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Coast Guard responds to overturned crabber

SAN FRANCISCO - Coast Guard, state and local agencies are responding to a capsized crabbing vessel, the Deenie Lynn, today near the Cliff House.

An aircrew from Coast Guard Air Station San Francisco is conducting a flight over the vessel which remains partially submerged about 1,000 yards from the shore.

The owner is working with the Coast Guard, California Fish and Game, California Emergency Management Agency, the National Park Service, the City of San Francisco, San Francisco Department of Emergency Management, and the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary to mitigate the pollution threat to the marine sanctuary. Parker Diving and Salvage has been contracted to conduct salvage operations. Additionally, the vessel's 270 crab pots have created a large debris field around the capsized crabber.

The Coast Guard Command Center on Yerba Buena Island received a mayday call from the 49-foot commercial crabber around midnight, and immediately launched a 47-foot Motor Lifeboat from Station Golden Gate to the scene. The three-person crewmembers were wearing survival suits and were able to get into the vessel's life raft before losing communications with the Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard was able to obtain a position of the vessel using the Rescue 21 Communication System, <<http://www.uscg.mil/acquisition/rescue21/default.asp>> and the crew in the life raft fired a flare and used strobe lights to draw rescue crews in. All three crewmembers were taken aboard the Coast Guard MLB and taken back to Station Golden Gate where they were examined by awaiting EMS.

The Coast Guard reminds boaters of the importance of having the safety equipment that helped save these crabbers lives. The cold, turbulent waters of the Pacific Ocean require more than basic life jackets. The crabbers had on survival suits, which can increase survivability in the water. Additionally, their life raft, flares, strobe lights, a properly working radio and emergency position-indicating beacon allowed the Coast Guard to arrive on scene quickly and rescue these crabbers.

USCG District 11

US Coast Guard Northern California News

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