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**REPORT OF THE
INVESTIGATION INTO
THE SINKING OF THE FV
"CARRAIG AN IASC"
ON
20th JANUARY 2011**

**REPORT No. MCIB/197
(No.15 of 2011)**



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22nd December 2011.

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1. SYNOPSIS

(Note: All times are in UCT)

On 20th January 2011 at approximately 08.30 hrs. the FV "*Carraig An Iasc*" departed Crosshaven, Co. Cork with a crew of two onboard, Skipper/Owner Mr. James Fitzgerald and Crewman Mr. Gerry Hegarty. They then proceeded to sea to haul and bait crab pots. During the fishing operations whilst altering course, the vessel became swamped, capsized and the two crew members ended up in the water. Mr. Fitzgerald managed to swim ashore and raise the alarm. Mr. Hegarty did not manage to swim ashore and was drowned, his body being recovered on 17th February 2011 at Ringabella Strand, Co. Cork.

2. FACTUAL INFORMATION

2.1 Particulars of the Vessel.

Name of Vessel:	<i>"Carraig An Iasc"</i>
Builder:	Cygnus Boats
Year of Build:	Approximately 1983
Overall Length:	6.42m
Breadth:	2.56m
Depth:	0.77m
Engine:	Perkins 4 cylinder, 4 stroke engine of 48.52 KW Capacity.
Name & Address of Owner:	Mr James Fitzgerald, Crosshaven, Co. Cork.

General Description of Craft: Traditionally built craft of fibre reinforced plastic, of carvel form, with a raked stem and transom stern. Craft was of decked design (raised foredeck, open sealed aft deck with freeing ports).

A small wheelhouse fitted at the forward end of the vessel.

Pot Hauler fitted on starboard aft end of wheelhouse superstructure.



General View of Boat.

- 2.2. The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport's Code of Practice Declaration of Compliance for the "*Carraig An Iasc*" was carried out on 19th September 2009 and was valid until 15th July 2013.
- 2.3 The crew of the "*Carraig An Iasc*" on 20th January 2011 was:
Mr. James Fitzgerald
Mr. Jeremiah Hegarty
- 2.4 Met Éireann's estimate of weather conditions in the Ringabella Bay, entrance to Cork Harbour on 20th January 2011 was:
Winds: Light, Force 3, 15km/hour to 20km/hour from an east to north-east direction.
Waves Offshore: Moderate, with a significant wave height of 1.5m to 2m and maximum wave of 3m.
- 2.5 At the time of the incident Mr. Fitzgerald was wearing a pair of Regatta Fishermen oilskin trousers with buoyancy built into the front and back bibs.
- 2.6 At the time of the incident Mr. Hegarty was wearing yellow fishermen's oilskins. He was not wearing a personal flotation device (PFD) or any other form of buoyancy aid.

3. EVENTS PRIOR TO THE INCIDENT

- 3.1 On 20th January 2011 at approximately 08.30 hrs. the FV "*Carraig An Iasc*" departed Crosshaven, Co. Cork with a crew of two onboard, Skipper/Owner Mr. James Fitzgerald and Crewman Mr. Gerry Hegarty.
- 3.2 They then proceeded to sea to haul and bait crab pots.
- 3.3 Two strings of pots were hauled, baited and shot without incident in the vicinity of Beaulna Bay between approximately 09.00 and 09.30 hrs.
- 3.4 The craft then proceeded approximately 1,800m South to the second location of pots. A further string of pots consisting of 15 pots was hauled and baited. The pots were hauled in a North to South direction.

4. THE INCIDENT

- 4.1 On completion of baiting the pots the boat was coming about to re-shoot the pots. Whilst the boat was turning to starboard a wave hit the boat on the port side rising over the bulwarks onto the deck swamping the boat causing it to list heavily to port.
- 4.2 The two crew members grabbed the starboard rail, the boat rolled over through 180 degrees. The two crew ended up sitting on the bottom of the boat for a few moments prior to the boat sinking beneath them.

5. EVENTS FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT

- 5.1 Subsequent to the boat sinking both crew members began to swim ashore. Shortly after commencing to swim ashore Mr. Gerry Hegarty who was approximately 6m behind Mr. James Fitzgerald got into difficulties and disappeared beneath the waves.
- 5.2 Mr. Fitzgerald managed the 60m or so swim to shore and clambered onto the rocks. The cliff was too high to scale at that point, however, he re-entered the water and swam around the outcrop to a place where it was easier to climb ashore. He then made his way across fields to the nearest house, from where he raised the alarm.
- 5.3 MRSC Valentia received a 999 call from Mr. Fitzgerald's father at 10.41 hrs. on 20th January 2011 reporting that a boat had sank off Fish Point and that one crew member had swam ashore and one crew member was still missing.
- 5.4 On receiving this emergency call MRSC immediately activated the following the emergency services:
 - 10.42 hrs. Crosshaven Inshore Lifeboat tasked.
 - 10.44 hrs. Helicopter R117 tasked.
 - 10.52 hrs. Pan message broadcast.
 - 10.56 hrs. Ballycotton Lifeboat tasked.
- 5.5 At 12.25 hrs. Diver's from the L.E. "Emer" located the "Carraig An Iasc" but no body was found.
- 5.6 A search for the body of Mr. Hegarty was carried out for a number of days without success.
- 5.7 Mr. Hegarty's body was subsequently recovered on 17th February 2011 at Ringabella Strand at the entrance to Cork Harbour.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 It is probable that the "*Carraig An Iasc*" encountered wind or wave action or a combination of both. This caused the vessel to heel to an angle beyond which it was able to recover from its loaded condition, and thereby resulting in capsize and sinking.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board notes that there have been a number of incidents caused by overloading boats thus effecting stability.

