

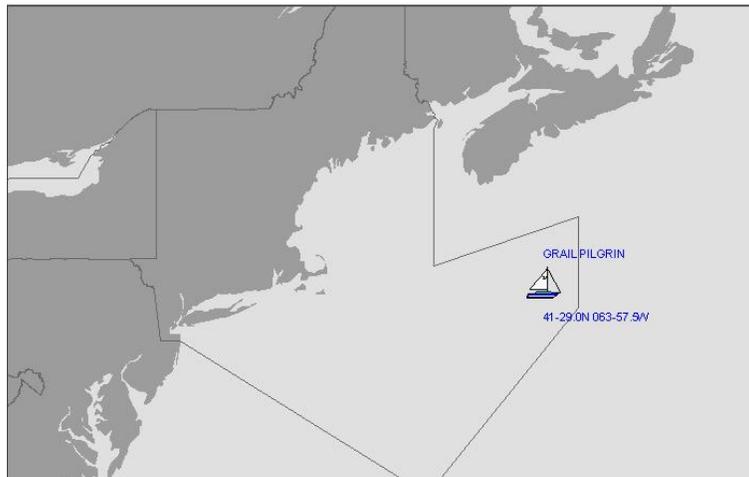


# Press Release

Date: December 20 – 22, 2007  
Contact: Petty Officer Lauren Downs or  
Petty Officer Connie Terrell  
(617) 223-8515

## Coast Guard assists sailor caught in rough weather

December 20, 2007



Graphic shows sailing vessel *Grail Pilgrim*'s current position and the U.S. Coast Guard First District area-of-responsibility boundary line.

**BOSTON** – As offshore weather continues to deteriorate, a Coast Guard cutter is en route to remove a sailor from his disabled vessel, which is drifting through 12-foot seas about 270 miles east of Chatham, Mass., today.

Jean Raymon Collin departed Halifax, Canada in the 29-foot sailing vessel *Grail Pilgrim* bound for Bermuda, but experienced an engine failure early this morning. He contacted Joint Rescue Coordination Center Halifax to request assistance. The JRCC notified the U.S. Coast Guard First District Command Center staff at 1:45 a.m., today, who instructed the Coast Guard Cutter *Tahoma* to assist Collin.

The *Tahoma*, homeported in Kittery, Maine, is currently traveling at 12 knots and is expected to arrive on scene with the *Grail Pilgrim* about 9 p.m., today at the cutter's present speed. The Coast Guard crew temporarily aboard the *Tahoma* is from the Coast Guard Cutter *Seneca*, which is currently undergoing routine maintenance.

The Coast Guard Command Center staff is working with the JRCC staff to maintain communications with the French-speaking sailor until the cutter arrives on scene.

"Fortunately we have an excellent working relationship with our Canadian partners," said Lt. j.g. Andrew Madjeska, a search and rescue coordinator at the Coast Guard First District Command Center. "With a mariner in distress so very far offshore, our coordination is extremely important."

Air Station Cape Cod, Mass., is on standby to assist if needed.

December 21, 2007



**ATLANTIC OCEAN** – The 29-foot sailing vessel *Grail Pilgrim* is disabled and adrift in 15-foot seas with one person aboard roughly 270 miles east of Cape Cod, Mass., Friday, Dec. 21, 2007. The Coast Guard Cutter *Tahoma* has visual and radio contact with the sailor and is waiting for the seas to subside before removing him from his vessel. (USCG PHOTO)

**ATLANTIC OCEAN** – A Coast Guard vessel has arrived on scene today to rescue a lone sailor aboard a 29-foot vessel disabled roughly 270 miles east of Cape Cod, Mass.

The 270-foot Coast Guard Cutter *Tahoma* made visual and radio contact with Jean Raymon Collin, aboard the sailing vessel *Grail Pilgrim*, about 8:15 a.m., today after transiting more than 100 miles through 15-foot seas at a speed of about 6 knots.

The *Tahoma* crew is currently evaluating the situation to determine the safest way to remove Collin from the *Grail Pilgrim* and bring him to shore.

"The on scene conditions are quite rough right now," said Commander William Kelly, *Tahoma's* commanding officer. "Safety is our main objective in rescuing this mariner."

Collin departed Halifax, Canada in the *Grail Pilgrim* bound for Bermuda, but experienced an engine failure early Thursday morning. He contacted Joint Rescue Coordination Center Halifax and requested to be taken off the vessel. The JRCC notified the U.S. Coast Guard First District Command Center staff at 1:45 a.m., Thursday, who directed the Coast Guard Cutter *Tahoma* to assist.

December 22, 2007



**ATLANTIC OCEAN** – Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Chris Engstrom (left) and Petty Officer 1st Class Dominic Heggarty, both Coast Guard Cutter *Seneca* crewmembers sailing on Coast Guard Cutter *Tahoma*, put a blanket around Jean Raymon Collin after the *Tahoma* rescued him from his disabled sailing vessel Dec. 22, 2007. (USCG PHOTO)

**ATLANTIC OCEAN** – A Coast Guard vessel rescued a lone sailor aboard a 29-foot vessel disabled roughly 350 miles southeast of Boston this morning.

The 270-foot Coast Guard Cutter *Tahoma*, homeported in Kittery, Maine, made visual and radio contact with Jean Raymon Collin, aboard the sailing vessel *Grail Pilgrim*, about 8:15 a.m., Friday, after transiting more than 100 miles through 15-foot seas at a speed of about 6 knots. The *Tahoma* crew made several attempts to rescue Collin Friday, but the weather was too rough for the crew to launch a small boat. The cutter remained on scene throughout the night and positioned itself to block the strong winds from the disabled vessel.

The *Tahoma* launched their small boat and was able to get Collin off the disabled vessel this morning. He was aboard the *Tahoma* at approximately 7 a.m.

The *Tahoma* crew is currently on their way to Boston with Collin onboard. They expect to arrive in port at approximately 10 a.m., Sunday.

"It was great to get Mr. Collin off the disabled vessel safely, my crew did a fantastic job" said Commander William Kelly, the commanding officer of the *Tahoma*. "Mr. Collin is very happy and relieved to be off the boat and on his way back to his family and loved ones in time for the holidays."



**ATLANTIC OCEAN** – Commander William Kelly, the commanding officer of the Coast Guard Cutter *Tahoma*, talks with Jean Raymon Collin, after the *Tahoma* crew rescued him from his sailing vessel Dec. 22, 2007. (USCG PHOTO)

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