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Aground on American Shoal



The S.S. Florida Silverbow aground near American Shoal Lighthouse. Photo credit: Captain Hilary Crusoe.

Salvage Master's Report of Salvage Operations in the Case of S.S. Florida Silverbow

By Captain Hilary Crusoe

Monday May 15, 1978

The day begins in Key West, Florida inventorying and stowing salvage gear in the warehouse.

About: 0930 Received a telephone call from the Key West Bar Pilot, E. Crusoe, and was advised that the S.S. *Florida Silverbow* was stranded near American Shoal Lighthouse. I called the Key West Coast Guard for additional information and was advised the vessel was still stranded and was not leaking. Vessel is

loaded with 8,600 tons of dry cement and there was not any commercial assistance on the scene

About: 0950 Received a long distance telephone call from Captain J. Shirley, in our New York Office, and he advised of the *Silverbow* being aground. I related to him the information received from the Coast Guard. He instructed me to await further orders.

About: 1030 Captain Shirley called and instructed me to hire a boat and attempt to board the casualty and offer the master our assistance. Arrangements were made immediately for a local fishing boat to transport me to the *Silverbow*.

About: 1310 Departed in the fishing boat *Last Straw* from Stock Island and proceeded to the casualty.

About: 1400 Upon arrival at the scene, a Coast Guard Cutter was standing by and they contacted the master of the casualty to obtain permission from him for me to board and speak with him. There was also a diving team from the Florida Marine Patrol making a diving examination of the reef to determine the damage done to the reef, when the *Silverbow* ran aground.

About: 1420 Boarded the casualty and met with the Master, Jose Ansedé Martinez, who gave me the following information.

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