

Interagency Incident Response: SAR Case Studies and Paddlecraft Safety

21 June 2017: Overturned Kayak Case

- Initial Report (1027LCL): Sector Northern New England Command Center (SEC NNE CC) received an uncorrelated Mayday over CH 16 involving a kayaker who fell off his kayak
- Kayaker did not respond to call outs

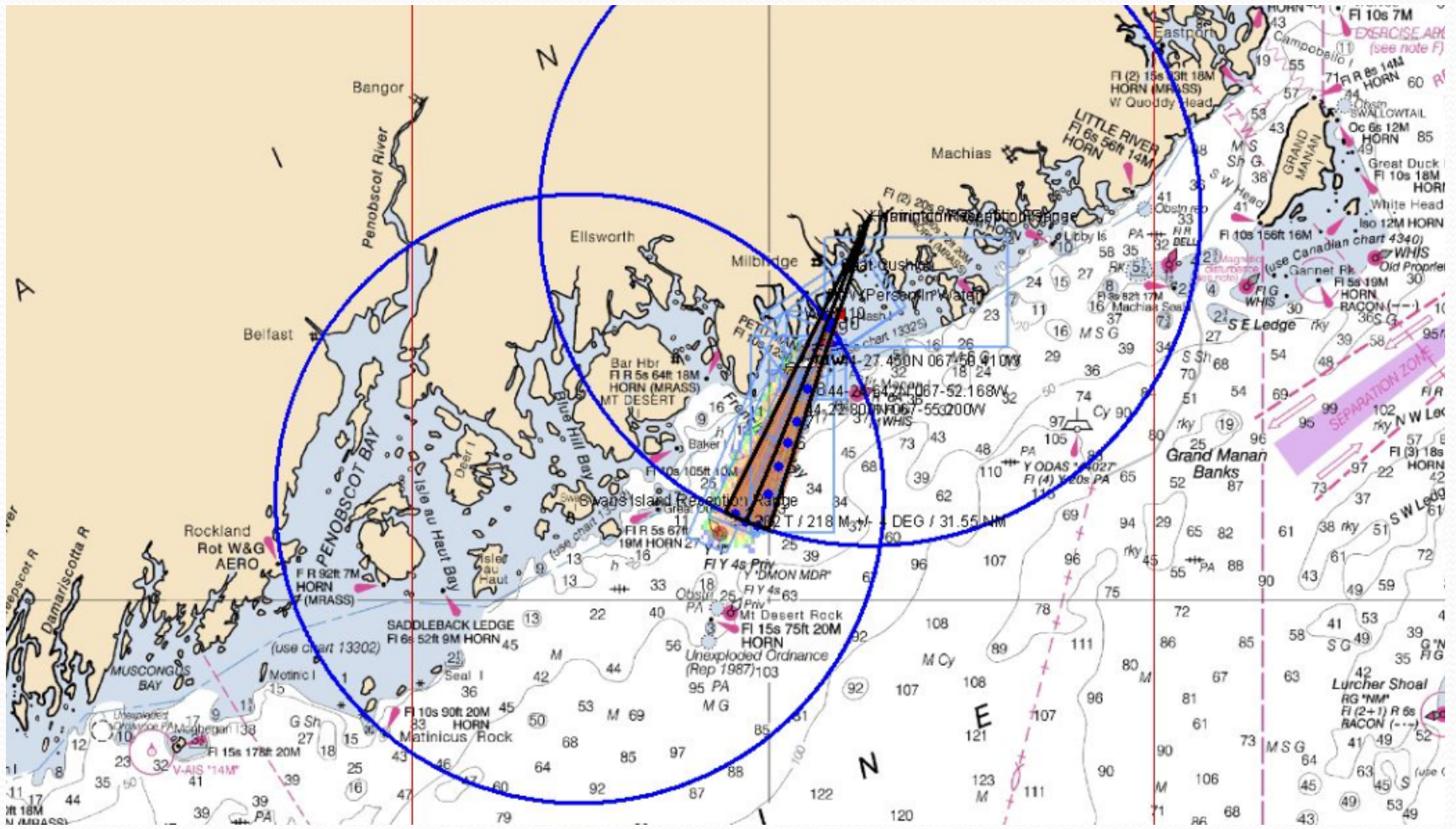
MAYDAY Calls



Agencies Involved

- U.S. Coast Guard
 - CG STA Jonesport, CG STA Southwest Harbor, CGC Amberjack, and AIRSTA Cape Cod
- Canadian Coast Guard
 - Canadian Aurora
- Maine Marine Patrol
 - 16FT Boston Whaler, Fixed Wing
- Local Park Rangers

