

17th COAST GUARD DISTRICT ENFORCEMENT REPORT



2024 Year in Review

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List of Abbreviations

AVDET – Aviation Detachment	MBL – U.S./Russian Maritime Boundary
CFVS – Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety	MEDEVAC – Medical Evacuation
CGC – Coast Guard Cutter	MEDICO – Passing medical advice at sea
DIW – Dead in the Water	NPSC – North Pacific SAR Coordinator
EPIRB – Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon	PD – Police Department
FBS – Russian Federal Border Service	POB – Persons on board
FCH – Charter Fishing Vessel	PRC – Peoples’ Republic of China
FF/V – Foreign Fishing Vessel	RFMO – Regional Fisheries Management Org.
FOL – Forward Operating Location	SAR – Search and Rescue
FRC – 154’ Fast Response Cutter	SARSAT – Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking
GOA – Gulf of Alaska	SMC – SAR Mission Coordinator
HC-130 – USCG Fixed-Wing Aircraft	TERM - Termination
MH-60 – CG helicopter	UMIB – Urgent Marine Info Broadcast
HSDN – High Seas Drift Net	VDS – Visual Distress Signals
IFQ – Individual Fishing Quota	WLB – 225’ Buoy Tender
IUU – Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported Fishing	WMEC – Medium Endurance Cutter
IVO – In the vicinity of	WMSL – 418’ National Security Cutter
MARB – Marine Assistance Request Broadcast	WPB – 110’ Patrol Boat

I. IUU Fishing & High Seas Drift Net (HSDN) Enforcement

USCG Cutter MIDGETT patrolled the North Pacific for two months and conducted 21 High Seas Boarding Inspections (HSBI) under the authority of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC). CGC MIDGETT detected four potential violations for non-compliance with vessel markings. USCG aviation assets conducted 255 hours of aerial patrols, observed 411 vessels, detecting three potential violations for shark finning violations. USCG surface and aviation patrols detected no indications of large-scale HSDN fishing or salmon retention in 2024.

II. U.S./Russian Maritime Boundary Line (MBL) Enforcement

During the summer months, there was a moderate amount foreign flagged longline and trawl fishing on the Russian side of the MBL. During the remainder of the year, there was little to no foreign flagged fishing activity close to the MBL. Coast Guard District 17 patrolled the MBL using both aircraft and surface vessels to detect and deter incursions. There were no suspected fishing incursions by FF/Vs during 2024.

III. U.S./Canadian EEZ Boundary (Dixon Entrance) Enforcement

There was light Canadian fishing activity during the reporting period along the U.S.-Canadian EEZ boundary in the vicinity of Dixon Entrance. All Canadian commercial fishing vessels sighted were south of the A-B line, and no fishing incursions into U.S. waters were detected.

IV. Marine Protected Resources and Critical Habitat Enforcement

The Coast Guard monitors 151 critical habitat areas around Alaska each month as part of routine cutter and aircraft patrol activity. District 17 conducted seven scheduled marine mammal carcass survey flights in support of NOAA Protected Resources Division (PRD) from May through October.

V. Commercial Fishing Vessel Boarding Statistics

In 2024, District 17 conducted 212 federal fisheries boardings on commercial vessels, detecting 49 federal fisheries violations on 31 vessels. Additionally, Coast Guard boarding officers, in coordination with NOAA OLE, seized some or all the catch on three commercial fishing vessels. Figures 1 and 2 show the historic trends for boardings and violations. The top five fisheries violations were: logbook discrepancies, no IFQ permit or FFP onboard, improper bycatch retention, retention of sport-caught halibut on commercial vessels, and improper buoy markings.

Figure 1. Federal Fisheries Boardings by Year

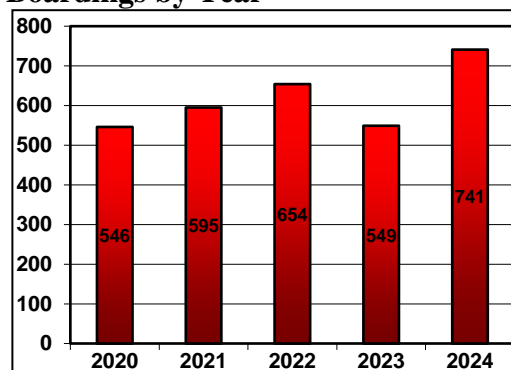
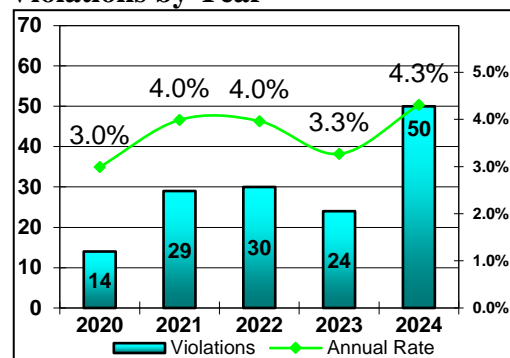


