# Recovery of sunken superyacht Bayesian halted after diver’s death amid manslaughter probe



Work to recover the sunken superyacht Bayesian, which tragically sank off the coast of Sicily nearly a year ago, has been suspended following the death of a diver involved in the operation. The diver, aged 39 and employed by the Dutch salvage company HEBO Maritiemservice, was part of a specialist team engaged in preliminary tasks to retrieve the yacht that sank during a powerful storm in August 2024. This storm, described as akin to a mini-tornado, led to the deaths of seven individuals, including prominent British tech mogul Mike Lynch and his teenage daughter, Hannah.

The Bayesian, measuring 56 metres in length, was struck by fierce winds of up to 110 km/h while anchored near Porticello, close to Palermo. The vessel sank rapidly, resulting in the unfortunate loss of Lynch, his daughter, and five others, including notable figures such as Jonathan Bloomer, chairman of Morgan Stanley International, alongside his wife, and U.S. lawyer Chris Morvillo and his wife Neda. Of the 22 people aboard, 15 were rescued from the water, including a one-year-old child and Lynch’s spouse, Angela Bacares. It was reported that the operation, which involved cutting the yacht's towering 75-metre aluminium mast as a key step, had commenced recently and was projected to take 20 to 25 days for completion.

In the wake of the diver’s tragic death, which occurred underwater during the operation, Italian prosecutors have initiated an investigation into possible negligence linked to the yacht’s sinking. Local authorities have sealed the area as they look into the incident, focusing particularly on the captain of the Bayesian and three other crew members on suspicion of manslaughter and negligent shipwreck. Initial findings have raised questions about the circumstances surrounding the yacht’s abrupt descent into the sea; authorities are considering potential faults, including an open hatch that may have contributed to the disaster.

Lynch’s story is well-known within the tech world. Once hailed as “Britain’s Bill Gates,” he became a prominent figure in the late 1990s with his company Autonomy, which specialised in helping organisations manage and retrieve data from vast archives of digital information. The sale of Autonomy to Hewlett-Packard in 2011 for an astounding $11 billion marked a significant pinnacle in his career. However, the acquisition later spiralled into controversy, with allegations of accounting improprieties that led to a protracted legal battle, culminating in Lynch's not-guilty verdict last year.

Lynch, who possessed a PhD in mathematical computing from Cambridge University, had conceptualised the Bayesian—a name derived from the statistical theorem formulated by Thomas Bayes—as a vessel for celebrating his recent acquittal from a high-profile U.S. fraud case. His aspirations were curtailed only weeks later by the tragic sinking, with investigations now underway to examine the malfunctions that precipitated the yacht’s failure.

As rescue and recovery operations continue to be monitored closely, the situation has drawn international attention. The salvage operation's findings hold the potential not only for shedding light on the circumstances of the sinking but also for influencing ongoing legal proceedings surrounding the tragedy. The inquest into the deaths of those aboard is set to unfold over several months, accounting for parallels in investigations across both the U.K. and Italy. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch in the U.K. and the Italian coastguard are both expected to play crucial roles in determining any culpability present within the crew and during the ill-fated voyage.

As the search for answers continues, the case serves as a sobering reminder of the inherent dangers associated with maritime travel, even for what was perceived as a state-of-the-art, unsinkable vessel. The world watches as the complexities of this tragedy unfold, with the families and associates of the victims left grappling with their grief amid an investigation that scrutinises both the human and technical failures involved.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 3, 5, 6
2. Paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 5
3. Paragraphs 2, 3, 5
4. Paragraphs 3, 4, 5
5. Paragraphs 4, 6
6. Paragraphs 5, 6
7. Paragraphs 4, 5

