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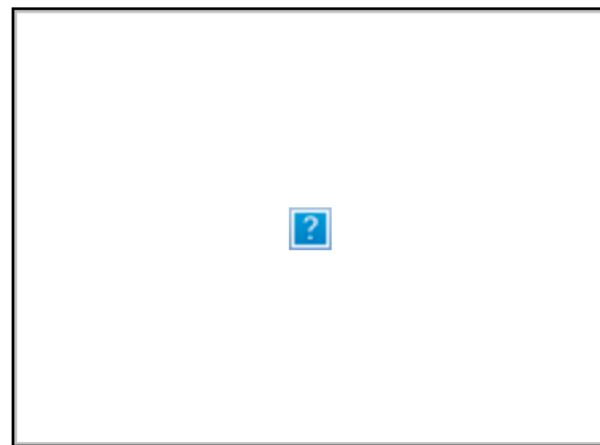
(U//FOUO) Persistence and Collaboration Thwart Criminals on the High Seas

FROM: Ensign [REDACTED], USN

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Run Date: 10/16/2012

(S//SI//REL) The practice of using enormous nets suspended for miles in open water is known as "high seas drift net" (HSDN) fishing. This practice indiscriminately kills massive amounts of fish and other marine life such as whales and turtles, and most countries have banned the practice through an international moratorium. HSDN is a threat to ocean ecosystems, and to the food and economic security of nations relying on fishery resources. Recently SIGINTers helped shut down a vessel engaged in this criminal activity.



(U) A Great Success, But Unfinished Business Remains

(S//SI//REL) Last September (2011), the Coast Guard Cutter (CGC) *Munro* interdicted the fishing vessel *Bangun Perkasa*, resulting in a widely praised success story for the mission against illegal HSDN activity.* Unfortunately, while the *Bangun Perkasa* was being boarded, its companion, the fishing vessel *Shun Li No. 6* (pictured), had gotten away. There was more work to be done.

(TS//SI//REL) While the *Shun Li No. 6* may have felt safe, our teams remained vigilant. HMAST and CSG identified the selector associated to the *Shun Li No. 6* when it became active again in mid-April 2012. HMAST was able to match the [IRIDIUM](#) hand-held satellite phone used onboard the *Shun Li No. 6* to the previously associated [ELINT](#) track, allowing for a positive confirmation that the *Shun Li No. 6* was back underway and heading towards the HSDN area. It was time to take action.

(U) The Operation Kicks Off

(TS//SI//REL) This time CGC *Rush* was on patrol. HMAST and CSG/MIFCPAC coordinated all available information to vector the CGC *Rush* towards the *Shun Li No. 6*. HMAST's HSDN analysts provided support products twice a week to MIFC PAC/CSG members, giving an overview of the entire HSDN area for any indication of HSDN fishing. Through the aid of [HS2B2](#), HMAST was able to task the IRIDIUM handset onboard the *Shun Li No. 6* to further aid in tracking, as well as provide force-protection support: an NSA-Hawaii linguist listened in on the fishing vessel's communications for any signs that the crew would resist a boarding operation by the Coast Guard.

(TS//SI//REL) If a force-protection threat was identified, HMAST would be able to inform the CGC *Rush* in near real-time that they needed to return any of their personnel to the safety of their own ship. A formal serialized report with the classified SIGINT details would follow within 72 hours.

