

Robson Forensic

Engineers, Architects, Scientists & Fire Investigators

NAVAL ARCHITECTURE

Expert Investigates Sinking of Luxury Sportsfisherman

A 60', custom sport fishing boat struck a submerged object offshore, at high speed, and sunk in less than 30 minutes. Our expert, retained by the Captain's counsel, investigated the sinking to determine if the actions taken by the professional Captain following the holing hastened the sinking. This luxury vessel was constructed with multiple non-watertight athwartship bulkheads. Our expert, a naval architect, showed that as such, the vessel was really a single compartment boat.

When the boat began taking on water, the Captain removed plugs in one of the bulkheads in an attempt to facilitate transfer of flood water to an area of the boat having the highest capacity bilge pumps. Prior to doing so, he got off a responded mayday and made passengers and crew as safe as possible. Other damage control measures were also undertaken.

Our expert showed that the professional Captain acted in accordance with prudent and generally accepted emergency procedures and also showed that no scientific evidence existed to prove that the Captain's actions in any way hastened the sinking. The case resolved favorably for the Captain, who was exonerated from civil liability.

For more information on the [Admiralty/Maritime](#) practice at Robson Forensic, including expert bios and CVs, please visit us online at www.robsonforensic.com.