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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE  
REGIONAL OFFICE

143 FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING, 50 FULTON STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

December 12, 1972

IN REPLY REFER TO:

34438



LM089492

Vice Admiral Mark A. Whalen  
Commander, 12th Coast Guard District  
630 Sansome Street  
San Francisco, California 94126

Dear Admiral Whalen:

Our survey of the effectiveness of the Coast Guard's Aids to Navigation program in the 12th District is now complete. Overall, the 12th District is providing a reliable system of navigational aids which serve the needs of knowledgeable Mariners. The analytical material we developed will be provided to the Aids to Navigation Branch Chief for his use in reviewing work requirements.

There is, however, a potential for reducing manpower and tender requirements in the navigational aids program. As you are aware, the Coast Guard plans to reduce the number of buoy tenders - generally as recommended by the Booz Allen study. Although tender reductions are not planned for the 12th District, our analyses of servicing requirements shows tender workload declining with operating hours totaling only about 3,100 for fiscal year 1972 for both the Blackhaw and Red Birch. The workload is expected to drop substantially in 1973 as a result of policies to (1) decrease the frequency of routine maintenance from a minimum of once every 6 months to a maximum of once every 12 months, and (2) increase the use of small boats for interim maintenance.

Because of the decreasing workload, the possibility of consolidating the offshore tender workload for the 11th and 12th Districts should be studied. As with the 12th District, there is no planned reduction of tenders in the 11th District. Presently, there are 130 offshore aids in the 12th District and 75 in the 11th District being serviced by offshore tenders. Operating hours for this work is currently about 1,900 hours and 1,300 hours respectively. Combining the workload of the two vessels with the Red Birch, a coastal tender assigned to the San Francisco Bay as a back-up ship, would reduce operating costs by approximately \$150,000 and release personnel for other assignments. This would be especially helpful with the additional responsibilities assigned the Coast Guard for oil pollution control.

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Vice Admiral  
Mark A. Whalen

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We would appreciate your views on our observation and would like to be advised of any action you expect to take.

We appreciate the courtesy and cooperation we received from all Coast Guard representatives during the course of our survey. If you have any questions, please contact Messrs. J. E. Mansheim or A. T. Voris of our office.

Sincerely,  
A. M. CLAVELLI

A. M. Clavelli  
Regional Manager

cc: Rear Admiral Williams  
Commander 11th Coast Guard District  
Director, RED--H. Eschwege  
Assistant Director, RED--J. W. Kegel ✓