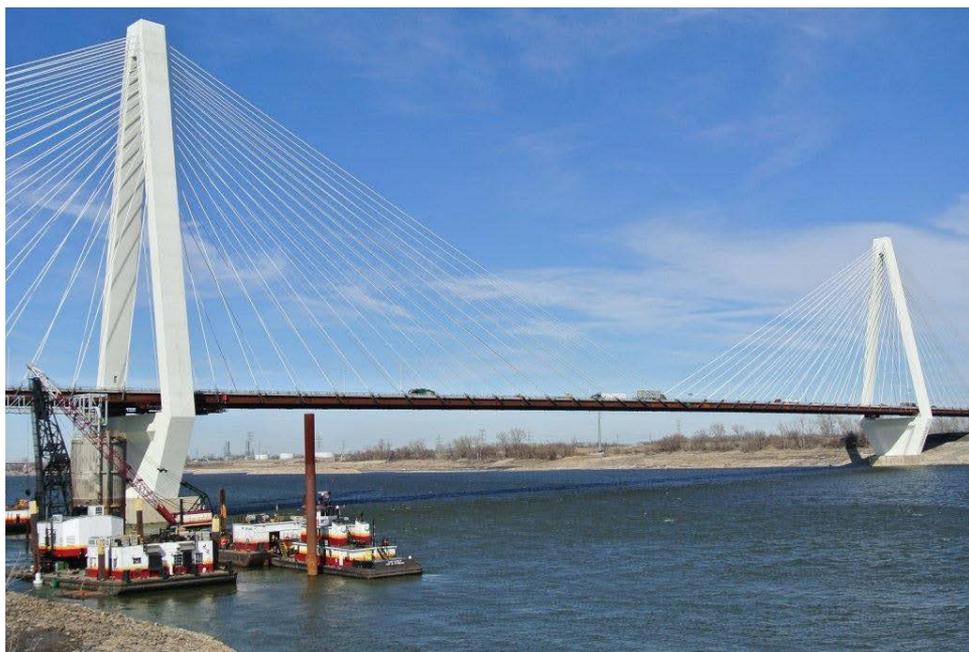




# U.S. COAST GUARD SECTOR UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER



**2014  
YEAR IN REVIEW**

## INTRODUCTION FROM THE SECTOR COMMANDER



As I noted during my Change of Command in July, I am humbled by the opportunity to serve as the Commander of such a tremendous group of Coast Guard men and women. However, the remarkable work done through this vast area of responsibility could not be accomplished without the commitment of countless others, including our Auxiliary, federal, state, local and industry partners. It is to you, that this publication, and the activities it

represents, is dedicated.

During 2014, we faced very challenging conditions. The year started with ice conditions not seen in more than 30 years and although the Spring/Summer flood was relatively mild, the flood waters were quickly followed by shoaling that effectively closed more than 25 miles of the Upper Mississippi River for approximately a month. Through all of these scenarios, we worked side-by-side with our river industry partners and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to manage river operations to ensure the safest, most efficient transportation system possible. Through it all, the personnel of Sector Upper Mississippi River marked safe waterways, inspected vessels, prevented and cleaned up oil spills, investigated marine casualties, conducted law enforcement operations and responded to those in distress.

As with any great endeavor, it is helpful to look back and see the ground, or river miles, that have been covered. This publication serves as that look back. It summarizes the services that the Active Duty, Civilian, Reserve and Auxiliary personnel assigned to Coast Guard Sector Upper Mississippi River provided to you over the past year. It also helps frame the way forward, as we strive to build upon our experiences, grow our robust partnerships and leave everything we touch better than we found it.

Semper Paratus – Always Ready!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. L. Malloy".

