

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commander (d)  
Thirteenth Coast Guard District

915 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98174  
Staff Symbol: d  
Phone: (206) 220-7090  
Fax: (206) 220-7092

16214

OCT 12 2010

Dr. Donald McIsaac  
Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Dear Dr McIsaac,

I understand that LCDR Chambers was able to speak briefly about Illegal, Unregulated, Unreported (IUU) enforcement at the September Council meeting. I wanted to follow up with a more detailed summary of our IUU enforcement and patrol efforts on the West Coast. I hope that you can include this as part of the briefing material for the next meeting, in order to notify the public about our efforts, as well as to inform industry how they can help report and provide information to the Coast Guard and our law enforcement partners.

Coast Guard enforcement activity in response to IUU fishing falls under the same mission category that includes protection of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and boardings on foreign vessels pursuant to treaty or bi-lateral agreement. Our mission to protect the EEZ from foreign fishing is highlighted by our operations near the U.S.-Russia Maritime Boundary Line. Cutters and aircraft routinely patrol the boundary line to deter and detect foreign fishing vessels operating in U.S. waters. In the Pacific Northwest, we do not have as persistent a threat of illegal foreign fishing, however, in July we did receive a report from the Whiting fleet of a Canadian vessel fishing in U.S. waters. The vessel was fishing in an area off Cape Flattery where the U.S. and Canadian governments have not reached firm agreement on the exact location of the border. Law enforcement cases generated in that region are referred to the vessels' home country for resolution. In this case, my office was able to pass reports and evidence to the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

The second portion of this mission category is to conduct at-sea inspections on foreign vessels as authorized by treaty. On the West Coast, this often entails boardings of Canadian Albacore trollers operating in the U.S. EEZ under the U.S./Canada Albacore Treaty. In waters south of Alaska, patrols fall under the auspices of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission and in the Western Pacific, under the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission or the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission.

The recent case discussed by LCDR Chambers began with a report from the tuna fleet that was passed to Brian Corrigan, of my staff, and to our District Fourteen Command Center in Honolulu. The reported location was between 800 and 1000 miles west of the Washington Coast. With agreement from the Pacific Area Commander, in Alameda, and the District Seventeen Commander, in Juneau, a C-130 patrol aircraft was dispatched from Air Station Kodiak, Alaska; once the plane arrived on scene, they were contacted by the tuna fleet and received information over the radio. The aircraft patrolled for over eight hours and located over 65 fishing vessels in the area. Although, we were unable to identify any IUU activity, I am encouraged that the service was able to take reports from industry, confer with our partners at NOAA/NMFS and respond by deploying assets to the scene.

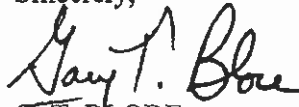
A strong international enforcement posture protects the stocks our fishermen rely on and sets an example for other nations to provide similar levels of enforcement and monitoring. Ensuring the integrity of the U.S. EEZ is a national focus, both as a homeland security mission as well as a mission that protects economic and biologic interests along the coast. I take both of these missions seriously.

I ask that the fishing industry continue to provide the Coast Guard, along with our partners at NOAA/NMFS and the states, with reports of illegal fishing activity. From a response standpoint, the more information we can gather about a suspected violation, the better. Detailed position, course and speed data helps us arrive on scene in the right location; information about the exact nature of the violation helps us plan which asset or crew has the best training or equipment to respond. For international violations, information about the vessels and crew nationality helps us coordinate with other governments and regional fisheries management organizations.

Continued, detailed reporting will help the Coast Guard and NOAA/NMFS gauge the level of illegal activity in the area, measure changes from year to year and allow us to better prioritize the operating areas of our patrolling assets.

Please feel free to contact my representatives to the Council, Lieutenant Commander Brian Chambers (x7305) or Mr. Brian Corrigan (x7309); they are my points of contact for fisheries management and enforcement issues.

Sincerely,



G. T. BLORE

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard

Commander, Thirteenth Coast Guard District