

SYNOPSIS



On 31 December 2002, *Kirsteen Anne* and her crew of two failed to return to Oban from a fishing trip as planned. A search began and the vessel was found partly submerged that evening; there was no sign of her crew. A preliminary examination was started on 3 January 2003.

Kirsteen Anne was salvaged by the HM customs cutter *Searcher*, and examined by MAIB inspectors, who also conducted an inclining experiment to determine her stability characteristics. There were no witnesses to the vessel's loss.

It is concluded that *Kirsteen Anne* capsized as a result of poor stability caused by modifications made to her since she was built, the weight of the fishing gear carried, and a build-up of water in the bilge.

Recommendations made to the MCA are aimed at the introduction of a stability standard for fishing vessels under 15m, the improvement of the Code of Practice applicable to these vessels, the inclusion of vessel stability in health and safety risk assessments, and raising the awareness of stability among fishermen.