

## The Queen's Stern Post arrives safely!

The Queen's beautiful stern post broke the surface at 3:20 pm this afternoon after a day's worth of work and weeks of preparations. Progress aboard *R/V Shell Point* (Captain Tom Piner) was slow but steady as overburden was removed and sediment from around and under the large composite timber was excavated. Eventually the padded lifting frame was put in place and the sternpost was flipped over on to it. Lift bags were secured to straps running underneath the frame and slowly filled until it lifted off the bottom and to the surface. With four divers carefully tending to it, the stern post was brought to the stern of *R/V Capricorn* (Captain Joe Purifoy) where Engineer Stacy Davis placed it safely on deck.

With it flipped over and exposed, the stern post's beauty was evident. The wood was in pristine condition with its planking still in place and the post itself exhibiting a cleanly chiseled "VI" draft mark. This mark indicated that the ship drew 6 feet of water when completely unloaded. The *Queen Anne's Revenge* certainly needed much deeper water given the 25 plus cannon she was carrying when she grounded in Beaufort Inlet.

Media aboard was treated to a real archaeological expedition because the *Capricorn* was stationed just a short distance from *Shell Point* and could see the variety of activities that take place on a daily basis. They were perfectly positioned to witness this unique piece of history surface after three centuries. Today's recovery was the exclamation point to a very successful season!





*photographs by Karen Browning*