

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
OPERATIONS OF THE UNITED
STATES LIFE-SAVING SERVICE
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING
JUNE 30, 1876**

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Annual Report of the Operations of the United States Life-Saving Service for the Fiscal Year
Ending June 30, 1876 by Various

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WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1876.

REPORT

OF THE

UNITED STATES LIFE-SAVING SERVICE.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
UNITED STATES LIFE-SAVING SERVICE,
Washington, D. C., November 30, 1876.

SIR: In compliance with the requirements of the act of July 31, 1876, I have the honor to submit the following report of the expenditures of the moneys appropriated for the maintenance of the Life-Saving Service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, and of the operations of said service during the year.

The following statements show the appropriations and expenditures for the year:

APPROPRIATIONS.

<i>Life-Saving Service, 1876.</i> —For salary of one superintendent of life-saving stations on the coasts of Maine and New Hampshire, district No. 1.....		\$1,000 00
For salary of one superintendent of life-saving stations on the coast of Massachusetts, district No. 2.....		1,000 00
For salary of one superintendent of life-saving stations on the coast of Long Island, district No. 3.....		1,500 00
For salary of one assistant superintendent of life-saving stations on the coast of Long Island, district No. 3.....		500 00
For salary of one superintendent of life-saving stations on the coast of New Jersey, district No. 4.....		1,500 00
For salary of one superintendent of life-saving stations on the coasts of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia, district No. 5....		1,000 00
For salary of one superintendent of life-saving stations on the coasts of Virginia and North Carolina, district No. 6.....		1,000 00
For salary of one superintendent of life-saving stations on the coast of Florida, district No. 7.....		1,000 00
For salary of one superintendent of life-saving stations on the coasts of Lakes Erie and Ontario, district No. 8.....		1,000 00
For salary of one superintendent of life-saving stations on the coasts of Lakes Huron and Superior, district No. 9.....		1,000 00
For salary of one superintendent of life-saving stations on the coast of Lake Michigan, district No. 10.....		1,000 00
For salaries of 150 keepers of life-saving stations, at \$200 each..		30,000 00
For salaries of five keepers of houses of refuge on the coast of Florida, at \$40 per month each.....		2,400 00
For pay of crews of experienced surfmen at such stations, and for such periods as the Secretary of the Treasury may deem necessary and proper.....		157,680 00
Total.....		201,580 00

EXPENDITURES.

Salary of superintendent of life-saving stations in district No. 1..	1,000 00
Salary of superintendent of life-saving stations in district No. 2..	1,000 00
Salary of superintendent of life-saving stations in district No. 3, (July 1, 1875, to March 31, 1876, inclusive).....	1,125 00

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Salary of assistant superintendent of life-saving stations in district No. 3, (August 12, 1875, to March 31, 1876, inclusive).....	\$317 97
Salary of superintendent of life-saving stations in district No. 4...	1,500 00
Salary of superintendent of life-saving stations in district No. 5, (August 18, 1875, to June 30, 1876, inclusive)	869 64
Salary of superintendent of life-saving stations in district No. 6..	1,000 00
Salary of superintendent of life-saving stations in district No. 8, (February 23, 1876, to June 30, 1876, inclusive).....	354 43
Salary of superintendent of life-saving stations in district No. 9, (January 12, 1876, to June 30, 1876, inclusive).....	469 75
Salary of superintendent of life-saving stations in district No. 10, (May 31, 1876, to June 30, 1876, inclusive).....	85 15
	7,721 94
Pay of 102 keepers, districts Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, quarter ending September 30, 1875	5,100 00
Pay of 108 keepers, districts Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, quarter ending December 31, 1875	5,217 32
Pay of 109 keepers, districts Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, quarter ending March 31, 1876	5,436 71
Pay of 76 keepers, districts Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6, quarter ending June 30, 1876	3,770 35
	19,524 38
Pay of 36 surfmen in district No. 1, November 1, 1875, to April 30, 1876, inclusive	8,640 00
Pay of 60 surfmen in district No. 2, November 1, 1875, to April 15, 1876, inclusive	13,200 00
Pay of 24 surfmen in district No. 2, November 1, 1875, to April 30, 1876, inclusive	5,760 00
Pay of 192 surfmen in district No. 3, November 15, 1875, to March 31, 1876, inclusive	34,560 00
Pay of 186 surfmen in district No. 4, November 15, 1875, to March 31, 1876, inclusive	33,480 00
Pay of 36 surfmen in district No. 4, November 15, 1875, to April 15, 1876, inclusive	7,200 00
Pay of 36 surfmen in district No. 5, December 1, 1875, to March 31, 1876, inclusive	5,760 00
Pay of 60 surfmen in district No. 6, December 1, 1875, to March 31, 1876, inclusive	9,600 00
	118,200 00
Pay of 36 surfmen in district No. 1, 1 day's drill and exercise, \$3..	108 00
Pay of 144 surfmen in district No. 3, 1 day's drill and exercise, \$3..	432 00
Pay of 6 surfmen in district No. 4, 3 days' drill and exercise, \$3...	54 00
Pay of 6 surfmen in district No. 2, 1 day's drill and exercise, \$3...	18 00
	612 00
Pay of surfmen in district No. 1, for services at wrecks which occurred between May 1, 1876, and June 30, 1876, a period when crews were not required to reside at the stations	75 00
Balance of available funds July 1, 1876	55,446 68
Total	201,580 00

APPROPRIATIONS.

