

ARRILUZE - YEAR 2003

- 1-01-03** We begin the year searching our area for traces of oil spills from the Prestige, the tanker sank in the coast of Galicia.
- 2-01-03** We continue with the search for oil spills from Ontón to Cape Villano.

Early in the morning, our divers recover the body of a man on the surroundings of La Bola beach. Apparently he had fallen into the rocks somewhere near our rescue station.
- 3-1-03** We carry on with our oil spill search.

Later we tow a motorboat from about 6 miles North to Punta Lucero to the marina of Club Marítimo del Abra.
- 4-01-03** We locate different fuel spots during our routine oil spill search and we alert the authorities.
- 5-01-03** More fuel spots are found by our crews during the daily search.
- 6-01-03** We search our area once more looking for oil spills from the Prestige.
- 7-01-03** We tow a sail ship from the outer Abra to the Marina of Getxo.
- 8-01-03** The search for oil spill traces carries on.
- 9-01-03** We keep on with the usual search for oil from the Prestige.
- 10-01-03** We search our area once more looking for oil spills.
- 11-01-03** Again, we carry on with our oil spill search.
- 14-01-03** Assistance is given in the Inner Abra to an injured seal.

After helping the seal, we search our area for oil spills.
- 15-01-03** We search again, looking for fuel from the Prestige.
- 16-01-03** We tow a small fishing boat from Cape Villano to the port of Zierbena.
- 17-01-03** The search for oil spill traces carries on.
- 18-01-03** We search again, looking for fuel from the Prestige.
- 19-01-03** We search our area once more looking for oil spills.
- 20-01-03** We search our area once more looking for oil spills from the Prestige.

- 21-01-03** Again, we carry on with our oil spill search.
- 22-01-03** The search for oil spill traces carries on.
- 23-01-03** We search again, looking for fuel from the Prestige.
- 24-01-03** We search our area once more looking for oil spills.
- 27-01-03** We search our area once more looking for oil spills from the Prestige.
- 28-01-03** Again, we carry on with our oil spill search.
- 29-01-03** Once more, we look for fuel coming from the sunken Prestige.
- 30-01-03** We carry on with the usual searches for fuel.
- A moored fishing boat broke her ties and went against the rocks at the dock of Las Arenas. We come out to the rescue but as there is no crew on board, we leave the boat where she is after securing her in place, awaiting for the weather to calm so we can proceed to rescue her without unnecessary risks for our ship and crew.
- 1-02-03** We rescue the fishing boat we left secured to the dock of Las Arenas last night and we tow her to our station in Arriluze.
- 2-02-03** The search for oil spill traces from the Prestige carries on.
- 3-02-03** We tow away a floating object endangering the navigation of ships.
- 4-02-03** We keep on with the search for fuel.
- 5-02-03** We search our area once more looking for oil spills from the Prestige.
- 6-02-03** Again, we carry on with our oil spill search.
- 3-02-04** We tow away a floating object endangering the navigation of ships.
- 7-02-03** We carry on with the usual searches for fuel.
- 8-02-03** Once more, we look for fuel coming from the sunken Prestige.
- 9-02-03** We keep on with the search for fuel.
- 10-02-03** We carry on with the usual searches for fuel.
- We tow away a huge canopy which was drifting away endangering the navigation of ships.

- 11-02-03** Once more, we look for fuel coming from the sunken Prestige.
We rescue a dog who had fallen from the dock of Txurruka, in Areeta.
- 12-02-03** We carry on with the usual searches for fuel.
- 13-02-03** We assist a broken down yacht with problems on her engines and tow her back to the Club Marítimo del Abra, from 1 mile North of Azkorri Beach.
- 14-02-03** We search our area looking for oil spills from the Prestige.
- 15-02-03** A number of floating objects endangering the navigation of ships is towed away.

The usual search for fuel goes on during the day.

In the afternoon, we give coverage to a rowing competition in the quais of La Benedicta.
- 16-02-03** The search for fuel is carried on.
- 17-02-03** We search our area looking for oil spills.
- 18-02-03** We keep on with the search for fuel.
- 19-02-03** We carry on with the usual searches for fuel.
- 20-02-03** Different objects endangering the navigation of ships are towed away.
- 22-02-03** The Underwater Rescue Team performs some activities for rescue training in Arminza.

