



Accident Report
Tray Line & Norma
Collision North of Puretua
Peninsula on 19 March 2005
Accident Report





NARRATIVE

At approximately 1345 hours New Zealand Daylight Time (NZDT), on 15 March 2005, the commercial charter-fishing vessel **Tray Line** and sailing catamaran **Norma** collided approximately 10 miles north of Purerua Peninsula in the Bay of Islands.

The Skipper of **Tray Line** stated that his vessel was drift fishing at the time and he failed to see **Norma** until she was within 50 metres of his vessel. He attempted to manoeuvre **Tray Line** clear of **Norma** by going astern but was unable to keep clear.

The Skipper of **Norma** observed **Tray Line** but determined his course would allow him to pass clear of the vessel.

Norma was on a starboard tack and being steered by autopilot. The crew were not keeping a constant lookout as the catamaran approached **Tray Line**.

Vessel & Skipper Details

Tray Line is a restricted limits 9-metre charter vessel that operates out of the Bay of Islands. She held a current Safe Ship Management Certificate at the time of collision. The Skipper held a Inshore Launchmaster Certificate. He is an experienced charter Skipper and has operated out of the Bay of Islands for 25 years.

Norma is a 15.69 metre (Given 51) recreational sailing catamaran. The Master is a French national and has 40,000 miles of blue water skippering experience.

Both skippers admit they were not keeping a proper lookout.

Visibility at the time of collision was good.

Tray Line suffered a 20 cm hole through her hull 30 cm above water level. **Norma** sustained damage to her bowsprit.



COMMENT & ANALYSIS

PART 22 MARITIME RULES

22.2 Definitions

“Vessel engaged in fishing” means any vessel fishing with nets, lines, trawls, or other fishing apparatus which restrict manoeuvrability but does not include a vessel fishing with trolling lines or other fishing apparatus which do not restrict the vessel’s maneuverability:

22.5 Look-Out

“Every vessel must at all times maintain a proper lookout by sight and hearing as well as by all available means appropriate in the prevailing circumstances and conditions, so as to make a full appraisal of the situation and the risk of collision.”

22.18 Responsibilities between vessels

Except where rules 22.9 (narrow channels), 22.10 (traffic separation schemes), and 22.13 (overtaking) require otherwise, the following rules apply –

- (1) a power-driven vessel underway must keep out of the way of -*
 - (d) a sailing vessel or a vessel under oars.*



FINDINGS

Both Skippers failed to keep a proper lookout.

Tray Line was underway but not making way. As a power driven vessel she was required to keep clear of *Norma*.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Skipper of *Norma* be censured for failing to keep a proper lookout.
2. That the Skipper *Tray Line* be censured for failing to keep a proper look-out and not keeping clear of *Norma*.