Figure 2. Federal Fisheries Violations by Year



*Annual Rate = number of vessels with violations/total federal fisheries boardings

VI. Charter, Recreational, and Subsistence Vessel Boarding Statistics

In 2024, District 17 conducted 132 federal fisheries boardings on charter vessels, detecting no federal fisheries violations. D17 conducted 339 federal fisheries boardings on recreational/subsistence vessels, detecting one federal fisheries violation.

VII. Halibut and Sablefish Enforcement

In 2024, District 17 conducted 564 federal fisheries boardings on commercial, charter, and recreational vessels targeting halibut and/or sablefish. District 17 conducted 93 commercial IFQ halibut or sablefish vessel boardings, detecting 16 federal fisheries violations on seven vessels. The top violations included failure to retain bycatch, improper buoy markings, and logbook violations. As stated above, District 17 conducted 132 boardings on charter halibut vessels and detected no violations. District 17 conducted 339 boardings on recreational/ subsistence vessels targeting halibut and detected one violation.

VIII. Forward Operating Locations (FOL) Summary

District 17 continues to maintain fixed wing assets in Kodiak and rotary wing assets in Kodiak, Cold Bay, and Sitka. In 2024 the Coast Guard surged resources to Cordova (10 days) and Kotzebue (15 days) as needed. District 17 plans similar deployments in the summer of 2025 to coincide with high volumes of recreational, charter, commercial, and subsistence vessel activity.

IX. Cook Inlet EEZ Federal Salmon Enforcement

District 17 conducted 19 at-sea boardings for the federal Cook Inlet EEZ Salmon Fishery, detecting no federal fisheries violations.

X. Crab Fisheries

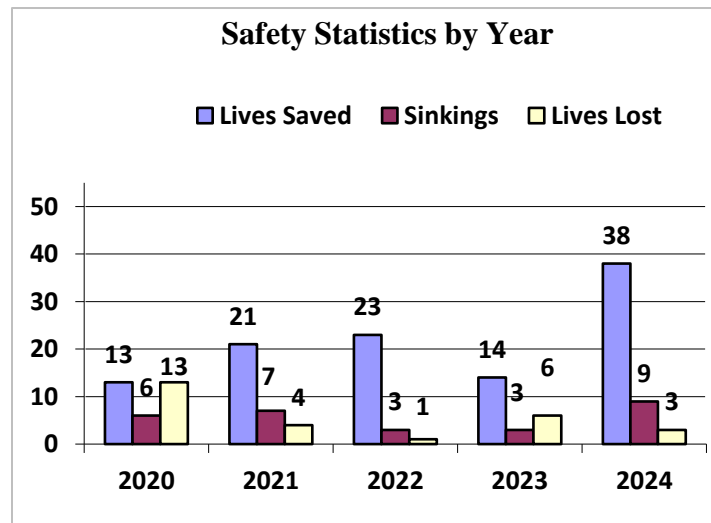
In 2024, District 17 conducted 10 boardings of Bering Sea commercial crab vessels, detecting one federal fisheries violation for illegal retention of halibut.

XI. Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety/Search and Rescue Cases

During 2024, District 17 detected 27 safety violations on 17 commercial fishing vessels. District 17 surface assets terminated four commercial fishing voyages for safety. The top five violations were: expired EPIRB hydrostatic release, expired life rafts, inadequate or insufficient immersion suits, expired/ insufficient fire extinguishers, and not enough PFDs for all personnel onboard.

In 2024, District 17 conducted 88 search and rescue (SAR) cases involving commercial, charter, and recreational fishing vessels resulting in 38 lives saved, 234 lives assisted, nine vessels lost, and three lives lost.

Figure 3. Historical Overview of CFVS Statistics



XII. Coast Guard Resource Summary

Figures 4 - 7 show the annual aircraft law enforcement (LE) hours, Major Cutter days, and Patrol Boat hours.

