

SYNOPSIS



Constant Faith capsized and foundered at 0546 on 30 June 2001, about 100 miles north-north-east of Peterhead. An MAIB investigation began 3 days later.

On 29 June 2001, *Constant Faith* left Peterhead in company with her partner vessel *Conquest*, to engage in pair trawling. During the evening, as the vessels were steaming north-north-east, the mate noticed that the main engine temperature was rising. He identified the reason for this as being a blocked sea water inlet to the engine cooling system, so he closed the seacock and removed the cover plate from the adjacent strum box. He looked inside the strum box and saw a black plastic bag jammed in the valve. He opened the valve, removed the bag and water immediately gushed out.

The mate then attempted to close the seacock, but the linkage came off. Despite strenuous efforts, he was unable to close the seacock.

Water continued to rush out. *Constant Faith's* bilge pumps were used to pump out the floodwater, but they were unable to keep pace with the ingress of water into the engine room.

A coastguard helicopter carrying two salvage pumps flew out to the vessel, but she was in a dangerous condition, and her crew felt it unwise to remain on board. They therefore evacuated to *Conquest*. *Constant Faith* sank 3 hours later.

The MAIB recommends that *Constant Faith's* owners carry an on-board portable pump on any vessel they operate in the future. This should help prevent the loss of a vessel facing similar difficulties.