After that, we set sail again in search of fuel.
- 24-02-03** The dead body of a man is recovered at the first dock of Arrigunaga Beach.
- 26-02-03** We search for oil spills.
- 27-02-03** We keep searching for oil spills from the Prestige.
- 2-03-03** Again, we search for fuel spills.
- 3-03-03** We tow away different objects endangering the navigation of ships.
- 8-03-03** Coverage for a rowing competition in the quay of La Benedicta.

After that, we search for oil spills from the sunken tanker Prestige.

- 10-03-03** We carry on with the usual searches for fuel.
- 15-03-03** We respond to a call indicating that a polluting spill has been spotted near the bridge of Rontegi. We respond and dissipate it.
- Duing the preventive coverage of a rowing competition in Sestao we evacuate a rower who had passed out.
- This day we also offer preventive coverage to a kayak competition in the river of Plentzia.
- In the afternoon our crews train with the lifeboats manoeuvring around the riffs.
- 16-03-03** We tow a motorboat with an engine failure, from Somorrostro to the port of Las Arenas.
- 17-03-03** Our lifeboats rescue a rower whos kayak was drifting away and could not come back on his own because of the strong wind gusts.
- 19-03-03** A small fishing boat with two persons on board is towed back to the fishing port of Santurtzi from the surroundings of Zierbena.
- 21-03-03** We assist a yatch drifting away close to the new dock of Zierbena and we tow it back to the Club Marítimo del Abra.
- 22-03-03** One of our lifeboats offers preventive coverage to a rowing competition in the quay of La Benedicta.
- 23-03-03** We give preventive coverage to another rowing competition in the dock of Txurruka.
- 24-03-03** We search the surroundings of La Arena Beach looking for oil spills.
- 27-03-03** Crew training manoeuvres.
- 28-03-03** Preventive coverage is given to a rowing competition in Sestao.
- 30-03-03** A motor boat is towed from the dock of Txurruka to the port of Arriluze.
- We also give preventive coverage to a rowing competition in Sestao.
- 3-04-03** Crew training manoeuvres in Cabo Villano.
- 5-04-03** A motor boat with problems is towed from 2 miles to the North of El Cajón of Bilbao's outer port to the Marina Getxo.
- 6-04-03** Crew training manoeuvres in Onton.

- 11-04-03** Preventive coverage is given to a rowing competition of the Maritime in Sopelana.
- 12-04-03** We give preventive coverage to a sailing competition in the Inner Abra.
We also give preventive coverage to another rowing competition in the quay of La Benedicta, in Sestao.
- 13-04-03** Preventive coverage is given to the rowing competition “Deusto-Ingenieros”.
Then, we also give coverage to another rowing competition in the quay of La Benedicta.
- 14-04-03** A small boat found drifting under the Transporting Bridge is towed away.
- 15-04-03** We rescue two injured sailors from a merchant ship and we give them medical assistance during the evacuation to the Marina at Getxo.
After that, we tow away an object endangering the navigation of ships from the surroundings of the fishing port of Zierbena.
We also give coverage to a swimming competition in Arrigunaga Beach.
- 22-04-03** We assist a sail ship in trouble close to the new dock of Zierbena.
- 24-04-03** An object endangering the navigation of ships is found floating in the River of Bilbao and towed away.
- 3-05-03** We respond to the call to rescue a man who fell into the sea early in the morning in the Fishing Port of Santurtzi.
During the day, we assist and tow a ship with five persons on board drifting away close to Arrigunaga Beach.
- 7-05-03** We rescue a fisherman from waters of the Fishing Port of Santurtzi with symptoms of hypothermia.
Later on, we tow away an object endangering the navigation of ships.
- 8-05-03** We rescue a woman who had fallen into the sea at the Old Fishing Port of Algorta. She is severely hypothermic and close to drowning.
- 9-05-03** The dead body of a person who fell down with his car from the top of the cliffs of La Galea is recovered.
- 10-05-03** We tow away an object endangering the navigation of ships before giving

preventive coverage to the swimming race “Getxo-Castro”.

