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May 15, “Survivor” Steven Callahan lectures on 76 days adrift at sea

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. - Robert Redford’s latest survival film, *All is Lost*, won critical and public acclaim for its stark portrayal of a man lost at sea. Yet, it is often said that “truth is stranger than fiction.” And before Redford’s fictionalized adaptation, there was Steven Callahan.

At the age of 29, Callahan, a ship designer and builder, struck something with his 21-foot sailboat on a return solo voyage across the Atlantic. Callahan had to quickly pack his life raft. A few items – water, food, flares, a spear-gun and sleeping bag – would prove to be the difference in the ensuing 76-day struggle for survival.

Through nearly 11 weeks at sea, Callahan survived storms, sharks, holes in the raft, sores, hunger, thirst and the uncertainty of the unknown. His diet would consist of a few dozen fish, birds, a few pounds of barnacles, and other oceanic items. Nine ships failed to see his raft and by the 76th day, his make-shift water still had stopped working. Rescued by fishermen off Guadeloupe, Callahan had lost a third of his body weight and it would be six weeks before he could walk properly again.

Join us at **7 p.m., Thursday, May 15, 2014**, as Callahan recounts his incredible story as depicted in The Mariners’ Museum’s *Abandon Ship* exhibition and told in his *New York Times* bestseller, *Adrift: Seventy-six Days Lost at Sea*. Callahan also wrote *Capsized* for survivor Jim Nalepka, who spent four months with four other men on an overturned, half-flooded boat. Callahan has served as contributing editor to *Sailor* and *Sail* magazines, and as senior editor at *Cruising World*, for which he continues to do special projects such as testing new boats and lifesaving equipment. He also speaks publicly and consults, most recently for director Ang Lee on the film adaptation of the novel *Life of Pi*.

The Mariners' Museum, an educational, non-profit institution accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, preserves and interprets maritime history through an international collection of ship models, figureheads, paintings and other maritime artifacts. For hours and information, visit www.MarinersMuseum.org, call (757) 596-2222 or write to The Mariners' Museum, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.