

LOST AT SEA

MORE SHIPS WHOSE SAILING DAYS ARE DEFINITELY OVER
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Poorly-maintained tankers and cargo ships operated by third world countries pose distinct threats to the environment. Tropical storm *Isaac* grounded the freighter *MV Jireh* on Mona Island in Puerto Rico on 21 June 2012. The US Coast Guard, US Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico worked together to remove fuel and oil. The ship was then cut up and removed section by section with the last being removed in October. About 1000 corals were relocated to prevent damage from anchors and cables used during the salvage operation.



Attacks by Houthi rebels have become more refined and professional — and so has the propaganda being produced by the attackers. The Liberian-flagged bulk carrier *Magic Seas* was attacked by Houthi forces on 6 July 2025 about 51 nautical miles southwest of Al Hudayah, Yemen. The ship was hit by unmanned surface vessels and missiles. *Magic Seas* is seen sinking after the crew had abandoned ship and was rescued by another merchant vessel. This attack marked a restart of the Houthi targeting commercial shipping in the southern Red Sea after a lull in attacks since 26 December 2024. A second Liberian-flagged bulk carrier *Eternity C* was attacked on 7 July using sea drones, fast moving skiffs, and RPGs. Three Filipino sailors were killed in that attack.



Sum Day, an abandoned shrimp boat wrecked on the shoreline of the Intracoastal Waterway in South Carolina became a navigational and environmental hazard. However, it took considerable legal wrangling before the hulk could be removed and junked. It seems that legal issues surrounding such vessels often allow them to further go downhill and this often results in the spillage of oil and other fluids.



Little is known about the history of this abandoned wooden vessel that is returning to nature in Ardfern, Scotland. No visible name is present and it appears anything of value has been stripped from the ship. The hulk itself has become part of the scenic landscape of the area.