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Sector Sault Sainte Marie Operation Taconite
2020 Statistics

Performance Measures:

A. **Search and Rescue (SAR) Response Requests**: One activity (MISLE 1212004). On 12 March 2020, Sector Lake Michigan coordinated the evacuation of 10 persons from an ice floe in Sturgeon Bay.

B. **Urgent Vessel Assistance Requests**: None.

C. **Exigent Community Service Requests**: None.

D. **Icebreaking Service Requests**: VTS St. Marys River (VTS SMR) received 186 requests for icebreaking assistance. Two of these requests were denied, as described below:

   1. **11 January 2020 –** Mr. Paul Christensen, Interlake Steamship Company, requested the CGC ALDER to break ice in Howards Bay in Superior, WI, for the M/V LEE A. TREGURTHA. The D9 Ice Breaking SOP classifies the waters of Howards Bay as Tier 4. Commercial ice breaking was available and reported that CG icebreaking was not needed; therefore, the icebreaking request was denied.
   2. **26 March 2020** – The master of the M/V JOSEPH L. BLOCK requested icebreaking assistance ahead of the vessel's departure from Fincantieri Shipyard in Sturgeon Bay, WI. RADARSAT imagery clearly showed that ice would not hinder bayside departure from the shipyard; therefore, the icebreaking request was denied.

E. **Vessel Transits Assisted**: Op Taconite resources assisted 250 vessel transits. Of the total transits assisted, 40 vessels (14 U.S. 21 CA 05 FF) required direct ice breaking assistance to complete their intended movements.

F. **Waterway Restrictions**: None.

G. **Waterway Closures**: None.

H. **Tier 1 Waterway Availability**: 100% of 2,664 total possible hours for both the Straits of Mackinac and St. Marys River (SMR).

   1. **Extended Navigation Season** – 100% of 948 hours for both the Straits and SMR.
   2. **Winer Navigation Season** – 100% of 1176 hours for both the Straits and SMR.
   3. **Spring Breakout** – 100% of 540 hours for both the Straits and SMR.

I. **Planned Waterway Closures:** Per 33 CFR parts 162.117 and 165.901, the following waterways were closed or restricted by the COTP Sault Ste. Marie:

   1. **Grays Reef Passage –** 16 January 2020 to 26 March 2020 (70 Days)
   2. **South Channel –** 19 January 2020 to 11 March 2020 (52 Days)
   3. **West Neebish Channel –** 16 January 2020 to 24 March 2020 (68 Days)
   4. **Pipe Island Passage –** 16 January 2020 to 11 March 2020 (55 Days)
   5. **Southern Green Bay –** 22 January 2020 to 09 March 2020 (47 Days)
   6. **Little Rapids Cut (Ice Boom) –** 10 December 2019 to 16 April 2020 (128 Days)

Statistical Summary:

A. **Aerial Support**: None.

B. **Cutter Employment**:

Area 4A (Lake Huron / Georgian Bay / North Channel) – 045 Hrs of Cutter Support

Cutter	DA VA PI FR FC MC	US CA FF
Neah Bay	02/029/000/00/00/014	01 00 00
Totals	**02/029/000/00/00/014**	**01 00 00**

Area 4B (Lake Huron / Alpena / Calcite Hbr) – 003 Hrs of Cutter Support

Cutter	DA VA PI FR FC MC	US CA FF
Katmai Bay	00/000/002/00/00/001	00 00 00
Totals	**00/000/002/00/00/001**	**00 00 00**

Area 5A (Straits of Mackinac) - 564 Hrs of Cutter Support

Cutter	DA VA PI FR FC MC	US CA FF
Mackinaw	000/033/049/00/00/051	00 00 00
Hollyhock	015/015/036/00/00/060	01 02 00
Katmai Bay	036/025/030/00/00/030	01 06 00
Mobile Bay	000/000/025/00/00/060	00 00 00
Neah Bay	015/025/021/01/00/037	02 03 00
Totals	**066/098/161/01/00/238**	**04 11 00**

Area 5B (Charlevoix / Grand Traverse Bay) - No Cutter Activity

Area 6A (Whitefish Bay) – 183 Hrs of Cutter Support

Cutter	DA VA PI FR FC MC	US CA FF
Mackinaw	004/025/041/00/00/052	01 00 00
Alder	000/000/005/00/00/020	00 00 00
Katmai Bay	005/018/000/00/00/000	00 01 00
Morro Bay	000/000/007/00/00/000	00 00 00
Samuel Risley	002/004/000/00/00/000	00 01 00
Totals	**011/047/053/00/00/072**	**01 02 00**

