

CUTTER

Genre: Drama / Action

Tone: Gritty, grounded police realism with military precision

Setting: San Diego, California – coastal waters, ports, and border-adjacent sea lanes

Feature Treatment

Cutter follows **CHRISTOPHER MADISON (34)**, a Master Chief Petty Officer and elite Navy SEAL whose career fractures after he assaults a superior officer for issuing an unlawful order that would have caused civilian casualties. A straight shooter and unapologetic patriot, Madison believes protecting innocent lives outweighs blind obedience. His anger is real, but disciplined – channeled into focus and mission. Now facing court-martial, Madison waits in San Diego, suspended between honor and disgrace.

The balance shatters when a U.S Coast Guard cutter on routine patrol off the **San Diego** coast detects an unexplained oil slick drifting through U.S. territorial waters. Suspecting an environmental violation tied to smuggling activity, the Coast Guard vessel tracks the slick to a mysterious offshore ship operating without proper identification. As the Coast Guard prepares to conduct a standard boarding-an everyday law enforcement action at sea-the unidentified vessel launches a **torpedo**, obliterating the Coast Guard vessel in a sudden, devastating explosion.

The attack is unprecedented. This was not piracy. This was an act of war carried out in U. S. waters.

Among the dead are **the son of a powerful U.S. Senator** and **Madison's father**, a career Coast Guardsman who spent his life policing America's maritime borders-indicting narcotics, weapons, and human trafficking. The attack sends shockwaves through San Diego, Washington, and the Coast Guard command structure. The ocean, long treated as a secondary front, has become a battleground.

Intelligence reveals the truth: a **Mexican cartel** has built a highly sophisticated maritime smuggling network using fishing boats, go-fast vessels, pleasure craft, cargo ships, and semi-submersibles to move drugs, weapons, and people north. The oil slick was a diversion-bait designed to lure law enforcement into an ambush.

The grieving Senator, blocked by jurisdictional limits and political optics, intervenes directly. She suspends Madison's court-martial, has him discharged from the Navy, and transfers him into the U.S. Coast Guard under special authority. Unlike the Navy, the Coast Guard operates as both military force and

federal law enforcement-empowered to investigate, pursue, and arrest criminals within U.S. territory. Madison is given one directive: find who did this and shut them down.

Assigned command of a newly formed maritime enforcement unit operating from a Coast Guard ship, Madison names the elite group **Team CUTTER**. He hand-selects five specialists-boarding officers, pursuit-boat pilots, maritime intelligence, port security, and tactical enforcement-operators accustomed to policing vast waters where backup is hours away and mistakes are fatal.

As **Team CUTTER** conducts harbor patrols, port inspections, covert surveillance, and high-risk interdictions around San Diego, they expose the cartel's full operation-and learn the torpedo attack was retaliation for Coast Guard pressure that threatened the cartel's profits.

At the same time, Madison reconnects with his ex-girlfriend and their young son, both living in San Diego. As he rebuilds that relationship, Madison confronts the fear that this pursuit of justice could leave his son fatherless, repeating the cycle that now defines Madison.

As political pressure mounts and the Senator's desire for vengeance blurs legally, Madison faces the same choice that ended his Navy career: follow orders-or do what's right. In the final confrontation, he reins in his anger and leads **Team CUTTER** with discipline and restraint, dismantling the cartel's maritime operation without crossing the line.

CUTTER is a grounded action-drama that reveals how the U.S. Coast Guard polices America's waters, exploring patriotism, fatherhood, and the moral courage required to enforce the law at the edge of chaos.