

SYNOPSIS

The accident was reported to the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) during the afternoon of 13 October 1998. The investigation began the following day and an inspector interviewed the skipper and owner. An acute lack of resources stopped all progress on the investigation for many months, and it was re-started in late April 1999.

Catrina, a dual purpose stern trawler/twin beam scallop dredger of 11.96 metre registered length, broached and capsized at about 1305 on 13 October 1998 about 8 cables south of Newhaven breakwater light. The crew of two were thrown into the water and rescued by the fishing vessel *Boy Antony*; none was injured. The vessel was returning from a fishing trip with a small catch of red mullet. The wind was south-south-westerly force 5 and a steep 2m sea was on *Catrina*'s port quarter.

It has been concluded that *Catrina*'s stability was probably substantially less than that recommended by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) for small fishing vessels, and that this was a factor in the accident. The broach was probably a consequence of *Catrina*'s speed and the vessel being steered by autopilot.

Three recommendations have been made to the owner covering stability, additional freeing ports and the obstruction of freeing ports.