

LRAD and Vessel Encroachment



GOM Diving Safety Workgroup
4-18-12



LRAD and Vessel Encroachment



- History of incidents involving vessels approaching active dive operations.
- Oilfield, Commercial Fishing and Recreational Vessels
- Previous collision incident due to encroachment during diving operations



PHOTO OF
ENCROACHING VESSEL

LRAD and Vessel Encroachment



- Deterrents tried to date
 - Flags and Lights
 - Radio
 - Flares
- Proactive Measures
 - Notice to mariners
 - Pamphlets handed out at boat launches
 - Coast Guard Auxiliary Training
 - Others
- These control measures were not successful and encroachments continued.



PHOTO OF ENCROACHING VESSEL

LRAD and Vessel Encroachment



- Problem identified was the lack of communication between the DSV and encroaching vessels
- Use of LRAD (Long Range Acoustic Device) was proposed.

LRAD – Long Range Acoustic Device



Broadcast : Warning tone, live and recorded multi-language voice messages.
Success: Used nearly a dozen times.



LRAD and Vessel Encroachment



- LRAD has high credibility through its success working with law enforcement and the military.
- LRAD provides a safe means to communicate multi-language warnings and instructions with any vessel, and deter the vessel from encroaching into diver safety zones.



LRAD and Vessel Encroachment

- During Diving operations, encountered a 75 ft. fishing vessel named the Sang.
- Immediately started radio transmissions directed at the Sang to divert course because we had a diver in the water.
- Dive flags and day shapes were flying.
- The Sang did not reply to radio transmissions.
- When the Sang got ½ mi. inbound the diver was extracted from the water immediately.
- Used the LRAD and the maximum decibels of 160 and shot 2 blue smoke flares to no avail.
- The LRAD MP3 player was switched to a recorded warning of encroachment in Vietnamese that was broadcast at 1/4 mi. from the Sang.
- The Sang stopped immediately, picked up its nets, turned 180° and left the field!

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Email Quote From 5/6/2011 Referring to the Vietnamese message entered in to the LRAD

“The Cal Diver IV entered this recording into the LRAD system. We’ve had a lot of shrimpers coming close today & have used the LRAD a couple of times.”



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Strategic partnership with a key supplier (Morgan City Rentals) ensured their investment in LRAD units would be covered via Chevron dive contractors renting the LRAD units while on CVX projects.



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Questions