

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
Tampa Division**

ODYSSEY MARINE  
EXPLORATION, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case Number: 8:06-cv-1685-T-23TBM

THE UNIDENTIFIED SHIPWRECKED  
VESSEL OR VESSELS, their apparel,  
tackle, appurtenances and cargo  
located within center point coordinates:  
49 25' N, 6 00'W; Radius: 5 nautical miles,

Defendant.

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**NOTICE OF DESIGNATION UNDER LOCAL RULE 3.05**

In accordance with Local Rule 3.05, this action is designated as a Track **TWO** Case. Plaintiff or the removing party is responsible for serving a copy of this notice and any attachment to this notice upon all other parties. All parties must meet any requirements established in Local Rule 3.05 for cases designated on this track. With respect to Track Two and Track Three Cases, parties should utilize the attached Case Management Report ("CMR") form. Please note that Judge Merryday requires the CMR to include a brief description of the specific nature and relative complexity of the case.

The court anticipates that most Track Two cases will be tried within 24 months of filing. In order to further the prompt resolution of these cases, Judge Merryday will set the discovery deadline 8 months after the defendant(s)' first filing. Parties must request more than 8 months (if necessary) for discovery, along with a showing of good cause, in an addendum to the case management report.

SHERYL L. LOESCH, CLERK

By: Martene Alspach  
Deputy Clerk

September 22, 2006

Attachment:  
Case Management Report

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
TAMPA DIVISION

v.

Case Number:

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**CASE MANAGEMENT REPORT**

1. Meeting of Parties: Pursuant to Local Rule 3.05(c)(2)(B) or (c)(3)(A), a meeting was held on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) at \_\_\_\_\_ (time) (check one) (  ) by telephone (or) (  ) at \_\_\_\_\_ (place) and was attended by:

\_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Counsel for (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Initial Disclosures:

a. Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1) as amended December 1, 2000 provides that "[e]xcept in categories of proceedings specified in Rule 26(a)(1)(E), or to the extent otherwise stipulated or directed by order, a party must, without awaiting a discovery request, provide to other parties: (A) the name and, if known, the address and telephone number of each individual likely to have discoverable information that the disclosing party may use to support its claims or defenses, unless solely for impeachment, identifying the subjects of the information; (B) a copy of, or a description by category and location of, all documents, data compilations, and tangible things that are in the possession, custody, or control

of the party and that the disclosing party may use to support its claims or defenses, unless solely for impeachment; (C) a computation of any category of damages claimed by the disclosing party, making available for inspection and copying as under Rule 34 the documents or other evidentiary material, not privileged or protected from disclosure, on which such computation is based, including materials bearing on the nature and extent of injuries suffered; and (D) for inspection and copying as under Rule 34 any insurance agreement under which any person carrying on an insurance business may be liable to satisfy part or all of a judgment which may be entered in the action or to indemnify or reimburse for payments made to satisfy the judgment." Fed. R. Civ. P.26(a)(1).<sup>1</sup>

The parties (check one)

\_\_\_\_\_ have exchanged information referenced by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1)(A)-(D) or agree to exchange such information on or before \_\_\_\_\_ (date).<sup>2</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ stipulate to not disclose information referenced by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1)(A)-(D) for the specific reason(s) that:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ have been unable to reach agreement on whether to disclose information referenced by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1)(A)-(D). (Identify party or parties) \_\_\_\_\_ objects to disclosure of such information for the specific reason(s) that:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Discovery Plan - Plaintiff: The parties jointly propose the following Plaintiff's discovery plan:

\_\_\_\_\_

A party must make its initial disclosures based on the information then reasonably available to it and is not excused from making its disclosures because it has not fully completed its investigation of the case or because it challenges the sufficiency of another party's disclosures or because another party has not made its disclosures. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1).

