

SPORT FISHING BOAT SINKS

Expert Investigates Death of Captain and Crew

An experienced delivery captain took possession of a brand new, high-end 35' sport fishing boat. Hours after leaving the dock, the boat sank in frigid water. The captain and crew died from hypothermia.

After reviewing the U.S. Coast Guard report of investigation, and photographs taken by local law enforcement agencies immediately before and after the vessel's recovery, our expert was able to show that the port propeller shaft seal and dripless packing assembly had been improperly installed. The improper assembly, done under the control of the boat's manufacturer and dealer, caused its sudden and catastrophic failure, flooding of the boat, and death of the captain and crew.

This case resolved favorably against the defendant boat manufacturer and dealer after our expert was further able to show that pertinent industry standards had been violated by the boat manufacturer and dealer, and that the manufacturer failed to provide protections afforded by other manufacturers producing similar products.

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