

Employed contingency plans, policies, and procedures to reduce the impact of **26** vessel casualties, **14** waterway restrictions, and **17** search and rescue cases occurring on the St. Mary's River and managed the vessel traffic delayed by **40** hours and **58** minutes of low visibility (fog/snow/wind) and **156** hours caused by ice.

Ensured pollution prevention regulations were enforced during **25** oil transfer monitors and explosive loads; minimizing the environmental impact of **2** accidental releases of hazardous product into the St. Mary's River.

Responded to **23** environmental spills with a discharge amount totaling over **130** gallons; **33%** decrease in spills between FY2006 and FY2007.

Collaborated with U.S. and Canadian law enforcement agencies to enforce laws and treaties that protect against fisheries encroachment of U.S. waters by participating in operations such as the Ninth Coast Guard District's OPERATION BORDER PUSH, an on-going operation that attempts to detect, intercept, and deter illegal commercial fishing.

Participated in **2** government led exercises that simulated significant discharges of oil into the water; helped to prevent future accidents from occurring and focused on improving response efforts by the CG, state and local governments, and industry stakeholders.

### Who We Are

- Station Bayfield, WI
- Station Duluth, MN
- ANT Duluth, MN
- MSU Duluth, MN
- Station Marquette, MI
- STANT Portage, MI
- Station Sault Sainte Marie, MI
- STANT St. Ignace, MI

### Where We Are

Sector Sault's current AOR extends the St Mary's River, the entire U.S. shoreline of Lake Superior, the northern most portion of Lakes Michigan and Huron, comprising the Straits of Mackinac and its approaches.

Did you know? The St. Mary's River is the vital link between the U.S.'s north central mining states and the production mills and factories of the lower lake states. Great Lakes shipping accounts for **70%** of the nation's steelmaking capacity, **70%** of its automobiles, and **55%** of all heavy manufacturing. To put it another way, the professional mariners serving the Great Lakes carried the equivalent of 1/2 ton of cargo for every man, woman, and child in this country during a 300+ day shipping season.



## Homeland Security

UNITED STATES  
COAST GUARD



SEMPER PARATUS

# Sector Sault Sainte Marie Stakeholders Report 2007



Sector Sault Sainte Marie  
337 Water Street  
Sault Sainte Marie, MI 49783

UNITED STATES  
COAST GUARD

The United States Coast Guard is a military, multi-mission, maritime service within the Department of Homeland Security and one of the nation's five armed services. Its core roles are to protect the public, the environment, and U.S. economic and security interests in any maritime region in which those interests may be at risk, including international waters and America's coasts, ports, and inland waterways.

### Maritime Safety

Eliminate deaths, injuries, and property damage associated with maritime transportation, fishing, and recreational boating. The Coast Guard's motto is Semper Paratus—(Always Ready), and the service is always ready to respond to calls for help at sea.

### Maritime Security

Protect America's maritime borders from all intrusions by (a) halting the flow of illegal drugs, aliens, and contraband into the United States through maritime routes; (b) preventing illegal fishing; and (c) suppressing violations of federal law in the maritime arena.

### Maritime Mobility

Facilitate maritime commerce and eliminate interruptions and impediments to the efficient and economical movement of goods and people, while maximizing recreational access to and enjoyment of the water.

### National Defense

Defend the nation as one of the five U.S. armed services. Enhance regional stability in support of the National Security Strategy, utilizing the Coast Guard's unique and relevant maritime capabilities.

### Protection of Natural Resources

Eliminate environmental damage and degradation of natural resources associated with maritime transportation, fishing, and recreational boating.

### What We Did—2007

During 2007, Sector Sault Sainte Marie units responded to more than **460** mariners in need of assistance resulting in **56** lives saved, **411** lives assisted, and in excess of **\$4.5** million in property saved/assisted.

Over the last 5 years, the Sector's search and rescue case load has increased by over **18%**.

Of **2,211** commercial vessel arrivals, Inspectors and Investigators responded to **95** damage surveys and casualty investigations—an average casualty rate of **4%**.

Investigated only **18** mariner injuries; attributed to the safety standards our inspectors enforced during **153** small passenger, **164** domestic deep draft, and **43** foreign vessel exams.

**54** facilities received annual exams for compliance with both security and pollution prevention requirements and **42** law enforcement security spot checks were performed ensuring all facilities were in compliance with Maritime Security Level 1 standards.

To combat the homeland security risk to our critical infrastructure, **322** OPERATION NEPTUNE SHIELD patrols and **386** security boardings of recreational and merchant vessels transiting within the AOR were conducted.

**1,390** boardings of recreational boaters resulting in **409** violations, **30** voyage terminations, and **6** boatings under the influence.

Conducted firearms training during **78** range dates which resulted in the qualification or recertification of **155** boarding officers and boarding team members.

Utilized **7,431** boat hours to support the National Security Strategy by implementing our unique and relevant maritime capabilities.

Safely and efficiently moved **60,893** commercial vessels through the **77** nautical miles of the St Mary's Vessel Traffic Service Area; **123** were tankers, **4,692** were bulk carriers, **492** were tug and tows, **54,455** were ferry transits, and **1,131** were public vessels; **1,500** required special handling or specific Vessel Traffic directives.

**544** aids to navigation ensured mariners a well-marked waterway to safely navigate; **174** required maintenance or commissioning; quick action from our ATON units resulted in an aid availability rate of **99.9%**

Balancing the dynamic vessel movements and shipping schedule of industry, directed OPERATION TACONITE, the United States largest domestic ice breaking operation.

Dispatched **8** U.S. ice breakers and one Canadian ice breaker to assist **141** vessels beset in and around the frozen ports of northern Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, and Lake Superior.

Directed **1,971** hours of domestic ice breaking, facilitated the movement of nearly **18** million tons of dry-bulk cargo during periods of ice cover; represented **16%** of the total product moved for the entire Great Lakes and were crucial to sustaining industrial production and power generation during the winter.

UNITED STATES  
COAST GUARD

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