



U.S. Coast Guard Puerto Rico & USVI

Fisheries Enforcement Highlights - December 2024



Routine Patrols – Mona Pass Federally Protected Areas

- USCG cutters continue to conduct presence patrols, vessel safety inspections, and Living Marine Resources (LMR) boardings in the Mona Pass.
- Targeted enforcement areas include Bajo de Sico, Tourmaline Bank, and Abrir La Sierra Bank.

EEZ Incursion Intercepted - Oct 8th, 2024

- CGC JOSEPH NAPIER conducted a boarding of two vessels engaged in fishing in international waters, approx. 30nm NW of Desecheo Island.
- The vessels were inside the US EEZ by 0.5nm. There were small amounts of snapper and grouper on board and no navigational equipment.
- Both vessels had appropriate Dominican Republic documentation and were released with a warning about EEZ encroachment.



Sentencing Issued in Eel Smuggling Case – Nov 14th, 2024

- The U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico issued prison sentences to two Dominican nationals who pled guilty to smuggling 30kg of juvenile glass eels out of Puerto Rico in February 2024.
- The original interdiction and followup investigation was a joint effort by USCG Station San Juan, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Future Operations

- Discussions are ongoing between Sector San Juan Enforcement, NOAA OLE, and US Fish & Wildlife Service to plan targeted enforcement actions.

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