



Heavy Weather Boats: Recapitalization Plan

August 28, 2019

Fiscal Year 2019 Report to Congress



Homeland
Security

United States Coast Guard

Foreword

August 28, 2019

I am pleased to present the following report, “Heavy Weather Boats: Recapitalization Plan,” which has been prepared by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Senate Report 115-283 accompanying the Fiscal Year 2019 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (P.L. 116-6) requires the Coast Guard to provide a report that analyzes the acquisition timeline for replacing the 52-Foot Heavy Weather Boat. The report also includes an assessment of the capacity of other active boat assets to meet the Coast Guard’s extreme heavy weather requirements.



Pursuant to congressional requirements, this report is being provided to the following Members of Congress:

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Chairwoman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Jon Tester
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

I am happy to answer any further questions you may have, or your staff may contact my Senate Liaison Office at (202) 224-2913 or House Liaison Office at (202) 225-4775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karl L. Schultz". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large loop at the end. It is positioned above the printed name and title.

Karl L. Schultz
Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Commandant



Heavy Weather Boats: Recapitalization Plan

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I. Legislative Language

This document responds to the language set forth in Senate Report 115-283 accompanying the Fiscal Year 2019 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act (P.L. 116-6).

Senate Report 115-283 states:

The Committee directs the Coast Guard to submit a report to the Committee, not 180 days after the enactment of this act, that analyzes acquisition timeline for replacing the 52-Foot Heavy Weather Boat and that includes an assessment of the capacity of other active small boat assets to meet the Coast Guard's extreme heavy weather requirements.

II. Report

The Coast Guard regularly conducts capabilities analyses to ensure that its assets are able to meet the Coast Guard's operational requirements. In 2017, the Coast Guard began evaluating the ability of the 52-foot Special Purpose Craft - Heavy Weather (SPC-HWX) to continue operations in the extreme conditions of the Pacific Northwest. Additionally, the Coast Guard interviewed stakeholders, conducted market research to identify potential matériel solutions, and met with boat manufacturers about SPC-HWX's possible replacement.

The Coast Guard is committed to maintaining the current SPC-HWX in working condition until a suitable replacement has been identified.

Coast Guard actions to prepare for acquisition

In October 2017, Coast Guard representatives conducted field visits to the four stations that operate the SPC-HWX to gather primary source data from search-and-rescue case files. The Coast Guard interviewed SPC-HWX operators to gather firsthand information to determine if more robust capabilities were needed than can be provided by the 47-foot Motor Lifeboat.

Throughout 2018 and into 2019, the Coast Guard conducted research, coordinated with stakeholders, and visited field units to identify key performance parameters and characteristics necessary in an SPC-HWX replacement boat. The Coast Guard met with Columbia River Bar Pilots and the Canadian Coast Guard to determine the capabilities of existing platforms.

Currently, the Coast Guard is reviewing a draft Capability Analysis Report (CAR), which was completed in May 2019, for the SPC-HWX. After final Coast Guard approval, the CAR will be sent to the DHS Joint Requirements Council (JRC) for review.

Next steps toward acquisition

The Coast Guard will develop a Mission Needs Statement (MNS) on the basis of the analysis provided by the CAR and DHS JRC feedback received during the review process. The MNS will be reviewed and approved through both the Coast Guard and the DHS JRC. The Coast Guard anticipates the CAR to be approved by the end of calendar year (CY) 2019 followed by MNS approval in the summer of 2020.

Based on results of the MNS, the Coast Guard will develop a Concept of Operations (CONOPS) report for the SPC-HWX replacement. The CONOPS will describe the types of missions that the Coast Guard expects a replacement boat to perform, and the types of environmental conditions in which a replacement boat should be expected to operate. The CONOPS will undergo Coast Guard and DHS JRC review and approval, which is anticipated to be approved in late CY 2020.

Based on the results of the CONOPS, the Coast Guard will develop an Operational Requirements Document (ORD) to provide specific requirements for the SPC-HWX replacement. Examples of requirements may include length, width, top speed, towing capacity, seakeeping ability, and

maximum sea state. The ORD also must undergo Coast Guard and DHS JRC review and approval and is anticipated to be finalized in the summer of 2021.

Additionally, the Coast Guard will conduct an Alternatives Analysis (AA) to assess existing Coast Guard assets' ability to meet criteria defined in the ORD. The AA, in addition to the other documents listed, will be used to develop necessary acquisitions documents. The Coast Guard anticipates this acquisition process to be finalized as early as CY 2024.

Appendix: Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
AA	Alternatives Analysis
CY	Calendar Year
CAR	Capability Analysis Report
CONOPS	Concept of Operations
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
JRC	Joint Requirements Council
MNS	Mission Needs Statement
ORD	Operational Requirements Document
SPC-HWX	52-foot Special Purpose Craft for Heavy Weather