



# SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



## Expedition Firm Amends Titanic Plan, Avoids Litigation

United States Government litigation brought against the company that owns the salvage rights to the wreck of the Titanic has been shelved, following [RMS Titanic Inc](#) amending its previous expedition plans.

It is understood that RMS Titanic Inc – which was granted salvage rights to the wreck by a United States Federal Court order in 1994 – is understood to have intended to take images from inside the vessel's hull as well as retrieve items from the wreckage site.

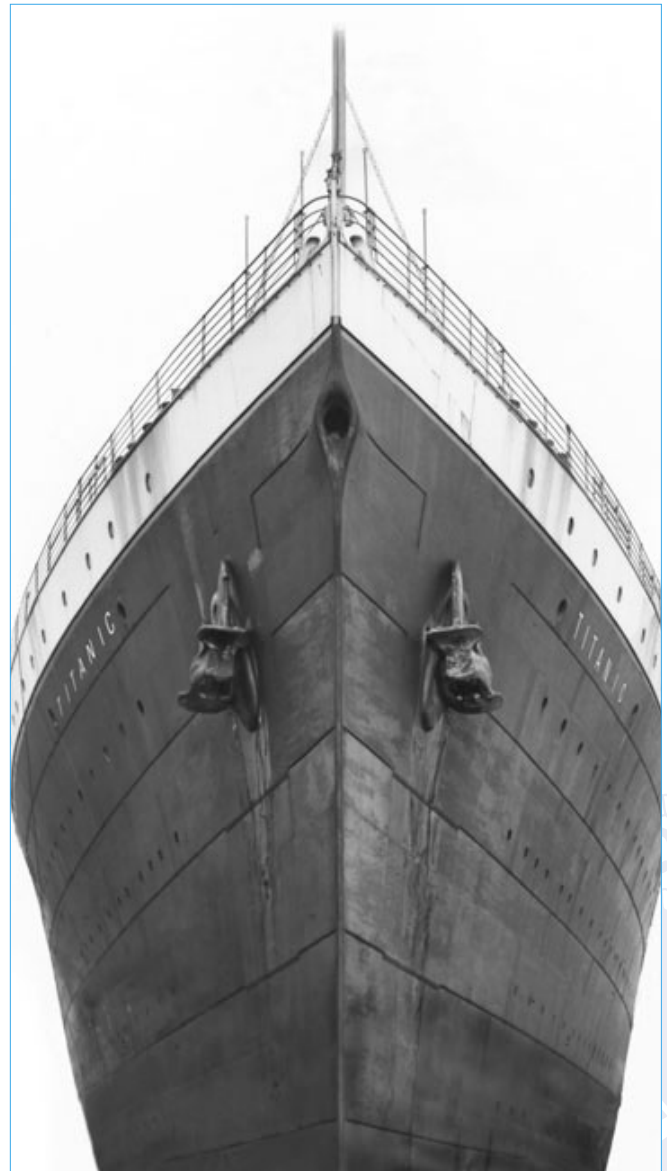
The Government argued such acts would breach a 2017-introduced federal law and agreement with Great Britain, which have since protected the site as a memorial to the 1500 people who died when the Titanic sank in 1912.

However, with the Georgia-based firm subsequently advising in court filings that it “will not come into contact with the wreck [and] will not attempt any artefact recovery or penetration imaging”, the Government this January withdrew its action. Although, the Government has also reportedly indicated it would launch another legal case if any future plans involved again disturbing the wreck.

It is understood that RMS Titanic Inc's expedition plans were revised, at least in part, due to the death of its director of underwater research, Paul-Henri Nargeolet, in the implosion of the OceanGate-operated Titan submersible near the Titanic site in 2023.

RMS Titanic Inc, an affiliate of Experiential Media Group (EMG), stated in a subsequent court filing that it would send an uncrewed submersible to the site and only take external images. Correspondence filed in December last year then stated it would not visit the wreck in 2025 and that it was assessing the viability of any future expedition.

It is understood the wreck is now fast deteriorating. RMS Titanic Inc's last artefact-recovering expedition to the site is understood to have been in 2010, before the federal law and international agreement took effect.



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