

No Name (2018)

Location: Weymouth North, NS
Case number: 120-824-C1

The Incident

On January 8, 2018, two Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) Environmental Response officers spotted a sunken 35-foot fishing vessel at the end of an Irving dock at Weymouth North, NS. At low tide, the wheelhouse of the vessel was visible above the water and an oil sheen was present. The two CCG officers reported the wreck to Labrador Marine Communications and Traffic Services and contacted RMI Marine (RMI), a third-party contractor.

The following day, CCG spoke with an Irving representative in Saint John, New Brunswick, to arrange access to the dock, which was barred to vehicles by a line of boulders and a locked gate. RMI arrived on scene, moved the boulders, and cut the lock. Once it had access to the dock, RMI sent a diver down to assess the vessel.

On January 10, substantial ice accumulation on the dock delayed RMI divers in reaching the vessel. There was also a delay in the arrival of the appropriately equipped truck. When the ice had cleared and the boom truck had arrived, RMI sent a diver to the vessel to attach lift bags. These were inflated, and the vessel was floated and pulled closer to the shoreline as the tide rose. The vessel was secured to the dock and the lift bags were deflated.

On January 11, 2018, RMI again sent a diver into the water, to right the vessel, which had listed to port. As the tide lowered, RMI dewatered the vessel. A vacuum truck was engaged to remove mud, debris, and hydrocarbons. When the vessel had been cleaned, the site was secured and CCG declared the case closed.

The Claim

On October 18, 2018, the Administrator received a claim in the amount of \$33,606.49 from the CCG on behalf of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO/CCG) in respect of the incident pursuant to the *Marine Liability Act*.

The Administrator determined that the claim was admissible under Part 7 of the Act.

Assessment and Offer

On November 15, 2018, after investigation and assessment of the claim, the Administrator made an offer to CCG for the established amount of \$33,606.49, plus interest, pursuant to section 105 of the Act. The offer was accepted on November 19, 2018 and, on November 22, 2018, a payment in the amount of \$34,653.42 including interest was made to CCG.

Recovery Action

In March 2019, the Office of the Administrator reached out to CCG asking if it was able to identify the vessel and seeking further information about the owner of the vessel. As of March 31, 2019, the Administrator was still trying to identify the vessel and its owner in order to send him a demand letter and initiate the recovery process.

Status

The file remains open.