M. L. Malloy

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard

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*Cover:*

*The Stan Musial Veterans Memorial (I-70) Bridge opened to traffic in early February 2014 after years of construction. The new bridge opened a new artery for vehicular traffic in St. Louis and paved the way for major renovations to the Arch Riverfront.*

## ROLES AND MISSIONS

The United States Coast Guard is a multi-mission maritime service within the Department of Homeland Security and one of the nation's five uniformed services. Our core missions on the Western Rivers focus on promoting and enhancing the safety and security of the Maritime Transportation System and serving as stewards of the environment.



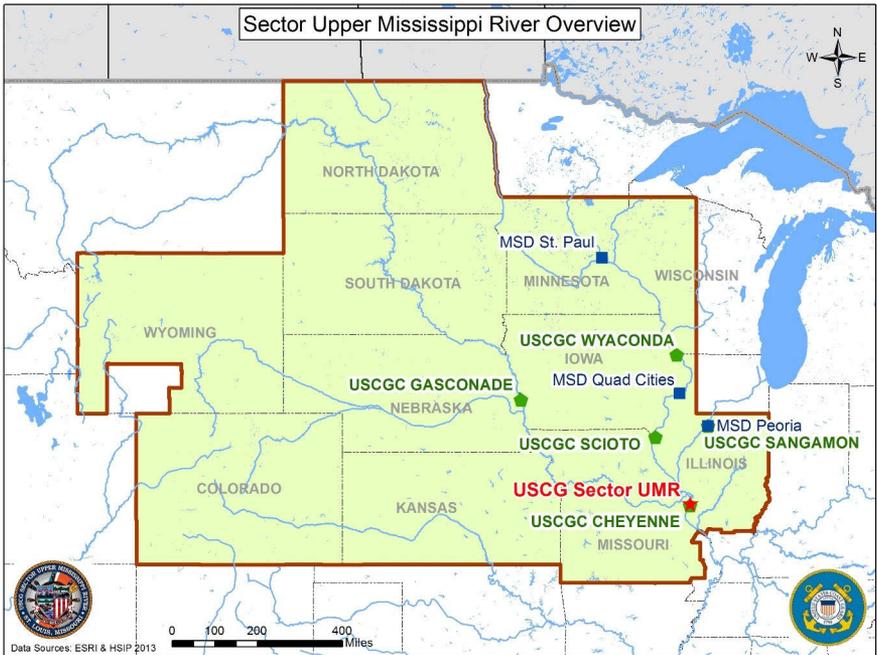
### Coast Guard Sector Upper Mississippi River Mission

In serving the American heartland, we execute safety, security and environmental stewardship operations to ensure a robust transportation system and diverse use of the rivers.



## AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

Sector Upper Mississippi River (UMR) encompasses the largest geographic region of any Coast Guard Sector in the lower 48 states with an area of responsibility comprised of all or parts of 11 states and over 2,200 miles of commercially navigable waterways. This portion of the waterway system includes the Upper Mississippi, Illinois and Missouri Rivers, 33 locks and dams, 238 bridges and 7 major population centers. The Sector's work is accomplished by 257 dedicated Active Duty, Reserve and Civilian personnel assigned to five Inland River Tenders, three Marine Safety Detachments and Sector Headquarters. The Sector is further supported by 1,100 volunteer Coast Guard Auxiliaries.



- **Sector UMR:**  
St. Louis, MO
- **Marine Safety Detachments:**  
Peoria, IL  
Quad Cities/Rock Island Arsenal, IL  
St. Paul, MN
- **River Tenders / Commissioned**  
CGC CHEYENNE / 1966  
CGC GASCONADE / 1964  
CGC SANGAMON / 1962  
CGC SCIOTO / 1962  
CGC WYACONDA / 1965

## NATIONAL AND REGIONAL RESPONSES

After a bitterly cold but otherwise uneventful winter, the upper reaches of the Upper Mississippi River (UMR) were thrust into flood conditions following a series of early summer rain events in Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin. MSD St. Paul personnel worked closely with local response agencies and industry to monitor floodwaters and safeguard the public and maritime industry.