Life-Saving Service, Contingent Expenses, 1876.—For fuel for 155 stations and houses of refuge; repairs and outfits for the same; supplies and provisions for houses of refuge, and for shipwrecked persons succored at stations; traveling expenses of officers under orders from the Treasury Department, and contingent expenses, including freight, storage, repairs to apparatus, medals, stationery, advertising, and miscellaneous expenses that cannot be included under any other head of life-saving stations on the coasts of the United States

\$30,000 00

UNITED STATES LIFE-SAVING SERVICE.

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EXPENDITURES.	
Apparatus	\$3,875 79
Advertising	2 50
Books of instruction to superintendents	15 40
Dies for medals of first and second class	2,200 00
Freight, storage, packing, telegraphing, &c.	407 00
Fuel for 105 stations	5,457 67
Furniture, supplies, &c.	4,928 67
Hire of horses to assist in transporting apparatus from stations to scene of wrecks	6 00
Medals	538 05
Outfits	1,384 05
Repairs of stations	1,969 79
Removal of stations on account of the encroachment of the sea.	300 00
Recording deed of site for relief boat-house	91
Relief boat-house on Cape Cod, district No. 2.	995 00
Rent of Inspector's office	200 00
Stationery	248 53
Sustenance of persons rescued from wrecked vessels	105 40
Traveling expenses of officers	3,655 58
Wreck charts	250 00
Balance of available funds July 1, 1876	3,459 66
	30,000 00

The above statements differ from the statement of expenditures by warrants for the year, in the following particulars:

	Life-Saving Service, 1876.	Life-Saving Service, contingent expenses, 1876.
Amounts expended per statement of "expenditures by warrants"	\$146,170 34	\$27,245 32
Item chargeable to appropriation for Life-Saving Service, Contingent Expenses, 1876, improperly charged to appropriation for Life-Saving Service, 1876, and not corrected until the present fiscal year	34 30	34 30
Repayment not included in warrant-account until subsequent to June 30, 1876	146,136 04	27,279 62
In hands of disbursing clerk June 30, 1876, and belonging to the appropriation for contingent expenses	2 72	739 28
Actual net expenditures	146,133 32	26,540 34

At the beginning of the year there remained on hand available from appropriations of the preceding year, the following:

Appropriation for Life-Saving Service for 1875	\$8,688 81
Appropriation for Life-Saving Service, Contingent Expenses, for 1875	313 81
	9,002 62

The expenditures from which during the last fiscal year made in payment of indebtedness standing over from the preceding year, amounted to:

Life-Saving Service, 1875	\$2,550 32
Life-Saving Service, Contingent Expenses, 1875	278 09
	2,828 41

which added to the amounts shown in the foregoing statement make the net total expenditures during the year:

For Life-Saving Service.....	\$143,683 64
For Life-Saving Service, Contingent Expenses.....	26,818 43
Total.....	175,502 07

There remained standing to the credit of the respective appropriations at the close of the fiscal year:

Life-Saving Service, 1876.....	\$55,446 68
Life-Saving Service, Contingent Expenses, 1876.....	3,459 66

The amounts appropriated for the year were those estimated for, and the excess of the estimates over the expenditures is accounted for by claims payable therefrom outstanding on the 30th of June, 1876, and the fact that owing to unexpected and unavoidable delays in obtaining sites, and in the construction of the buildings, several of the stations did not go into operation as early as was anticipated.

The outstanding claims against the appropriation for contingent expenses, which are chiefly for medals in course of preparation, will exhaust it.

Only a small portion of the funds intended for the payment of the salaries of superintendents, keepers, and surfmen, appropriated for the new stations, was expended.

OPERATIONS.

The Life-Saving Establishment, as at present organized, is embraced in eleven districts into which the sea and lake coasts of the United States are divided. District No. 1 includes the coasts of Maine and New Hampshire; district No. 2, the coast of Massachusetts; district No. 3, the coasts of Rhode Island and New York, (Long Island); district No. 4, the coast of New Jersey; district No. 5, the coasts of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia from Cape Henlopen to Cape Charles; district No. 6, the coasts of Virginia and North Carolina from Cape Henry to Cape Hatteras; district No. 7, the coast of Florida; district No. 8, the coasts of Lakes Ontario and Erie; district No. 9, the coasts of Lakes Huron and Superior; district No. 10, the coast of Lake Michigan, and district No. 11, the Pacific coast. The operations of the service during the last fiscal year were confined to districts Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6; the stations in the remaining districts being in process of construction and equipment. The number of stations embraced in each of these districts was as follows:

District No. 1.....	6
District No. 2.....	14
District No. 3.....	34
District No. 4.....	38
District No. 5.....	6
District No. 6.....	10
Total.....	108

District No. 5 is a new district which has been organized during the year. Six of the eight new stations authorized were completed in season for the operations of last winter. The remaining two, designated

to be established at Cape Henlopen and at Indian River Inlet, were not completed in time for the occupancy of crews during the season of active employment. These have since been finished, and are now receiving their equipments and crews.

