U.S. Department of Homeland Security

United States Coast Guard

MARINE BOARD OF INVESTIGATION

Coast Guard to suspend search for El Faro crew after 7-day search

News Release
October 08, 2015

MIAMI —Coast Guard to suspend search for El Faro crew after 7-day searchMIAMI — The Coast Guard will suspend the search for possible survivors from the cargo ship El Faro at sunset Wednesday, which is believed to have sunk during Hurricane Joaquin.

Coast Guard, Navy, Air Force, Air National Guard and tugboat crews searched more than 183,000 square nautical miles off the Bahamian coast in a joint effort to locate the El Faro crew.

"I have come to a very difficult decision to suspend the search for the crew of the El Faro at sunset tonight. My deepest condolences go to the families, loved ones, and friends of the El Faro crew," said Rear Adm. Scott Buschman, commander, Coast Guard 7th District. "U.S. Coast Guard, U.S Navy, U.S. Air Force, and the Tote Maritime tug crews searched day and night, sometimes in perilous conditions with the hope of finding survivors in this tragic loss"

The El Faro, a 790-foot roll on, roll off cargo ship, was en route to San Juan, Puerto Rico, from Jacksonville, Florida. At approximately 7:30 a.m. Thursday, Coast Guard watchstanders were notified the El Faro was disabled in the path of Hurricane Joaquin, had lost propulsion and had a 15-degree list. The crew reported the ship had previously taken on water, but that all flooding had been contained.

The Coast Guard located a deceased person in a survival suit in the water Sunday night. A heavily damaged life boat with markings consistent with those on board the El Faro were also located Sunday. Additional items located by search crews since Thursday include a partially submerged life raft, a survival suit, life jackets, life rings, cargo containers, Styrofoam, packaged food and an oil sheen.

Crew of the SS El Faro as provided by Tote Maritime:

Louis Champa, Palm Coast, Florida

Sylvester Crawford Jr., Lawrenceville, Georgia

Brookie Davis, Jacksonville, Florida

Frank Hamm, Jacksonville, Florida

Carey Hatch, Jacksonville, Florida

Roosevelt Clark, Jacksonville, Florida

Michael Davidson, Windham, Maine

Keith Griffin, Fort Myers, Florida

Joe Hargrove, Orange Park, Florida

Michael Holland, North Wilton, Maine

Cont.

For Media Inquiries, please contact Ms. Alana Ingram, Alana.L.Ingram@uscg.mil (202) 510-6523.

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Crew of the SS El Faro as provided by Tote Maritime:

Jack Jackson, Jacksonville, Florida

Lonnie Jordan, Jacksonville, Florida

Mitchell Kuflik, Brooklyn, New York

Jeffrey Mathias, Kingston, Massachusetts

Marcin Nita, Poland

James Porter, Jacksonville, Florida

Theodore Quammie, Jacksonville, Florida

Jeremie Riehm, Camden, Delaware

Howard Schoenly, Cape Coral, Florida

German Solar-Cortes, Orlando, Florida

Andrzej Truszkowski, Poland

Rafal Zdobych, Poland

Jackie Jones, Jr., Jacksonville, Florida

Piotr Krause, Poland

Roan Lightfoot, Jacksonville Beach, Florida

Dylan Meklin, Rockland, Maine

Jan Podgorski, Poland

Richard Pusatere, Virginia Beach, Virginia

Danielle Randolph, Rockland, Maine

Lashawn Rivera, Jacksonville, Florida

Steven Shultz, Roan Mountain, Tennessee

Anthony Thomas, Jacksonville, Florida

Mariette Wright, St. Augustine, Florida

The following search-and-rescue units and crews assisted with the search:

Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater, Florida HC-130 Hercules airplane crews
Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater, Florida MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter crews
Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City, North Carolina HC-130 Hercules airplane crews
Coast Guard Cutter Northland, a 270-foot medium endurance cutter homeported in Portsmouth, Virginia
Coast Guard Cutter Resolute a 210-foot medium endurance cutter, homeported in St. Petersburg, Florida
Coast Guard Cutter Charles Sexton, homeported in Key West, Florida
Air Force Rescue Coordination Center
Air National Guard HC-130 airplane crews from the 106th Rescue Wing, Westhampton Beach, New York
Air Force WC-130 Super Hercules crews from the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, 403rd Wing, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi
Navy P-8 Poseidon airplane crews from Naval Air Station Jacksonville
Air Force E-8C Joint Stars crews from the 116th Air Control Wing, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia
Three commercial tugboats

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