*Right:  
Sector personnel  
conduct annual flood  
response training, a  
mission set that's  
unique to the Western  
Rivers.*



Fortunately, the flooding was short-lived. However, the floodwaters receded so rapidly that severe shoaling formed in the UMR. Between mid-July and mid-August, 15 different locations were impassible at various times due to shoaling. On July 19, Sector UMR closed 25 miles of river to vessel traffic to facilitate emergency dredging operations by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

Members of the River Industry Action Committee (RIAC) coordinated with Coast Guard and industry stakeholders to establish a vessel traffic queue to manage and prioritize affected vessel traffic for the duration of the shoaling period. At its peak, 17 towboats and 150 barges were unable to transit the UMR, including multiple cement laden barges that were urgently needed in Minnesota for vital roadway infrastructure maintenance and construction projects.



*Left:  
USACE conduct  
emergency dredging  
operations in response to  
severe shoaling in the  
upper reaches of the  
Mississippi River*

# MARINE INVESTIGATIONS

## Marine Investigations Division

The Investigations Division examines maritime casualties to determine causal factors in order to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future. During 2014, Sector Upper Mississippi River investigated 370 reported marine casualties, two of which were fatalities – a reminder of the unforgiving and unpredictable nature of work in the river industry. The shoaling issues during the summer of 2014 highlighted the importance of immediate marine casualty or hazardous condition reporting to the Coast Guard. The Investigations Division thoroughly scrutinized each casualty and used the data to assist with properly marking, surveying and dredging channels to facilitate safe commerce throughout the rivers.

### Reported Marine Casualties in 2014

Allisions	97	Fires	02
Breakaways	22	Groundings	149
Collisions	05	Loss of Life / Injuries	2/34
Equipment Failures	56	Sinkings	03



### Marine Casualties of Note

On June 20, 2014, a newly built uninspected towing vessel (UTV) sank near Wood River, IL after the engine room flooded. During the investigation, several design flaws were identified that were believed to have contributed to the catastrophic flooding and sinking of the vessel. At less than 26' in length, the UTV was not required to comply with the regulatory requirements that address standards of construction, design, stability and trim.

On July 1, 2014, another UTV sank in the Port of St. Louis. The vessel began listing to the starboard side and the crew tried unsuccessfully to pump out the bow void. Progressive flooding from the bow void to the engine room led to the eventual sinking. An unsealed hole cut in the bulkhead of the adjacent void space for a pipe to pass through contributed to the progressive flooding.

# MARITIME SECURITY

## Interagency Operations

As an Armed Military Service and member of the Department of Homeland Security, the Coast Guard is uniquely positioned to contribute to America's defense and security. During the past year, Sector UMR personnel and port partners were involved in numerous multi-agency operations, aimed at improving security throughout the waterways.

Sector UMR actively coordinated with other agency partners to conduct security patrols in the port ensuring maritime domain awareness and security of nationally sensitive critical infrastructure. Through these combined efforts, over two thousand patrol hours were dedicated to visiting these critical sites.



## Maritime Security Partners

- State and Local Police
- Fire Departments
- Commercial Towing Industry
- Coast Guard Auxiliary
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- Facility Operators
- FBI
- State Emergency Operations Centers
- The Boating Public
- Many, many more....

*Top: St. Louis Metro Air Support was a key patrol partner in the Port of St. Louis. Middle and Bottom: Illinois State Police, Illinois Conservation Police and MSD Peoria Boat Forces conducted joint boardings and security operations training on the Illinois River.*

# MARITIME SECURITY

## Area Maritime Security Committees

In 2014, Area Maritime Security Committees (AMSC) in St. Louis, Kansas City, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Quad Cities and Peoria held 20 formal meetings and several sub-committee meetings. The meetings brought federal, state, local and industry partners together to identify and address port-wide security vulnerabilities and review existing risk mitigation strategies to improve the region's maritime security response posture.

