



The boarding officers recommended to the Commanding Officer of MUNRO that the vessel be seized for this violation and then taken to a U. S. port where the case could be presented to a Federal District Court. This violation violated both the spirit and the letter of the law, for it both showed an attempt to deceive the Coast Guard, and more importantly, deplete the number of fish in the ocean.



While the Coast Guard can board foreign fishing vessels within the Fishing Conservation Zone as a matter of right, a statement of no objection from the Secretary of State must be obtained prior to seizure.

The request for a statement of no objection, requested by the Commanding Officer of MUNRO, and forwarded through the Seventeenth (Alaska) District Commander and the Commandant of the Coast Guard in Washington, DC to the Secretary of State, took twelve hours to be granted.

During this time MUNRO and the SHOSHIN MARU NO. 21 drifted in the Bering Sea, and the boarding party checked and rechecked its figures to assure that there were no errors, and that the case would stand up in court.