



The Coast Guard utilizes a combination of ships and aircraft to effectively patrol the Fisheries Conservation Zone in AK waters. At least two Coast Guard Cutters are on patrol throughout the year.

In this photograph, MUNRO, CAMPBELL and RUSH are resupplied and refueled at Coast Guard Support Center Kodiak, Alaska prior to further deployment.

Coast Guard aircraft play a vital role in patrolling the fishing grounds. Long range fixed wing C-130 turboprop aircraft fly over the entire FCZ several times a week to locate all of the vessels fishing. This helps the cutters in determining which part of the fishing grounds to patrol. The slow speeds that cutters travel at (maximum of 15 knots economically) force the cutters to commit themselves to a particular portion of the fishing grounds. The C-130 flights assure the cutters that there are fishing boats in the area that she is proceeding to.

In addition to the C-130 flights, each cutter fitted with a flight deck receives a HH-52A helicopter, pictured here for the duration of the Alaska Patrol. The Helicopter equipped with several radio transceivers, LORAN navigation and radar greatly expands the area each cutter can patrol. When the Cutter arrives at a concentration of fishing boats, the speed of the helo enables all of the boats in the area to be identified far more quickly than the cutter could alone. The cutter can then proceed and board the boats of greatest interest.

