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Mobile District

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Survey Vessel Art Thomas sinks

Mobile, Ala. – Shortly after lunch today, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Hydrographic Survey Vessel Art Thomas sank in the Mobile River near Bender Shipyard.

The boat struck the remnants of a submerged bulkhead while doing routine bank-to-bank survey work related to Mobile River dredging operations. The vessel began taking on water as it made a survey sweep across the river. The captain was able to get SV Art Thomas to the west bank of the river before it overturned causing the crew of three to abandon ship and walk to shore.

Plans are underway to recover the 32-foot aluminum vessel, and Resolve Marine expects to recover the SV Art Thomas.

There were no injuries to the crew, and the vessel poses no danger to other marine traffic.

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