### **United States Coast Guard**

# Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fisheries Enforcement Overview

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HMS Advisory Panel Meeting
MAY 2023

#### **Overview**

- Domestic Boarding Efforts and Results
- Foreign Fishing Vessel Activity and Interdiction Results
  - U.S. EEZ
  - High Seas
- Strategic & Operational Emphasis
  - Domestic
  - International

### Enforcement Effort\* FYTD23 (through 24APR23)

Reflects
approx. 18%
less hrs
compared to
FY22 which
ran 10% less
than FY21.

| CG Asset           | Patrol<br>Hours |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Aircraft           | 642.7           |
| <b>Small Boats</b> | 2177.8          |
| Cutters > 65'      | 22912.9         |
| <b>Total Hours</b> | 25733.4         |

- \*Domestic Fisheries
- Atlantic Seaboard
- Gulf of Mexico
- Caribbean
- Great Lakes



Illegal migration has surged in FY23; drawing down CG fisheries patrol effort.

### **Total HMS Boardings**

\*FY23 through MAR 2023

| CG Boarding<br>Activities by<br>District | 1<br>(NE) | 5<br>(Mid-<br>Atlantic) | 7<br>(SE<br>and | 8<br>(Gulf of<br>Mexico) | All<br>Units |
|--|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------|
|  |           |                         | Carib)          |                          |              |
| FY21                                     | 251       | 67                      | 40              | 19                       | 377          |
| FY22                                     | 192       | 186                     | 5               | 30                       | 413          |
| FYTD23*                                  |           |                         |                 |                          |              |
| Commercial                               | 16        | 20                      | 0               | 2                        |              |
| Passenger                                | 0         | 10                      | 0               | 1                        |              |
| Pleasure                                 | 1         | 53                      | 1               | 3                        |              |
| Total                                    | 17        | 83                      | 1               | 6                        | 107          |

## USCG Domestic Boardings where Potential HMS Violations were Detected: OCT 2022- MAR 2023

| CG<br>District     | Date      | CG Unit              | Potential Violation                                   |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------------|---|
| 5 (Mid-            | OCT       | CGC Angela           | Possession of 03 yellowfin tuna without permit. (REC) |
| Atlantic)          | 22        | McShan               |   |
| 5 (Mid-            | OCT       | CGC Angela           | Possession of 01 yellowfin tuna without permit. (REC) |
| Atlantic)          | 22        | McShan               |   |
| 8 (Gulf of Mexico) | OCT<br>22 | STA Port<br>O'Connor | Sharks not naturally attached to carcasses. (REC)     |

## Foreign Fishing Vessel Activity along US/MX EEZ

|         | Detections | Interceptions | Interdictions |
|---------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| FY21    | 152        | 133           | 79            |
| FY22    | 176        | 128           | 86            |
| FYTD23* | 111        | 63            | 31            |

- Detections do not indicate an increasing threat.
- Interdiction rates continue to remain higher than CG's 20 year average (18%).

\*Through MAR

### Foreign Fishing Vessel Activity-Boardings where HMS catch was present (OCT 2022 through MAR 2023)

| <b>Incursion Date</b> | HMS Catch          |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
|                       |                    |
| OCT 2022              | 3 sharks           |
| <b>DEC 2022</b>       | 90 lbs of sharks   |
| <b>DEC 2022</b>       | 10 Blackfin sharks |
| FEB 2023              | 606 lbs of sharks  |

### Foreign Fishing Vessel Activity-

Sightings of Observations of Concern- HMS on High Seas (OCT 2022 through MAR 2023)

| Location                          | Date     | Flag State        | Fishing Activity  |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-------------------|---|
| High Seas<br>off Mid-<br>Atlantic | APR 2023 | Republic of China | Fishing in ICCAT Area with intermittent AIS; boarding not authorized by flag state. Sighting report only. |

CG continues to analyze potential fishing vessel activity detected during a spring 2023 high seas patrol off S. America

### Strategic & Operational Emphasis- Domestic

 Continue to board HMS permitted vessels in FY24 as high precedence fisheries.



### Strategic & Operational Emphasis-International

- Continue to implement:
  - SAFE Act Interagency WG's Prioritized Regions,
  - USCG Counter-IUU Fishing Implementation Plan,
  - USCG 5-Year Atlantic Area Fisheries Campaign Plan, and the
  - MX Fishing Vessel Port Denial.
- Serve on ICCAT U.S. Delegation to promote At-Sea inspections, act upon suspected IUU fishing sightings, foster electronic monitoring, and address labor conditions.
- Continue to build law enforcement capacity and partnerships with other nations.



#### **Questions?**

