

# NOAA Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Case Study



## F/V Santa Lucia

Contributor: Capt. David Dipre, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

### Vessel Overview

**Name:** Santa Lucia

**Incident:** FWSB-08-OFF-007190

**Date reported:** December 12, 2008

**Vessel type:** Commercial Shrimp Trawler

**Vessel ID#:** DO 579919

**Hull material:** Wood and fiberglass

**Length:** 68.5 ft.

**Beam:** 20.5 ft.

**Tonnage:** 68 Ton Net - 101 Ton Gross



### Vessel Location

**Location:** Monroe County, Florida

**Site Name(s):** Entrance to Calda Channel, Monroe County, Florida

**General description of location:** Vessel was hard aground on a shoal on the northwest side of Calda Channel.

**Coordinates:** 24 37.522 North 81 49.807 West

**Average Site Depth:** 2 ft.

**Habitat/Substrate Type Impacted:** Critical Sea Grasses (Turtle grass - *Thalassia testudinum*)

**Jurisdictions:** Waters of the State, Sovereign State Submerged Lands

### Incident Narrative

**History:** The vessel was heading to Stock Island Florida to avoid bad weather, she had pulled her shrimping gear and was headed in when the vessel lost her steering thus running aground. The vessel was so hard aground that it would require commercial salvage for removal. . The Captain admitted to being off course and claimed that the steering system malfunctioned, which ultimately led to the grounding. The Captain was not able to afford the removal operation and failure to remove the vessel caused it to be designated as abandoned and derelict. The vessel grounding caused considerable damage, including loss of oils and fuels into the environment, and seagrass scaring (approximately ½ mile long).

**Lead agency or organization:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

**Other collaborators/stakeholders involved:** Florida Public Trust Lands, the Santa Lucia Fishing Corporation, NOAA and the U.S. Coast Guard.

**Funding source(s):**

### Threats from ADV

**Environmental:** Presently protected under state law, sea grasses are important to the states ecosystem. Vessel was aground in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

**Critical habitats involved:** Potential Sea Turtle, Sawfish, and other marine life entanglement if gear goes in water. Continued damage to benthic assets including sea grasses.

**Public safety and health:** Posed potential of environmental damage due to fuels/oils and other contaminants being discharged into the waters of the state.



**Navigation:** The vessel posed no threat to navigation but could move into channel if weather conditions become adverse.

**Aesthetic:** Vessel was an unsightly wreck on the coast of Florida. This however does not factor into the determination of the vessel being derelict under law.

### Vessel Removal Actions

**Start date:** May 18, 2009

**End date:** May 26, 2009

**Removal options considered:** Re-floating the vessel and towing it to port was the only option available.

**Environmental Considerations:** Highly Sensitive environmental area (seagrass beds).

**Removal Methods:** Remove excess weight and gear, then float and tow the vessel into port.

**Authorities used to take Possession of Vessels:** The State of Florida, with permission to contractor to demolish and scrap the vessel.

**Permits Required:** Yes, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, NOAA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

**Salvage Contractor(s):** Coffin Marine Services

**Contractor Selection Process:** Competitive bid

**Approximate removal costs:** \$57,580

**Other cost information:** \$1,350 for asbestos assessment and lab work.

**Additional types of debris removed:** Vessel rigging was removed first.

**Vessel Disposal Process/Issues:** Disposal is difficult and expensive in an isolated area like the Florida Keys. Vessel was constructed of wood and fiberglass, which had to be properly disposed of in a landfill.

**Vessel removal summary:** Vessel and rigging removed and transferred to landfill and recycle facilities. Then the vessel was floated and towed into port. Approximately 74 tons of materials was disposed of.

### Project Challenges

**Environmental:** Removal without further damage to benthic environment.

**Geographical:** Remote location, which makes it very expensive to remove and export solid waste materials.

**Weather/Seasonal:** None identified.

**Funding:** This was part of a one-time state funded removal effort.

### Contact Information:

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Images:

