

**Association for Rescue at Sea (AFRAS)
C-PORT Lifesaving Award**

For recognition of heroic efforts, Sea Tow Fort Lauderdale's Captain Greg Mallek is cited "For Life Saving Efforts" for his performance of duties on March 12, 2012. At approximately 1800 that evening, while returning from an offshore patrol and heading into Hillsboro Inlet, Florida, Captain Mallek observed an open 23 foot recreational boat attempting to make the approach inbound through the inlet. At the time, small craft warning had been posted for most of the day, with winds southeast at 15 knots, and a strong ebbing tide that created seas of four to six feet in the inlet. Hillsboro Inlet is known for its potentially dangerous conditions. The 23 foot boat with two people on board was experiencing great difficulty navigating through the inlet. The sea conditions caused the boat to be jerked sharply to starboard and pushed towards the rock and coral reef south of the inlet. Knowing the recreational boat was in danger, Captain Mallek pushed through the seas in his 33 foot rigid hull to provide assistance. Before being able to get near, the recreational boat was caught by a larger wave, filling it with white water, nearly capsizing it and ejecting the female person off the boat and into the inlet. Captain Mallek got close enough to 23 foot boat, verified the woman was in the water, and notified Sea Tow Fort Lauderdale dispatch of his situation and the need for assistance. Demonstrating exceptional boat handling skills, focus, and situational awareness, he maneuvered his vessel through the rough seas and located the woman as she drifted around the reef. He skillfully maneuvered next to the woman (who was not wearing a lifejacket) and managed to get her to his swim platform and safely hauled her aboard. The woman was in shock, injured with lacerations to her head and legs from the reef. Captain Mallek made arrangements to meet an ambulance at the inlet marina and transferred her ashore. Once at the hospital, the woman had a large amount of water pumped from her lungs and ultimately made a full recovery. The actions and coordination of Captain Mallek are heartily commended by the Association for Rescue at Sea and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the maritime community to render aid to those in distress.

**Steve M. Sawyer, President
Association for Rescue at Sea**