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Yacht may be headed west

Associated Press

No significant sightings were made in yesterday's aerial search for an overdue sailboat south of Hawaii, but more information was obtained indicating the boat may not be in trouble after all, the Coast Guard said.

Coast Guard Petty Officer Vern Hinkley at the Joint Rescue Coordination center said search planes made radio contact yesterday with three sailboats at Palmyra Island to inquire about the yacht Sea Dreamer.

The crews reported that Sea Dreamer may be heading directly back to its home port of San Diego instead of going to Hawaii,

Hinkley said.

Aboard Sea Dreamer are Graham Hughes, his wife and their two teen sons.

The 39-foot Sea Dreamer was expected to reach Hawaii Aug. 19 on a trip from Palmyra and was reported overdue this past weekend by the crew of another sailboat that had been accompanying Sea Dreamer.

Strengthening the possibility the Hughes decided to bypass Hawaii was a report from one of the boats on Palmyra that the family had approached other boats seeking to buy enough food to reach the West Coast.