

## NOAA/NURC Mission to Video-Document USS 0-9

Between 25-27 September, 2004 inclusive, NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration in partnership with the University of Connecticut's National Underwater Research Center, Stratford Maritime Historical Research, and the State of Maryland, will undertake a project of opportunity to visually document the remains of the American submarine USS 0-9 situated about 15 miles east of Isle of Shoals, New Hampshire. This project is possible through the provision of the *R/V Connecticut*, which is available for only for these three days, and the ROV equipment and crew also available as they will still be aboard from the previous cruise to the *Portland* in the Stellwagen Bank marine Sanctuary. NOAA is covering the costs of food and fuel and accommodating eight of the science and ROV personnel.

One September 25, the research vessel will depart from Gloucester, MA, where it will disembark personnel on the 24<sup>th</sup>, at 05:00 or earlier if the captain and crew are amenable. The vessel will reach the area of the site in about 6-9 hours depending upon sea state. The *R/V Connecticut* is equipped with dynamic positioning equipment and its cruising speed is about 10 knots. The ROV equipment will be readied and deployed to do reconnaissance. The ROV uses a 600m armored cable as a tether and is moved at an optimal speed of 3 knots. The first dive will be dedicated to an overview of the site situation, running parallel along the length of both sides of the hull to discern any hazards, such as nets caught on the wreck, to determine if there is a debris field, as well as to gather initial data. Side scan images seem to show netting aft of the conning tower, which unfortunately is also where hull damage seems to be indicated. Based on the information gathered from the longitudinal passes, the ROV will fly a transect across the hull at the point where any damage appears if feasible. Only one dive will be possible on this day due to the initial steam time to the site. The vessel will make port at Newcastle, NH around 19:00.

The second day of the mission will begin at 06:00 and has a much shorter travel time to the site (3-4 hours). Two dives will be attempted one in the morning and one in the afternoon. These will be devoted to systematically recording the entire vessel remains, including using appropriate lighting and zoom lenses to examine and record details of damage, construction or specific to the 0-9. The vessel will again make port at Newcastle around 19:00 hours.

The final day may again only permit one dive as the vessel will need to drop day passengers in Newcastle, then steam to Gloucester to drop remaining personnel and proceed back to UConn, Avery Point. This dive will be devoted to photographing the site with pan and tilt digital cameras with the aim of constructing a mosaic image. This will only be possible if current and visibility permit.

In addition to scientific personnel, Lone Wolf/Liquid Pictures are sending 7 staff to document the proceedings for Deep Sea Detectives (History Channel). While the scientific mission will fully document the site, no images of human remains or images indicative of the presence of human remains (such as the photographs from the *Titanic* site of a pair of shoes lying in a position indicating they were on a now-decomposed corpse), other artifacts, like dishes, would be acceptable. Lone Wolf/Liquid Pictures representatives will be permitted to use only approved images and location would also be kept confidential except in the most general of terms. Copies of all materials will be provided to the Naval Historical Center for its records. The participating scientists will be permitted to publish and to present information about this project, with the aforementioned caveats about location and human remains, at professional and public meetings.