

## **SYNOPSIS**

On 6 March 2001, the coastguard informed the MAIB that a fatal accident had occurred on board Philomena. An investigation began the following day.

Philomena, a scallop dredger fishing in the Moray Firth in moderate to rough seas, was shooting her fishing gear when she rolled to starboard and her port towing bar swung inboard and struck a deckhand on the head. He was seriously injured and, despite efforts by the crew and rescue services to save him, he subsequently died.

The accident occurred after the casualty had moved from a position of safety to a position where he was exposed to the movement of the towing bar. Contributory factors include:

The victims lack of familiarity with the vessels equipment and procedures.

The lack of a risk assessment for the shooting and hauling procedures.

The skippers inability to monitor, from his control position, the actions of all deckhands.

A safety helmet would have afforded protection to the casualty's head and might have reduced the severity of his injuries.

Recommendations to the owner are aimed at improving the safety of personnel