

RFI – GAUL – Underwater Survey 2002

Daily Report No 31

On board *SEISRANGER*

Date:	26.07.02	Time:	2359	Day No. (On Site):	-
Location:	N 65° 20' E 008° 27' (north of Halten)				
Weather: (past 24 hours)	Good visibility	Sea State:	7/8	Wind Speed & Direction:	34 knots SW'ly
Weather:					

"As we head for Aberdeen and home I would like to take this opportunity to pay special tribute to everyone who has contributed to the success of this comprehensive underwater survey and evidence collecting expedition. We have achieved all of our objectives thanks to the skill and dedication of all those onboard and ashore.

We have taken our equipment to the very limits of its capability and thanks to the ingenuity of our technicians and engineers both onboard and shore, we have pioneered marine accident investigation techniques that will be of great value in the future.

The skill of our Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) pilots has enabled us to reach parts of the wreck that were previously held to be inaccessible while the state of the art cameras and underwater lights have given us high quality images that will be carefully analysed during the months ahead.

We have been hugely supported in our work by our "Forensic Team" of Detective Inspector Andy Kirby and Chris Maguire of the Forensic Science Service. Our search for human remains has benefited from their expertise and I am particularly grateful for their professionalism and sensitivity in the formal logging of evidence.

I would also like to pay tribute to the family representatives who have been onboard throughout this long and tiring expedition. They have all made significant contributions to our work, offering useful suggestions and positive advice throughout. I thank them all.

I also offer my appreciation to my professional colleagues Tony Brown, Crawford Logan, Cliff Brand, Will Handley, Alan Rushton and Graham Wilson and our two fishing advisors Ernie Suddaby and George Petty, whose expert knowledge has

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While acknowledging the invaluable role played by those conducting and supporting the survey and collecting the evidence, I am also extremely grateful to the Subsea 7 team of professionals both onboard and ashore, who have contributed so very much time and energy to seeing this survey through to a successful conclusion.

Finally, I would like to thank the Master of MV *Seisranger*, Captain Bejörn Johannesen and his crew for their dedication and support. They have looked after us superbly, maintained the vessels position over the wreck for such an extended period, fed us well and made us very welcome and comfortable. They could not have done more.

It is hoped that the efforts of these past few weeks will enable conclusions to be drawn about how this tragedy occurred so many years ago.”

**Keith Dixon
Team Leader**