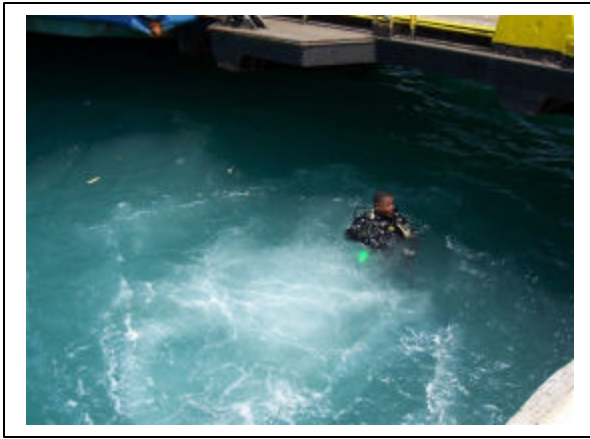


## **Best Practice: Dive Inspections of Ship's Hull**



<b>Category:</b>	Security Infrastructure
<b>Location:</b>	Various Ports Throughout Jamaica (Montego Bay pictured)
<b>Date Observed:</b>	April, 2005
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**Description:** 90 – 100% of ships hulls are inspected by divers prior to vessel movement.

**Discussion:** Many port facilities have employed divers to inspect ship hulls and facility piers as a counter-drug trafficking effort, as traffickers continue to utilize parasitic devices to smuggle drugs. Suspicious and dangerous items, including limpet mines, improvised explosive devices, or other weapons packaged for shipment in magnetic containers pose a threat to ships and port infrastructure. If underwater cameras to remotely assess ship's hulls are not feasible, then divers should be considered. Private contract divers can be hired to perform this service, or employees can be trained as collateral duty divers to perform this mission.

**Potential Down-side:** Water conditions, including environmental hazards and water clarity may prevent the effectiveness of divers. The cost of training and equipping, as well as the personal safety of divers undertaking hull inspections, and possible challenges to their integrity should be considered. Criminal or terrorist organizations may seek to bribe divers or other security inspectors.

**Conclusion:** Using divers to inspect ship's hulls can reveal a number of security, safety, and other important issues. Instituting cooperative policies between military or law enforcement divers and port facilities can resolve many of the potential concerns involved with this security practice. Security is only as good as its weakest link and often underwater searching and monitoring of ship's hulls is neglected.

**Cost:** Varied; approximately \$200 USD per hull assessment using one diver.