

MSP, New Bedford Police, US Marshals arrest domestic violence suspect living on Fairhaven sailboat

“Earlier this week, the Massachusetts State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section (VFAS), members of a US Marshals Task Force, and New Bedford Police located and arrested a domestic violence suspect from Maine who was living on a sailboat off the coast of Fairhaven, Mass.

Last week, MSP VFAS Trooper Phil Giardino and New Bedford Police Detective Jay Gangi, who both also serve as officers on a US Marshals Task Force, received a lead from USMS Task Force counterparts in Maine regarding suspect ERIC WAITE, 52. The information suggested that WAITE might be living on the sailboat off of Pope’s Island, which is situated near the mouth of the Acushnet River, between Fairhaven and New Bedford.

New Bedford Police identified the sailboat in question, and VFAS Troopers worked with the State Police Marine Unit and New Bedford Marine Unit to develop a plan to approach the boat (pictured).

Early on the morning of Tuesday, April 26, VFAS Troopers boarded an MSP Marine Unit vessel and New Bedford Police, US Marshals, and members of the US Marshals Task Force boarded a NBPd Marine Unit vessel. The two boats left the State Pier and traveled to the sailboat. VFAS Troopers located WAITE on board. WAITE attempted to provide officers with a phony name but they were able to confirm his identity and place him under arrest as a fugitive from justice. He taken back to shore and transported in a cruiser to the State Police-Dartmouth

Barracks for booking.

The Maine warrant charges WAITE with the crimes of domestic violence and terrorizing. WAITE claimed the boat was given to him." -Massachusetts State Police.