

## SYNOPSIS

During the afternoon of 28 October 1999, the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) received information about a manoverboard accident, west of the Island of Mull. The accident had occurred at 1146 (UTC) that day. An investigation began on 1 November, and was conducted by MAIB inspector, Richard Barwick.

The fishing vessel *Gradely* was fishing for crabs and lobsters near the Treshnish Isles, which are west of the Island of Mull. Her crew were about half-way through the last string of pots. Mr George Campbell was standing at the starboard gunwale shooting the pots when his left foot became caught in a loop of the back rope, which then dragged him overboard. He was a non-swimmer and was not wearing a lifejacket at the time of the accident.

*Gradely* was stopped, put astern, and then manoeuvred towards Mr Campbell. She had just come alongside when Mr Campbell sank below the surface. His body has not yet been found.

Recommendations are made with regard to safety training, a safer method of handling pots, and the wearing of lifejackets on deck.