Numerous port partners and first response agencies conducted and participated in a variety of inter-agency exercises covering the full spectrum from seminars to full-scale events. In many cases, the regional exercises were created for, and centered on, responses to maritime threats. These committees were very proactive and continue to develop and conduct exercises, with and without federal support, far exceeding USCG policy requirements.



*Left:  
CAPT Malloy and  
Minneapolis/St. Paul  
AMSC members discussed  
emergency management  
with the Commander of  
Civil Protection and other  
officials from the Republic  
of Croatia during a full  
scale, radiological incident  
exercise.*

With Port Security Grant funding as a valued resource, the committees continued their focus on developing exercises, conducting interagency training, refining maritime security response protocols and obtaining critical response and prevention equipment. Recent exercises focused on Transportation Security Incident (TSI) Responses to High Risk Critical Infrastructure, hijacked vessels and radiological dispersion devices (RDD) events. Most, if not all, assets procured through the Port Security Grant Program have arrived in port-wide areas and first response agencies eagerly worked with their regional partners to use their equipment to support the maritime security mission.

## SEARCH AND RESCUE

Throughout history, the Coast Guard has played a vital role in Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) operations. On the Western Rivers, Sector Upper Mississippi River continually fostered partnerships with state and municipal authorities to provide lifesaving services.



### 2014 SAR Statistics

**Total SAR Cases:** 129

**Property Saved & Assisted:** \$1.2 Million

**Lives Saved & Assisted:**  
129

*Above: Navigating the Western Rivers is extremely hazardous with numerous water control structures that are often submerged during periods of high water.*

*Below: Active Duty and Reserve Boat Forces train on the Mississippi River with St. Louis and Quad Cities Area Fire Departments.*



## MARITIME SAFETY

The Coast Guard's Commercial Vessel Safety program is vital to the Marine Safety mission. The Coast Guard regulates the design, construction, equipment and operational requirements for a variety of commercial vessels.



*Left: Facilities Inspectors stand with representatives of the Guyanese Government during the International Port Security Reciprocal Visit hosted by the Sector in June, 2014.*



*Left: Coast Guard marine inspectors from Sector Upper Mississippi River examine the open bulk cargo and cargo vapor lines of a tank barge in preparation for issuing a Coast Guard Certificate of Inspection.*

### **Vessel Bridging Program**

The towing vessel bridging program at Sector UMR prepared towing vessels for sweeping regulatory changes that will soon take effect. The program yielded remarkable success in 2014 as 100% of towing vessels operating within the Sector completed the Towing Vessel Examination.



# WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT

## Regattas and Marine Parades (Marine Events)

The Marine Event Permitting process facilitates the safe and effective management and use of waterways by the river industry and general public alike. Sector UMR oversaw 104 marine events and reviewed hundreds of permit applications. Working within established partnerships with federal, state and local agencies, we successfully managed finite resources and mitigated environmental impact concerns associated with these events.

The largest of these events was the annual Lake of the Ozarks Shootout boat race drawing nearly 100,000 spectators onboard over 6,000 pleasure craft. Additionally, Sector personnel, serving as Patrol Commanders, enforced safety zones during numerous large scale events including Quad Cities' Floatzilla Paddlecraft Regatta and Illinois' largest annual July 4th fireworks display, the Red, White and Boom, hosted by the City of Peoria.



*Top: A Coast Guard Auxiliary aircraft offered a bird's eye view as thousands of boats line the 2 mile long Lake of the Ozarks Shootout Race Course.*

*Bottom: Nearly 1000 kayaks and canoes awaited the start of the annual Floatzilla regatta (Photo courtesy of Quad City Times)*

## Aids to Navigation (ATON)

The Coast Guard's Aids to Navigation (ATON) program for the Western Rivers manages, influences and provides access to a safe, secure and efficient navigation system. The program was accomplished in Sector UMR by five Inland River Tenders (WLRs) that maintained over 6,000 buoys and shore-aids on all three major river systems. The WLRs are strategically located throughout the Midwest to respond to navigation concerns arising in the Sector's vast area of responsibility. The sector doubled the Waterways Management Division's size to better work with government partners and industry to share information and respond to navigation concerns. The program facilitated maritime commerce by minimizing disruptions to the movement of goods and people, while maximizing recreational enjoyment and economic dependability on navigable waters, all while maintaining adaptable waterway restoration capabilities when disruptions occurred.



