

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 16/10/24

SPRAY

Location

Lonsdale Reef, Port Phillip Heads

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S645

Date lost

17/06/1983

Hull

Double ended crayfish boat

Propulsion

Motor

Engine specification

2 cylinder Hercules

Length/Breadth/Depth

32.00 Feet / /

Builder

Olsen Bros.

Built port

Port Fairy, Victoria

Built country

Australia

Date lost

17/06/1983

Departure

8 hr fishing trip, outside Heads

Cargo

Possibly shark

Owner

Elvis Mirmiranos

Master

John Webb

Cause of loss

Lost on Lonsdale reef at Port Phillip Heads.

Number of crew

3

Crew comments

John Webb, his son David, Elvis Mirmiranos

VHR history

Newly-rigged shark-boat on maiden voyage, ran aground on Reef about 2.20 am. Webb mistook Point Lonsdale light for Queenscliff lighthouse. Had never been through Rip before without radar. As the boat began to settle and break up, the crew were washed overboard. They were picked up about 600 metres off shore by Volunteer Coastguard after 2 freezing hours in water. As well as wearing lifejackets, Webb and his son clung to a lifebuoy. The Hercules engine is believed to have come from a lifeboat of the RMS Australia , wrecked on Outer Corsair Rock, 1904. The Spray was one of the first fishing boats to have an engine. Former owners: Johnson Bros., Queenscliff (c.1931).