

SYNOPSIS

The accident occurred just before 0800 on 9 December 1998, it was notified to the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) at 1028 on that day.

Geeske was a scallop dredger fishing in the English Channel in moderate weather conditions. During the final hauling operation of the second watch a deckhand was struck by the port fishing gear as it was dropped on to the deck. He was badly injured, and despite valiant efforts by the crew to try to save him, he subsequently died.

The poor view from the wheelhouse is considered to have been the main cause of the accident, but a contributory factor was that the skipper's verbal instructions for the hauling operation were not followed. If they had been, the deckhand should have been in a safe position under the whaleback.

Recommendations have been made to the owner on the visibility from the wheelhouse, the procedure for the hauling operation, and to the MCA on risk assessment for scallop dredgers.