

SYNOPSIS

The accident was reported to the Marine Accident Investigation Branch in the late afternoon of Saturday 3 July 1999. The following Tuesday an MAIB inspector visited the vessel and began his investigation.

Random Harvest was returning from an angling trip in the English Channel on 3 July with eight people on board, including a party of six anglers. Four miles south-west of Brighton Marina she began flooding and the leak could not be stopped. Sea conditions were rough. *Random Harvest's* emergency bilge pumping arrangements managed to contain the flooding, and she returned to Brighton where the water was pumped out.

The cause of the leak was found to be a failure of the brass 25mm diameter through-hull fitting to the toilet seawater inlet, which had broken close to its flange at the start of the screw thread. The fitting had failed from dezincification which had probably been accelerated by stray electric currents.

Seven recommendations have been made. One is to the owner concerning improvements to his vessel to reduce the likelihood of a similar failure occurring again. Two are to the MCA, on the European standard for through-hull fittings and seacocks and on the guidance to surveyors. Three are to UK suppliers of similar fittings concerning the descriptions of their products and one is to the British Marine Industries Federation to advise its members of the findings of this investigation.