

Accident Report
Miss Otago
Serious Injury, Tasman Bay on
28 July 2005
Class C



NARRATIVE

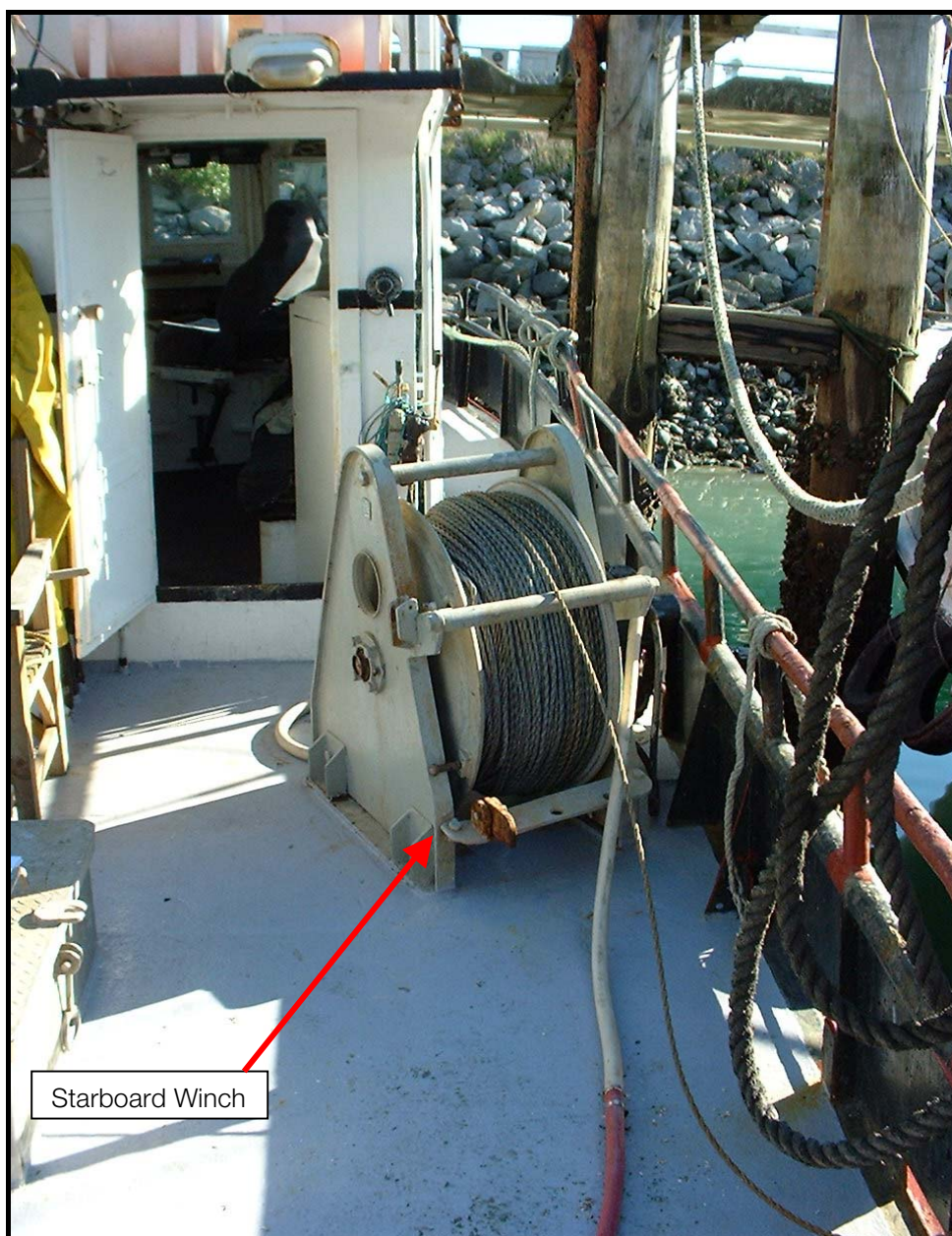
Miss Otago was dredging for oysters in Tasman Bay.

The Skipper hauled both dredges to the surface and stopped the winches. He put a locking bolt on the starboard winch while emptying the port dredge. The Skipper returned the port dredge to sea and hauled up slightly on the starboard winch to free the locking bolt (See *Photographs 1 & 2*).

The Skipper reached for the bolt with his right hand. As he grasped the locking bolt, the winch crept out, trapping his thumb between the bolt and the wind bed support. Using his left hand, the Skipper hauled in on the winch and freed his thumb.

The weather conditions at the time were a one metre swell, no wind and good visibility.

The Skipper dislocated his thumb in the accident. There were chipped bones around the first joint on the thumb and 16 stitches were inserted to hold the skin together around the injury site.



Photograph 1





Photograph 2

LESSONS LEARNED

- The Skipper has instructed a local engineering firm to re-commission the ratchet lock (See *Photograph 3*) that is fitted to the starboard winch and to fabricate one for the port side winch, so as to hold the winches and prevent them from creeping out when under load.



Photograph 3