- 11-05-03** Preventive coverage to a rowing competition in Zierbena, and another one later on in Plentzia.
- 13-05-03** Called out for two rowers who capsized with their double-skull in The Mojijonera of Las Arenas. After rescuing both of them with symptoms of Hypothermia we take them back to their rowing club.
- 18-05-03** A person calls claiming there is a big spill of pollution around Cobaron. We search together with the Basque Police helicopter until we confirm that the spill happens to be a concentration of algae.
- 27-05-03** We scramble for a boat in a dangerous situation in Cape Villano. We assist and tow her back to port with one of our lifeboats.
- 7-06-03** We tow back to the Port of Plentzia a boat having problems in Meñakoz.
- 8-06-03** The Underwater Rescue Team performs training manoeuvres.
After this, crew training activities are performed too.
- 11-06-03** We tow to the Marina in Getxo a boat that was drifting away from the entrance to the port of Zierbena.
- 13-06-03** A call is received about a possible oil spill in front of Arrigunaga Beach. The news turn to be a hoax.
- 24-06-03** A motor boat in trouble is towed to the Marina Getxo from the Transporting Bridge.
- 25-06-03** We search from Cobarón to Villano looking for oil spills the Prestige.
- 26-06-03** We scramble to help a drowning person at the River of Bilbao, close to the regular passenger boat boarding place of Sestao. Our fast response is nevertheless in vane, and we rescue the person already dead.
- 28-06-03** We search for fuel of the Prestige, the tanker sunk in Galicia last winter.
After that we assist a boat in trouble at La Arena Beach. As this boat is based in Castro, we tow it up to the limits of our area of coverage, where we hand the tow to our colleagues of the Sea Red Cross of Castro, so we can get back to our area, ready for any other possible emergency.
- 29-06-03** As usual, we search up to Cape Villano looking for oil spills.
- 30-06-03** We search once more for oil spills in Cabo Villano.

- 1-07-03** Preventive coverage is given to the maritime procession of the Lady of La Guía, in Portugalete.
- During the procession, we tow back to the Marina in Getxo one of the participating boats, who had runned aground in the Mojijonera.
- 5-07-03** Training exercises with the crews.
- 6-07-03** We offer preventive coverage to a rowing competition in Plentzia.
- 9-07-03** We rescue a swimmer who was in serious trouble at La Arena Beach. We take her to the Fishing Port of Zierbena and an ambulance evacuates her to the hospital.
- That same afternoon we also rescue a woman who had fallen from the top of the cliffs in Arrigunaga. Fortunately she has survived and when we are administering her the first medical attentions we are called again to help a fisherman at risk in Azkorri. While our first crew finalises the evacuation of the injured woman we send our Jetski to the new incident.
- Our Jetski locates the fisherman, who is isolated between Azkorri and Salvaje Beaches, and rescues him.
- 12-07-03** We give preventive coverage to a rowing competition in Santurtzi.
- 13-07-03** We rescue a woman in th Port of Santurtzi and she is evacuated in an ambulance to the hospital.
- Later on we give preventive coverage to a competition of Kayak in Plentzia and we tow away an object endangering the navigation of ships close to Peña Piloto.
- In the afternoon we offer our preventive coverage to a rowing competition in Plentzia, were due to the hard conditions of the sea, a rower suffers a serious trauma in his back. We give him the first attentions and immovilise him with a back-board and an extrication collar and we take him in our lifeboat to the Dock of Astondo, where one of our ambulances awaits to evacuate him to the hospital.
- That same night we rescue two young men who were marooned on the floating platform in front of Gorniz Beach. Again, we evacuate them to the Dock of Astondo.
- 14-07-03** A net, 200 meters in length, drifting in front of the Dock of Santurtzi and endangering the navigation is recovered.
- 16-07-03** A dog who had fallen to the sea in the Dock of Txurruka is recued and handed to his owner.

- 16-07-03** We rescue a sail-ship ran aground in the Mojijonera of Las Arenas with her crew onboard. The ship is towed back to the Marina in Getxo.
- We offer preventive coverage to the maritime procession of the Lady of Carmen in Santurtzi, and after that to its equivalent in Plentzia.
- Later on, we recover a dead body in Meñakoz Beach.
- 19-07-03** We tow from Cape Villano to the Port of Plentzia a boat in trouble.
- 26-07-03** Crew training exercises in the Bay of Plentzia.
- 27-07-03** We receive a call about a boat with problems in the engine and drifting close to Zierbena. We scramble with one of the lifeboats but at our arrival the crew had already managed to solve the mechanical problems.
- Later on we recover a dead dolphin in the beach at Gorniz.
- 28-07-03** Preventive coverage to the sailing championship of Club Marítimo del Abra.
- After the preventive service we search for a swimmer who has disappeared in Ereaga Beach. He is finally found sound and safe in land.
- Later on we tow a ship drifting in the Inner Abra and we take her to the Club Marítimo del Abra.
- 30-07-03** We offer coverage to a junior sailing competition from the Club Marítimo del Abra.
- 31-07-03** Preventive coverage is given to a rowing competition in the Outer Abra, in front of the Dock of Algorta.
- Later on we rescue an injured person from his boat.
- 1-08-03** We offer preventive coverage to a sailing championship in the Outer Abra.
- 2-08-03** We carry on with the coverage of the same sailing championship in the Outer Abra. We also recover an object dangerous for the navigation.
- 3-08-03** We cover the same sailing championship in the Outer Abra for its last day.
- 4-08-03** A boat drifting close to the Dock of Algorta is towed to port.
- Later on we come out again to rescue another boat in trouble close to the tower of the Sea Rescue Coordination Center.

