DEATH ON THE HIGH SEAS



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This wave measures approximately 90 feet. It would be difficult for a 72-foot vessel to negotiate such a wave were it to develop during a storm. Image online, courtesy NOAA.

The weather data from the buoy nearest Billy and his crew (#44139) was inconsequential on October 28 - until about 2:00 p.m. when the seas changed from calm to 12 feet. The wind was gusting to 15 knots.

Conditions improved - temporarily - until later in the afternoon when the wind changed directions. By 6:15 p.m., the *Andrea Gail* was in the middle of "The Perfect Storm." Billy radioed the fleet:

> *She's comin' on boys, and she's comin' on strong.*

That was the last message anyone had from the *Andrea Gail*.

No one knows for sure what happened to the ship and her crew, although Billy gave Linda Greenlaw his last coordinates: 44 north, 56.4 west. Plotting that location on the graph of the storm places the *Andrea Gail* where no 72-foot boat would ever want to be.

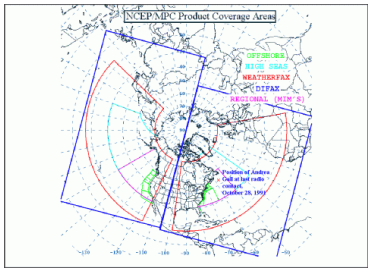
At least one Canadian weather buoy reported waves of 30.5 meters (99.735 feet). It could be that tremendous seas overwhelmed the *Andrea Gail*. Some folks think she was lost on the Shoals off Sable Island.

She disappeared without a trace, except for some debris found floating on the surface.

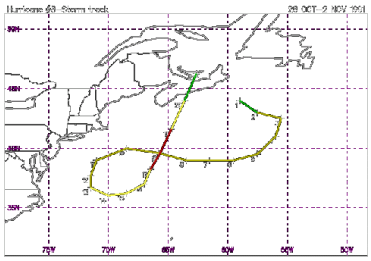
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:
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See Learning Tasks for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/DEATH-ON-THE-HIGH-SEAS-Perfect-Storm-The

Media Stream



Position of the Andrea Gail at the Last Message
Image online, courtesy U.S. Coast Guard.
PD
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Storm Track Graph - Heading for the Andrea Gail

Image online, courtesy NOAA.

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A Long-Liner in High Seas

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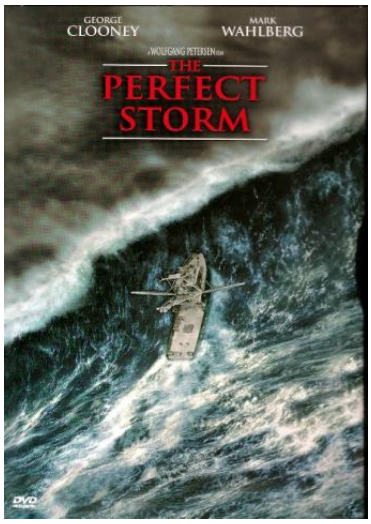
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