Information referenced by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1)(A)-(D) must be made "at or within 14 days of the Rule 26(f) conference unless a different time is set by stipulation or court order, or unless a party objects during the conference that initial disclosures are not appropriate in the circumstances of the action and states the objection in the Rule 26(f) discovery plan." Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1). Any party first served or otherwise joined after the Rule 26(f) conference must make these disclosures within 30 days after being served or joined unless a different time is set by stipulation or court order. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1).

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a. Plaintiff's Planned Discovery: A description of every discovery effort Plaintiff plans to pursue is described below. The description of each discovery effort will be listed under the appropriate heading below and will include the subject matter of the discovery and the time during which the discovery will be pursued:

(1) Requests for Admission:

Number of Requests for Admission: Parties may seek to limit the number of Plaintiff's requests for admission in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(2). Any such request must be made in paragraph 6 below and approved by the court.

(2) Written Interrogatories:

Number of Interrogatories: Local Rule 3.03(a) provides "[u]nless otherwise permitted by the Court for cause shown, no party shall serve upon any other party, at one time or cumulatively, more than twenty-five (25) written interrogatories pursuant to Rule 33, Fed.R.Civ.P., including all parts and subparts." Any request by Plaintiff to exceed this limit must be made in paragraph 6 below and approved by the court.

(3) Requests for Production or Inspection:

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(4) Oral Depositions:

Number of Depositions: Local Rule 3.02(b) provides, "[i]n accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(a)(2)(A) and 31(a)(2)(A), no more than ten depositions per side may be taken in any case unless otherwise ordered by the Court." Any request by Plaintiff to exceed this limit must be made in paragraph 6 below and approved by the court.

Time Permitted for Each Deposition: Each deposition is limited to one day of seven hours in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(d)(2) unless extended by agreement of the parties or order of Court.

The parties stipulate/request a court order to extend the time to take the deposition of the following individuals:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed length of Deposition</u>	<u>Grounds</u>
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(cont'd)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed length of Deposition</u>	<u>Grounds</u>
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b. Disclosure of Expert Testimony: Parties stipulate, in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(C), that Plaintiff's Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2) disclosure will be due as noted here:

c. Supplementation of Disclosures and Responses: Parties agree that Plaintiff's supplementation under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(e) will be provided at the following times:

d. Completion of Discovery: Plaintiff will commence all discovery in time for it to be completed on or before \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

4. Discovery Plan - Defendant: The parties jointly propose the following Defendant's discovery plan:

a. Defendant's Planned Discovery: A description of every discovery effort Defendant plans to pursue is described below. The description of each discovery effort will be listed under the appropriate heading below and will include the subject matter of the discovery and the time during which the discovery will be pursued:

(1) Requests for Admission:

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Number of Requests for Admission: Parties may seek to limit the number of Defendant's requests for admission in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(2). Any such request must be made in paragraph 6 below and approved by the court.

(2) Written Interrogatories:

Number of Interrogatories: Local Rule 3.03(a) provides "[u]nless otherwise permitted by the Court for cause shown, no party shall serve upon any other party, at one time or cumulatively, more than twenty-five (25) written interrogatories pursuant to Rule 33, Fed.R.Civ.P., including all parts and subparts." Any request by Defendant to exceed this limit must be made in paragraph 6 below and approved by the court.

(3) Requests for Production or Inspection:

(4) Oral Depositions:

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Number of Depositions: Local Rule 3.02(b) provides, "[i]n accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(a)(2)(A) and 31(a)(2)(A), no more than ten depositions per side may be taken in any case unless otherwise ordered by the Court." Any request by Defendant to exceed this limit must be made in paragraph 6 below and approved by the court.

Time Permitted for Each Deposition: Each deposition is limited to one day of seven hours in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(d)(2) unless extended by agreement of the parties or order of Court.

