dockside Safety Exams	64..... 56
Decals Issued	43..... 49
Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Terminations.....	00..... 01

III. Search and Rescue Cases

From October 1, 2022 – November 30, 2022 there were 3 reported marine casualties involving commercial fishing vessels:

- Collision – 1
 - **28OCT22:** Fishing vessel TREMONT homeported in Boston, MA vessel was operating off the coast of VA when it collided with the container ship MSC RITA and sank with 13 people on board. A good Samaritan operating in the area rendered aid pulling 12 survivors out of the water and transferring them to a USCG small boat. The master of the TREMONT was airlifted from the vessel and transported to land where he was evaluated by EMS and cleared.

- Sinking – 2
 - **27OCT22:** Fishing vessel BACK 4 MORE sank in Tangier Sound, MD while underway oyster fishing with 01 person on board. The vessel began flooding and the operator could not locate the source and was rescued by a Fairfield Fire Department vessel.

 - **17NOV22:** Fishing vessel HEATHER'S BREEZE sank in vicinity of Gibbs Shoal in Pamlico Sound with 2 people on board. The vessel had been purchased recently in Wanchese and was enroute to Sneads Ferry when the vessel began taking on water approximately 02 miles offshore of Engelhard, NC. USCG Station Hatteras responded to assist the mariners with dewatering when the vessel sank shortly after arriving. The small boat crew rescued the mariners and took them to Station Hatteras.

IV. Outreach – Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Information

- Sector North Carolina attended the 51st Sneads Ferry Shrimp Festival in Sneads Ferry, NC. This annual festival is held in the heart of Sector North Carolina's shrimp vessel fleet and had over 15,000 people attended.

- Fifth District and Sector units are preparing to attend the 2023 Ocean City Maryland Expo and 2023 Atlantic City NJ Boat Show.

- Fifth District is conducting unit and cutter Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety training.