



Accident Report

Serious Harm

Receiver

27 January 2007

Class B



NARRATIVE

On 26 January 2007, the fishing vessel *Receiver* arrived at its home port of Port Taranaki after a fishing trip of 5 days. The vessel was tied up against the main breakwater port side to. The Skipper and crew left the vessel at approximately 1930.

The crew returned to the vessel the following morning to unload the catch to Egmont Seafoods Ltd. The crew and personnel from Egmont Seafood's Ltd worked in the fish hold loading the catch into bins that were lifted out of the fish hold by the freezer truck crane.

At approximately 0900 the Deckhand climbed part way out of the fish hold on the port side to get some gloves.

A stack of four fish bins were positioned under the hatch for lifting out.

The Deckhand who did not turn around as he dropped back down into the fish hold, landed heavily on the fish bins.

The Deckhand climbed out of the fish hold and lay down on the deck for approximately 10 to 20 minutes. He had impacted the fish bins in the area of his tail bone.

The Deckhand then resumed working by guiding the fish bins out of the hatch for approximately 2 hours. He then washed and scrubbed out the fish hold with other crew members.

The Skipper of the vessel was working in the engine room and not taking part in the unloading.

The Skipper was first notified of the accident by the Deckhand on the journey home at approximately 1400, when he told the Skipper that his tail bone was sore.

Sunday 28 January was a day off.

On Monday 29 January, the Skipper and crew worked on the vessel from 1030 to 1500.

On Tuesday 30 January, the Skipper and crew spent 2 hours preparing the vessel for sea but the weather was unsuitable so the trip was postponed until the following day.

On Wednesday 31 January, the Skipper and the crew started work at 0430 for the day's fishing, returning to port at 2300, when they left the vessel.

On Thursday 1 February, the Skipper picked up the crew at 0700 to unload a small amount of fish. This was completed and the two crew were taken home at approximately 1100.

The Deckhand's tail bone was still sore at this point.

As it was a holiday on the Monday the Deckhand drove to Wellington to see family members. When he was there he went to a Doctor as the sore tail bone was not getting any better.

The Doctor sent him to the Wellington Hospital where the injury was diagnosed.



Photograph 1

Injury

The Deckhand had sustained a fracture to the Sacrum and a broken tip of the Coccyx.

Hazard Identification

The vessel has a hazard register and is part of Maritime New Zealand FishSAFE programme. Details of Health and safety meetings are recorded in the vessel's logbook.

Included in the list of hazards is the following remark:

'Take care when moving or working around open deck hatches'.



Photograph 2

ACTION TAKEN

The Skipper will include in the list of hazards that 'when unloading any person entering or exiting the hold must do so on the starboard side'.

SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. This hazard could be further minimised by the use of a suitable ladder to access the hold so that access is controlled. This should be investigated by the Skipper.
2. The Skipper should instruct the crew and un-loaders taking part in the unloading to keep clear of the area on the port side of the fish hold.

VESSEL DETAILS

Ship Name:	<i>Receiver</i>
Ship Type:	Fishing
Certified Operating Limit:	100 nautical miles from the New Zealand coast
Built:	1980
Construction Material:	Steel
Length Overall (m):	16.47
Maximum Breadth:	5.18
Gross Tonnage:	49.49
Owner:	Brown and Hayman Fisheries Ltd
Ship Operator/Manager:	I Brown
SSM Company:	Survey Nelson
Accident Investigator:	David J Coker



Photograph 3
Receiver