

## Overboard Fisherman Identified

Wednesday, 07 January 2009

Erik Wander/KMXT

The Coast Guard suspended its search Wednesday at 11:49 a.m. for Keith Criner, 43, a resident of Stockton, California., after he became tangled in a crab pot line and fell from the 109-foot fishing vessel Seabrooke approximately 22 miles northwest of Cold Bay at 9:50 a.m. Tuesday.

An MH-60 Jayhawk returned to the 107-square mile search area at 10:15 a.m. today (Wednesday) and covered approximately 25 square miles of ocean, after search and rescue crews failed to locate the fisherman Tuesday.

Petty Officer Lee Goldsmith said Suspending a search is one of the most difficult decisions the Coast Guard has to make

Criner fell overboard when his foot got tangled in a line while he was setting crab pots. The Seabrooke was fishing for tanner crabs at the time.

Coast Guard Petty Officer Walter Shinn in Juneau said the man's next of kin were notified yesterday afternoon.

The Coast Guard reported Tuesday that the 43-year-old man was not wearing any sort of flotation device and is presumed dead. This is the first Bering Sea crab fishing fatality since 2005.

The Seabrooke is owned by Seabrooke Enterprises of Freewater, Oregon, but homeported in Kodiak.