PERSONNEL OF THE SERVICE.

The personnel of the service, as now administered, embraces a superintendent for each district, and an assistant superintendent for district No. 4; a keeper for each station and a crew of six surfmen for each, the latter being employed for different periods upon different portions of the coast as the length of the inclement season at each is supposed to require. The annual compensation of superintendents is \$1,000 each, except in districts Nos. 3 and 4, where it is fixed at \$1,500 for each; that of the assistant superintendent is \$500 per annum, and that of the keepers \$200. The surfmen receive \$40 per month during the period of their active employment, in which they are required to reside at the stations. Their services, however, are at the disposal of the Government upon any occasion of shipwreck at other times, for attendance at which they are paid \$3 each. The term of active service of surfmen in district No. 1 during last year was from November 1 to May 1; in district No. 2, at ten of the stations, from November 1 to April 15, and at four stations, from November 1 to May 1; in district No. 3, at twenty-eight stations, from November 15 to April 1, and at the remaining six, from November 15 to April 15; in district No. 4, at thirty-two stations, from November 1 to April 1, and at the remaining six, from November 15 to April 15; in district No. 5, from December 1 to April 1; and in district No. 6, from December 1 to April 1. A system of inspection is maintained through an Inspector and two assistants, detailed from the Revenue Marine, and the entire service is under the immediate charge of an officer of the Treasury Department.

STATISTICS OF DISASTERS FOR THE YEAR.

The reports of the superintendents show that there have been 108 disasters to vessels during the year within the limits of the operations of the several districts. There were 751 persons on board these vessels. The estimated value of the vessels was \$1,251,500, and that of their cargoes, \$479,038, making the total value of the property imperiled, \$1,730,538. The number of lives saved was 729, and of those lost 22. The number of shipwrecked persons sheltered at the stations was 242, and the number of days' shelter afforded was 639. The total amount of property saved was \$847,184, and the amount lost, \$883,354. The number of disasters involving total loss of vessels and cargoes was 25. The apportionment of the foregoing statistics to the several districts is as follows:

DISTRICT No. 1.

Number of vessels wrecked	18
Value of vessels.....	\$74,900
Value of cargoes.....	\$42,610

Total value of property imperiled.....	\$117,510
Number of lives imperiled.....	67
Number of lives saved.....	67
Number of lives lost.....	None.
Number of shipwrecked persons sheltered at stations.....	9
Number of days' shelter afforded.....	21
Value of property saved.....	\$101,590
Value of property lost.....	\$15,920
Number of disasters involving total loss of vessel and cargo.....	None.

DISTRICT No. 2.

Number of vessels wrecked.....	23
Value of vessels.....	\$245,000
Value of cargoes.....	\$111,127
Total value of property imperiled.....	\$356,127
Number of lives imperiled.....	211
Number of lives saved.....	210
Number of lives lost.....	1
Number of shipwrecked persons sheltered at stations.....	86
Number of days' shelter afforded.....	200
Value of property saved.....	\$212,990
Value of property lost.....	\$143,137
Number of disasters involving total loss of vessel and cargo.....	7

DISTRICT No. 3.

Number of vessels wrecked.....	17
Value of vessels.....	\$419,800
Value of cargoes.....	\$121,126
Total value of property imperiled.....	\$540,926
Number of lives imperiled.....	118
Number of lives saved.....	112
Number of lives lost.....	6
Number of shipwrecked persons sheltered at stations.....	61
Number of days' shelter afforded.....	199
Value of property saved.....	\$116,416
Value of property lost.....	\$424,510
Number of disasters involving total loss of vessel and cargo.....	5

DISTRICT No. 4.

Number of vessels wrecked.....	36
Value of vessels.....	\$391,500
Value of cargoes.....	\$191,175
Total value of property imperiled.....	\$582,675
Number of lives imperiled.....	254
Number of lives saved.....	248
Number of lives lost.....	6
Number of shipwrecked persons sheltered at stations.....	58
Number of days' shelter afforded.....	94
Value of property saved.....	\$367,628
Value of property lost.....	\$214,987
Number of disasters involving total loss of vessel and cargo.....	8

DISTRICT No. 5.

Number of vessels wrecked.....	10
Value of vessels.....	\$68,300
Value of cargoes.....	\$7,900
Total value of property imperiled.....	\$76,200
Number of lives imperiled.....	56
Number of lives saved.....	56
Number of lives lost.....	None.
Number of shipwrecked persons sheltered at stations.....	15
Number of days' shelter afforded.....	84
Value of property saved.....	\$48,000
Value of property lost.....	\$28,200
Number of disasters involving total loss of vessel and cargo.....	2

DISTRICT No. 6.

Number of vessels wrecked.....	4
Value of vessels.....	\$52,000
Value of cargoes.....	\$5,100
Total value of property imperiled.....	\$57,100