Search Area, Intersecting Ranges, and Drift



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Press Release

Down East

Coast Guard searching for kayaker who reported falling in water

By Nok-Nol Ricker, BDN Staff • June 21, 2017 3:55 pm
Updated: June 21, 2017 7:09 pm

Authorities are searching the coast for a man who issued three mayday calls Wednesday morning after he apparently fell off his kayak near Bois Bubert Island, a southern part of Milbridge.

The Coast Guard, the Maine Marine patrol and Canadian air force crews are combing a 275 square mile area by sea and air. The Coast Guard Sector Northern New England received the somewhat garbled mayday calls, the first that came in at about 10:15 a.m.

The Coast Guard was able to narrow down the search to the Milbridge area after getting a "line of bearing from the radio tower in Harrington" from one of the mayday calls, according to Ken Stuart, search and rescue specialist with Sector Northern New England, based in South Portland. Without a second bearing, however, pinpointing the man's location is impossible, which is why the search area is so large, he said.

Other concerns are the cold water temperature, which can cause an unprepared person to suffer from hypothermia in just a few minutes. The water in the area was 49 degrees when the search started, Stuart said.

Visibility early Wednesday was perfectly clear, but by 4 p.m. had reduced to four nautical miles, he said.



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As of 6:30 p.m., no one had reported anyone missing or overdue in the area, he said.

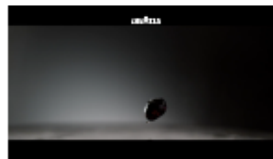
Coast Guard Station Jonesport launched a 47-foot motor lifeboat and the 87-foot "Amber Jack" patrol boat with crews, and Station Southwest Harbor launched a 29-foot response boat and crew to search the area.

A MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter aircrew launched from Air Station Cape Cod, and the Canadian aircraft is assist three Maine Marine patrol boats and aircraft out searching the water.

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Bois Bubert Island, known locally is called "BoBear," is part of Milbridge, which is close to the village of Steuben.

In 2010, two brothers from Milbridge died by drowning near the island after the skiff they were in capsized during a weekend getaway to a camp.



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By Lavazza

Anyone heading out on the ocean should wear protective clothing to stay warm and a life jacket, and also let somebody else know where he or she is going and provide that person with a plan in case of an emergency, Stuart said.

The Coast Guard is asking anyone with information about the whereabouts of the man who issued the mayday calls Wednesday to call Ken Stuart at Sector Northern New England at (207) 741-5422.

