



Davis Marine Consulting Associates, LLC

A June 13, 2018 article in the Chicago Law bulletin reported on a project Greg Davis worked on for four years. He was initially hired by Cooney and Conway to provide expert services in determining the cause of the sinking of the boat for the estate of the boat owner. By the end of third year of the engagement he was engaged by all four plaintiffs in this Cook County, IL Civil action..

In May of 2014 four people were aboard the boat en route from Michigan City to Chicago on Lake Michigan when the boat sank at about 9:30 PM. Three of the four people died overnight in the frigid lake water. The sole survivor was discovered by an alert fisherman at about 6:00 AM the following day. The survivor was hospitalized, treated for hypothermia.

The boat was recovered from the lake bottom in September of 2014 and put into

secure storage by Cooney and Conway. The boat was inspected four times in the field with roughly 34 experts and others attending with Greg Davis managing the project. Items of interest were removed, inventoried, and placed into storage for later lab examination.

The cause determination for the sinking was the disintegration of the port outdrive gimbal bearing, photo above, which ruptured the input shaft bellows allowing water to enter the engine compartment sinking the boat. The boat had been repaired due to an Allison prior to this sinking event.

The families of three of the four people on board the boat in May 2014 and the sole survivor settled their lawsuit with the repairer and the boat management company in June, 2018, just prior to the scheduled trial date.

For more detailed information refer to the Chicago Law Bulletin article by Jordyn Reiland dated June 13, 2018.

This project is the subject of a presentation at the ABYC Marine Law Symposium, January 8, 2019, Seattle, WA. Look for more information from ABYC as the symposium date nears or go to www.abycinc.org

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