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# Newsday

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## NEWS

# Coast Guard rescues French family

A FRENCH family lost at sea since Christmas Day after their boat was damaged by a large wave, were rescued by the TT Coast Guard Sunday night.

Pascal Bazin, his wife Joelle, 13-year-old daughter Melanie and son Alexis, 12, spent almost 36 hours adrift in an inflatable dinghy until they were pulled out by the Coast Guard officers at about 8.30 pm.

By the time they were rescued, the Bazins were severely

dehydrated and suffered terrible sunburn. According to a spokesperson at the French Consul, the Bazins left their home in Nantes, France in February for a transatlantic voyage.

Their catamaran was docked at the former French colony of Martinique until they decided to head south to Venezuela on Christmas Day. But midway through the voyage, a large wave crashed into the vessel and broke the hull. They even-

tually abandoned the boat and boarded the dinghy.

On Saturday, the TT Coast Guard received a call for help from their counterparts in Barbados and St Vincent, following which an air and sea search was launched, but without success.

It was only during an aerial search the following day, launched by the Martinique Coast Guard, that the dinghy was spotted some 80 miles north of St Vincent.

The TT Coast Guard was called in to render assistance and eventually retrieved the Bazins who had sent flares into the air on seeing the air and sea vessels.

At Coast Guard base in Stauble's Bay yesterday, French Consul Andre Noe expressed gratitude to the Coast Guard for rescuing the family. The Bazins, who were taken in by the French Embassy, were said to be resting comfortably up to late yesterday.