



Accident Report

Passenger Injury

Wainui

9 June 2007

Class B



NARRATIVE

On the afternoon of Saturday 9 June 2007, the water taxi *Wainui* departed Marahau at the southern end of the Abel Tasman National Park in Tasman Bay.

On board were the Skipper and three passengers.

The vessel made its way north up the National Park and dropped off one passenger at Torrent Bay and then continued north.

After viewing the seals about midway up the National Park, the Skipper decided to return to base at Marahau due to poor weather conditions further up the national Park. He slowly made his way south.

The stopped and viewed some of the natural features on the way back.

The Skipper was conning from a forward starboard position, with one passenger sitting beside him to port and the other immediately behind the Skipper in the second row of seats.

Both passengers were riding the waves by standing up whilst holding onto a hand rail in front of each seating position.

The Skipper was driving the vessel up and down the waves by using the throttle to decrease and increase the vessel speed as necessary.

Shortly after restarting the journey, the vessel dropped off a wave, this caused one of the passengers to lift off her feet and her bottom was slammed into the seat as the vessel rode up the next wave.

She was laid onto the floor complaining off back injuries. The vessel went back to the ramp and the passenger was removed to hospital via ambulance.

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

Evidence

The Skipper was formally interviewed on 15 June 2007. A statement was taken from both passengers on 12 June 2007.

Analysis

Wainui is a 7.5 metre aluminium pontoon style vessel, powered by a 225 Hp outboard motor, built in 2005.

The vessel held a valid Safe Ship Management Certificate issued by Survey Nelson Ltd, due to expire in September 2010.

The Skipper is an experienced operator in the National Park area and holds an Inshore Launch Masters Certificate of competency.

The Skipper had spoken to the passengers about their boating experience and found that they owned fishing vessels in Tasmania and were used to the motion of the waves.

The weather was east southeast of about 15 knots. There was a 1 to 1.5 metre swell from the same direction.



Photograph 1
Forward Seat Configuration



Photograph 2
Wainui

FINDINGS

The Skipper made the decision to turn back due to poor weather conditions.

He had no reason to suspect that the passengers may have problems with the motion of the vessels.

The Skipper was travelling at a slow speed and was meeting each wave at variable speeds for greater comfort.

VESSEL DETAILS

Ship Name:	<i>Wainui</i>
Ship Type:	Passenger
Certified Operating Limit:	Inshore Restricted
Flag:	New Zealand
Built:	2005
Construction Material:	Aluminium
Length Overall (m):	7.5
Registered Owner:	Alborn Entreprises Ltd
SSM Company	Survey Nelson Ltd
Accident Investigator:	Domonic Venz