



Accident, incident, and mishap notification

Monthly Summary
December 2015



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 (1-31 December 2015).

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

At berth, Wellington

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Cargo (NZISM)
Category:	
Length (m):	>45m
Tonnage (tons):	>500t

A crew member was re-fastening the hammerlock and hitting the pin in with a club hammer. The hammer slipped off the pin and squashed his left middle finger against the hammerlock body.

Propulsion failure

At berth, Tasman

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

Vessel's skiff was released as part of the normal berthing procedure, with the pilot at the bridge wing controls, the master directing the skiff, and the navigator monitoring the vessel's speed. The vessel was briefly put astern, with a normal engine response. Approaching at 4kts the vessel was again put astern, this time with no response. The main engine RPM gauge indicated zero, and the chief engineer advised they were aware and were attempting to restart the engine. The skiff was direction to a position where they could push or pull the vessel away from the dock and the master gave the order to release the starboard anchor. Contact was made with the mooring lines of a car carrier, however no damage was caused, and no contact was made with the dock. Investigation commenced to determine the cause of the stoppage, which was possibly due to a rapid change from forward to reverse not allowing the clutches to deflate, locking them in both positions, and stalling the engine. It was noted that pre arrival checks, communication checks with the skiff, having a senior crew member standing by a the anchor windlass, and having all crew prepared for berthing and harbour entrance prevented a more serious incident.

Contact

Inshore waters, Wellington

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

Boat landed heavily against a larger cargo ship due to interaction between the two vessels. Minor damage to fittings on the starboard quarter of the boat.

Equipment failure

Inshore waters, Auckland

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Cargo (NZISM)
Category:	Cargo
Length (m):	>45m
Tonnage (tons):	>500t

Bilge water tank high level alarm activated during departure. Engineer sounded the bilge water tank and got a reading of 1.86m compared to daily sounding done that morning of 1.00m. Resounded the tank approximately 10 minutes later to find level full. They noticed a small amount of oil on tank cover lid but no signs of any oil or water leaking from the tank cover. As the tank is situated under the propeller shaft with a coupling in close proximity they could not get a closer inspection. After reaching a safe position the engine was stopped to check the lid tightness as it had been off previously to check other issues. The lid under the shaft was cleaned and checked for leaks, with all seemingly secure. The engine was restarted, with no further ingress of water.

Grounding

A lake, Otago

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

During an empty run the master took the vessel on a different route to view a building that had earlier burnt down. He took an initially cautious approach by proceeding out into the lake to allow him to approach perpendicular to land so that he could assess the water available.

On his approach in very good conditions he became focused on the building and failed to notice that the depth was shoaling rapidly. He ultimately saw the bottom and urgently put the boat in reverse but at that moment grounded, damaging both propeller tips. The boat returned to berth for repairs.

Injury Only

In harbour, Canterbury

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Cargo (NZISM)
Category:	Cargo
Length (m):	>45m
Tonnage (tons):	>500t

A crew member banged their right thumb against a table in the crew room. Overnight the injury became infected, and after visiting a doctor it was found the infection was tracking up their arm, requiring further treatment.

Fire

At berth, Hawkes Bay

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

A fire started behind the vessel's exhaust after the crew had left. Smoke was noticed by a passing crew member from another vessel, who notified the fire service and the vessel owner.

Propeller entangled

In harbour, Bay of Plenty

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Cargo (NZISM)
Category:	Cargo
Length (m):	>45m
Tonnage (tons):	>500t

As the ship was letting go lines for departure a line was sucked in under the stern and wrapped around the propeller.

Injury Only

A river, Bay of Plenty

Vessel information	
Type:	Raft (SOP)
Category:	Adventure
Length (m):	<6m
Tonnage (tons):	

The raft guide was struck on the back and right side of the rib cage by a paddle as the raft was going over a waterfall.

Propeller entangled

In harbour, Northland

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

While retrieving oil spill gear instruction given to proceed ahead. An unseen line was caught in the propeller which was attached to a paravane. The paravane was damaged and rope tangled around propeller. It was cut free and rest of gear retrieved, with no damage to the vessel.