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://sandhillsexpress.com/cbs_world/diver-dies-during-operation-to-recover-yacht-that-sank-killing-7-cbsidf4b54419/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://apnews.com/article/b82eb158b854f2c4605db24728b41610> - The Associated Press reports that the recovery operation of the sunken superyacht off Sicily's coast was temporarily suspended following the death of a 39-year-old Dutch diver. The diver was part of a team working to raise the 56-meter 'Bayesian' yacht, which sank in August 2024 during a powerful storm, resulting in the deaths of seven individuals, including British tech magnate Mike Lynch and his daughter. The Palermo Port Authority is leading the investigation into the incident, and the local prosecutor's office has sealed the area. The yacht lies 49 meters underwater, and investigations are ongoing into possible negligence by the vessel's captain and two crew members. Salvage efforts, which began in early May, involve cutting down the yacht's 75-meter mast for easier retrieval using one of Europe's most powerful maritime cranes, with initial estimates suggesting a 20–25-day recovery period.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/diver-dies-preliminary-operations-recover-lynchs-yacht-2025-05-09/> - Reuters reports that a Dutch diver, aged 39, died during preliminary salvage operations to recover British tech tycoon Mike Lynch's superyacht, the Bayesian, off the coast of northern Sicily. The 56-meter vessel sank near the port of Porticello in August 2024, likely due to a powerful downburst wind. The incident had claimed the lives of seven individuals, including Lynch and his daughter Hannah. The diver, who worked for the Dutch specialist salvage company Hebo Maritiemservice, was underwater at the time of the accident. Local police have yet to determine the exact cause of death. The full recovery operation to lift the yacht from the seabed is expected to take place later in May and is anticipated to provide more information about how the supposedly unsinkable vessel sank. Hebo Maritiemservice has not yet commented on the incident.
4. <https://apnews.com/article/d61ae9be8acdc1bc456a5996c3765f57> - The Associated Press reports that marine salvage experts have commenced a complex operation to recover the British-flagged superyacht 'Bayesian,' which tragically sank off Sicily's coast in August 2024. The 56-meter yacht, weighing 473 tons, went down during a sudden weather event, potentially a downburst, resulting in the deaths of seven individuals, including U.K. tech magnate Mike Lynch, his daughter, and Morgan Stanley International Chairman Jonathan Bloomer and his wife. The recovery involves two advanced floating cranes, 'Hebo Lift 2' and 'Hebo Lift 10,' with one of Europe's strongest maritime lifting capabilities, and is expected to take 20 to 25 days. The Italian coast guard is overseeing the operation and maintaining a secure perimeter. The yacht's 75-meter aluminum mast—the second tallest in the world—will be cut to aid in lifting the wreck, currently submerged at a depth of 49 meters. Once surfaced, judicial authorities will examine the vessel as part of an ongoing investigation into possible negligence by the captain and two crew members. Initially, 15 of the 22 people on board were rescued, and following extensive searches, all seven deceased were eventually recovered.
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/904fa6e9-7627-4404-b58b-0e66c3810a00> - The Financial Times reports that the sunken superyacht Bayesian, owned by late British tycoon Mike Lynch, is set to be salvaged from the Sicilian coast to aid investigations into the tragic accident that killed Lynch and six others in August 2024. The 56-meter vessel capsized during a storm with winds reaching 110 km/h, despite claims that it was 'unsinkable.' Authorities suspect negligence, possibly due to an open hatch, and investigations target crew members including the captain and engineer for potential manslaughter and negligent shipwreck, though no formal charges have been filed yet. The salvage, involving Dutch firms HEBO Maritiemservice and Smit Salvage, will begin in late April and peak with the wreck's lifting around mid-May. The operation, arranged by Bayesian's insurer British Marine, aims to gather new evidence and clear the diesel-laden wreck from the area. The 72-meter mast will be detached with a robotic saw, and the hull will be raised using cranes and inflatable balloons. The superyacht, once hosting a celebration for Lynch’s acquittal in a U.S. federal fraud case, carried 22 people during the fatal incident. Only 15 survived, while seven perished. The recovery is expected to draw global media attention and enable deeper inspection by investigators, including the UK's Marine Accident Investigation Branch.
6. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/inquest-into-death-tech-tycoon-mike-lynch-yacht-sinking-will-take-many-months-2025-04-15/> - Reuters reports that an inquest into the tragic yacht sinking that claimed the lives of British tech tycoon Mike Lynch, banker Jonathan Bloomer, their family members, and others will take several months, according to British authorities. The luxury yacht 'Bayesian,' owned by the Lynch family, sank in a sudden storm near Palermo, Sicily on August 19, 2024. The vessel remains underwater but is expected to be recovered by May 2025. Lynch, who sold his software company Autonomy to Hewlett-Packard for $11 billion in 2011, had been recently acquitted of fraud charges just before the accident. Italian prosecutors are investigating three crew members for manslaughter and causing a shipwreck. Concurrently, the UK’s Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and the Marine Accident Investigation Branch are conducting investigations to determine potential criminal culpability. The Suffolk Coroner's Court acknowledged that the inquest would be delayed significantly due to the ongoing inquiries and salvage operations.
7. <https://apnews.com/article/italy-sicily-superyacht-sinking-investigation-5c5842711643b092c749fdf9184dce7d> - The Associated Press reports that prosecutors in Italy have opened an investigation into culpable shipwreck and multiple manslaughter after a superyacht capsized during a storm off the coast of Sicily, killing seven people onboard, including British tech magnate Mike Lynch and his daughter. Termini Imerese prosecutor Ambrogio Cartosio confirmed the investigation has been launched, but hasn't identified a suspect. 'We are only in the initial phase of the investigation. We can’t exclude any sort of development at present,' he told reporters at a news conference. Cartosio said his team will carefully consider each possible element of responsibility, including those of the Bayesian's captain, the crew, individuals in charge of supervision, the yacht's manufacturer and others.