*Top: Coast Guard Cutter SANGAMON underway on a buoy run.*

*Bottom: Boy Scouts from Troops 44 and 57 in Mascoutah, IL posed under the loading crane while the Coast Guard Cutter CHEYENNE stood ready for patrol.*



# BOATING SAFETY

## Recreational Boating Safety in the Midwest

Sector UMR works closely with state and local law enforcement agencies to enforce recreational boating safety laws. Coast Guard boarding officers checked 1015 recreational vessels for compliance with Federal boating safety regulations in 2014. In addition to enforcement on the Western Rivers, Sector UMR boat crews patrolled Lake of the Ozarks and Table Rock Lake in Missouri during peak recreational boating periods and during major marine events like the Lake of the Ozarks Shootout and Offshore Super Series Races. Sector crewmembers assisted state and local agency responders following the crash of the Outerlimits powerboat during an attempt to break the course record of 224 MPH.



*Top Left: The 30ft long Outerlimits catamaran goes airborne. The crash resulted in the death of the vessel's owner. (Photo by Nathan Bechtold, [www.lakeexpo.com](http://www.lakeexpo.com))*

*Top Right: Boarding officers conducted a recreational vessel boarding during a routine patrol.*

*Bottom: Sector personnel donned lifejackets and posed for a photograph on "Wear Your Lifejacket to Work Day" during National Safe Boating Week.*





*Left: Sector Active Duty and Auxiliary personnel conducted a Search and Rescue exercise at Carlyle Lake, Illinois with assistance from local Boy Scouts. The exercise was planned by Boy Scouts from Troops 44 and 57 in Mascoutah, IL who were earning the Search and Rescue Merit Badge. The Scouts were assisted by Active Duty and Auxiliary members.*

### **Coast Guard Auxiliary Improve Recreational Boating Safety**

Throughout the region, over 1,100 Coast Guard Auxiliarists volunteered their time, vessels and aircraft in dedicated public service. In 2014, members of the Auxiliary contributed over 119,000 hours to the recreational boating safety mission. To accomplish this mission, Auxiliary members conducted regular marine patrols, performed over 4,000 vessel safety checks and held dozens of recreational boating safety classes. The ultimate goal of the Auxiliary program is to improve recreational vessel safety through outreach and education.

In addition, Auxiliary aircraft supported search and rescue, port security and waterways management missions by providing overflight capabilities throughout the region.

*Right: Active Duty and Auxiliary personnel gave tours of a Coast Guard response boat and discussed boater safety at the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Rivers Festival. The event is one of several safety fairs held annually.*



# ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## Interagency Cooperation

Protecting the environment is one of Sector UMR's primary missions. In order to protect an extensive 11 state area of responsibility, Sector UMR relied heavily on partnerships with federal, state and local agencies. Sector UMR shares Federal On-Scene Coordinator responsibility with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In addition, the Coast Guard is a co-chair on Regional Response Teams V, VII and VIII and works with the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA) to develop, review, exercise and implement oil pollution and hazardous substances response plans.



*Above: Work crews removed oily water from the hull of the derelict towboat.*

- A derelict towboat discharged oil into the Illinois River during a period of high water in early 2014. USCG Pollution Responders in conjunction with U.S. and Illinois Environmental Protection Agencies supervised the owner's efforts to remove oily water from the vessel. The operation was complicated by variable river levels and the presence of asbestos inside the vessel. All asbestos was removed before the final cleanup of the vessel could be completed.