Figure 4. Annual Fixed Wing LE Hours

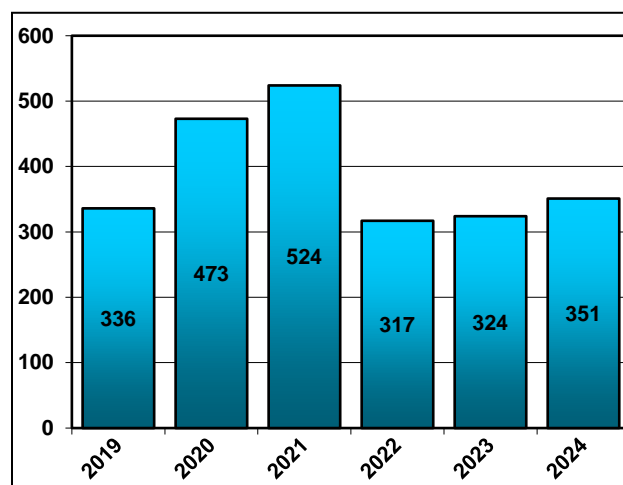


Figure 5. Annual Major Cutter Days

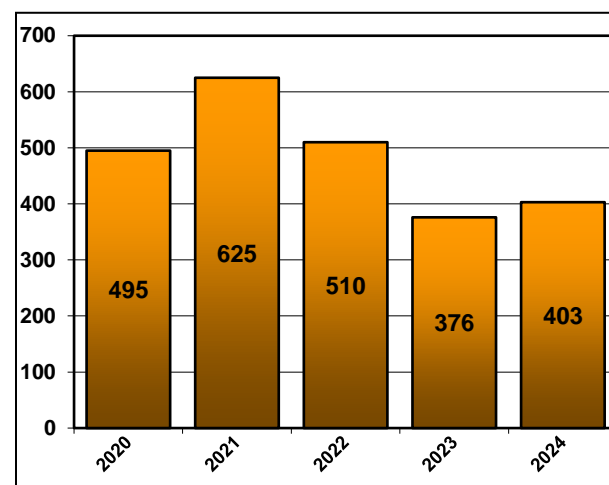


Figure 6. Annual Rotary Wing LE Hours*

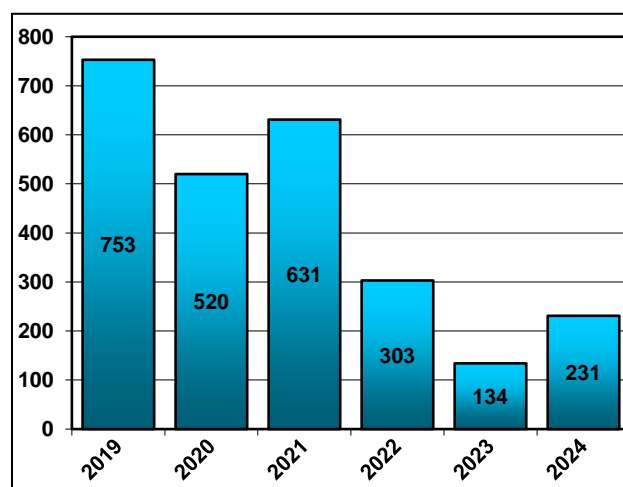
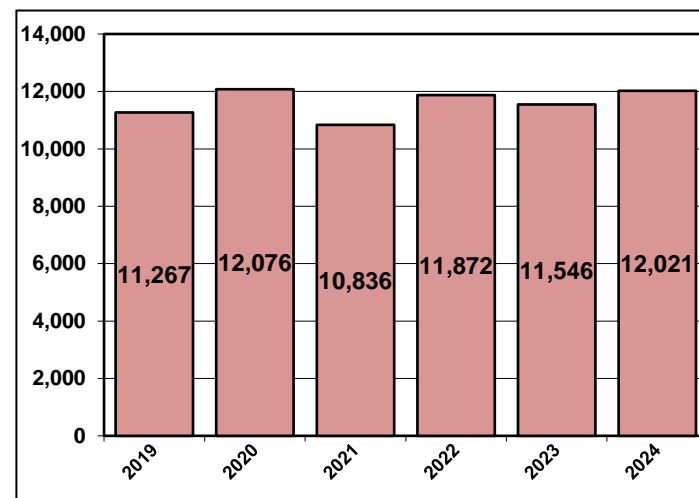


Figure 7. Annual Patrol Boat Hours



*Note: 2024 saw the transition from ship-based MH-65 to shore-based/ship-capable MH-60 rotary wing support.