

SYNOPSIS

At 1434 on 2 November 1998, MAIB received a telex from MRCC Falmouth which reported the sinking of a Spanish fishing vessel 82 miles south-west of Mizen Head in Ireland. In fact the vessel was Spanish-owned but was registered in Penzance.

The 32 metre *Pescalanza* (Figure 1) had capsized at about 1230, while fishing in rough seas and north-north-west to north-west winds of force 8 to 9, and heavy rain showers. There were 12 people on board, all Spanish apart from one Ghanaian.

A fishing vessel, *Agorreta*, rescued six crew and recovered four bodies. A combined Irish and United Kingdom SAR operation, co-ordinated by Falmouth Coastguard was initiated but, despite helicopter and fixed wing aerial searches, the two missing persons were not found.