- 7-08-03** We give coverage to a rowing competition in the Outer Abra.
- 9-08-03** Preventive coverage is given to the aquatic activities of the festivals in the Old Fishing Port of Algorta. Cucaña for children and adults and jump and diving championships.
- In the afternoon we tow to the Marina in Getxo a motorboat in trouble at Sopelana.
- 13-08-03** Training exercises for Lifeguards and crew members.
- We tow a broken down Jetski from the Outer Abra to the Marina in Getxo.
- Later on we recover a dangerous objet that could put the navigation in danger.
- 16-08-03** A pneumatic boat with engine problems and 3 crewmembers on board is towed back from the Old Fishing Port of Algorta to the Marina in Getxo.
- We tow back to the Marina in Getxo another boat in trouble close to the Mojijonera, with two persons on board.
- 17-08-03** A boat drifting around the Bridge of La Salve is towed to the Marina in Getxo.
- 25-08-03** We tow a boat with engine problems from the Dock of La Galea to the Marina in Getxo.
- 27-08-03** We go to the rescue of a sail-ship drifting with Mechanical problems close to Azkorri and we tow it back to the Club Marítimo del Abra.
- 28-08-03** Preventive coverage to the rowing competition “Bandera de Erandio”.
- 30-08-03** Coverage is given to the aquatic activities of the festivals in Erandio. Cucaña for children and adults.
- 31-08-03** We recover an object dangerous for the navigation.
- Preventive coverage is given to a rowing competition in Erandio.
- 1-09-03** We rescue a sailor from waters of the Comercial Port of Santurtzi and we take him to the medical services of the port.
- 2-09-03** We respond to the SOS call of a small fishing boat sinking in Punta Lucero. The only person on board is picked up by another small fishing boat in the surroundings as his own ship goes down.
- 6-09-03** Preventive coverage is given to the swimming championship at Ereaga

Beach, where we rescue an exhausted very young swimmer.

At the same time we also offer coverage to the aquatic activities of the festivals in Portugalete. Cucaña for adults.

10-09-03 We tow back to the Club Marítimo del Abra a boat with engine problems from the 2nd buoy of La Galea.

13-09-03 The Underwater Rescue Team exercises on underwater navigation in the Comercial Port of Petronor.

Later on we offer coverage to a rowing competition in Erandio.

14-09-03 We tow a sail-ship with problems from the Cajón of the Superport to the Marina in Getxo.

After that we tow another ship with engine failure from the root of Punta Lucero to the Port of Zierbena.

16-09-03 We rescue a swimmer in trouble at La Arena Beach and we take him to the sand.

Then we respond to the call from a ship out of control in La Galea. The ship had caught a big rope with her propeller, so one of our divers sets her free. We take the rope back to port to avoid other similar accidents.

19-09-03 We tow a boat in trouble from Meñakoz to the Club Marítimo del Abra.

Later on we tow away an object which was endangering the navigating traffic.

20-09-03 Preventive coverage is given to a fishing competition for children in the Port of Las Arenas.

The Underwater Rescue Team carries on exercises to train on underwater rescue and recovery in La Galea.

21-09-03 We rescue the only person on a ship in trouble in the Inner Abra. Once in our lifeboat, we take him back to Port.

After that we tow away an object which was endangering the navigating traffic.

Then we give coverage to a rowing competition in the River of Bilbao.

22-09-03 We respond to a call informing that there is a sail-ship in trouble between La Arena Beach and Onton, but at our arrival we see nothing abnormal. The call happens to be a hoax.