Explosion

At berth, Tasman

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

A contractor was undertaking repairs on the vessels port side diesel tank. The engineer undertaking the repair was in the hold where the diesel tank is located. A second engineer was located on the deck directly above the hold in a position to monitor the engineer undertaking the work. The Skipper of the vessel was outside at the stern of the vessel undertaking other work. Three fire extinguishers were positioned on hand in case of emergency, one in the hold with the engineer undertaking the work and two others on the deck above the hold next to the second engineer. While the engineer was welding the tank it exploded and caught fire. Immediately upon hearing the explosion the skipper ran inside the vessel, retrieved a fire extinguisher and proceeded to put out the fire. The skipper also directed the engineer who was positioned on the deck to do the same. Using both extinguishers they were able to put the fire out within 10-20 seconds. The engineer who was in the hold undertaking the work exited the hold as the skipper activated his extinguisher. As soon as the fire was out the skipper directed both engineers to get out as fast as possible and all three exited the vessel onto the pontoon that the vessel was alongside. The two crew members who were also on board at the time had immediately evacuated the vessel as soon as the explosion occurred and were waiting on the pontoon. Once everyone on board was safely evacuated from the vessel the skipper briefly boarded the vessel again to check that the fire had not reignited and then returned to the pontoon. 111 was called and ambulance and fire were requested. The Skipper and the two crew members were unharmed. The engineer who was in the hold undertaking the work suffered bruising and minor scrapes. The engineer who was on the deck above the hold suffered a minor burn to his face and a fractured right ankle.

Hit submerged Object

Inshore waters, Southland

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Passenger (SSM/MOSS)
Category:	Not selected
Length (m):	<24m
Tonnage (tons):	<500t

On the final trip of the day the master decided to turn in the river and head to the lower landing as the tide was on the last hour and a half of the ebb, in a period approaching the spring range. The area is not known to have any hazardous rocks so the manoeuvre was a normal event. During the turn the vessel contacted a submerged object, but it was considered a glancing impact. The bilges were checked, with it found the vessel was slowly making water. The master felt there was no risk to the vessel's stability or flotation, so picked up the passengers and transported them without incident. The vessel was later taken to its berth and pumped out, and was later removed from the water where it was found one plank had been sprung in the area immediately adjacent to the keel under the engine.

Equipment failure

In harbour, Northland

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

Ship found to be unable to provide full ahead when requested. Engines were stopped momentarily by engine control room in vicinity of a buoy. Pilot made tugs fast forward and aft and departure continued using slow ahead.

Equipment failure

In harbour, Northland

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

The Pilot was conducting the swing of the vessel off the berth and had a steering failure. Vessel steering was transferred and departure continued without further incident.

Mooring line failure

In harbour, Wellington

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

During mooring the forward spring line broke at the eye splice. Nothing was out of the ordinary with the berthing, with the line being held to stop a slight forward drift at the final mooring position. The line was 80mm eight-strand polyester and polypropylene, described as being in average condition.

Person overboard

At berth, Auckland

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

Coming into the pier slow astern two crew members were stationed on the stern to secure lines and position the gangway. The first crew member placed the eye of the stern line over the bollard and crouched to secure the line on the pins. The second crew member lifted the gate section out of the safety rail and moved the gangway slightly in preparation for off-loading passengers. The first crew member stood and signalled to the skipper that the line was secure, but then fell overboard, landing between the vessel and the berth. The crew member swam to the boarding platform at the stern and pulled themselves back on board. A safety alert was later distributed to all crew highlighting the incident and listing preventative measures such as ensuring the bow doors, stern doors, and gates are not opened until berthing manoeuvres are completed and the vessel is secured.

Injury Only

At berth/marina/boat ramp, Bay of Plenty

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

A crew member was struck on the head by a falling chain while lashing logs.

Contact

In harbour, Bay of Plenty

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

The charter vessel was being used for recreational purposes. Heading for a mark to round the skipper was momentarily distracted and their vision was temporarily obscured. About two seconds later they reacquired the mark and realised they were too close. They attempted to avoid the mark but a plank was overhanging which caught the lifeline on the port side of the yacht at the widest part of the beam. This pulled the stanchions from the deck.

