

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
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16214

December 17, 2019

Mr. William Ailā Jr., Chair
Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve
Daniel K. Inouye Pacific Regional Center
1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 176
Honolulu, HI 96818

Dear Mr. Ailā:

I am pleased to report to the Council the following summary of U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) fisheries law enforcement activities in the Western and Central Pacific region for the period of 01 October through 17 December 2019.

In October, USCGC WASHINGTON patrolled the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Palau in support of the U.S. and Palau operational cooperation to suppress illicit transnational maritime activity (i.e. Palau Bi-Lateral Shiprider Agreement) and Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Operation Kuru Kuru. USCGC WASHINGTON assisted the Palau-led Bi-Lateral Shiprider boardings of several fishing vessels.

From 11-15 October, Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 conducted enforcement and surveillance patrols in support of FFA Operation Kuru Kuru designed to identify and deter IUU in Oceania. The HC-130 patrolled the EEZs of Tonga and Cook Islands. The aircrew reported 126 sightings. The vessel sightings were reported to the FFA Regional Fisheries Surveillance Center (RFSC) for review.

From October to November, USCGC STRATTON patrolled the high seas in support of Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) program. USCGC STRATTON conducted several foreign fishing vessel boardings. USCG STRATTON completed patrols of the EEZs surrounding Howland Island, Baker Island, Kingman Reef, Palmyra Atoll, and Main Hawaiian Islands in route to Honolulu.

In November, Sector Honolulu conducted a marine protected resources pulse operation around Oahu to deter harassment of Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins and provide outreach and education to mariners to prevent violations of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

District Fourteen enforcement staff participated in several living marine resources enforcement related meetings this reporting period including the 180th Western Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Pago Pago, American Samoa, the 16th regular session of the WCPFC Commission meeting in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and NOAA's Large Whale Entanglement Response Team season kick-off meeting. Additionally, the enforcement staff

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supported several marine protected resource events including whale entanglement response training at Station Kauai and Station Maui.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C.M. Norman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

C.M. Norman
U.S. Coast Guard
Fourteenth Coast Guard District