

SYNOPSIS

The accident was reported to the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) on 15 October 1999 Enquiries began that day and on 21 October the owners were notified in writing that the accident would be investigated

Mr David Lyons, a deckhand on the Class V passenger ferry *Hotspur IV*, slipped and fell overboard while throwing the forward mooring rope ashore. He struck his head during the fall, cutting his forehead, but managed to swim to the pontoon berth, where he was pulled from the water. After treatment, he was released from hospital the same day.

Recommendations have been made to White Horse Ferries Ltd concerning training, the provision of non-slip safety shoes for shipboard staff, and the application of a non-slip deck covering in way of the mooring positions The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) is recommended to review the adequacy of the bulwark height on board *Hotspur IV*.