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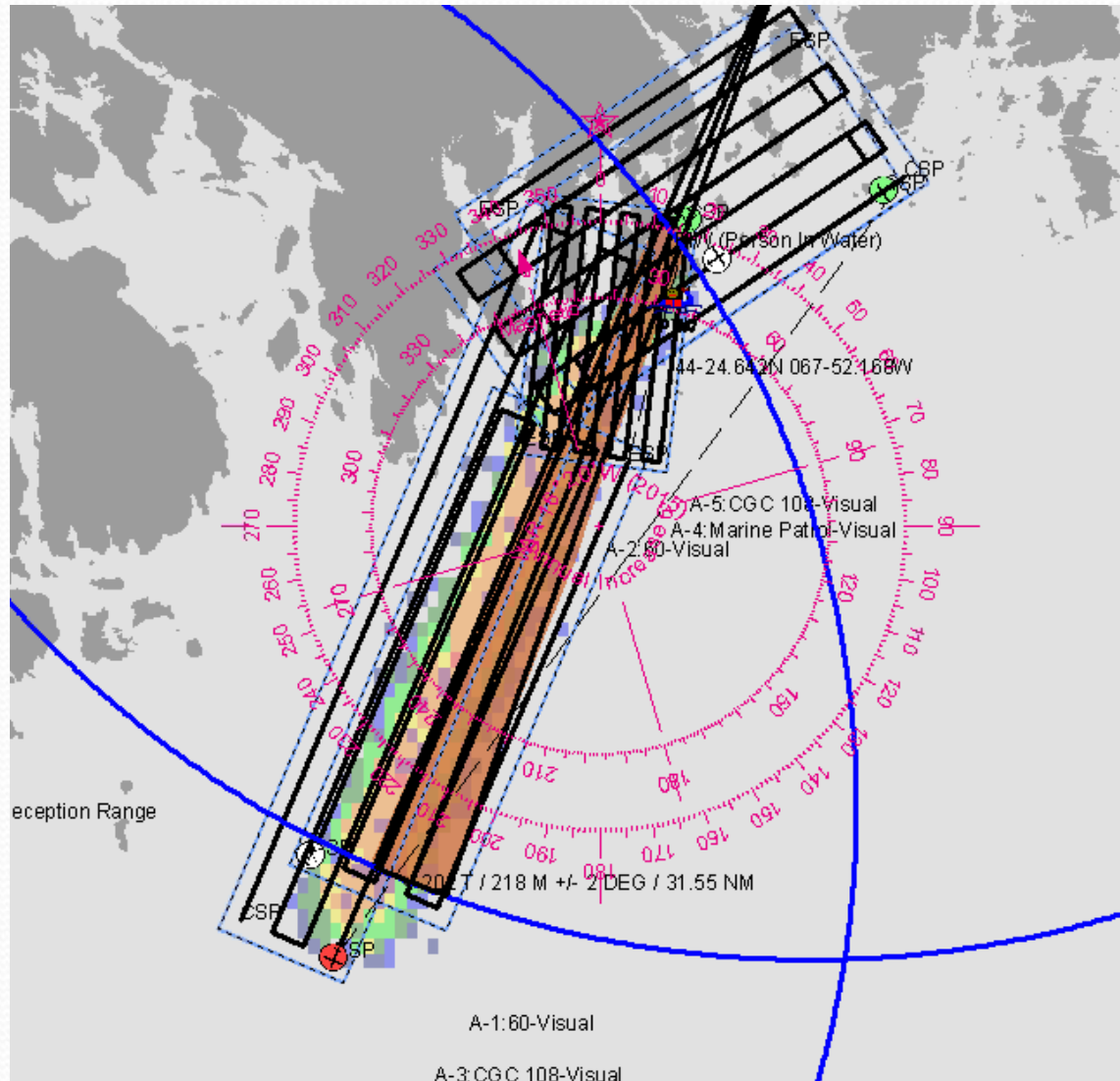


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Overview of Search Efforts



PSDA Analysis

PSDA Analysis Record - 21 June 2017 08:17 PM

Environmental Parameters - Input

Air Temperature	52.0°F
Water Temperature	49.0°F
Relative Humidity	29.0%
Wind Speed	10.0knots
Immersion	Water to Neck
Heat Loss Coeff.	Turbulent

Physical Attributes - Input

Name		
Sex	Male	
Height	5' 9"ft' in"	MEDIUM
Weight	184.1lb	MEDIUM
Fat%	24.9%	MEDIUM

Clothing Ensemble - Input

LongJohn - 3 mm

Survival Times - Output

Functional Time (hr)	10.21
Cold Survival Time (hr)	13.10
Dehydration Survival Time Time	No Result
Empirical Survival Time (hr)	No Result

EXPLANATION:

(1) Functional Time (core temperature above 34°C or 93.2°F) is the length of time (hours) during which an individual may participate in self-rescue or take actions that will enhance survival/protection from exposure.

(2) Cold Survival Time (hours) is the time it takes for the core temperature to drop to 28°C or 82.4°F. Below that threshold, the probability of death due to hypothermia significantly increases.

(3) Dehydration Survival Time (hours) is the time until the water loss reaches 20% of body weight. Death is highly probable at this level of dehydration.

(4) Empirical Dehydration Survival Time (hours) is the dehydration survival time extrapolated from physiological data when the ambient temperature is between 5°C to 35°C. Click view to see the result.

Case Conclusion

- USCG STA Rockland received a call from a Warden who recognized the voice in transmission. Further investigation led SEC NNE CC to safely locate the missing kayaker.

Best Practices

- PPE
- Inter-agency Relationships
- Reaching out via media