

# Firms Cite 1851 Law in Fatal Missouri Duck Boat Accident, Seek Mediation

Two companies facing multiple lawsuits over a summer tourist boat accident in Missouri that killed 17 people have invoked an 1851 law that allows vessel owners to try to avoid or limit legal damages as they also seek settlement negotiations with victims' family members, **reports** the *Chicago Tribune*.

"If a judge concluded that the federal law cited by Ripley [Entertainment Inc.] and Branson Duck Vehicles applies, claims for damages over the July 19 accident on Table Rock Lake near Branson, Missouri, could be consolidated into a single federal court case," explains the article, from the Associated Press. "The companies' petition states that under the federal law, they would not owe any damages because the boat carried no freight and was a total loss."

**Read the *Chicago Tribune* article.**