The parties stipulate/request a court order to extend the time to take the deposition of the following individuals:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed length of Deposition</u>	<u>Grounds</u>
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b. Disclosure of Expert Testimony: Parties stipulate, in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(C), that Defendant's Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2) disclosure will be due as noted here:

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c. Supplementation of Disclosures and Responses: Parties agree that Defendant's supplementation under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(e) will be provided at the following times:

d. Completion of Discovery: Defendant will commence all discovery in time for it to be completed on or before \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

5. Joint Discovery Plan - Other Matters: Parties agree on the following other matters relating to discovery (*e.g.*, handling of confidential information, assertion of privileges, whether discovery should be conducted in phases or be limited to or focused upon particular issues):

6. Disagreement or Unresolved Issues Concerning Discovery Matters: Any disagreement or unresolved issue will not excuse the establishment of discovery completion dates. The parties are unable to agree as to the following issues concerning discovery:

7. Third Party Claims, Joinder of Parties, Potentially Dispositive Motions: Parties agree that the final date for filing motions for leave to file third party claims, motions to join parties, motions for summary judgment, and all other potentially dispositive motions should be \_\_\_\_\_. (Note time limit in Local Rule 4.03.)

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8. Settlement and Alternative Dispute Resolution: Pursuant to Local Rule 3.05(c)(2)(C)(v), the parties submit the following statement concerning their intent regarding Alternative Dispute Resolution:

Parties agree that settlement is  
 likely (check one)  
 unlikely.

Parties agree to consent to binding arbitration pursuant to Local Rules 8.02(a)(3) and 8.05(b).  yes  no  likely to agree in future

If binding arbitration is not agreed to, the court may order nonbinding arbitration pursuant to Chapter Eight of the Local Rules of the Middle District of Florida, mediation pursuant to Chapter Nine of the Local Rules of the Middle District of Florida, or both.

9. Consent to Magistrate Judge Jurisdiction: The parties agree to consent to the jurisdiction of the United States Magistrate Judge for final disposition, including trial. See 28 U.S.C. § 636.  
 yes  no  likely to agree in future

10. Preliminary Pretrial Conference:  
Track Three Cases: Local Rule 3.05(c)(3)(B) provides that preliminary pretrial conferences are mandatory in Track Three Cases.

Track Two Cases: Parties  
 request (check one)  
 do not request

a preliminary pretrial conference before entry of a Case Management and Scheduling Order in this Track Two case. Unresolved issues to be addressed at such a conference include:

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11. Final Pretrial Conference and Trial: Parties agree that they will be ready for a final pretrial conference on or after \_\_\_\_\_(date) and for trial on or after \_\_\_\_\_(date). This **Jury** \_\_\_\_ **Non-Jury** \_\_\_\_ trial is expected to take approximately \_\_\_\_ hours.

12. Pretrial Disclosures and Final Pretrial Procedures: Parties acknowledge that they are aware of and will comply with pretrial disclosures requirements in Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(3) and final pretrial procedures requirements in Local Rule 3.06.

13. Other Matters:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Counsel (with information  
required by Local Rule 1.05(d)) and  
Signature of Unrepresented Parties

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Dear Counsel:

Enclosed with this letter is a communication from the Clerk of this Court affording you the opportunity, with the approval of the U.S. District Judge, to consent to the reference of any part or all of the proceedings in this case to a U.S. Magistrate Judge, including reference for final disposition.

Careful consideration should be given to this option.

To assist the federal courts in coping with dramatically increased caseloads, Congress authorized the reference to a U.S. Magistrate Judge of any part or all of the proceedings in a civil case, both jury and non-jury, upon consent of all parties (28 U.S.C. § 636(c)). All of the U.S. District Judges in this District refer cases under this provision to our able and experienced U.S. Magistrate Judges who are almost always able to schedule early and firm trial dates in accordance with the needs of the parties.

Whether to consent to a reference to a U.S. Magistrate Judge is entirely up to you and your client. This case has not been specifically selected for this program; the Clerk sends out this notice in every civil case. If a party declines to consent to a reference, that fact is known only to the Clerk and not to any of the District or Magistrate Judges.

