



SYNOPSIS

On 1 August 2008, fire broke out on the 18.6m fishing vessel *Vision II*. There were three people on board the vessel at the time of the fire, all of whom lost their lives.

Vision II was a twin-rig prawn trawler built by Macduff Shipyards Limited. The vessel had been issued with its fishing vessel certificate in December 2004 and entered service early in 2005. The accident occurred while the vessel was alongside in Fraserburgh undergoing repair and modifications following change of ownership 3 days earlier. As part of the repair work three defective electric heaters, including one from the galley, were removed from the vessel. The heaters were examined, repaired and refitted the day before the accident.

At 0115 on 1 August a port security guard saw smoke rising from the vessel, and after unsuccessfully trying to gain access he raised the alarm. The Grampian fire brigade arrived on scene and by 0330 the fire had been extinguished and smoke clearance operations commenced. Two bodies were found lying on bench seating in the galley and a third body was discovered lying on the deck of the wheelhouse adjacent to the access hatch.

The resulting investigation identified a number of concerns regarding: the fitting out of the vessel; its operation; self-certification; and inspection. It also highlighted the increased number of foreign crews living on board fishing vessels in harbour, without the consequent safety aspects being assessed.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has been recommended to broaden the scope of its review of the safety issues associated with crews living on board fishing vessels in port.

Recommendations have also been made to: the Sea Fish Industry Authority to review its survey procedures; to Macduff Shipyards Limited to review its quality management procedures; and to MB Vision LLP to develop work instructions.