Coast Guard Cutter returns to Homeport after Hurricane Response, Fisheries Patrol

PORTSMOUTH, Va. – The crew of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Dependable returned to Little Creek, Virginia, after responding to Hurricane Florence and conducting a 42-day Mid-Atlantic fisheries patrol, Oct. 8, the 5th Coast Guard District said in a release.

During the patrol, Dependable was called to assist with the devastation left in the wake of Hurricane Florence. Several dozen crew members volunteered to help Coast Guard units in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, rebuild critical infrastructure and restore habitability.

Over a three-day period, Dependable helped reopen waterways essential to facilitating commerce in the Port of Morehead City, North Carolina, provided needed supplies, and repaired damaged grounds to local Coast Guard units. The crew's work helped Coast Guard Sector Field Office and Station Fort Macon restore their operations and assist their local partners in re-establishing their community.

Prior to Hurricane Florence, from New Jersey to South Carolina, Dependable's boarding teams inspected U.S. fishing vessels' catch, gear and lifesaving equipment, ensuring that the vessels were operating safely and legally. The boarding teams identified a variety of lifesaving equipment concerns on board several fishing vessels. The teams helped fix issues on the spot and educated the crews on the importance of maintaining their equipment.

"Enforcement of fisheries regulations at sea is a vital part of ensuring our natural resources are around for future generations," said Cmdr. Rula Deisher, commanding officer of

Dependable. “When Hurricane Florence came through, we quickly shifted gears and responded to the devastation she left in her wake. The teamwork and enthusiasm displayed by the crew to help fellow Coast Guardsmen in need was fantastic. I am very proud of Coast Guard Cutter Dependable and the work they accomplished this patrol.”

Dependable is a 210-foot medium-endurance cutter, which routinely deploys in support of counterdrug, alien migrant interdiction, living marine resources, and search and rescue missions.