



Accident, incident, and mishap notification

April 2016



What's in this summary

The following text summarises the notifications of accidents, incidents and mishaps that have been made to Maritime New Zealand in accordance with Section 31 of the Maritime Transport Act 1994 and which have been recorded in our database in the last month (1-30 April 2016).

These summaries are provided for information purposes only, and are not intended to be, and should not be construed as, evidence of any determination by Maritime New Zealand as to accuracy, cause, or liability. For these reasons the information is not suitable for statistical or analytical purposes.

The summaries are not verbatim copies of the original notification. In constructing the summaries, consideration has been given to the reasons to withhold information provided in the Official Information Act. This may result in some information not being included.

If an accident, incident or mishap is notified to Maritime New Zealand more than once, it is only reflected once in the report.

Injury Only

Offshore waters, Southland

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Fishing (SSM/MOSS)
Category:	Fishing Vessel
Length (m):	>45m
Tonnage (tons):	>500t

A crew member was working in the factory removing a belt frame during cleaning. He was supporting one corner of a belt frame. When the final bolt was removed he was not ready for the weight coming on and dropped the frame on his foot, he was wearing gumboots, but it caught him just above the steel cap. When the vessel docked the next day he was advised to visit a doctor and was subsequently found to have fractured two small bones in the top of his foot.

Equipment Failure

In harbour, Bay of Plenty

Vessel information	
Type:	Foreign SOLAS (ISM)
Category:	Cargo Ship
Length (m):	>45m
Tonnage (tons):	>500t

Oil observed behind the vessel, covering around twenty square metres. The master found the oil was continuously leaking from the stern tube. The valve from the expansion tank was immediately closed and the leak stopped after approximately thirty minutes.

Grounding

Inshore waters, West Coast

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Fishing (SSM/MOSS)
Category:	Trolling
Length (m):	<24m
Tonnage (tons):	

Vessel ran aground. The person on board abandoned the vessel and was recovered by helicopter from the beach. The vessel was reported to be well up the beach, and likely to not be recoverable.

Propulsion Failure

At berth, Hawkes Bay

Vessel information	
Type:	Foreign SOLAS (ISM)
Category:	Passenger
Length (m):	>45m
Tonnage (tons):	>500t

An encoder that had earlier failed was replaced. After replacement the azipod gave a negative RPM indication when the lever was set on ahead. It was decided not to leave the berth until the problem was fixed.

Injury Only

At Berth, Southland

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Passenger (MOSS/SSM)
Category:	Passenger Ship
Length (m):	<24m
Tonnage (tons):	<500t

A crew member slipped when getting on the boat when it moved with the wave from another boat.

Flip/Overturn

A river, Southland

Vessel information	
Type:	Kayak / Canoe
Category:	
Length (m):	
Tonnage (tons):	

As a group of canoes travelled downstream from the area known as the junction they travelled towards an area known as undercut rock. The canoe group pulled over to the side of the river and the guide explained the approach and technique to paddle through the area. One canoe with two aboard confused their paddling technique and paddled towards a tree that had fallen into the river, although the tree was out of the flow line. As they came in contact with the tree the canoe started to high side, the guide told clients to lean in, but in the end they leant to the outside causing the canoe to fill up and wrap in trees. One client stayed on tree, holding on partially out of water, the other client went under the canoe and came up behind the branch and canoe. The guide swam over to assist and had helped both onto a tree stump where a jet boat could be used to collect them.

Propulsion Failure

In harbour, Tasman

Vessel information	
Type:	Foreign SOLAS (ISM)
Category:	Container Ship
Length (m):	>45m
Tonnage (tons):	>500t

After letting go the moorings and using the tugs and thrusters to manoeuvre clear of the berth, the main engine failed to start. The vessel was placed back alongside with the tugs and thrusters. After a thirty minute repair the engine was successfully tested ahead and astern and the vessel departed without incident. The chief engineer reported a control air pressure failure.

