

# MCIB

Marine Casualty Investigation Board  
*Bord Imscrúdú Taisní Muirí*



**INTERIM REPORT  
OF AN INVESTIGATION  
INTO A MARINE CASUALTY  
INVOLVING A JET SKI  
AT KILLALOE/BALLINA,  
CO. CLARE  
31 MAY 2023**

**REPORT NO. MCIB/328/INTERIM  
(No.1 OF 2024)**

The Marine Casualty Investigation Board (MCIB) examines and investigates all types of marine casualties to, or on board, Irish registered vessels worldwide and other vessels in Irish territorial waters and inland waterways.

The MCIB objective in investigating a marine casualty is to determine its circumstances and its causes with a view to making recommendations for the avoidance of similar marine casualties in the future, thereby improving the safety of life at sea.

The MCIB is a non-prosecutorial body. We do not enforce laws or carry out prosecutions. It is not the purpose of an investigation carried out by the MCIB to apportion blame or fault.

The legislative framework for the operation of the MCIB, the reporting and investigating of marine casualties and the powers of MCIB investigators is set out in The Merchant Shipping (Investigation of Marine Casualties) Act, 2000.

In carrying out its functions the MCIB complies with the provisions of the International Maritime Organisation's Casualty Investigation Code and EU Directive 2009/18/EC governing the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector.

Section 34 of the Merchant Shipping (Investigation of Marine Casualties) Act, 2000, as amended by Section 12 of the 2022 Act, requires that where the Board is unable to publish a report within 12 months of the date of the casualty, it shall publish at least one interim report of the investigation during that period.

**This is an interim report and no conclusions should be drawn from its contents.**



Leeson Lane, Dublin 2.  
Telephone: 01-678 3485/86.  
email: [info@mcib.ie](mailto:info@mcib.ie)  
[www.mcib.ie](http://www.mcib.ie)

**INTERIM REPORT  
OF AN INVESTIGATION  
INTO A MARINE CASUALTY  
INVOLVING A JET SKI  
AT KILLALOE/BALLINA,  
CO. CLARE  
31 MAY 2023**

The Marine Casualty Investigation Board was established on the 25th March 2003 under the Merchant Shipping (Investigation of Marine Casualties) Act, 2000.

The copyright in the enclosed report remains with the Marine Casualty Investigation Board by virtue of section 35(5) of the Merchant Shipping (Investigation of Marine Casualties) Act, 2000. No person may produce, reproduce or transmit in any form or by any means this report or any part thereof without the express permission of the Marine Casualty Investigation Board. This report may be freely used for educational purposes.

**REPORT NO. MCIB/328/INTERIM  
(No.1 OF 2024)**

## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 On the afternoon of the 31 May 2023 at around 16.00 hours (hrs) a Sea-Doo personal watercraft (PWC) was launched into the water from a trailer at the public slipway south of Killaloe/Ballina, Co. Clare. The PWC was being operated in the area between the launch slipway and the Shannon Bridge, with a couple of brief forays north of the bridge. At approximately 16.30 hrs the driver of the PWC invited two passengers to board the PWC from the Ballina pontoon. Only one of the three persons onboard the PWC was observed to be wearing a Personal Flotation Device (PFD).
- 1.2 At approximately 17.00 hrs the PWC and the three occupants passed the pontoon at speed and made a sharp left turn in an area that was approximately mid river and just south of the bridge. All three persons fell off the PWC when it capsized during the sharp left turn. The two passengers, one of whom was wearing a PFD, recovered from the fall and swam ashore to the Ballina pontoon.
- 1.3 The driver of the PWC, who was not wearing a PFD, was not visible from the shore and feared to have gone under the water. The alarm was raised by a member of the public and a search and recovery operation commenced.
- 1.4 The Casualty was recovered from the water after a search involving local emergency services at approximately 18.45 hrs. Death was pronounced at the scene by an advanced paramedic.

Note: Times are local time = UTC + 1 (Co-ordinated Universal Time + 1)



Leeson Lane, Dublin 2.  
Telephone: 01-678 3485/86.  
email: [info@mcib.ie](mailto:info@mcib.ie)  
[www.mcib.ie](http://www.mcib.ie)

