

Many of the South Vietnamese people earn their living from the sea. They put out early each morning in their small, seaworthy craft and don't return until long after dark. When the weather permits, they may spend many days and nights at sea trawling or anchored near our patrol area.



By day, our boats departed with a boarding party embarked to inspect hove to craft, or the craft was instructed to come alongside. By night, we used our twenty-four inch searchlight to illuminate the various vessels so we could visually inspect them and check their shapes and hull numbers.

We inspected a total of 541 junks and sampans and boarded 24. In each case, at least one machine gun bore on the craft. Until proven friendly, each vessel was treated with alert, courteous caution.

