

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As the full investigation report will not be published within 12 months of the accident date, this interim report is published, pursuant to Regulation 14(2) (b) of the Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and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 into the loss of control of the powerboat *Awesome* near Little Thatch Island, British Virgin Islands on 2 October 2022, resulting in two fatalities

*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 2 October 2022, the single-hulled powerboat *Awesome* was returning from a family day out at Jost Van Dyke, British Virgin Islands when control was lost and the boat suddenly veered to starboard (right), then rolled violently to port (left), ejecting 10 of the 11 occupants. *Awesome* then reared up into a vertical position and sank down with one occupant trapped in the forward cabin of the vessel. The trapped individual and one of the ejected occupants subsequently drowned. The remaining occupants were quickly recovered from the water by other boats in the area before local search and rescue assets arrived on scene. Some of the rescued individuals had sustained injuries to varying degrees of severity.



Photograph courtesy of *Awesome's* owner

### INVESTIGATION

This investigation is being carried out by the UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) on behalf of the Government of the British Virgin Islands in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the MAIB and the Red Ensign Group Category 1 registry of the British Virgin Islands. The MAIB's investigation has considered various aspects of the accident to determine the causes and circumstances of the fatalities and injuries.

### 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.

## VESSEL PARTICULARS

Vessel's name	<i>Awesome</i>
Flag	Not applicable
Classification society	Not applicable
IMO number/fishing numbers	Not applicable
Type	Pleasure craft
Registered owner	Privately owned
Manager(s)	Not applicable
Year of build	1995
Construction	Glass reinforced plastic
Length overall	11.3m
Registered length	Not applicable
Gross tonnage	4.5
Minimum safe manning	Not applicable
Authorised cargo	Not applicable

## VOYAGE PARTICULARS

Port of departure	White Bay, Jost Van Dyke, British Virgin Islands
Port of arrival	East End dock, Tortola, British Virgin Islands (intended)
Type of voyage	Coastal
Cargo information	Not applicable
Manning	Not applicable

## MARINE CASUALTY INFORMATION

Date and time	2 October 2022 at about 1900
Type of marine casualty or incident	Very Serious Marine Casualty
Location of incident	Near Little Thatch Island, British Virgin Islands
Place on board	Not applicable
Injuries/fatalities	9 injured; 2 fatalities
Damage/environmental impact	Total constructive loss
Ship operation	In passage
Voyage segment	Transit
External/internal environment	Light airs, flat calm sea; dark with moonlight; air temperature 29°C, sea temperature 27°C.
Persons on board	11