

SEPTEMBER 2010

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JOURNAL

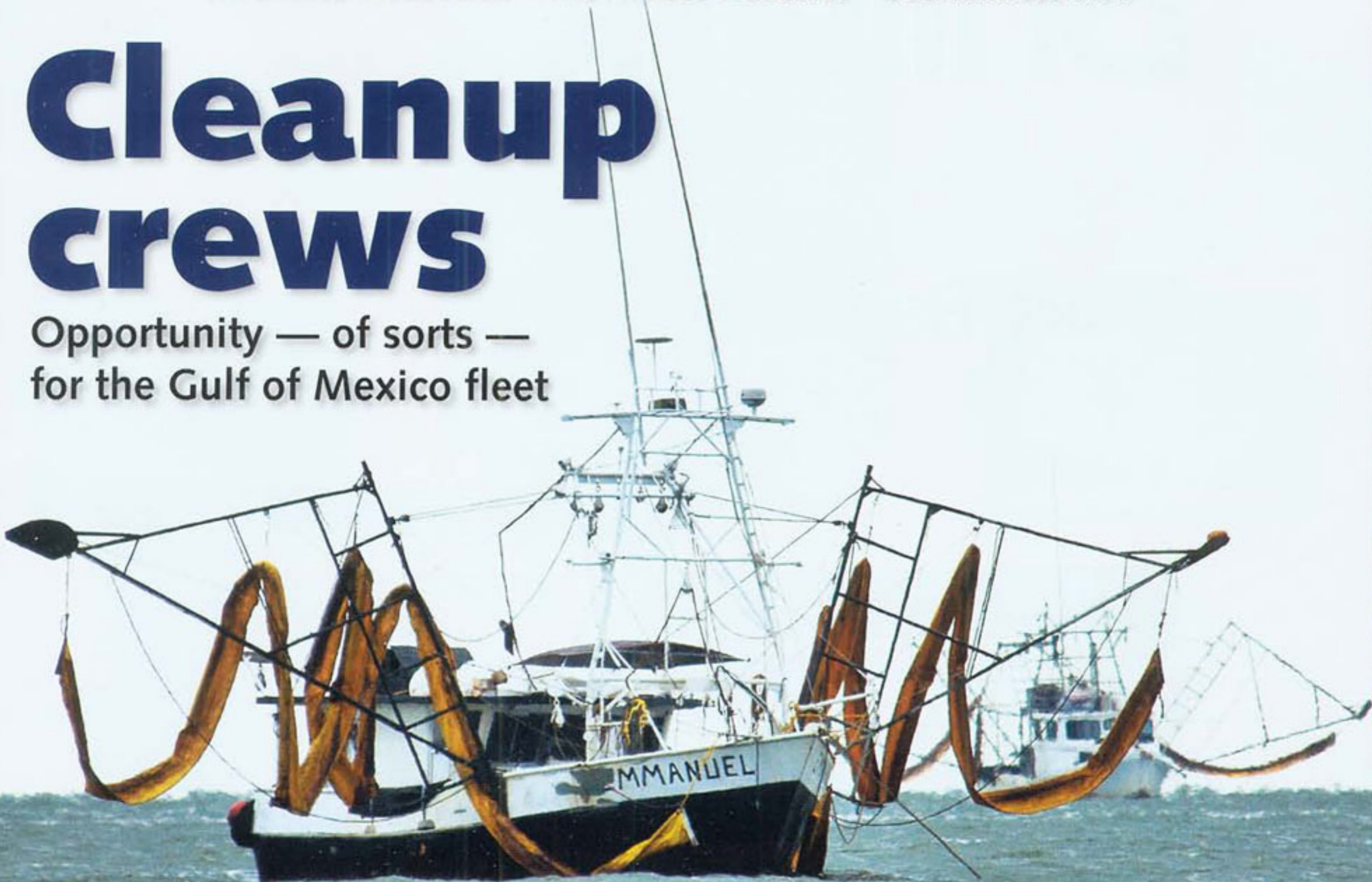
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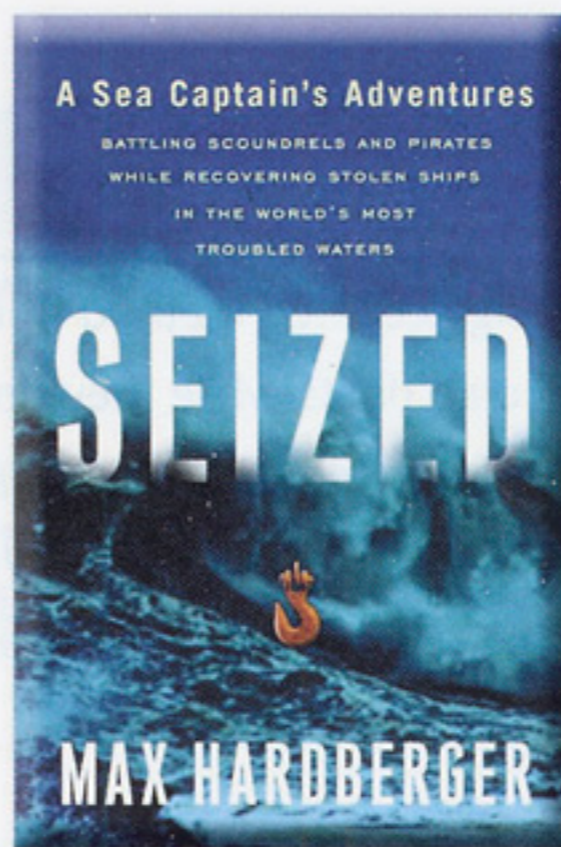
Hardberger is his name, extracting illegitimately seized ships is his game

As a child, Max Hardberger writes, he discovered a series of nautical adventure books set on tramp freighters — and devoured every one he could get his hands on. Little did he know he'd one day have nautical adventures of his own to pen.

Hardberger, whose work has appeared in these pages, calls himself an unlikely pirate, but he's the star of "Seized." He's been an airplane pilot who's taught flying and flown crop dusters, a ship captain on ocean freighters, a maritime lawyer, and a high school teacher.

The book is an entertaining collection of stories about his work to extract freighters and other vessels that have been illegitimately seized and are languishing in a variety of exotic ports.

Hardberger recounts a series of escapades in which he must assemble a crack crew, devise ways to get aboard the seized vessels, and sneak them out of port undetected. If he and his crew are caught, they risk imprisonment, and even death.



his veins.

The result is a very enjoyable read; one could easily envision Hollywood turning Hardberger's stories into great action-adventure films. Adventure junkies, your ship has come in. Hardberger has extracted it for you.

Seized

**A Sea Captain's Adventures
Battling Scoundrels and
Pirates While Recovering
Stolen Ships in the World's
Most Troubled Waters**

By Max Hardberger

Broadway Books, 2010

Hardcover, 304 pp., \$25

www.maxhardberger.com

Hence, Hardberger resorts to using everything from disco parties to hookers to distract guards. Voodoo doctors are also effective, as is the occasional bribe. His greatest assets, however, are a nimble mind and plenty of ice water coursing through

— Linc Bedrosian