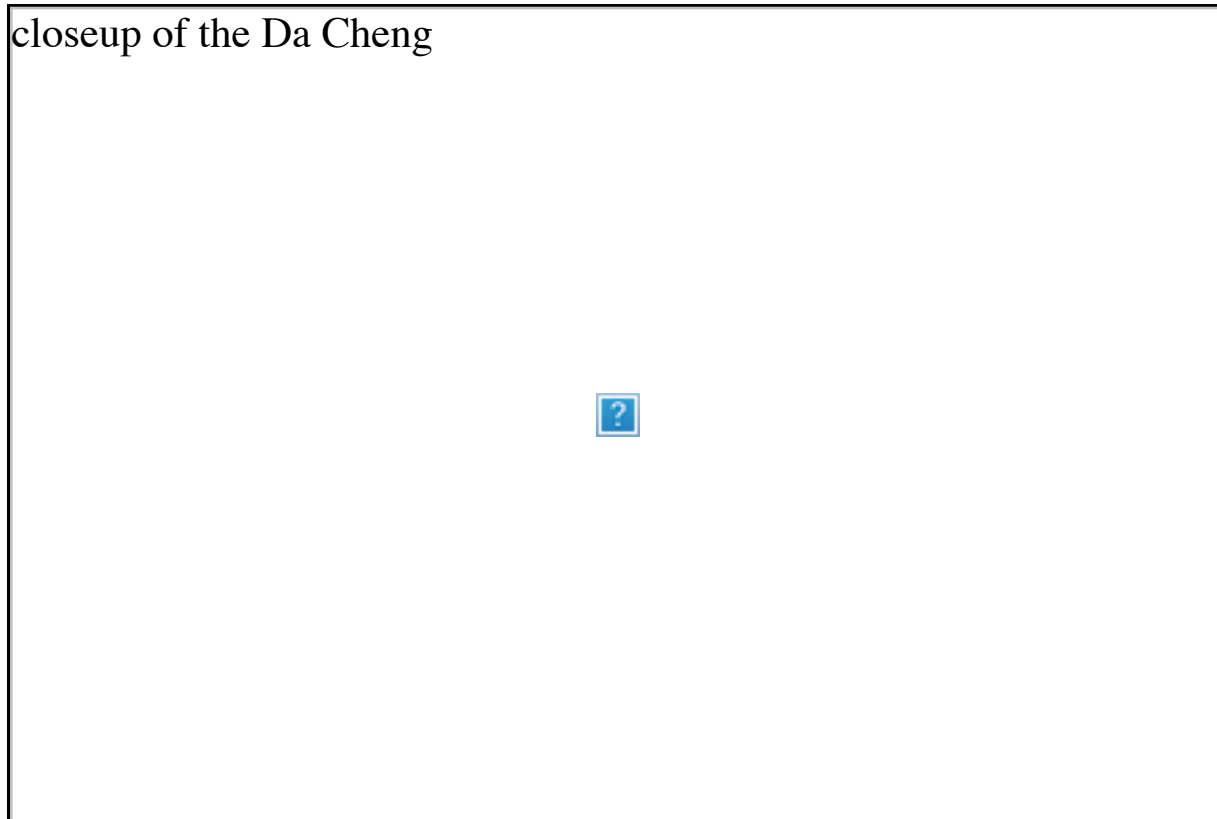
(U) Persistence Pays Off

(U//FOUO) On 27 July 2012, the CGC *Rush* boarded the fishing vessel *Da Cheng* (a.k.a. *Shun Li No. 6*) approximately 700NM east of Yokosuka, Japan, and confirmed illicit fishing activity through the use of driftnets. Imagery from the boarding of the *Da Cheng* matched the profile of the *Shun Li No. 6*, indicating the vessel had changed its name. During the boarding, the captain of the *Da Cheng* admitted to using 10NM of driftnet. The vessel's crew consisted of 26 Chinese and one Taiwanese, and the vessel claimed to be Indonesian flagged, but after contacting Indonesia the vessel was determined to be stateless. (This was similar to what happened with the *Bangun Perakasa* the previous year.)

(U//FOUO) While on board the *Da Cheng*, the boarding team discovered 10 NM of driftnet, 500 kilograms of shark fins, over five tons of shark carcasses, and 30 tons of tuna.

(S//REL FVEY) On 13 August 2012, the CGC *Rush* transferred the *Da Cheng* over to two Chinese Bureau of Fisheries vessels for further investigation and prosecution.

(U//FOUO) While success is to be celebrated, one success does not constitute victory. There is more work to be done. Our teams are dedicated, and tireless. The mission continues.



(U) Notes:

* (U//FOUO) The *Munro* success required strong collaboration efforts among NSA Hawaii's Maritime Analysis Support Team (HMAST), the Coast Guard Maritime Intelligence Fusion Center Pacific (MIFCPAC), Cryptologic Support Group (CSG) San Francisco, and Coast Guard District 17.

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