

INTERIM REPORT

VERY SERIOUS MARINE CASUALTY

OCTOBER 2024

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As the full investigation report will not be published within 12 months of the accident date, this interim report is published, pursuant to Regulation 14(2)(b) of the **Merchant Shipping (Accident** Reporting and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 grounding and foundering of the fishing vessel Sustain (UL 45) at Rubha Camas a' Mhaoraich in Loch Broom, Scotland on 16 November 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

At 1946 on 16 November 2023, the fishing trawler Sustain grounded on rocks at Rubha Camas a' Mhaoraich in Loch Broom, Scotland while on passage back to Ullapool after a day's fishing. The skipper had fallen asleep in the wheelhouse during the period leading up to the grounding. The crew were transferred safely back to shore the next day after an unsuccessful attempt to tow the vessel clear. In the days and weeks that followed, Sustain's hull was breached during poor weather and the vessel began to break up. By the end of November 2023, the vessel was declared a constructive loss.

INVESTIGATION

The MAIB's investigation has considered various aspects of the accident to determine the causes and circumstances of the grounding and foundering, including working patterns; crew background; environmental conditions; and navigational practices on board the vessel.

ONGOING ACTION

The MAIB's investigation is ongoing, 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 Sunderland Marine



Sustain aground at Rubha Camas a' Mhaoraich

VESSEL PARTICULARS	
Vessel's name	Sustain
Flag	UK
Classification society	Not applicable
IMO number/fishing numbers	UL 45
Туре	Prawn trawler
Registered owner	Privately owned
Manager(s)	Ben Stack Fishing Ltd
Year of build	1971
Construction	Wood
Length overall	16.76m
Registered length	15.09m
Gross tonnage	65.82
Minimum safe manning	Not applicable
Authorised cargo	Not applicable
VOYAGE PARTICULARS	
Port of departure	Ullapool, Ross and Cromarty, Scotland
Port of arrival	Ullapool, Ross and Cromarty, Scotland
Type of voyage	Fishing
Cargo information	Not applicable
Manning	3
MARINE CASUALTY INFORMATION	
MARINE CASUALTY INFORMATION Date and time	16 November 2023 at 1946
	16 November 2023 at 1946 Very Serious Marine Casualty
Date and time	
Date and time Type of marine casualty or incident	Very Serious Marine Casualty
Date and time Type of marine casualty or incident Location of incident	Very Serious Marine Casualty Rubha Camas a' Mhaoraich, Loch Broom, Scotland
Date and time Type of marine casualty or incident Location of incident Place on board	Very Serious Marine Casualty Rubha Camas a' Mhaoraich, Loch Broom, Scotland Wheelhouse
Date and time Type of marine casualty or incident Location of incident Place on board Injuries/fatalities	Very Serious Marine Casualty Rubha Camas a' Mhaoraich, Loch Broom, Scotland Wheelhouse Nil

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External & internal environment

Persons on board

Wind south-south-west force 1; sea state calm; night; visibility good; high water at Ullapool 2133