Flooded

At berth, Auckland

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Passenger (SSM/MOSS)
Category:	Passenger Ferry
Length (m):	<24m
Tonnage (tons):	<500t

Low level bilge alarm sounded for fifteen seconds, followed five minutes later by a low level alarm and a five second high level alarm. The master moved from the starboard helm to the port helm to investigate, but the alarm had stopped. Maintenance were informed, with the high level alarm again sounding with steam visible on the engine room monitor. The port main engine was shut down with ventilator flaps closed and fans stopped. The vessel's 240V and 24V electrical systems shorted, and the vessel returned to the terminal on one engine to allow the passengers to be offloaded. The vessel's generator set was found to be partially submerged, so the vessel was towed to the slipway. A rubber hose at the gearbox cooler was found to have come apart due to a valve been partially closed, causing the flooding.

Flooded

In harbour, Auckland

Vessel information	
Type:	Barge
Category:	
Length (m):	
Tonnage (tons):	

Barge flooded, lost stability, and capsized while moored due to the vessel being overwhelmed by rough weather during a storm.

Injury Only

At berth, West Coast

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Fishing (SSM/MOSS)
Category:	Fishing Boat
Length (m):	
Tonnage (tons):	

A truck driver was using a crane on the back of the truck for unloading. The driver lost their balance and fell 10 metres on to the deck of the boat and then into the fish hold. They were unconscious for approximately three minutes, with an ambulance and rescue helicopter evacuating them. The driver was not wearing a safety harness and hard hat as instructed.

Contact

In harbour, Northland

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Non-Passenger (SSM/MOSS)
Category:	
Length (m):	<24m
Tonnage (tons):	

Pilot boat made contact with a buoy while returning to the harbour. Damage was caused to the boat, but only paint damage to the buoy.

Near miss/Close quarters

At berth, Wellington

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Passenger (NZISM)
Category:	Passenger / Vehicular Ferry
Length (m):	>45m
Tonnage (tons):	>500t

After tank inspection of a ballast tank ballasting commenced. Vertical manhole lid was left off on trunking. Ballast reached the manhole and water started draining in to sewage space. The loss of containment was identified and ballasting stopped and the clean sewage space pumped out and dried.

Near miss/Close quarters

At berth, Wellington

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Passenger (NZISM)
Category:	Passenger / Vehicular Ferry
Length (m):	>45m
Tonnage (tons):	>500t

Catering staff were being shown around the engine room, with the powered watertight door operation being demonstrated. The demonstrator however began to operate the door while straddling the sill with their back to the closing door. The duty engineer witnessed the event and alerted them, stopping the door from closing further.

Collision

A lake, Bay of Plenty

Vessel information	
Type:	Jet Boat (SOP)
Category:	
Length (m):	
Tonnage (tons):	

Skipper lost position on a lake at night and collided with an island.

Injury Only

At berth, Canterbury

Vessel information	
Type:	Foreign SOLAS (ISM)
Category:	Bulk Carrier
Length (m):	>45m
Tonnage (tons):	>500t

Digger was operating to compact and evenly spread bulk scrap metal. Digger driver alighting from the digger in the vessel hold slipped and fell onto the scrap metal causing deep laceration on their left thigh and a graze to their left shin.

Capsize

Inshore waters, Manawatu

Vessel information	
Type:	Recreational
Category:	
Length (m):	<24m
Tonnage (tons):	

A recreational alloy craft overturned while crossing a bar. The coast guard attended and picked up the four on board. They were fishing inside the bar when the anchor rope broke and the engine wouldn't start, with the boat being swept over the bar where it took on water and sank.

Equipment Failure

In harbour, Tasman

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Non-passenger (SSM/MOSS)
Category:	Tug
Length (m):	<45m
Tonnage (tons):	

During berthing manoeuvres the tug line parted at the eye splice on board the vessel. There were no injuries to anyone on the tug or the cargo vessel. Immediately after the line parted the remaining line was retrieved on board, the tug manoeuvred to a position to make the line fast.

