

Coast Guard Seizes 3,350 Pounds of Marijuana From Smuggling Vessel



The Coast Guard Cutter James (WMSL-754) is shown with its deployed 26-foot over-the-horizon cutter boat and a go-fast vessel interdicted in the Eastern Pacific Ocean off the Coast of Central America in mid-May 2020. The James' crew boarded the boat and interdicted approximately 3,350 pounds of marijuana and four suspected smugglers. U.S. COAST GUARD ALAMEDA, Calif. – The Coast Guard seized approximately 3,350 pounds of marijuana in mid-May with an estimated value of approximately \$6 million from a go-fast vessel in international waters of the Pacific Ocean off Central America, the Coast Guard Pacific Area said in a May 29 release.

A maritime patrol aircraft spotted a suspected smuggling vessel and diverted the crew aboard the Coast Guard Cutter James (WMSL-754) to the go-fast vessel's position.

Once on scene, James' crew initiated a pursuit of the suspected smugglers, who attempted to evade while throwing contraband overboard.

The James' Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON) MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew disabled the boat's engines and a Coast Guard crew boarded the vessel, discovering four suspected smugglers and approximately 3,350 pounds of marijuana aboard.