



# SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



## Operation Shrimp and Grits

A recent two-day enforcement operation undertaken by the United States Coast Guard and partner agencies saw 568 vessels boarded off the nation's southeast coast and resulted in the issuing of over 100 violations/terminations.

Coast Guard crews conducted Operation Shrimp and Grits – which was focused on the education and enforcement of boating safety and maritime security – in co-ordination with 104 partner agency units from various federal, state and local agencies.

Covering 500 miles of coastline from Carteret County (North Carolina) to Brevard County (Florida), the August 9-10 operation involved:

- 62 law enforcement/fire vessels
- 18 auxiliary vessels
- two fixed-wing law enforcement aircraft
- two auxiliary fixed-wing aircraft
- five helicopters
- four civil support teams
- an aircraft-mounted mobile detection system
- Transportation Security Administration surface inspection team

It resulted in the actioning of:

- 48 Coast Guard violations
- 22 Department of Natural Resources and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission violations
- 35 local police department citations
- 12 vessel terminations

The violations were understood to include boating under the influence, possession of controlled substances, fisheries violations, illegal charter enforcement and recreational boating safety.

Rear Admiral Eric Jones, Commander of the Seventh Coast Guard District, applauded the co-ordination and collaboration in the exercise's planning and execution.

“The operational contributions to our collective missions of maritime security and marine safety, with special emphasis on enforcing compliance with passenger charter, living marine resources



*US Coast Guard team in Operation Shrimp and Grits*

and recreational boating safety laws, go a long way toward achieving the objectives of each of our agencies,” he said.

“We trust the collaborative nature of these types of interagency operations will also contribute to our ability to respond holistically in times of crisis. Thank you all and Semper Paratus.”

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