

After Action Report

Surf & Turf Triathlon, Topsail Island, NC

19 May 2007

The Annual Surf & Turf Triathlon, sponsored by the Topsail Island Chamber of Commerce, was held on 19 May 2007. The Chamber Director, Mr. Allan Libby, requested and received a regatta permit from Sector North Carolina. Mr. Libby requested CG Auxiliary support in the form of at least one AUXFAC to act as a safety boat.

Sector North Carolina assigned the mission to CG Station Wrightsville Beach who then passed the mission on to Division 10, USCG Auxiliary, and Mr. Karroll Hughes, FSO-OP, Flotilla 10-09.

OPFAC 20436, Coxswain Jim Beecher and crewmembers Gary Jenkins and Paul Slater, Flotilla 10-09, undertook the mission to provide a safety boat for the swim portion of the triathlon. 20436 and all members of the crew had participated in this mission in previous years.

To arrive at the swim site, just off-shore of Surf City, 20436 departed it's dock on 9th St, Surf City at 0615, arriving at and transiting New Topsail Inlet at 0700 and arriving on-scene at 0745.

At 0800, 300 swimmers entered the water in 5 different groups, sorted by ability and experience, for a 750 meter ocean swim. Also on-scene for safety were 2 PWC's operated by Pender County EMS and 15-20 surfers on surfboards. The swimmers were told to raise their arms if they needed help of any kind. They were also told they could hang on to a surfboard for a rest if necessary. The weather at start time was overcast and cool, with large swells and surf that the swimmers had to negotiate thru to get thru the surf at the start and finish. All swimmers negotiated the course successfully and safely.

AUXFAC 20436 remained on-scene until the last swimmers were out of the water and the course buoys had been recovered, departing the scene at approx 0800 and returning to and transiting thru New Topsail Inlet. AUXFAC 20436 returned to it's dock at Surf City at approx 1030 and terminated the patrol.

The organizers of the Surf & Turf Triathlon were very complimentary and grateful for the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary support for their event. In my opinion, support of this type is invaluable in establishing and maintaining a good relationship and rapport with the public.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Beecher, Coxswain,
Flotilla 10-09,
Division 10
D5SR