Equipment Failure

At berth/marina/boat ramp, Bay of Plenty

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Non-Passenger (SSM/MOSS)
Category:	Cargo
Length (m):	>45m
Tonnage (tons):	<500t

Making sternway while attempting to berth a central fender pole/cluster was hit and damaged by the starboard quarter. The pilot indicated there may have been issues with the variable pitch control.

Injury Only

Offshore waters, Southland

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Fishing (SSM/MOSS)
Category:	Fishing Boat
Length (m):	<24m
Tonnage (tons):	

A crewman got a small cut on their finger from a bait knife. They were flown to A&E for stitches.

Spin

A river, Tasman

Vessel information	
Type:	Jet Boat (SOP)
Category:	
Length (m):	<24m
Tonnage (tons):	

A passenger was pushed against the side of the boat during a routine spin, breaking their collar bone.

Propeller Entangled

Offshore waters, Taranaki

Vessel information	
Type:	Foreign SOLAS (ISM)
Category:	General Cargo / Multi-purpose
Length (m):	>45m
Tonnage (tons):	>500t

Whilst releasing a towline between the vessel and a FPSO the rope became fouled in the starboard propeller, causing the engine to stall. Both engines were shut down and the vessel drifted clear of the installation. After recovering the remainder of the tow line the vessel's systems were checked and it was noted the starboard propeller shaft and gearbox were showing signs of damage. The vessel resumed passage to port using the retractable azimuth thruster.

Flooded

At sea, Auckland

Vessel information	
Type:	Yacht (sail)
Category:	
Length (m):	
Tonnage (tons):	

A 30ft yacht encountered two close large waves from the wake of a container ship approaching a harbour, estimated to be over two metres high, steep and breaking. The first wave hit the yacht and threw the bow high and over, but the boat plunged deep into the second wave, which put green water over the decks, into the cockpit and cabin, and nearly throwing the skipper out of the cockpit. The anchor was thrown off the fairlead and damaged the side of the boat. The skipper believes the container ship was travelling too fast.

Collision

A river, Bay of Plenty

Vessel information	
Type:	Recreational
Category:	
Length (m):	
Tonnage (tons):	

A quad scull boat passed in front of a double scull, leading to a collision. The double scull capsized, ejecting the crew into the water, with extensive damage to the boat. The quad boat sustained minimal damage, and both boats were rowed back to the club house.

Equipment Failure

Inshore waters, Bay of Plenty

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Non-passenger (SSM/MOSS)
Category:	Tug
Length (m):	<45m
Tonnage (tons):	<500t

While vessel was in heavy seas a wave came over and hit the life raft. The steinhouse clip failed and the raft moved out of its cradle, went overboard and self-deployed. The crew attempted to get it back but the tethering line broke when trying to winch it in.

Contact

At berth, Auckland

Vessel information	
Type:	Launch
Category:	
Length (m):	<24m
Tonnage (tons):	

Whilst manoeuvring to get to the pile mooring, the skipper lost control of the vessel and ended up lying along the starboard side of a passenger ship. Vessel was under power and proceeded to keep moving into berth position using the side of the passenger ship as a dock fender, which left scratches and damage to the hull.

Grounding

Inshore waters, Northland

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Fishing (SSM/MOSS)
Category:	Fishing Ship
Length (m):	<24m
Tonnage (tons):	

A distress beacon activation was received, with a notification following from maritime radio that the vessel's skipper had fallen asleep and the vessel gone aground. The vessel was not taking on water, was not leaking oil, with only minor injuries to those on board. The vessel would require a tow at high tide to get off the beach.

Fire

At berth, Canterbury

Vessel information	
Type:	Foreign SOLAS (ISM)
Category:	Fishing Vessel
Length (m):	>45m
Tonnage (tons):	>500t

Vessel caught on fire while at berth.

