

Mid-Ocean Whale Strike Sinks Cruiser

Undoubtedly some of you have heard the news that the Peterson 44 Raindancer struck a whale yesterday and sank quickly, while roughly halfway along her 4,000-mile route from Panama to the Marquesas.

Fortunately, the vessel's four crew were able to call for help via a satellite device and deploy their liferaft quickly. Reports differ on how long they had to endure the cramped quarters of the raft, but they were ultimately picked up by the sailboat Rolling Stone. Previous to her arrival, the 820-ft crude oil tanker M/V Dong A Maia had been diverted toward the scene, but was called off.

Needless to say, a collision with any large object can be a terrifying experience that no amount of planning and forethought can fully prepare you for. But to their credit, the Raindancer crew evidently acted quickly and competently. The incident also serves as a huge endorsement for always keeping your portable satellite devices fully recharged and accessible, and your ditch bag ready to go.

Raindancer is not registered with the PPJ or World Arc (I am told), but we met her crew briefly last month in Panama during our presentations at Shelter Bay Marina with the SPSN. We are thankful that Capt. Rick Rodriguez and his crew survived their ordeal, and we wish them the best of luck in whatever comes next.

— Andy Turpin, PPJ

Rescue Coordination Centres

Courtesy of Peter Mott of Passage Guardian, NZ
In case of distress or urgency, I recommend calling the RCC for the country in which your vessel is registered (your flag state).

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