- 2014 opened with the sinking of a dredge in St. Joseph, MO on New Year's Eve with approximately 2500 gallons of fuel on board. USCG Pollution Responders from St. Louis and representatives of the St. Joseph Fire Department oversaw cleanup operations. All recoverable fuel was removed as freezing conditions, heavy snowfall and ice in the Missouri River curtailed salvage operations until the spring thaw.



*Above left: The St. Joseph dredge lies partially submerged in the Missouri River.*

*Above right: Sorbent materials are seen frozen and snow-covered in the Missouri River surrounding the dredge*

- A recreational vessel, sank in the Kaskaskia River where it was salvaged in July 2014. Sector UMR personnel coordinated with U.S. EPA, IL Department of Natural Resources and commercial salvors to remove 800 gallons of fuel/oil and salvage the vessel.



*Right: The BLANKENSHIP is raised with air bags so that all pollution could be safely removed from the vessel.*



- Sector Pollution Responders oversaw pollution recovery and salvage efforts of a UTV after it sank near Wood River, IL with approximately 2200 gallons of fuel and oil onboard.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Sector Upper Mississippi River's dedication expands beyond our traditional missions. We are well established in the communities in which we live where we serve as local leaders, volunteers, and active citizens. As servant leaders in the community, we constantly strive to have a positive impact on our neighbors; across the street, across state boundaries and across the country.



*Left: Sector UMR personnel honor the fallen World War II veterans of Operation Tiger, many of whom were natives of Missouri, during a wreath laying ceremony on the St. Louis riverfront. Additionally, Sector personnel performed ceremonial honors at 48 funerals during 2014.*

*Right: Members of MSD St. Paul dedicate their time and skills for building homes for Habitat for Humanity during February, 2014.*



*Top Right:  
A devastating spring tornado destroyed dozens of homes in Mayflower, Arkansas.*



*Bottom Right:  
BMC Mike Hiatt and his crew rallied support from Active Duty, Reserve and Auxiliary personnel from Sectors UMR, Ohio Valley and Lower Mississippi River. His team delivered over 4000 lbs of supplies to families recovering from the disaster.*



*Below Left:  
A Coast Guard team from Sector UMR competed in the Tough Mudder endurance run to raise support for the Wounded Warrior Project.*

*Below Right:  
Coast Guard cyclists raised over \$1510 for cancer research during the Pedal the Cause ride in St. Louis.*



## SECTOR UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER CONTACTS

<b><u>Main Phone</u></b>	314-269-2500
Command Administrative Assistant	314-269-2603
Command Fax Number	314-269-2734
Sector Webpage	<a href="http://www.uscg.mil/d8/sectumr/">http://www.uscg.mil/d8/sectumr/</a>

### **Sector Command Center**

24-Hour Emergencies	314-269-2332
National Response Center*	800-424-8802
<i>(*Primary Contact for Oil Spills, Hazmat Releases or for America's Waterways Watch)</i>	

### **Sector Departments**

24-Hour Public Affairs	314-704-9502
Government Affairs	314-269-2510
Domestic Vessel Inspections	314-269-2621
Investigations Division	314-269-2570
Waterways Management	314-269-2568
Facility Inspections	314-269-2518
Port Security/Enforcement	314-269-2541
Maritime All-Hazards Response	314-269-2546
Contingency Planning	314-269-2591
Intelligence	314-269-2543
Logistics	314-269-2510
Engineering	314-771-6044 x2419

### **Sector Units**

Marine Safety Detachment Quad Cities	309-782-0627
Marine Safety Detachment Peoria	309-694-7779
Marine Safety Detachment St. Paul	952-806-0021
Coast Guard Cutter CHEYENNE	314-771-4325
Coast Guard Cutter GASCONADE	402-451-7681
Coast Guard Cutter SANGAMON	309-694-2319
Coast Guard Cutter SCIOTO	319-524-1657
Coast Guard Cutter WYACONDA	563-582-0211