



Her crew was successfully rescued when the Chevelle ran aground in Yaquina Bay, but the crabber later sank.

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eventually recovered) but discovered a line caught in the boat's propeller.

Buyers in Port Orford say out-of-town live-fish buyers often pressure fishermen to go out, despite inclement weather or bar conditions that are not as safe as

crewmans Jason Bjarnson, 38, both of Warrenton, Ore.; crewman Luke Jensen, 22, of Ilwaco, Wash.; and observer Chris Langel, 25, of Kaukauna, Wisc., were all presumed lost at sea when the Coast Guard called off the search after almost 24 hours and 640 square miles. All that was found was an empty inflated life raft and miscellaneous flotsam.

At about 5 p.m. that same day, the crabber Chevelle ran aground on the north jetty of Yaquina Bay at Newport, Ore. All four crewmen were rescued but the vessel later sank in the bay when bad weather set in. — Susan Chambers

launched their 21-foot Boston Whaler from the Rogue River at Gold Beach, about 30 miles south of Port Orford, on March 9. At around 5 p.m., witnesses saw the boat flip near the mouth of the river. Rescue divers couldn't find either man (though Machado's body was

in other ports.

Later, about 3:30 a.m. Saturday, the trawler Lady Cecelia's EPIRB activated west of Willapa Bay, Wash. The U.S. Coast Guard initiated a search for survivors.

Skipper Dave Nichols, 42, and

SNAPSHOT

Who we are

Stephanie Mutz
Santa Barbara, Calif.

**Sea Urchin, whelks, trap spot
prawn and rock crab**

FRAN COLLIN



Stephanie Mutz, President of Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara, is a sea urchin and whelk diver who is leading efforts to develop community-supported fisheries and other direct-marketing arrangements in this enviably picturesque and upscale beach town. By training, though, she is a marine biologist – hence her ability to collaborate with university types on fisheries-related research.

Raised in endless summer of Southern California, she earned a bachelor's degree in marine biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a master's degree in tropical marine biology from James Cook University in Australia. Circumstances – random but fortuitous, got Mutz, 33, hooked on fishing.

"My thesis committee was taking a long time reviewing my research," she explains. In the interim, she took a job as a deckhand on a sea urchin boat out of Santa Barbara – and loved it.

Instead of becoming a full-time teacher, her original career objective, she decided to fish, and teach on the side.

"I make more money," says Mutz, a biology adjunct professor at Ventura Community College. "I am outside and I have more flexibility...it is kinda sick, but I even enjoy the politics. I like wearing fins one day and heels the next, and giving these guys in suits a reality check on what the industry is really like.

"You hear people say, 'Fisheries are in decline,'" she adds. "But what fisheries are in decline in California? Name one."

—Christina Johnson



Gulf/ South Atlantic

"We lost our season. North Carolina dealers are getting pretty mad about it."

— Matt Frost, Homer Smith Seafood, Beaufort, N.C.

Oregon Inlet shoaling sends N.C. fluke north

Boats forced to unload in Virginia

The navigation channel under the Herbert C. Bonner Bridge between Hatteras and Bodie islands on North Carolina's Outer Banks has been troublesome ever since the bridge opened in 1963. But conditions during the fall 2011 to spring 2012 summer flounder season were probably the worst ever thanks to severe and persistent shoaling that blocked the channel to all but the smallest vessels.

"Ninety percent of the boats unloaded in Virginia," says Billy Tillet, co-owner of Moon Tillet Fish Co. in Wanchese on Roanoke Island. "All of our fall quota was landed in Virginia."

Once vessels began going to Virginia, even dealers elsewhere on the North Carolina coast were affected.

"We had one trip since the beginning of the year," says Matt Frost, manager at Homer Smith Seafood in Beaufort, much farther south near Cape Lookout.

"We lost our season," Frost said in