

'Perfect Storm' ship sunk, becomes part of artificial reef



AP Photo/Ed Bailey
U.S. Coast Guard Lt. William Moeller of Northford, Conn., poses for a photo in front of the USS Tamaroa in 2000. Moeller was aboard the Tamaroa during the 1991 rescue of five Air National Guardsmen who ditched their helicopter as they were trying to rescue the crew of a fishing boat during a fierce storm. The storm and the events surrounding it were recalled in the book "The Perfect Storm" which was made into a motion picture.

Associated Press

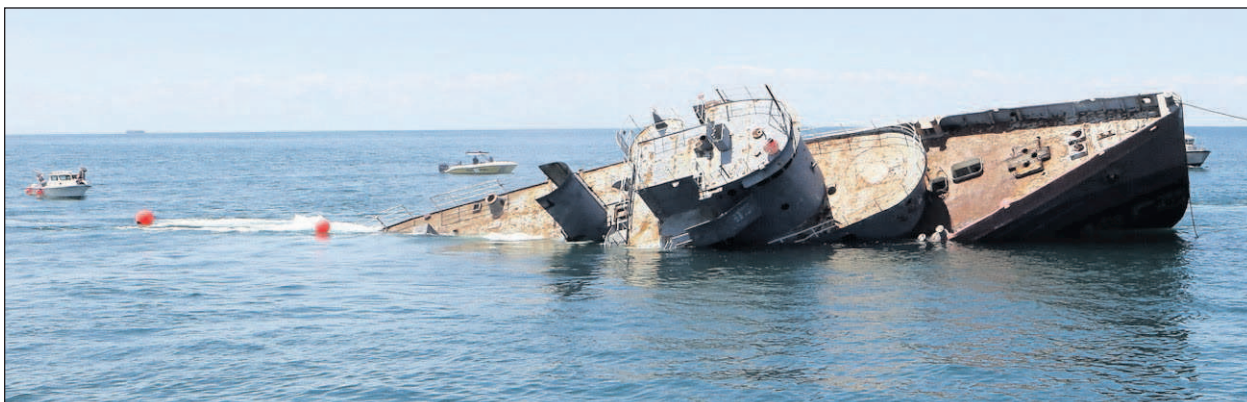
CAPE MAY, N.J. — The ship made famous in the book and subsequent film "The Perfect Storm" has been intentionally sunk off the New Jersey and Delaware coasts so it can become part of an artificial reef.

The sinking of the Tamaroa, a 205-foot Coast Guard vessel, took place Wednesday morning. The sinking initially was scheduled to occur several months ago, but was repeatedly delayed by rough seas and other related issues.

The vessel was sent down about 33 nautical miles off the coast of Cape May, New Jersey. It was deployed in water more than 120 feet (36.5 meters) deep after patches were removed from holes that were pre-cut into its hull, according to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

The pre-cut holes were part of the extensive work that had to be done before the ship could be sunk, including the removal of interior paneling and insulation as well as emptying and cleaning the vessel of all fuel and fluids.

The ship turned on its side as it slowly went down in the calm water, then turned straight up as the bulk of the vessel went under water. It then disappeared from view as a person on board a neighboring vessel thanked the Tamaroa for its long service.



Photos by Dale Gerhard/The Press of Atlantic City
ABOVE: The decommissioned U.S. Coast Guard cutter Tamaroa, was sank 33 nautical miles off the coast of Cape May, Wednesday. BELOW: The decommissioned U.S. Coast Guard cutter Tamaroa, was sank 33 nautical miles off the coast of Cape May, N.J., Wednesday. The 74 year old vessel was featured in the book "The Perfect Storm" being involved in saving seven people in the 1991 nor'easter. The ship will become part of the Del-Jersey-Land Inshore Artificial Reef System.

A tugboat had started hauling the Tamaroa from a Norfolk, Virginia, shipyard on Monday afternoon and it slowly made its way up the Eastern Seaboard on Tuesday without any issues.

The Tamaroa was first commissioned by the U.S. Navy in 1934 under the name Zuni and saw action during World War II when it helped tow damaged vessels across the war-torn Pacific Ocean. It was transferred to the Coast Guard and renamed in 1946, then continued to serve until it eventually was decommissioned in 1994.



The vessel's most notable mission came in October 1991, when three strong storm systems came together

off the New England coast, generating 40-foot waves and wind gusts of more than 70 mph.

The Tamaroa's crew helped save three people aboard a sailboat that was caught in the storm. They also rescued four of five crewmen of an Air National Guard helicopter that ran out of fuel during a similar rescue mission and had to be ditched in the ocean.

Both events were documented in Sebastian Junger's 1997 book, "The Perfect Storm," and a movie of the same name starring George Clooney.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day Tea and Scones in the Flavel House Museum

A Clatsop County Historical Society Event
 Sponsored by Seaside Providence Hospital

Saturday, May 13th
 1-4pm

Flavel House Museum
 441 8th Street
 Astoria

\$12 per person
 \$8 CCHS members

For One
 Who Deserves
 Only Beautiful Things



For all of our Favorite Moms

Mother's Day Dinner Specials

When accompanied by her Family

We are offering Mom's **1/2 off**

on any of these special Mother's Day entrees



Chicken Cordon Bleu
 New York Steak & Prawns
 Rosa Tortellini
 Blue Cheese Cod
 From 2:00 - 9:00 pm

OPEN MONDAYS starting Memorial Day
 503-738-7009 • 2427 S. Roosevelt
 Hwy 101 South • Next to Motel 6

MAKE MOM FEEL SPECIAL
 Celebrate Mother's Day
 this Sunday at

Plaza Jalisco

AUTHENTIC
 MEXICAN CUISINE

Special Mother's
 Day pricing
 for Mother's
 Day Only



Child's
 Plate
 \$1.95

Complimentary
 rose for all moms

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
 DINE IN OR ORDERS TO GO
 FAMILY DAYS Sunday and Monday
 212 8TH AVE., ASTORIA
 503-338-4440



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY to LUM'S Mums!