

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 14th, 2026

Diverobotix Orchestrates High-Altitude Deep Recovery of Sunken 100,000-Pound Fireworks Barge in Lake Tahoe

The Integration of Proprietary Shark ROV Technology and Commercial Diving Sets New Standard for Precision Salvage

INCLINE VILLAGE, NV – Diverobotix, Northern Nevada's premier underwater robotics and commercial diving firm, announced the successful completion of one of the most complex salvage operations in Lake Tahoe's history: the recovery and refloating of a 100,000-pound fireworks barge and a field of munitions from a depth of 145 feet.

The operation, which concluded in late March 2026, showcased a revolutionary integration of Diverobotix's proprietary **Shark ROV** line and elite commercial diving. This technical synergy slashed decompression risks and ensured a controlled, "angelic" ascent of the massive vessel.

Leadership and Expertise in the Field The project was spearheaded by the husband-and-wife leadership team of Scott and Cindy Fontecchio. While Scott managed the technical dive profiles and ROV logistics, **Cindy Fontecchio, COO of Diverobotix and a certified Divemaster**, was invaluable to the operation's success. Her oversight of site safety, logistical coordination, and surface-to-depth communications ensured the high-stakes project remained on schedule.

Shark ROVs: The Deep-Water Game Changer At Lake Tahoe's elevation, the 145-foot lakebed depth translates to a 190-foot sea-level equivalent dive profile. To manage these risks, Diverobotix deployed its own **Shark ROVs** to act as a force multiplier for the dive team.

The Shark ROVs served as a tactical bridge:

- **Precision Scouting:** A fleet of Shark ROVs located and recorded video of each munition, allowing divers to review the rigging plan on the surface before ever entering the water.
- **Visual Guidance:** Once submerged, divers were greeted at 145 feet by the Shark's high-intensity lighting, which led them directly to the targets. This precision saved critical "bottom time"—a vital factor where every minute saved underwater eliminated 3–4 minutes of grueling decompression on the ascent.
- **Real-Time Monitoring:** The ROVs provided a constant video feed to the surface, allowing the team to monitor the 20-minute dive profiles and ensure safety for the duration of the two-week project.

The "Angelic" Lift Standard salvage protocols typically involve lifting heavy structures in 30-foot increments to prevent "runaway" ascents caused by expanding air in lift bags. Diverobotix upended this convention. By using the Shark ROVs to monitor lift bag fill-rates in

real-time, the team achieved a perfectly controlled ascent from 110 feet to the surface in a single, fluid motion.

"The barge came up like an angel," said Scott Fontecchio. "By marrying our Shark ROV data with commercial diving expertise, and with Cindy's management of the operational footprint, we maintained a slow, controlled ascent that saved days of work and significantly reduced the risk to our dive team."

Lake Tahoe's Environmental Guardians This recovery adds to Diverobotix's legacy of environmental stewardship. The firm was also instrumental in the **ATT cable removal project**, leading the comprehensive survey and testing phases to identify and mitigate the impact of toxic lead-sheathed cables. These combined efforts position Diverobotix as the most complete salvage and ROV service provider in Northern Nevada and California.

Diverobotix extends its sincere gratitude to **Parker Diving, Big Valley Divers**, the **Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID)**, and the **Incline Village Fireworks Committee** for their unwavering commitment.

About Diverobotix Based in Gardnerville, NV, Diverobotix specializes in the manufacturing of the **Shark ROV** line, advanced underwater robotics, and commercial diving services. Led by Scott and Cindy Fontecchio, the firm provides cutting-edge solutions for deep-water recovery, infrastructure inspection, and ecological preservation.

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