2012 International Marine Forensics Symposium

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Guidelines for Marine Forensic Investigations Manual Will be Introduced at Symposium

Provides Introduction to Burgeoning Field of Marine Forensic Investigations

JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY /JANUARY 25, 2012— A new manual, "Guidelines for Marine Forensics Investigations," outlining guidelines for investigating maritime accidents, like the recent Costa Concordia shipwreck in Italy, will be introduced by the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME) at the First International Marine Forensics Symposium at the Gaylord Hotel and Convention Center, National Harbor, MD, from April 3-5, 2012.

The "Guidelines for Marine Forensics Investigations," developed by a variety of maritime experts including engineers, architects, historians, anthropologists, filmmakers, and hydrodynamicists, is intended to be used by professional and amateur investigators in the field of marine forensics investigations. The detailed manual showcases information gleaned from diving and marine forensic analysis conducted on historic shipwrecks including specific examples from the *Titanic, Britannic, Edmund Fitzgerald, Lusitania, Andrea Doria, and Bismarck* and many others.

Written by leading experts in the burgeoning field of marine forensics investigations, authors include "Guidelines for Marine Forensics Investigations" editor Sean Kery, Senior Hydrodyamicist and Vice Chairman of the Marine Forensics Committee, and world-renowned naval architect William Garzke, Chairman of the Marine Forensics Committee of SNAME and Symposium Chairman. Expert in passenger ship design, Philip Sims, Naval Marine Engineer Principal Leader, CSC and "*Titanic*" director and deep sea underwater explorer and inventor of autonomous underwater 3-D cameras, James Cameron also contributed to the development of the guidelines as well as Paul Henri Nargeolet, who has been the chief investigator of the *Titanic* wreck and developer of techniques in deep ocean exploration.

The "Guidelines for Marine Forensics Investigations" manual is written in lay person's language with stand-alone chapters that are grouped into six main sections for easy cross reference. The user friendly layout allows investigators the opportunity to customize their learning on how to set-up new marine forensics investigations or how to proceed with historical investigation without destroying evidence.

The manual provides an overview of the most common types of marine casualties and their corresponding signature type of damage. Investigation techniques for fires, explosions, human remains, human factors, corrosion, electrical systems, and forensic analysis of cordage and moorings are all addressed.

Special consideration is given to underwater tool and search inspection systems for performing marine investigations. There are several chapters devoted to safe diving techniques on underwater explorations of

wrecks. Especially, a 101 level introduction to diving and the utilization of Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV's), Manned Submersibles, Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUV's), and Launch And Recovery Systems (LARS).

The comprehensive manual covers the hydrodynamics of ships, and uses examples to show search tools and how to use them to properly set up forensic analysis investigations. Detailed guidelines on how to plan field expeditions including the analysis of debris fields, salvage operations, techniques, and the different phases of a typical marine forensics investigation are provided. Artifact preservation is introduced and expedition dive series planning is discussed as well as how to use charts, maps and data perishability.

There is a chapter devoted to the marine environment including hazards, currents, waves, and winds. The range of conditions to be expected and where to find the right data to support expedition planning and analysis projects are also covered.

Each chapter of the "Guidelines to Marine Forensics Investigations" manual contains a list of references that the user can utilize to further explore a specific topic. In addition to being available for purchase at the symposium, the manual can also be ordered online at www.sname.org.

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