



Association for Rescue at Sea, Inc. (AFRAS)

[HOME](#)

[AFRAS
INFORMATION &
HISTORY](#)

[HONORING
EXTRAORDINARY
RESCUES](#)

[SUPPORTING
VOLUNTARY
RESCUE SERVICES](#)

[NEWSLETTERS](#)

[ARCHIVES](#)

[SAR
ORGANIZATIONS &
AFFILIATIONS](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

[BECOMING A MEMBER](#)

[MAKING A DONATION](#)

[SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES](#)

[SPONSOR'S CORNER](#)

[BOARD OF DIRECTORS](#)

[IN THE NEWS](#)

[AFRAS BLOG](#)

[CORPORATE GOVERNANCE](#)

AFRAS AMVER Award 2015 AND Special AMVER Award

Like 679

Share

SPECIAL AMVER AWARD T/S STATE OF MAINE

On the 10th of June 2015 U.S. Coast Guard rescue authorities in Boston, Mass. received a satellite alert from a lone sailor 520 miles southeast of Halifax, Canada. The message said "Broaching, taking on water in heavy seas. Hove to!" The Coast Guard issued an urgent marine broadcast to all available ships and queried the AMVER system to see what commercial ships might be near the stricken yachtsman. Rescue authorities also launched a search and rescue aircraft from Canada and Coast Guard Air station Elizabeth City. The Training Ship STATE OF MAINE, a 500-foot training vessel from the Maine Maritime Academy, was only 29 miles away from the distress location and agreed to divert and assist the sailor. The sailor, aboard the sailing vessel [Prodigal](#), was on a voyage from South Carolina to Ireland when he encountered rough weather, which damaged his sailboat. State of Maine came alongside the stricken sailboat and midshipmen readied rescue equipment, fast rescue boats and rigged a Jacob's ladder to retrieve the sailor. Within a few hours of the initial notification, the survivor was safely aboard the training ship, had called his family and was enjoying a hot meal. The Association for Rescue at Sea is pleased to recognize the Captain, and crew of STATE OF MAINE, and Maine Maritime Academy for their professionalism and efforts in this humanitarian mission.

AMVER AWARD M/S VEENDAM

On January 25th, 2015 U.S. Coast Guard rescue authorities in Honolulu were notified by that a single engine [Cirrus SR22](#) aircraft was experiencing fuel and engine difficulties and was going to ditch in the Pacific Ocean. The pilot was flying from California to Maui when he experienced a mechanical issue that prevented him from transferring fuel between tanks. Rescue personnel launched a Coast Guard C-130 aircraft and, using the AMVER system, found the [Holland America Line](#) cruise ship Veendam in the path of the aircraft. The Dutch flagged cruise ship was notified and prepared to assist in rescue operations. The captain of the 791-foot cruise ship reported waves were more than 10 feet and winds were 25 knots. "We've got a few plans for the rescue, including lowering a rescue boat or throwing the pilot a line," the captain reported to the Coast Guard. Once the aircraft hit the water the pilot was quickly recovered by the crew of the Veendam. The pilot was uninjured and remained on the Veendam until it returned to port on Monday, January 26, 2014. We have some video of the aircraft ditching. The Assn for Rescue at Sea is pleased to recognize the Captain and crew of the Veendam and Holland America lines for this rescue.

AFRAS is a 501(c)3 charity and is registered in the State of New York