Hit submerged Object

A river, Manawatu

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

Passing through a narrows the vessel sheered to port, having struck an outcrop. Vessel dropped anchor to assess damage, then weighed anchor and preceded at slow speed downstream until abeam a ramp. Passengers were evacuated to another vessel to allow a tow to be commenced.

Equipment Failure

At Berth, Waikato

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

Vessel was secured to the wharf with the engine in reverse to counter strong winds and tide. On departure the gearbox failed to engage due to a loss of pressure. The gearbox was later removed and found to have perforations in the casting.

Propulsion Failure

A river, Canterbury

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

Engine failed on a downstream run. The boat floated into rocks and was then floated downstream to the nearest pool and secured. The passengers were transferred to another boat and a tow arranged.

Dragged anchor

In harbour, Auckland

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

Yacht dragged anchor while no one was on board, colliding with another boat.

Capsize

A lake, Waikato

Vessel information	
Type:	Kayak / Canoe
Category:	Unpowered Recreational - Canadian Canoe
Length (m):	
Tonnage (tons):	

Canoe ended up side on to a wave, with water in the canoe causing it to roll over.

Injury Only

At berth, Hawkes Bay

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

During cargo loading the bosun was hit by a chain being used for log lashing. The Chief Officer was operating the crane after the bosun hooked up the chain for laying it across the logs, with the CO hoisting up the chain with the crane. The bosun was clearing himself from the area but was slowed and distracted by a gap in the logs, taking his eyes off the chain. It was gently swinging, and as he turned the end struck him on his helmet and right side of his mouth and jaw. He suffered a cut, and dizziness, and was taken to hospital as a precaution.

Collision

Inshore waters, Auckland

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

Crew member on watch of a vessel with a load of sand sighted vessels approaching from both port and starboard. They however failed to sight a small dinghy ahead, with the dinghy crew abandoning ship due to the imminent collision. The two on board the dinghy were picked up, given dry clothes, and returned to their vessel, which had suffered slight damage.

Propeller entangled

At berth, Wellington

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

The aft mooring line was being sent ashore, and the mooring gang ashore had not released the heaving line from the mooring line. A gust of wind caught the heaving line which fell in the water and fouled the port side propeller. When the shore gang saw the heaving line being pulled in they threw the mooring rope back into the water. The Master pushed the emergency stop on the port prop. Due to the wind pushing the stern off the quay, the Master instructed that the mooring lines be released and backed off the berth with the starboard propeller. The Master had seen two tugs berthing another vessel and requested their attendance to assist berthing.

Injury Only

At berth, Southland

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

Launch-master was leaning over vessel alongside the wharf to put a fender between the wharf and the vessel. The northerly wind and slight sea swell in the bay caused the vessel to rock and Launch-master dislocated his shoulder in the process.

Contact

A lake, Waikato

Vessel information	
Type:	Jet Ski (PWC)
Category:	
Length (m):	<6m
Tonnage (tons):	

A hired jet ski was returned with a moderate dent on the front. The customer claimed they had no knowledge of how the damage occurred. It is suspected they hit a rock. Customers are warned about the dangers or rocks near the shoreline, and of the lake rules to stay below 5kts within 200m of the shore or 50m of any other vessel or person.

Injury Only

A river, Canterbury

Vessel information	
Type:	Raft (SOP)
Category:	Adventure
Length (m):	<6m
Tonnage (tons):	

Transiting a rapid a customer twisted their wrist holding onto the raft. Ice was applied back at the base, with a doctor's visit the following day.

Propulsion failure

A river, Otago

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

While motoring an unusual engine noise was observed by the driver, along with low oil pressure. The vessel was brought to a stop with a 180 degree turn and the engine switched off to prevent damage. The vessel was rafted 100m to the end point of the jet boat tour and the clients unloaded onto the beach. The engine was removed from service for inspection.

