

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
**United States
Coast Guard**



Press Release

Date: Jan. 27, 2004

ICEBREAKERS ASSIST STRUGGLING VESSELS

WOODS HOLE, Mass. –Since the arrival of the Coast Guard Cutter *Ida Lewis* on Friday January 24th the U.S. Coast Guard has assigned additional cutters to break ice in Buzzards Bay, the Cape Cod Canal, Nantucket Harbor and other critical ports that have become icebound.

The *Ida Lewis*, a 175' buoy tender with ice breaking capabilities, has been joined by the cutters *Morro Bay*, *Willow*, and *Juniper* to provide navigable passage for vessels around the Cape and islands. This afternoon the cutter *Morro Bay*, scheduled to relieve the *Ida Lewis*, escorted the *Gay Head* and passenger ferry *Nantucket* safely into Nantucket Harbor. *Morro Bay* and *Ida Lewis* also assisted three iced-in fishing vessels depart Nantucket Harbor. In addition, the *Juniper* escorted five vessels struggling to make way in Buzzards Bay.

The cutter *Sturgeon Bay* is expected to arrive in the area tomorrow to further assist the maritime community and to relieve some of the other Coast Guard assets.

Search and Rescue and Ice Breaking remain priorities for the Coast Guard during these harsh weather conditions. The Coast Guard is making every effort possible to keep navigable waterways open to facilitate commerce.

USCGC *Ida Lewis* 175' buoy tender
USCGC *Juniper* 225' buoy tender
USCGC *Willow* 225' buoy tender
USCGC *Morro Bay* 140' ice breaking tug
USCGC *Sturgeon Bay* 140' icebreaking tug

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