



## NEWS

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### Multraship completes successful deep-sea recovery of sunken fishing vessel

Multraship Salvage, working in close co-operation with Croatia-based diving specialist Hidroinženjering, has successfully completed the deep-sea recovery of the fishing vessel *Marinero 1*, which sank in January 2009 off Komiža, Vis Island, Croatia.

Croatia.

The 31.75 m-long vessel sunk, as a result of circumstances which have not been established, in a water depth of 80 m. An ROV inspection subsequently revealed that, although the vessel has suffered stern, rudder and propeller damage, there was no other visible damage to the hull. The ROV also showed clearly that the vessel was lying on a sandy bottom with a 20 degree portside list which would allow lifting slings to be positioned beneath it.

Multraship signed a Wreckhire 99 agreement with the owner after close consultation with the insurers of the vessel, Croatia Osiguranje, following which preparations for the recovery began in earnest. The Multraship floating sheerlegs *Cormorant* was mobilised to Vis Island, a special rigging system was designed for the combined use of deck tackle and an A frame, the Hidroinženjering diving team underwent a special training programme, and all the necessary specialist equipment was installed on board the *Cormorant*.

The nineteen-strong salvage team began work and, under the guidance of an ROV, the divers succeed in rigging the slings underneath the *Marinero 1* and connecting them to the deck tackle system of the *Cormorant*. The actual lift was performed in three stages and, after switching from the deck tackle to the main tackle in the A frame, the *Marinero 1* was lifted to the surface.

Having been patched and dried out, the *Marinero 1* was shortly thereafter considered safe afloat and was handed over to its owners, who towed it into the port of Komiža

Leendert Muller, managing director of Multraship, says, "The challenging water depth of 80 m was successfully overcome by well trained divers and an experienced salvage team. The combination of the skills of this team, the versatility of the floating sheerlegs *Cormorant* in four-point mooring, and an ROV for the guidance of the divers, demonstrates very clearly that a deep-sea recovery operation can be both successful and economically viable."