This program has proved to be of great benefit to counsel, client, and the Court.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia C. Fawsett, Chief Judge

Hon. James D. Whittemore

Hon. Elizabeth A. Kovachevich

Hon. John Antoon, II

Hon. Harvey E. Schlesinger

Hon. John E. Steele

Hon. Anne C. Conway

Hon. James S. Moody, Jr.

Hon. Steven D. Merryday

Hon. Gregory A. Presnell

Hon. Susan C. Bucklew

Hon. Timothy J. Corrigan

Hon. Henry Lee Adams, Jr.

Hon. Virginia Covington

Hon. Richard A. Lazzara

§AO 85 (Rev. 8/98) Notice, Consent, and Order of Reference — Exercise of Jurisdiction by a United States Magistrate Judge

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

District of \_\_\_\_\_

Plaintiff  
V.

NOTICE, CONSENT, AND ORDER OF REFERENCE —  
EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION BY A UNITED STATES  
MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Defendant

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION**

In accordance with the provisions of 28 U.S.C. §636(c) and Fed.R.Civ.P. 73, you are notified that a United States magistrate judge of this district court is available to conduct any or all proceedings in this case including a jury or nonjury trial, and to order the entry of a final judgment. Exercise of this jurisdiction by a magistrate judge is, however, permitted only if all parties voluntarily consent.

You may, without adverse substantive consequences, withhold your consent, but this will prevent the court's jurisdiction from being exercised by a magistrate judge. If any party withholds consent, the identity of the parties consenting or withholding consent will not be communicated to any magistrate judge or to the district judge to whom the case has been assigned.

An appeal from a judgment entered by a magistrate judge shall be taken directly to the United States court of appeals for this judicial circuit in the same manner as an appeal from any other judgment of this district court.

**CONSENT TO THE EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION BY A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

In accordance with provisions of 28 U.S.C. §636(c) and Fed.R.Civ.P. 73, the parties in this case consent to have a United States magistrate judge conduct any and all proceedings in this case, including the trial, order the entry of a final judgment, and conduct all post-judgment proceedings.

Party Represented	Signatures	Date
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**ORDER OF REFERENCE**

IT IS ORDERED that this case be referred to \_\_\_\_\_  
United States Magistrate Judge, to conduct all proceedings and order the entry of judgment in accordance with 28 U.S.C.  
§636(c) and Fed.R.Civ.P. 73.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
United States District Judge

NOTE: RETURN THIS FORM TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT ONLY IF ALL PARTIES HAVE CONSENTED ON THIS FORM TO THE EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION BY A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE.

AO 85A (Rev. 8/98) Consent to Exercise of Jurisdiction by a United States Judge Over Specific Motion(s)

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

MIDDLE DISTRICT FLORIDA

Plaintiff  
V.  
Defendant

**CONSENT TO EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION  
BY A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
OVER DISPOSITIVE MOTIONS DESCRIBED  
UNDER 28 U.S.C. §636(b)(1)(B)**

CASE NUMBER:

## CONSENT TO EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION

In accordance with the provisions of 28 U.S.C. §636(c) and Fed.R.Civ.P. 73, the parties in this case consent to have a United States magistrate judge conduct any and all proceedings and enter a final order as to each motion identified below.

**MOTION(S):** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

<u>Party Represented</u>	<u>Signatures</u>	<u>Date</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

## ORDER OF REFERENCE

IT IS ORDERED that the above motion(s) be \_\_\_\_\_,  
United States Magistrate Judge, to conduct all proceedings and enter a final order on such motion(s) in  
accordance with  
28 U.S.C. §636(c) and Fed.R.Civ.P. 73.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date United States District Judge

NOTE: RETURN THIS FORM TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT ONLY IF ALL PARTIES HAVE CONSENTED ON THIS FORM TO THE EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION BY A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE