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News from the T&R Marine Forensics Committee: Diving Panel assists USCG in Salvage Efforts

Provided by Committee Chair Bill Garzke

The Diving Panel (MF-2), chaired by Captain Steve Gatto, has been assisting the Coast Guard in the investigation of two recent fishing boat losses. The Lady Mary and Sea Tractor were lost in 2009 with the loss of nine lives. In June 2009 Captain Gatto on his own initiative brought a Coast Guard officer to the June 2009 meeting of the Marine Forensics Committee to help this officer in developing a forensic investigation of the loss of the Lady Mary off Cape May, New Jersey in March 2009. Through the assistance of Committee member Captain Richard Hooper (USN, Ret.) and former Supervisor of Salvage the officer was given the contact information for help in the recovery of the rudder of Lady Mary. Captain Gatto and some of his colleagues made subsequent dives on the Lady Mary to take excellent photographs of the wreck that have greatly facilitated the investigation of this craft. Both wrecks are under current litigation, but the Marine Forensics Committee is proud of Captain Gatto's personal tenacity of taking action to assist in these two ship losses.



**William Garzke, Jr.,
Chair,
Marine Forensics Committee**

The Marine Forensics Committee, formed as Panel SD-7 in March 1995, has been formulating the Guidelines for Investigating Sunken Marine Platforms. Those Guidelines are nearing completion under the direction of Mr. Sean Kery. The intent is to publish this document in the very near future as part of a symposium on Marine Forensics. Anyone interested in this endeavor should contact Chairman Bill Garzke at WGarzke@CSC.com or phone at (202)-675-8542.

Related Link: [Philadelphia Daily News Story – January 23, 2010](#)

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