

FIFTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT ENFORCEMENT REPORT



December 1, 2022 – January 31, 2023

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 92 fisheries boardings, which is less than FY22 boarding numbers. This is largely due to fewer boardings being conducted on vessels targeting Atlantic Striped Bass and Sea Scallops compared to FY22. With the opening of the Mid-Atlantic Access Area, vessels fishing for scallops appear to be fishing further north and outside of Fifth District boundaries. Additionally, several Fast Response Cutters have deployed to support a migrant surge off the coast of southern Florida over the last several months.

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

<u>December 1, 2022 – January 31, 2023 Activities</u>	<u>Comparison to FY22</u>
Fisheries Boardings.....	144
Fisheries Boardings w/ Fishery Violations.....	4
Violation Rate.....	3%
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<u>Activities Fiscal Year 2023</u>	<u>Comparison to FY22</u>
Fisheries Boardings.....	318
Fisheries Boardings w/ Fishery Violations.....	7
Violation Rate.....	2%

Violation Summary

No fisheries violations detected.

Marine Protected Species Support Summary

31JAN23: Cutter RICHARD SNYDER worked with several NC aquariums and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission to safely return 100 turtles to the gulf stream.

Operations

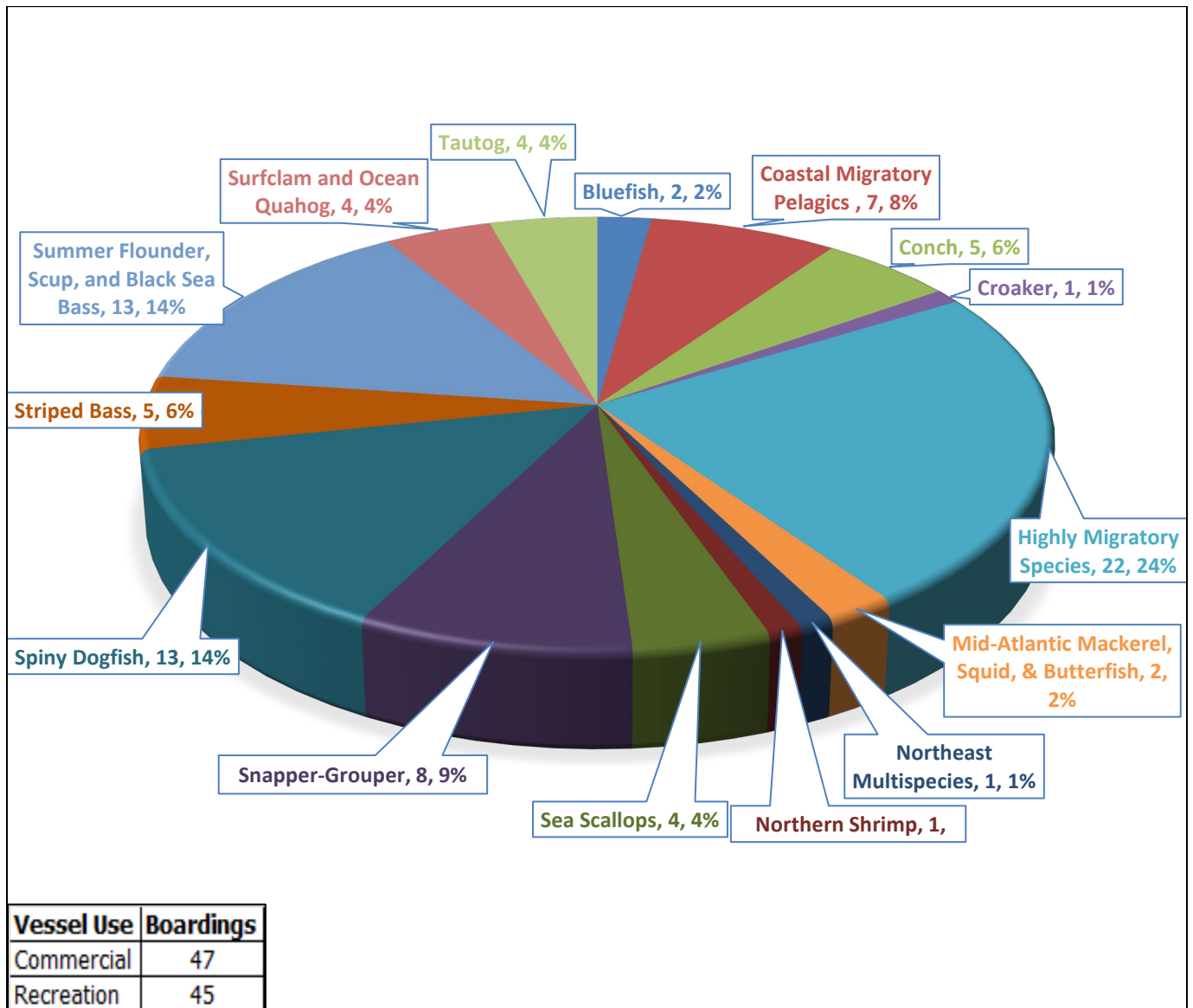
01NOV22-28FEB23: Op Stars and Striper targets fishers fishing for Atlantic Striped Bass in the EEZ off NJ through VA.

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. Fifth District units have conducted 20 hail outs to date of vessels violating the speed restriction.

01DEC22-31JAN23: Op Awe Shucks focused on enforcing commercial fishing vessel safety of oyster vessels operating in several VA open season harvest areas; resulted in 23 boardings and 6 voyage terminations.

01FEB-28FEB23: Op Fish Wrecked focuses on enforcing the special recreational black sea bass wave 1 seasonal opening off VA.

December 2022 – January 2023 District 5 Boardings by Fishery



II. Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Efforts

(December 1, 2022 – January 31, 2023)

Fishing Vessel Dockside Safety Examinations.....	This Period.....	Fiscal Year to Date
Dockside Exams.....	70.....	134
Decals Issued	62.....	105
Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Terminations.....	06.....	07

III. Search and Rescue Cases

From December 1, 2022 – January 31, 2023 there were 8 reported marine casualties involving commercial fishing vessels:

- Grounding – 1
 - A fishing vessel ran aground and was taking on water in Oregon Inlet, NC, with 3 people on board. The vessel was given a pump and SEATOW safely refloated the vessel and towed it to Wanchese for haul out. A post search and rescue boarding resulted in 7 deficiencies.
- Loss of Propulsion/Steering – 1
 - A fishing vessel had an engine failure, and broke away from mooring ball at Craney Island, VA. The vessel was safety towed to Portsmouth Marine Terminal.
- Terminations – 6
 - As part of a commercial fishing vessel safety operation targeting vessels fishing for oysters, six vessel voyages were terminated due to insufficient lifesaving equipment. The fishing vessels were operating in the vicinity of the Rappahannock and James River, and the deficiencies discovered ranged from no survival craft and/or immersion suits, to no buoyant apparatus, and/or inadequate firefighting equipment.

IV. Outreach – Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Information

- Fifth District and Sector units continue outreach efforts through dock walks, training, and educational efforts.
- Sector units attended the 2023 Ocean City Maryland Expo with over 3,500 personnel in attendance.
- Fifth District personnel are preparing to attend the Atlantic City, NJ Boat Show in March.
- Fifth District continues to conduct unit and cutter Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety training.