

M/V Salvage Chief

By Emily Lindblom

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Photos Courtesy of the Salvage Chief Foundation

Name: M/V Salvage Chief

Owner: Salvage Chief, LLC Leased by the Salvage Chief (LSM380) Foundation

Homeport: Astoria, Oregon

Year: Dec. 23, 1944

Length: 202.6 feet

Beam: 34.6 feet

Draft: 6.5 feet

Engine: Twin screws, two 38D8 1/8 10 cylinder opposed piston Fairbanks Morse engines total 3600 horsepower

Cruising speed: 13.3 knots (24.6 kilometers per hour; 15.3 miles per hour)

Fuel capacity: 80,000 gallons

Use: The Salvage Chief is used for training and standby for emergency operations. In 1944, it was originally commissioned as the USS LSM

380 and then was retrofitted to rescue wrecked vessels.

According to the Salvage Chief Foundation, the ship has conducted more than 300 salvage operations and has saved approximately 95% of the ships run aground and shipwrecks on the West Coast since its start. The foundation is currently advocating to secure funding to update the Salvage Chief so it's ready for more training and emergency response.

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TOP LEFT: An advertisement for the Salvage Chief. TOP RIGHT: A painting of the ship. ABOVE: An early rescue by the Salvage Chief.

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