

Extract from The United Kingdom Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and Investigation) Regulations 2026 – Regulation 5:

The sole objective of a safety investigation into an accident under these Regulations is the prevention of future accidents through the ascertainment of its causes and circumstances. It is not 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As the full investigation report will not be published within 12 months of the accident date, this interim report is published, pursuant to Regulation 17(1)(b) of the Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and Investigation) Regulations 2026.

NOTE

This report is not written with litigation in mind and, pursuant to Regulation 19(1) of The Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and Investigation) Regulations 2026, shall be inadmissible in any judicial proceedings concerning liability unless the Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents or a court of law determine otherwise.

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Interim report on the investigation of the collision between the crew transfer vessel *Iceni Legend* and the unmanned surface vessel *X18* in the Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm, 25 nautical miles east of Felixstowe, England on 19 September 2025

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 1213 on 19 September 2025, the 22.4m crew transfer vessel *Iceni Legend* and the 4.58m uncrewed surface vessel *X18* collided in the Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm, 25 nautical miles east of Felixstowe, England. At the time, *Iceni Legend* was heading to a wind turbine to transfer personnel, while *X18* was conducting an underwater survey. *Iceni Legend* sustained damage and water ingress to its port bow and returned to port without assistance. *X18* was catastrophically damaged and sank after the collision. The wreckage of *X18* has not been recovered from the seabed.

INVESTIGATION

The MAIB's investigation has considered all aspects of the accident to determine the causes of the collision. These include the environmental conditions on the day, the ability of both vessels to see and communicate with one another, and the regulatory landscape surrounding maritime autonomous and uncrewed vessels.

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 from [Diverse Marine](#)



Iceni Legend

Image from [XOCEAN UK Limited](#)



X18

VESSEL PARTICULARS

Vessel's name	<i>Iceni Legend</i>	X18
Flag	UK	UK
Classification society	MECAL	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
IMO number/fishing numbers	Not applicable	Not applicable
Type	Crew transfer vessel	Uncrewed surface vessel
Registered owner	Iceni Marine Services Limited	XOCEAN UK Limited
Manager(s)	Iceni Marine Services Limited	XOCEAN UK Limited
Year of build	Aluminium	Glass-reinforced plastic
Construction	2017	2022
Length overall	22.4m	4.58m
Registered length	22.4m	4.58m
Gross tonnage	83	840kg
Minimum safe manning	2	0
Authorised cargo	Passengers	Not applicable

VOYAGE PARTICULARS

Port of departure	Lowestoft, England	Lowestoft, England
Port of arrival	Lowestoft, England	Lowestoft, England (intended)
Type of voyage	Passenger transfer	Survey
Cargo information	Not applicable	Not applicable
Manning	3	0

MARINE CASUALTY INFORMATION

Date and time	19 September 2025 at 1213 BST	
Type of marine casualty or incident	Very Serious Marine Casualty	
Location of incident	51°58.0'N 001°54.4'E	
Place on board	Port bow	Starboard side
Injuries/fatalities	0	0
Damage/environmental impact	Damage to port bow	Loss of X18
Ship operation	On passage	On passage
Voyage segment	Mid-water	Mid-water
External/internal environment	Clear skies; sun low in the sky; 0.5m swell; wind speed 10kts; air temperature 15°C	
Persons on board	6	0