



# Bonner County Sheriff's Office

## MEDIA RELEASE



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### Missing Man Found

July 30, 2015

Bonner County Sheriff's Office entered its third week continuing to search for a missing man involved in a boating accident in the Hope area of Lake Pend Oreille. Jeremy Heckert, 38, of Sandpoint, reportedly jumped overboard from a fishing boat and disappeared on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Extensive searches were conducted to locate Jeremy Heckert's body, utilizing side-scan sonar and personal watercraft shoreline checks, in addition to deploying the Sheriff's Office dive team. Kootenai County also conducted an extensive two-day search with their towable sonar in the target area. Additionally, the services of shoreline and water cadaver dogs from Montana and Washington provided valuable new clues on Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>.

On July 29<sup>th</sup> a new sonar team, Ralston and Associates from Kuna, Idaho arrived and began searching. This morning, July 30, 2015 the Ralston team, through the use of sonar, discovered what was believed to be Mr. Heckert. At 11:30 a.m., with the use of an underwater remotely operated vehicle, Mr. Heckert was brought near the surface, where Bonner County sheriff's divers recovered his body.

Ralston's specialized equipment and extensive experience, coupled with the new leads provided by the cadaver dogs, were highly instrumental in locating the missing person. Today's find represents the 100<sup>th</sup> recovery for the Ralston team.



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