

Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System
U.S. Coast Guard



Press Release

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AMVER SHIP RESCUES 38 YEAR OLD SAILOR

NEW YORK – The Amver participating natural gas tanker Norman Lady rescued a 38 year old sailor 1,300 miles south of Bermuda after he had been adrift for 10 days with no food or water.

Mr. Francesco Di Benedetto, a French citizen, was attempting a record breaking voyage from the Canary Islands to Guadalupe Island, in the French Indies, aboard the Stella Bella, an 18 foot catamaran, when he lost most of his equipment overboard.

The Coast Guard contacted several Amver vessels, including the Norman Lady, a Norwegian flagged liquid natural gas tanker, which diverted 5 hours from its course to rescue Mr. Benedetto.

According to the Captain of the Norman Lady, William Poppe, Mr. Benedetto's boat was not capsized; rather fatigue caused him to declare an emergency. "He says he had no food or water for almost 10 days, a tough guy but very happy right now". The crew of the Norman Lady also retrieved Mr. Benedetto's catamaran and is transporting it to Brazil where he and the vessel will be dropped off.

The Amver system is a voluntary, worldwide ship reporting system. Prior to sailing, participating ships send a sail plan to the Amver computer center. Vessels then report every 48 hours until arriving at their port of call. This data is able to project the position of each ship at any point during its voyage. In an emergency, any rescue coordination center can request this data to determine the relative position of Amver ships near the distress location. On any given day there are over 3,000 ships available to carry out search and rescue services. Visit <http://www.amver.com> to learn more about this unique worldwide search and rescue system.

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