

# EL FARO VERSUS JOAQUIN

AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT CAUSED THE WORST AMERICAN  
MARITIME DISASTER OF THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY  
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Cargo ships usually lead long and hard lives. This is the story of one such ship and its unfortunate place in modern American maritime history. During 1975, the Sun Shipbuilding and Drydock Corporation located in Chester, Pennsylvania, completed a new cargo ship for the Navieras de Puerto Rico Steamship Company. Sun had a long tradition, going into business in 1917 and building vessels for America's Great War effort. Over the following decades, the company enjoyed tremendous success. In the 1920s, it became a large shipyard that built



*El Faro's track directly into the path of Hurricane Joaquin... and the Bermuda Triangle.*



The *El Faro* plying its way from East Coast ports to Puerto Rico where it was called that country's "lifeline" by its transportation of food, machinery, cars, and other essential equipment and supplies.