



U.S. Coast Guard History Program

Active, 1816

In action: moving; causing action or change

Builder: Unknown, purchased in Baltimore

Length:

Beam:

Draft:

Displacement: 38-tons

Rig:

Cost: \$1,300

Launched: ?

Commissioned: August, 1816

Decommissioned: 1825

Disposition: Blown aground

Complement: 8

Armament: 1 gun (unspecified type)

History:

The 38-ton USRC *Active* served on the Chesapeake for most of its career. The small cutter was purchased in Baltimore, Maryland for \$1,300 in August 1816 and worked in New York waters for a short time in 1817.

In the early nineteenth century, new laws prohibited slave trade between the United States and foreign nations and the enforcement of Neutrality Laws from 1815 to 1823 during troubles with European nations, created new missions for the Revenue Cutter Service. The *Active* was part of a service's efforts to suppress slave trade and piracy.

Some kind of mechanical propulsion system was tested aboard her unsuccessfully in 1821. In need of repairs and replacement in 1823 *Active* was blown aground. The vessel was decommissioned sometime in 1825.

Note that there was another cutter named *Active* that was in service in Connecticut waters from 1812 to 1817 so that for at least one year there were two cutters in service with the same name.

Sources:

Cutter History File, Coast Guard Historian's Office.

Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships. Washington, DC: USGPO.

Donald Canney. *U.S. Coast Guard and Revenue Cutters, 1790-1935*. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1995.

U.S. Coast Guard. *Record of Movements: Vessels of the United States Coast Guard: 1790 - December 31, 1933*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1934; 1989 (reprint).

