

NOAA Nautical Charting Calendar

NOAA Searches for Missing Vessels



NOAA physical scientists set up for the survey that detected wreckage of a missing and sunken fishing vessel.

December 9, 2009 — Responding to an appeal by a distraught Maine fishing community, a NOAA hydrographic survey team searched the ocean floor for submerged wreckage and nautical hazards in Cobscook Bay, Maine. The mobile integrated survey team (MIST) from NOAA’s Office of Coast Survey joined a federal, state and local effort to find out what happened to two downed fishing vessels — the *All American* and *Bottom Basher* — lost at sea this year.

Using side-scan imaging, the MIST first set out to find the wreckage of the *Bottom Basher*, a 34-foot urchin dragger that sank with three fishermen on board. They also hoped to find the *All American*. Because several boats have gone down in that area over the last decade, state officials thought that finding any submerged wreckage would hold some clues to prevent future tragedies.

During the three-day survey, the MIST was on the bay by 0530, searching the seafloor for anything that might have caught either of the two boats and pulled them down. Working in waters with a usual 22-foot tidal range made more hazardous by a full moon, the team had limited “slack time” — when the water was not pitching and roiling — in which to survey.

During the waning hours of the survey’s final day, a scan of the ocean bottom found an image that was consistent with the shape of a lost boat. Was it the *Bottom Basher*, the *All American* or another vessel entirely? The image was, in fact, the *All American*, a boat that sank very rapidly last March claiming the vessel’s captain and deck hand. Wreckage that had been recovered confirmed the scan’s findings.

“We heard the news from the local leader of the search effort,” said the chief of OCS’s Navigation Response Branch. “He conveyed the appreciation for the team’s efforts. Hopefully, that will be of some comfort to the families who welcomed us into their homes and onto their boats.”

 <h2 style="text-align: center;">February 2010</h2> 						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	Prepared by the Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service, NOAA, www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov , 1-301-713-2770. Note: Add your information to the Calendar using Adobe Reader 7 or later. The tools are found at the Tools -> Commenting, and Tools -> Drawing Markup features of Adobe Reader.					