Area 6B (St Marys River - 957 Hrs of Cutter Support

Cutter	DA VA PI FR FC MC	US CA FF
Mackinaw	000/023/058/00/00/063	00 00 00
Bristol Bay	000/008/051/00/00/012	00 00 00
Katmai Bay	022/065/167/02/00/051	00 03 00
Mobile Bay	000/022/000/00/00/000	00 00 00
Morro Bay	003/049/098/00/00/114	00 00 00
Neah Bay	000/047/028/02/00/072	00 00 00
Totals	**025/214/402/04/00/312**	**00 03 00**

Area 7A (Eastern Lake Superior / Marquette) – No Cutter Activity

Area 7B (Central Lake Superior / Keweenaw) – No Cutter Activity

Area 8A (Duluth, Superior) - 100 Hrs of Cutter Support

Cutter	DA VA PI FR FC MC	US CA FF
Alder	00/043/019/00/00/009	00 00 00
Katmai Bay	00/029/000/00/00/000	00 00 00
Totals	**00/072/019/00/00/009**	**00 00 00**

Area 8B (Two Harbors, Silver Bay, Apostle Islands) - No Cutter Activity

Area 8C (Thunder Bay, Ont) - 88 Hrs of Cutter Support

Cutter	DA VA PI FR FC MC	US CA FF
Katmai Bay	20/035/000/00/00/000	00 05 00
Neah Bay	00/032/001/00/00/000	00 00 00
Totals	**20/067/001/00/00/000**	**00 05 05**

Area 9 (Green Bay, Escanaba, Marinette) - 358 Hrs of Cutter Support

Cutter	DA VA PI FR FC MC	US CA FF
Mackinaw	05/017/045/00/00/060	02 00 00
Mobile Bay	27/064/048/00/00/031	06 00 00
Neah Bay	00/000/018/00/00/043	00 00 00
Totals	**32/081/111/00/00/134**	**08 00 00**

Area 10A (Lake Michigan-West Milwaukee) - No Cutter Activity

Area 10B (Lake Michigan-South Calumet-Gary-Indiana-Burns Harbors) - No Cutter Activity

Area 10C (Lake Michigan-East Ludington) - No Cutter Activity

Op Taconite Totals

Cutter	**DA**	**VA**	**PI**	**FR**	**FC**	**MC**	**US**	**CA**	**FF**	**Total Hrs in Ice**
Mackinaw	009	098	193	00	00	0226	03	00	00	0526
Alder	000	043	024	00	00	0029	00	00	00	0096
Hollyhock	015	015	036	00	00	0060	01	02	00	0126
Bristol Bay	000	008	051	00	00	0012	00	00	00	0071
Katmai Bay	083	172	199	02	00	0082	01	15	05	0538
Mobile Bay	027	086	073	00	00	0091	06	00	00	0277
Morro Bay	003	049	105	00	00	0114	00	00	00	0271
Neah Bay	017	133	068	03	00	0166	03	03	00	0387
Samuel Risley	002	004	000	00	00	0000	00	01	00	0006
Totals	**156**	**608**	**749**	**05**	**00**	**0780**	**14**	**21**	**05**	**2298**

Night Operations:

U.S. Coast Guard and Canadian Coast Guard assets assigned to OPTAC completed 19 hours of nighttime icebreaking.

Icebreaking Asset Sufficiency:

Satisfactory. Although unplanned cutter unavailability totaled 206 hours, 89% of those hours involved CGC MOBILE BAY. The bulk of the casualty related work recorded for the main motor was post-SLEP deferred maintenance that required contractor support.

Seasonal Lost Cutter Hours			
Cutter	**Casualty Related**	**Other - Logistics**	**Casualty (Unsked Charlie)**
Mobile Bay	184 Hrs	00	Main Motor - 1MC
Katmai Bay	17 Hrs	08 Hrs	Jacket Water Control / 1-MC / #2 MDE / Medical
Neah Bay	00 Hrs	06 Hrs	Fuel Contract
Bristol Bay	02 Hrs	00	Loss of Propulsion (ASW)
Mackinaw	02 Hrs	00	#2 MDE Gasket Leak
Hollyhock	01 Hr	00	CPP_Hydraulics
Totals	**206 Hrs**	**14 Hrs**	**Totals**

MISLE Summary:

Planned Waterway Closures	Date Closed	Date Opened	Authority	Remarks
6890627	01/16/20	03/12/20	33 CFR 162.117	Pipe Island Channel - VTS SMR closed Pipe Island Channel until further notice. Pipe Island Course becomes an alternating one-way route.
6890634	01/16/20	03/24/20	33 CFR 162.117	West Neebish Channel - VTS SMR closed the West Neebish Channel until further notice.
6890621	01/16/20	03/26/20	33 CFR 165.901	Grays Reef Passage - COTP SSM closed Grays Reef Passage until firther notice.
6891585	01/19/20	03/12/20	33 CFR 165.901	South Channel - COTP SSM closed South Channel until further notice.
N/A	N/A	N/A	33 CFR 165.901	Moran Bay - COTP SSM closed the waters btwn Mackinac Island and St Ignace until further notice.
6892986	01/22/20	03/09/20	33 CFR 165.901	Southern Green Bay - COTP LM closed the southern Green Bay RNA until further notice.