- 25-09-03** We tow away an object which was endangering the navigating traffic.
- Later on we scramble to the encounter with a fishing boat bringing an ill crew member. After providing him with the first assistances on his own ship we evacuate him to the Fishing Port of Santurtzi, where an ambulance is waiting to take him to the hospital.
- 26-09-03** A call is received about a boat drifting in the River of Bilbao, close to Zorroza. We secure her in place.
- After that we are told there is an oil spill in the Outer Abra. Two of our lifeboats work on the spot until the spill is dispersed.
- 27-09-03** We tow a motor boat in trouble from the Outer Abra to the Club Marítimo del Abra.
- 28-09-03** Preventive coverage is given to a rowing competition in the River of Bilbao, and another sailing race in the Inner Abra.
- After that we tow away an object which was endangering the navigating traffic.
- At night exercises are carried out in order to train the crews without light, during which various dangerous objects are towed away.
- 4-10-03** Coverage is offered to the fishing championship of Zierbena.
- 5-10-03** We scramble to assist an injured diver on the rocks of the Port of Petronor. Luckily the Pilot's boat passed by at that precise moment and rescued him from the heavy waters. We give him the first medical attentions on that boat, immobilising him on the backboard with a splint for his broken ankle before transferring him to our lifeboat. We take him back to our station where an ambulance is already waiting to evacuate him to the hospital.
- 11-10-03** Preventive coverage to a lifeguard course.
- 14-10-03** Early in the morning a call is received from the Sea Reascue Coordination Center about two flares that have been launched close to Castro Urdiales. We approach the indicated position, but the Coordination Center calls us back after confirmation of the falseness of the call.
- During the day we rescue a man who had fallen to the waters around the Bridge of Rontegi. We take him to the shore.
- 18-10-03** Small fishing boat is towed from the Outer Abra to the Port of Las Arenas.
- 19-10-03** Coverage to a Lifeguard course.
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Later on we perform exercises for navigational training.

- 25-10-03** Preventive coverage is offered to a Jetski championship in Ereaga Beach.
- 26-10-03** Coverage is given to a lifeguard course.
- 2-11-03** Crew training exercises between Onton and Cape Villano.
- 5-11-03** We tow away various objects endangering the sea traffic.
- 8-11-03** We rescue from the river, in front of Portugalete, a drunk an hypothermic man.
- Rescuers training exercises in Cape Villano.
- 14-11-03** Crew training exercises in the Outer Abra.
- 15-11-03** Crew training exercises in the Outer Abra.
- We tow back to the Club Marítimo del Abra a sail-ship with problems at 6 miles North of El Cajón.
- Later on we give preventive coverage to a sailing competition in the Inner Abra.
- 16-11-03** Crew training exercises in the Outer Abra and Punta Lucero.
- 22-11-03** We tow away an object endangering the sea traffic.
- 23-11-03** We tow a motor boat from Derivados del Fluor to the Marina in Getxo.
- We scramble to the dock of Arriluze, close by our station, where a car has fallen into the water. We send our divers, who enter the car and find it empty. Apparently it was a stolen car.
- 29-11-03** A caller explains there is a person marooned at the base of the cliffs of Cabo Villano. We proceed to the given position together with the firefighters and the Mountain Rescue team of the Red Cross. Finally the person is rescued from land by these two teams.
- 30-11-03** Coverage is given to a lifeguard course.
- Later on crew training exercises are performed in La Galea.
- 3-12-03** We assist a fishing boat which is experiencing problems at 3 miles North of Azkorri Beach.
- 6-12-03** Preventive coverage is offered during the popular sailing of Sailor's Day in the Maritime Museum of Bilbao.
- 13-12-03** We tow away an object endangering the sea traffic.

- 14-12-03** The Underwater Rescue Team performs training exercises in Zierbena.
- 16-12-03** The dead body of a woman is recovered close to the tower of La Galea.
- 18-12-03** We rescue the dead body of a man who had fallen from the cliff of La Galea together with his weelchair.
- 20-12-03** We tow away an object endangering the sea traffic.
- 26-12-03** The Underwater Rescue Team performs underwater navigation and underwater search training exercises in the Port of Petronor.
- 27-12-03** Early in the morning we get a call about a person who is trying to commit suicide and has just jumped from the old lighthouse of Portugalete. We scramble to this place only to find that the person did not finally jump and is being enquired by the Basque Police.
- In the morning we rescue a dog 150 meters away from the tip of the Dock of Algorta.
- During the day we perform training exercises for our crews in Cape Villano.
- 28-12-03** We perform training exercises for our crews in Onton.