

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As the full investigation report will not be published within 12 months of the accident date, this interim report is published, pursuant to Regulation 14(2)(b) of the Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and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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Interim report on the investigation of the collision between the fishing vessel *Kirkella* (H7) and harbour tug *Shovette* resulting in pollution at King George Dock, Hull, England on 24 June 2022

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 24 June 2022, the crew of the UK registered fishing vessel *Kirkella* lost control of its propulsion system while alongside and the vessel collided with the moored tug *Shovette* at King George Dock, Hull, England. The collision caused minor damage to *Kirkella*, but its bulbous bow breached the hull and starboard fuel tank of the unmanned *Shovette* below the waterline, resulting in the partial sinking of the tug and the release of about 7,000 litres of marine diesel pollution into the dock. There were no injuries. Another tug was deployed to prevent *Shovette* from capsizing until the situation could be stabilised. The pollution cleaning operation took 11 weeks to complete and *Shovette* was subsequently repaired and entered back into service on 2 September 2022.

INVESTIGATION

The MAIB’s investigation has considered various aspects of the accident to determine the causes and circumstances of the loss of propulsion control on board *Kirkella*.

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.

Image courtesy of Martin Klingsick (shipspotting.com)



Image courtesy of Peter Robinson (shipspotting.com)



Kirkella (left) and *Shovette* (right)

VESSEL PARTICULARS

Vessel's name	<i>Kirkella</i>	<i>Shovette</i>
Flag	United Kingdom	United Kingdom
Classification society	Det Norske Veritas	Not applicable
IMO number/fishing numbers	3808405 (H7)	7341518
Type	Fishing vessel	Pusher tug
Registered owner	UK Fisheries Ltd	Deans Marine Services Ltd.
Manager	Deutsche Fischfang-Union GmbH & Co. KG	Deans Marine Services Ltd.
Construction	Steel	Steel
Year of build	2018	1974
Length overall	81.2m	24.0m
Registered length	75.5m	Not applicable
Gross tonnage	3976	157
Minimum safe manning	30	3
Main propulsion	One 6-cylinder 3600kW Rolls-Royce diesel engine; controllable pitch propeller.	Not applicable

VOYAGE PARTICULARS

Port of departure	Hull	Not applicable
Port of arrival	Hull	Not applicable
Type of voyage	Fishing	Not applicable
Cargo information	Frozen boxed fish	Not applicable
Manning	31	0

MARINE CASUALTY INFORMATION

Date and time	24 June 2022 at 0613	
Type of marine casualty or incident	Serious Marine Casualty	
Location of incident	King George Dock, Hull, England	
Place on board	Bow	Port side hull
Injuries/fatalities	None	None
Damage/environmental impact	None	Vessel holed; about 7,000 litres of marine diesel oil pollution.
Ship operation	Manoeuvring	Alongside
Voyage segment	Berthing	Berthed
External & internal environment	Wind south-south-westerly, 6 knots.	
Persons on board	31	0