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United States  
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# Press Release

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## SEARCH SUSPENDED FOR MAN WHO FELL FROM SHIP OFF OREGON COAST

**SEATTLE** - The Coast Guard has suspended the search for a man who fell into the ocean while climbing down the ladder of a 558-foot merchant vessel to a Columbia River pilot vessel near Astoria, Ore., Monday evening.

The Coast Guard searched for the 50-year-old man for about 18 hours and searched a 500 square mile area off the coast of Oregon and Washington.

Two 47-foot motor lifeboats from Coast Guard Station Cape Disappointment, Wash., and an HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter from Coast Guard Air Station Astoria were launched to assist, shortly after receiving the report Monday night.

The 47-foot motor lifeboats searched for an hour before returning to the station due to severe weather conditions. The Jayhawk searched for the man until 12:30 a.m., before they too had to return due to heavy rain and fog that limited visibility to less than 100 feet.

Two HH-60 Jayhawk helicopters from Air Station Astoria and an HH-65 Dolphin helicopter from Air Station Port Angeles, Wash., searched for the man throughout the day. A Columbia River bar helicopter and two pilot vessels also assisted in the search.

Coast Guardsman from Station Cape Disappointment and local authorities conducted shoreline searches north and south of the entrance to the Columbia River.

Today's weather conditions were winds of 25 mph and 14-to-16-foot seas.

Monday's weather conditions were 30-to-50 mph winds with 18- to-20-foot seas.

The name is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

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