



**USCGC TAMPA (WMEC-902)
Mid-Patrol Newsletter
AUG 2011**



By ENS Johanson

“Down, Down all Lines, Up, Up all Fish, now fish call.” The pipe was heard throughout the ship on the third day of TAMPA’s voyage, kicking off the now traditional



Chief Kuvaja with his catch.

patrol long fishing competition. In the first hour of fish call, several medium sized mahi-mahi were caught by the crew, indicative of the vast abundance of life in the Mid-Atlantic. Despite MKC Kuvaja jumping out to an early lead, it’s still anyone’s competition. A winner will be determined during the final leg of the patrol, but until then, crew is “working hard” to earn the title of TAMPA’s 2nd “Fish King” Champion.

Fish call is not TAMPA’s only interaction with the creatures of the sea. TAMPA’s main mission while deployed to the Mid-Atlantic is to ensure fishermen are complying with safety and fishing regulations. Most fishermen understand the reasoning behind the Coast Guard’s involvement in their trade. It’s not the Coast Guard’s intent to take time away from fishing, but rather to ensure the safety of the fishing fleet and create job security

by keeping fishermen from depleting fishing stocks. Over fishing can lead to the complete collapse of many popular species of fish. To prevent this from occurring, catch limits are imposed and closed areas created to establish safe havens for breeding and regeneration. TAMPA frequently patrols these areas to promote the viability of these critical stocks. TAMPA also ensures fishermen use proper fishing gear such as turtle exclusion devices that prevent turtles from accidentally being captured and trapped in nets during the harvesting process. TAMPA is out in the deep blue working to ensure fair and sustainable fishing practices are maintained and that fisherman place personal safety above personal profits in the conduct of their trade

During the day, TAMPA’s crew is hard at work. The crew’s main readiness focus this patrol is to qualify members who recently reported on board this summer in their primary watchstanding positions. With over one third of the crew having departed this summer, TAMPA is placing an emphasis on training. Watch standers are working harder than ever to train their new shipmates to help end the dreaded 1 in 3 watch schedule that requires members to stand eight hours of watch per day.

TAMPA conducted a gunnery exercise at the end of the first week underway. During the exercise, the Gunner’s Mates and Electronics Technicians who operate the fire control systems were able to showcase their technical prowess and the ship’s self-defense capabilities by completing a successful surface engagement with the 76MM. As soon as TAMPA entered the safe fire box, it seemed that the entire East Coast fishing

fleet decided to join us. The ship had to change course several times as to not endanger fishermen who had strayed into the hazardous zone. It seems that the next time TAMPA wants to conduct fisheries boardings, all they'll need to do is schedule a gun shoot.



The crew had the pleasure of being serenaded by the TAMPA band on Friday night, kicking off holiday routine and very relaxing weekend. The band opened with a Beastie Boys rendition, followed by Sweet Home Alabama. The band read the minds of the crew and closed with Free Bird, playing the song before the cat calls began. TAMPA's band is comprised of SK1 Arroyo

(Lead Guitar), MK2 Mackenzie (Vocals), SN Frye (Vocals/Guitar), ENS Cinque (Drums) and one of TAMPA's newest members, ET2 Myers (Bass).

Just prior to the first port call in Charleston the TAMPA held a swim call in the balmy mid-Atlantic. The sea temperature was just above 85 degrees and a majority of the crew participated. The jump from the flight deck was higher than some expected. Despite the height, everyone easily mustered the courage to take the plunge with only a few audible yelps of fright. Ensuring the safety of the crew while they basked in the surf and sun was GMC Quintero, armed and keeping a watchful eye out for sharks.

After just over a week at sea, the Charleston port call was a welcomed break in routine. All hands seemed to enjoy the city, walking along King Street and Market Street frequenting the shops and restaurants only block away from the ship's mooring location at the curise ship terminal. Apparently, Taylor Swift was spotted enjoying the lavish shopping on King Street while TAMPA was in town, but no one has mentioned bumping into her just yet.

TAMPA is underway again in the great blue ocean for second leg of this four leg deployment. The crew is well rested and ready to resume the watch and get back to fishing! Ask your family member who won the fishing tournament when they return, the winner will receive a gift card to Bass Pro Shop. Fair winds and following seas!



Many TAMPA Crewmembers received awards and/or Qualified in various positions throughout the ship. Bravo Zulu's to all! Thank you for the hard work you do everyday!

The most recent Sailor of the Quarter was chosen as well. Congratulations to BM3 Jefferies! Your hard work and dedication have helped TAMPA run a tight ship. Thank you for all you do and keep up the great work!

ADVANCEMENTS:

FS3 Siggers

SEA SERVICE SINCE JUNE 2011:

ET2 CATLIN

TEMPORARY CUTTERMAN SINCE JUNE 2011:

SN Autrey

ET3 Hilton

IT2 Richards

ENS Cinque

ENS Winter

ENS Hubach

ENS Mayotte

GOOD CONDUCT SINCE JUNE 2011:

ET2 Myers

BABY NEWS:

Congratulations to MK1 Crawford and his wife Brittany who welcomed a beautiful baby boy on 22 August.