

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As the full investigation report will not be published within 12 months of the accident date, this interim report is published, pursuant to Regulation 14(2)(b) of the Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and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 a serious injury to a passenger on the rigid inflatable boat *Lundy Explorer* at Ilfracombe, England on 7 June 2023

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 7 June 2023, while leaving Ilfracombe Harbour in choppy sea conditions, the commercially operated rigid inflatable boat *Lundy Explorer* encountered a high wave that caused the boat to suddenly decelerate and drop, which resulted in a passenger suffering a fractured spinal column and permanent paralysis.

INVESTIGATION

The MAIB’s investigation has considered all aspects of the accident to determine the causes and circumstances, including analysis of the operation of the boat in high waves; the forces generated in the sudden stop; and the seating arrangement.

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.

Still courtesy of North Devon Council closed-circuit television footage



Lundy Explorer alongside Ilfracombe Pier

VESSEL PARTICULARS

Vessel's name	<i>Lundy Explorer</i>
Flag	UK
Certifying authority	Yacht Designers & Surveyors Association
IMO number/fishing numbers	Not applicable
Type	Rigid inflatable boat
Owner and operator	Ilfracombe Sea Safari
Construction	Glass reinforced plastic hull with inflatable rubber tubing
Year of build	2020
Length overall	11m
Gross tonnage	Not applicable
Minimum safe manning	Not applicable
Authorised cargo	Passengers

VOYAGE PARTICULARS

Port of departure	Ilfracombe, Devon, England
Port of arrival	Ilfracombe, Devon, England
Type of voyage	Commercial
Cargo information	Not applicable
Manning	2

MARINE CASUALTY INFORMATION

Date and time	7 June 2023 at 1211
Type of marine casualty or incident	Serious Marine Casualty
Location of incident	Ilfracombe, Devon, England
Place on board	Forward seats
Injuries/fatalities	3 injuries, 1 serious
Damage/environmental impact	None
Vessel operation	On passage
Voyage segment	Departure
External & internal environment	Wind easterly force 4; clear skies; good visibility; low swell.
Persons on board	14