Lifting/Cargo gear failure

In harbour, Hawkes Bay

Vessel information	
Type:	Foreign SOLAS (ISM)
Category:	Bulk Carrier
Length (m):	>45m
Tonnage (tons):	>500t

Crane's hoisting wire failed, allowing the turn table and spreader to fall into the hold.

Oil Spill

In harbour, Bay of Plenty

Vessel information	
Type:	Foreign SOLAS (ISM)
Category:	General Cargo
Length (m):	>45m
Tonnage (tons):	>500t

During a routine test of the main engine after repairs, crew found a few oil spots behind the vessel. They immediately stopped the engine, and closed all respective valves to avoid any further leaking.

Near miss/Close quarters

In harbour, Wellington

Vessel information	
Type:	Kayak / Canoe
Category:	
Length (m):	
Tonnage (tons):	

Freedom hire kayakers paddled into the path of a ferry, causing the ferry to slow and sound warning horns.

Equipment Failure

Offshore, Wellington

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Fishing (SSM/MOSS)
Category:	Fishing Vessel
Length (m):	<45m
Tonnage (tons):	<500t

Vessel with a full load of fish experienced a serious engine breakdown. The vessel reported it was being towed by a smaller fishing vessel.

Equipment Failure

At berth, Northland

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Passenger (SSM/MOSS)
Category:	Passenger
Length (m):	<24m
Tonnage (tons):	

Vessel was approaching the berth and the master came astern on the starboard engine to arrest headway. The engine remained locked ahead and the boat accelerated. The master brought the engine to neutral and came astern on the other shaft and slowed the vessel. Minor contact was made with a concrete wharf pile, causing minor damage to the vessel, but no damage to the wharf.

Grounding

Inshore waters, Canterbury

Vessel information	
Type:	Foreign SOLAS (ISM)
Category:	Bulk Carrier
Length (m):	>45m
Tonnage (tons):	>500t

Vessel grounded close to the extension mole on approach to the port. The vessel re-floated a short time later and continued to its berth.

Injury Only

In harbour, Northland

Vessel information	
Type:	Foreign SOLAS (ISM)
Category:	Container Ship
Length (m):	>45m
Tonnage (tons):	>500t

An engineer on the vessel burnt their leg.

Flip/Overturn

A lake, Waikato

Vessel information	
Type:	Jet Ski (PWC)
Category:	
Length (m):	
Tonnage (tons):	

The operator of a hired jet ski flipped while performing a turn approximately 150m from the boat ramp. They rolled the jet ski back up as instructed during the safety briefing, however the vessel overturned while they attempted to board it. The rescue boat was used to retrieve the customer and the immersed jet ski was towed back to shore.

Injury Only

Offshore waters, Southland

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Fishing (SSM/MOSS)
Category:	Fishing Vessel
Length (m):	>45m
Tonnage (tons):	>500t

A crew member was standing near the baiter with their back to some cartons of frozen bait. The boat rolled and a carton of bait shifted, impacting their leg and pushing it into a fixed rail. They were treated on board by the medic.

Near miss/Close quarters

Inshore waters, Wellington

Vessel information	
Type:	Foreign SOLAS (ISM)
Category:	Passenger
Length (m):	>45m
Tonnage (tons):	>500t

An oncoming vessel was approaching the leads, observed to be slightly west of the leading lights. The vessel's course was altered to the east, but the oncoming vessel was observed to also alter their course to the east. The other vessel was raised on CH16 to request a port-to-port crossing, with the other vessel requesting a starboard to starboard crossing. The other vessel was already three or four points to port, so a large alteration to port would have been required to pass to starboard. The starboard-to-starboard request was refused, with the oncoming vessel passing two to three cables down the port side.

Propulsion Failure

In harbour, Auckland

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Passenger (SSM/MOSS)
Category:	Other Charter
Length (m):	<24m
Tonnage (tons):	<500t

Skipper changed fuel tanks, and although the port tank was at 50% capacity fuel would not flow, even with the vacuum pump applied. After several attempts to get fuel to move the coastguard were called and the vessel was assisted to its berth and the passengers disembarked.

