

Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Press Release

(Title of Crime/Incident) Coroner's Investigation

Report Number: 2015-9659
Coroner Number:
Crime/Incident: Coroner's Investigation
Location: 43000 Block North Highway 1, Westport
When: Date: 04-21-2015 **Time:** 5:39 P.M.

Victim Info :

	Name	Age	Street Address	City, State
Victim #1:	Joel Falcon	52		El Cerrito, Ca

Suspect Info:

	Name	Age	Street Address	City, State
--	-------------	------------	-----------------------	--------------------

Written by: Sergeant Joseph Comer

Synopsis:

On 04-21-2015 at approximately 5:39 P.M., Mendocino County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to a coroner's investigation in the 43000 block of North Highway 1 in Westport, California.

After Deputies arrived they learned that the decedent was visiting the Mendocino Coast with a longtime friend. Both subjects had entered a Pacific Ocean cove during low tide, where they proceeded to fish and search (rock pick) for abalone from the shoreline.

After several hours, the tide grew rapidly and subsequently trapped both subjects within the cove. The two subjects were unable to navigate out of the steep bluff surrounding the cove by using the route they took when they entered.

Both feared they would be unable to withstand the cold elements until the next scheduled low tide, so both attempted to exit the cove by climbing a section of the steep bluff. During that ascent, the decedent lost his footing and fell approximately 75-feet down to a rocky area of the shoreline.

The decedent's friend climbed back down, called 9-1-1 from a cellular telephone, and initiated cardio pulmonary resuscitation until Emergency Medical Personnel arrived. Ambulance personnel arrived on scene and determined that the decedent was deceased.

Personnel from the Westport Volunteer Fire Department assisted and recovered the decedent after launching a technical rope rescue.

Deputies identified the decedent as being Joel Falcon a 52-year-old male from El Cerrito, California.

A coroner's investigation into the decedent's death is ongoing

Approved By: Captain Greg Van Patten

[Click Here to Close Window](#)