Waterway Controls	Date Activated	Date Rescinded	Authority	Remarks
6871578	12/10/19	04/16/20	33 CFR 161.11	102100Z DEC 2019: The US Army Corps of Engineers commissioned Little Rapids Cut Lighted Ice Buoy 98B (LLNR 14105). The LIB marks the upstream end of the ice boom on the eastern side of the river, restricting the channel width to 385 ft. Due to the channel restriction, VTS ST Marys River directs no meeting or overtaking between LT 98 (LLNR 14100) and Mission Point Obstruction LT "C" (LLNR 14145). 161700Z Apr 20: USACE deactivated the ice control booms at Litytle Rapids Cut amd decommissioned LIB 98B. VTS rescinded the one-way traffic measure and restored two-way movement to the waterway.

Waterway Events	Start Date	End Date	Remarks
6874469	12/16/19	4/21/20	161200Z Dec 19: MacArthur Lock Closure - USACE closed the MacArthur Lock for winter maintenance. 211100Z APR 20: MacArthur Lock Reopened - USACE opened the MacArthur Lock for the 2020 Navigation Season.
6874460	12/11/19	3/31/20	111300Z DEC 19: Commenced Op Taconite 311200Z MAR 20: During the 111 days of the 2020 domestic icebreaking season (11 Dec – 31 Mar), the nine U.S. and Canadian Coast Guard vessels assigned to Operation TACONITE delivered 769 hours of icebreaking to the benefit of 250 vessel transits; 40 of these transits required direct ice breaking assistance. This work also served the needs of eight island communities and fulfilled 186 individual icebreaking service requests. These same icebreaking vessels put forth an additional 1,529 hours of preventative icebreaking to establish and maintain tracks in the ice choked waterways of Green Bay, the Straits of Mackinac, the St Marys River, Georgian Bay and western Lake Superior. Industry officials estimate more than 4.9 million tons of dry bulk and liquid cargoes shipped during the 111 days of this operational period. This translates to $176 million dollars of commodities critical to power generation, industrial productivity and public safety, moved during the winter months of the 2020 domestic icebreaking season. US Coast Guard assets delivered 133 hrs of icebreaking assistance to CA waters. Canadian Coast Guard assets delivered 6 hrs of icebreaking assistance to US waters. OPTAC assets conducted 19 hours of nighttime ice breaking. Statistically there were:

			01 SAR responses 00 Urgent Vessel Assistance Response 00 Exigent Community Service Requests 186 Icebreaking Service Requests (2 declined) 00 hrs of Waterway Restriction 00 hrs of Waterway Closure Tier 1 availability was 100% (Avg 2664 of 2664 hrs) Extended Season: 100% (948 of 948) Winter Season: 100% (1176 of 1176) Break Out Season: 100% (540 of 540)
1212004	3/12/20	3/12/20	1217001Z MAR 20: While grooming the ice in the bay of Green Bay, SEC Lake Michigan diverted CGC MOBILE BAY to assist with an active ice rescue operation IVO Sherwood Pt Lighthouse. The cutter was roughly 1.5NM from the location. A large ice floe sheared off from the shoreline taking an unknown number of ice fisherman with it. Strong southerly winds were causing the field of ice to drift rapidly offshore. Upon arrival MOBILE BAY located the lead of open water caused by the shear and followed it to the staging area for ice rescue responders. The ice conditions in that location appeared to be around 12 inches thick but looked weak and the surface was flooded from the current downpour of rain. Concerned their entry into the ice field could further destabilize the ice and/or cause fractures, MOBILE BAY held station in the soft water and served as the on-scene coordinator for the evacuation of the stranded persons. MISLE Case/IMA are 1212004/6925428 documents the response efforts.

Note: MISLE waterway management activities documenting “ice and wx analysis”, “industry outreach”, and “tfc management tasks” performed by the Sector staff are not listed in this summary, but are available upon request.

List of Acronyms:

DA – Direct Assistance

VA – Vessel Assistance

PI – Preventative Icebreaking

FR – Ferry Relief

FC – Flood Control

MC – Miscellaneous Ice Breaking