Injury Only

Inshore waters, Southland

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Non-Passenger (SSM/MOSS)
Category:	
Length (m):	<24m
Tonnage (tons):	

Pilot attempted to climb the pilot ladder to access the ship. While ascending the ladder the pilot fell backwards approximately one metre and landed back onto the deck of the pilot vessel. As they were in significant pain the pilot transfer was aborted and the pilot boat returned to port to meet with an ambulance. Assessment found no significant injuries.

Near miss/Close quarters

At sea

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Fishing (SSM/MOSS)
Category:	Fishing Boat
Length (m):	<24m
Tonnage (tons):	

Travelling a 3m swell a very small radar contact was picked up on the 12 mile setting, due to the radar gaining and losing the contact and with no lights sighted it was believed to be a ghost target. A 18-20ft boat with no navigation lights on suddenly appeared ahead, missing by only 200m.

Injury Only

In harbour, Canterbury

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Passenger (SSM/MOSS)
Category:	Tourism Activity
Length (m):	<24m
Tonnage (tons):	

On departure the skipper made a safety announcement over the on board PA, re-iterating the message to remain seated or hold onto handrails after the vessel encountered increasing swells on reaching the harbour entrance. A passenger on the upper deck of the vessel moved from their location to try and get a better view, as they moved across the deck the vessel moved suddenly in the swell and the passenger fell, banging their arm/shoulder on the cabin wall. The passenger was attended to by the crew on board. They were in pain and unsure if their shoulder may have been temporarily dislocated. The vessel returned to the main wharf and the passenger was taken to the local medical centre.

Injury Only

At berth, Bay of Plenty

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Non-Passenger (SSM/MOSS)
Category:	
Length (m):	<24m
Tonnage (tons):	

A crew member stepped across the stern, holding on with their arms. They slipped off the transom, with all their body weight held by their elbow, causing a strain.

Near miss/Close quarters

Inshore waters, Auckland

Vessel information	
Type:	Launch
Category:	
Length (m):	
Tonnage (tons):	

A motor boat came into close quarters with a sailing dinghy as it was tacking across a bay. The motor boat narrowly missed the dinghy, and the skipper then verbally abused the occupants of the dinghy, before being reminded by another vessel's crew that the power boat was the give way vessel.

Flooded

In harbour, Canterbury

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Non-passenger (SSM/MOSS)
Category:	Workboat
Length (m):	<24m
Tonnage (tons):	

Boat was moored over the weekend after carrying out work in the bay. The crew returned on the next week to carry on with work, but found the boat was not on her mooring. After investigation the boat was found to be sunk on the bottom but still attached to her mooring.

Hit Submerged Object

At sea, Bay of Plenty

Vessel information	
Type:	Launch
Category:	
Length (m):	
Tonnage (tons):	

Vessel was approaching a bay in very dark visibility using the chart plotter GPS. When the GPS was reading 1.1nm off the entrance to the bay the vessel hit an object, thought to be a submerged container or other object due to the GPS reading. The skipper turned their hand held spot light to check the situation and realised that the vessel was on the rocks and in need of urgent coast guard assistance. Contact was made via VHF, and damage assessed, with the vessel taking on water that the two bilge pumps could not keep up with and being pushed against the rocks by the incoming swells. Realising the vessel was going to sink another vessel was contacted for assistance, with an inflatable sent to rescue the skipper and their other crew member. When coast guard arrived it was agreed to leave any salvage until daylight.

Injury Only

Inshore waters, Waikato

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Non-Passenger (SSM/MOSS)
Category:	Aquaculture
Length (m):	<24m
Tonnage (tons):	<500t

At a mussel farm a crew member was cutting a float off the backbone. The float spun around and hit them in the stomach, causing them to fall to the deck.