



United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment Belfast

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Area of Responsibility

Marine Safety Detachment (MSD) Belfast is responsible for the Maine coast from Owls Head (just south of Rockland) to the Canadian border, encompassing at least 1500 miles of shoreline. Driving time by road from one end of the AOR to the other is approximately four hours. MSD Belfast is a detachment of Coast Guard Sector Northern New England, based in Portland, Maine.



*Rockland Light and Schooner
by Bob Trapani, USCG Aux*



*Fishing Vessels
by Ann-Marie Trapani, USCG Aux*

Missions

Domestic Vessel Inspections: MSD personnel inspect eighty-six certificated vessels, the majority of which are small passenger vessels. This fleet is unique in that 50% are wood hulled. About 20% are traditional sailing schooners, including some with no power other than sail; a few had their keels laid over a century ago. The largest ship in the MSD's inspected fleet is Maine Maritime Academy's 500ft training vessel STATE OF MAINE, homeported in Castine.

Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety: Approximately 4000 commercial fishing vessels work within the MSD's area of responsibility. One full-time and three part-time examiners perform 400 voluntary dockside vessel exams per year. Lobster is the primary fishery.

Marine Casualty Investigation: The MSD's two qualified investigators investigate accidents involving commercial vessels as mandated by federal law and regulation.



Port State Control: The MSD screens foreign vessel arrivals and conducts port state control exams on freight, tank and cruise vessels. Deep draft ports are located in Eastport, Bar Harbor, Bucksport, Bangor and Searsport. Bar Harbor is Maine’s primary cruise ship port, receiving ships between April and October. Freight vessels call in Eastport to take on wood pulp, cattle and explosives. Searsport receives petroleum products, salt and clay. Bucksport and Bangor see only occasional foreign vessel traffic.

Waterfront Facilities: The MSD examines twenty-three waterfront facilities, including seven bulk oil facilities, to ensure safety and security.

Pollution Response and Enforcement: The MSD partners closely with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to respond to oil spills and other pollution incidents affecting navigable waterways. The MSD is also an active participant in the Penobscot River Oil Pollution Advisory Committee (PROPAC), which operates as an oil spill response partnership between industry and regulators to ensure the health of the Penobscot River.

Planning & Homeland Security: The MSD works closely with a range of local, state and federal agencies and industry partners to enhance safety and security preparedness. Two Area Maritime Security subcommittees (the Passamaquoddy Bay & Downeast ME Subcommittee and the Penobscot Bay & Frenchman Bay Subcommittee) are located within the MSD’s area of responsibility.



People

Active Duty

LT Brierley Ostrander (Supervisor)
 LT Leigh Dorsey (Assistant Supervisor)
 CWO4 Randy Place
 MST1 Steve Demarest
 MST1 Wesley Wofford
 MST3 Jesse Hagler
 MST3 Jacob Menard
 MST3 Eric Matthews

Civilian

GS11 Garry Moores (CFVE)

Reserve

LT Harold King
 LTJG Kevin Rousseau
 MSTCS Bob Fischer
 MST2 Melissa Nute

Auxiliary

Flotilla 11 (Bucksport)
 Flotilla 12 (Bangor)
 Flotilla 13 (Quoddy Bay)
 Flotilla 14 (Mt. Desert Island)
 Flotilla 15 (Penobscot Bay)
 Flotilla 18 (Midcoast region)

Unit History

The unit has been re-named and moved to many different locations since it began in Bucksport in 1974 as Marine Safety Detachment Bucksport. At that time, it consisted of one officer, three enlisted personnel and eight reservists. In 1981, the unit moved to Hammond Street in Bangor and became a Marine Safety Field Office. In 1987, the Bangor office shut down and the unit became a one-officer operation out of Station Rockland, with the assigned lieutenant living in the Owls Head Lighthouse. In 1991, the office moved back to Bangor, on Essex Street in the Naval Reserve buildings, which were later condemned, prompting another move in 1993 to the new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Bangor International Airport. During this time, three enlisted personnel were added back to the unit, and it went back to being a Marine Safety Detachment. In 1995, the unit moved back to Main Street in Bucksport and the first warrant officer was assigned. It remained there till 2004, when it moved to its current home above the Belfast Police Department.

