

Interim report on the investigation of the capsizing of the recreational craft *Wheelyboat 123*, resulting in two fatalities on Roadford Lake, England on 8 June 2022

Extract from The United Kingdom Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and Investigation) Regulations 2012 – Regulation 5:

“The sole objective of a safety investigation into an accident under these Regulations shall be the prevention of future accidents through the ascertainment of its causes and circumstances. It shall not be the purpose of such an investigation to determine liability nor, except so far as is necessary to achieve its objective, to apportion blame.”

As the full investigation report will not be published within 12 months of the accident date, this interim report is published, pursuant to Regulation 14(2)(b) of the Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and Investigation) Regulations 2012.

NOTE

This report is not written with litigation in mind and, pursuant to Regulation 14(14) of the Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and Investigation) Regulations 2012, shall be inadmissible in any judicial proceedings whose purpose, or one of whose purposes is to attribute or apportion liability or blame.

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The information contained in this interim report is based on the various aspects of the investigation completed to date. Readers are cautioned that there is the possibility new evidence may become available that might alter the circumstances as depicted in this report.

FACTUAL INFORMATION

On 8 June 2022, a group of six people were participating in a trip on the open boat *Wheelyboat 123* on Roadford Lake, Devon, England. The boat was designed to be accessible and incorporated a bow ramp; three of the group were wheelchair users. The boat capsized as it was returning to the Roadford Lake Activity Centre at the end of the trip, and the occupants were thrown into the water. Four of the group were rescued but two of the wheelchair users did not survive. *Wheelyboat 123* was recovered from the lake after the accident.

INVESTIGATION

The MAIB's investigation has considered the identified aspects of the accident to determine the causes and circumstances of the capsizing and the reasons why two of the boat's occupants did not survive.

ONGOING ACTION

The MAIB investigation is complete, and a draft of the report is being prepared and will be distributed to stakeholders for a 30-day consultation period in due course.



Aerial view of Roadford Lake Activity Centre

VESSEL PARTICULARS

Vessel's name	<i>Wheelyboat 123</i>
Flag	Not applicable
Classification society	Not applicable
IMO number	Not applicable
Type	Recreational craft
Registered owner	The Wheelyboat Trust
Manager(s)	South West Lakes Trust
Year of build	2009
Construction	Aluminium
Length overall	5.3m
Registered length	Not applicable
Gross tonnage	Not applicable
Minimum safe manning	Not applicable
Authorised cargo	Not applicable

VOYAGE PARTICULARS

Port of departure	Not applicable
Port of arrival	Not applicable
Type of voyage	Not applicable
Cargo information	Not applicable
Manning	Not applicable

MARINE CASUALTY INFORMATION

Date and time	8 June 2022 at 1210
Type of marine casualty or incident	Very Serious Marine Casualty
Location of incident	Roadford Lake, England
Place on board	Not applicable
Injuries/fatalities	2 fatalities
Damage/environmental impact	Capsize
Ship operation	Pleasure trip
Voyage segment	Mid-water
External & internal environment	West south-westerly winds, force 5. Variable surface conditions.
Persons on board	6