Coast Guard Hears Testimony on Sinking of Fishing Vessel Lady Cecelia

Local News

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Warrenton, OR - The Coast Guard concluded the first hearing to determine the cause of the sinking of the fishing vessel Lady Cecelia, Thursday.Investigating officers from Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Portland, Ore., listened to tesitmony from family and associates of the crew of the Lady Cecelia during the proceedings.

Thursday's recess marks the conclusion of the first public Marine Board of Investigation hearing to identify the cause of the sinking and loss of the crew of the Lady Cecelia, which sank March 10, 2012. Witnesses gave testimony on the history and condition of the vessel along with recollections of the crew and their experience. The investigation will continue and the hearing is expected to reconvene in approximately one month.We continue to gather evidence in this case and plan to use the testimony gathered during this hearing to determine what questions still need to be asked. - Lt. Kimberly Rule, Assistant Senior Investigating Officer.

The Coast Guard is committed to examining the causes of the loss of the Lady Cecilia and her crew in order to pass on lessons learned and reduce the chances of future similar tragedies - Capt. Bruce Jones, Commander of Coast Guard Sector Columbia River.The Lady Cecelia and its crew went missing off the coast of Washington, March 10, 2012, prompting an extensive search by the Coast Guard, which located a debris field but no sign of the vessel or the men. Coast Guard investigators from MSU Portland have since worked with NOAA to determine a cause for the tragedy.