Person overboard

A river, Canterbury

Vessel information	
Type:	Raft (SOP)
Category:	Adventure
Length (m):	<6m
Tonnage (tons):	

A customer attempted a back flip off the raft, however as it was only waist deep they hit their head on the bottom of the river. They carried on with the trip, however due to back pain they were transported to base and to a medical centre. Referral to a spinal clinic found no fractures.

Flooded

Not selected, Bay of Plenty

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

A high water alarm sounded on the vessel's sewage tank, which had been empty until that point. Water was visible leaking from the sewage tank into the surrounding bilge, with the source of the leak not apparent. A diver found a 25mm hole in the hull, with a crack in the paint emanating from the hole, and visible bubbling of the paint.

Equipment failure

In harbour, Southland

Vessel information	
Type:	NZ Cargo (NZISM)
Category:	Oil Tanker
Length (m):	>45m
Tonnage (tons):	>500t

During the outward transit of the harbour in manual steering the rudder stuck 20 degrees to port. The non-follow-up mode was immediately engaged and the vessel steered in this mode without incident.

Collision

At sea, Auckland

Vessel information	
Type:	Dinghy (motorised)
Category:	
Length (m):	<6m
Tonnage (tons):	

Boat was anchored to allow fishing, with those on board observing a large launch moving slowly closer. They yelled to get someone's attention but could see no one. One person jumped overboard, and one person was nearly hit by the launch as it struck the port stern of the dinghy. Equipment was broken and minor injuries caused, with the dinghy swamped.

Touch

A river, Otago

Vessel information	
Type:	Jet Boat (SOP)
Category:	Adventure
Length (m):	<6m
Tonnage (tons):	

Approaching a rock the jet boat skipper was closer than he thought, making contact with the rock face on the starboard side. Damage was caused, but no one was injured.

Flooded

Inshore waters, Southland

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

The vessel was on the return leg of a journey when the master noticed that the vessel was taking on water. They notified the harbour control, and advised they believed they could make the harbour without assistance. It soon became apparent they would not make it, and called for assistance from other vessels. The engine failed due to water ingress, and passengers were transferred to other vessels to be taken into the harbour. The disabled vessel was pushed onto the mudflats outside of the harbour entrance. It is not yet apparent where the water has come from.

Grounding

At sea, Auckland

Vessel information	
Type:	Dinghy (motorised)
Category:	
Length (m):	<6m
Tonnage (tons):	

Dinghy's motor failed to start after pulling up the anchor. The boat drifted into rocks and hit repeatedly, with water entering the boat. The skipper unsuccessfully attempted to throw their gear onto the rocks, and with water entering rapidly decided to secure themselves onto land. With all forms of communication lost the skipper was later picked up by a jet skier who saw him signalling.

Contact

At berth/marina/boat ramp, Auckland

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

A ferry was observed attempting to berth at a berth across from a jet boat. The deckhand was warned they were getting close to the jet boat, who advised a trainee skipper was in control. Shortly afterwards the stern of the ferry collided with the jet boat, pushing it into the pier, cracking welds and peeling decals off the side of the jetboat.

Near miss / Close quarters

Inshore waters, Northland

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

A fishing vessel failed to give way to a passenger vessel, with the passenger vessel sounding their horn and turning to starboard. The fishing vessel turned to port, missing by approximately three feet.

Injury Only

At berth, Marlborough

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

During discharge operations a makeshift ramp was used instead of the portable aluminium ramps provided. As the trade car went over the plank of wood being used it shifted and rolled onto the bosun's foot, causing a fracture.

Injury Only

A river, Bay of Plenty

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

The raft came over the waterfall on the normal line for that fall with no swimmers or flip, however a client sitting in the front left dislocated their left shoulder, possibly from a bad impact at the base of the falls.

Near miss / Close quarters

Not selected, Taranaki

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

A transiting SOLAS vessel failed to respond to calls from a fishing vessel operating in the area, with the vessels coming into close proximity.

Contact

At sea, Taranaki

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

Vessel drifted onto outer side of main breakwater due to rough and breaking seas.