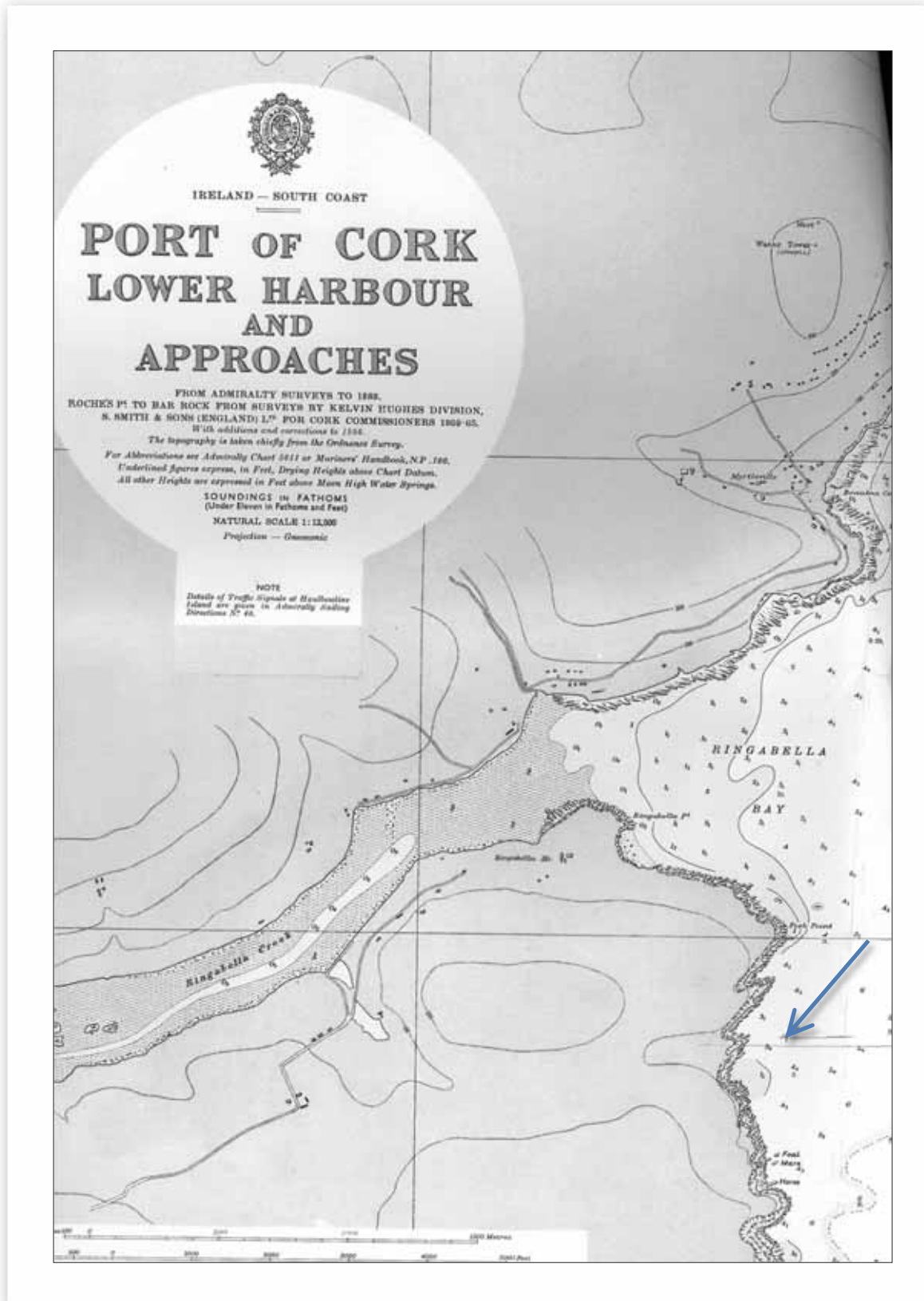
- 7.1 The Board recommends that the Minister reviews and revises the stability standards in the current Code of Practice to improve these standards.
- 7.2 It is the responsibility of all skippers to ensure that all their crew wear PFD's or lifejackets whilst on deck. Modern PFD's and lifejackets are small and compact and do not interfere with the safe working on the deck. The MCIB recommends that the Minister issue a safety notice to all skippers and owners in the fishing fleet reminding them of their legal responsibility and that they may face prosecution for non-compliance of the law.

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8. LIST OF APPENDICES

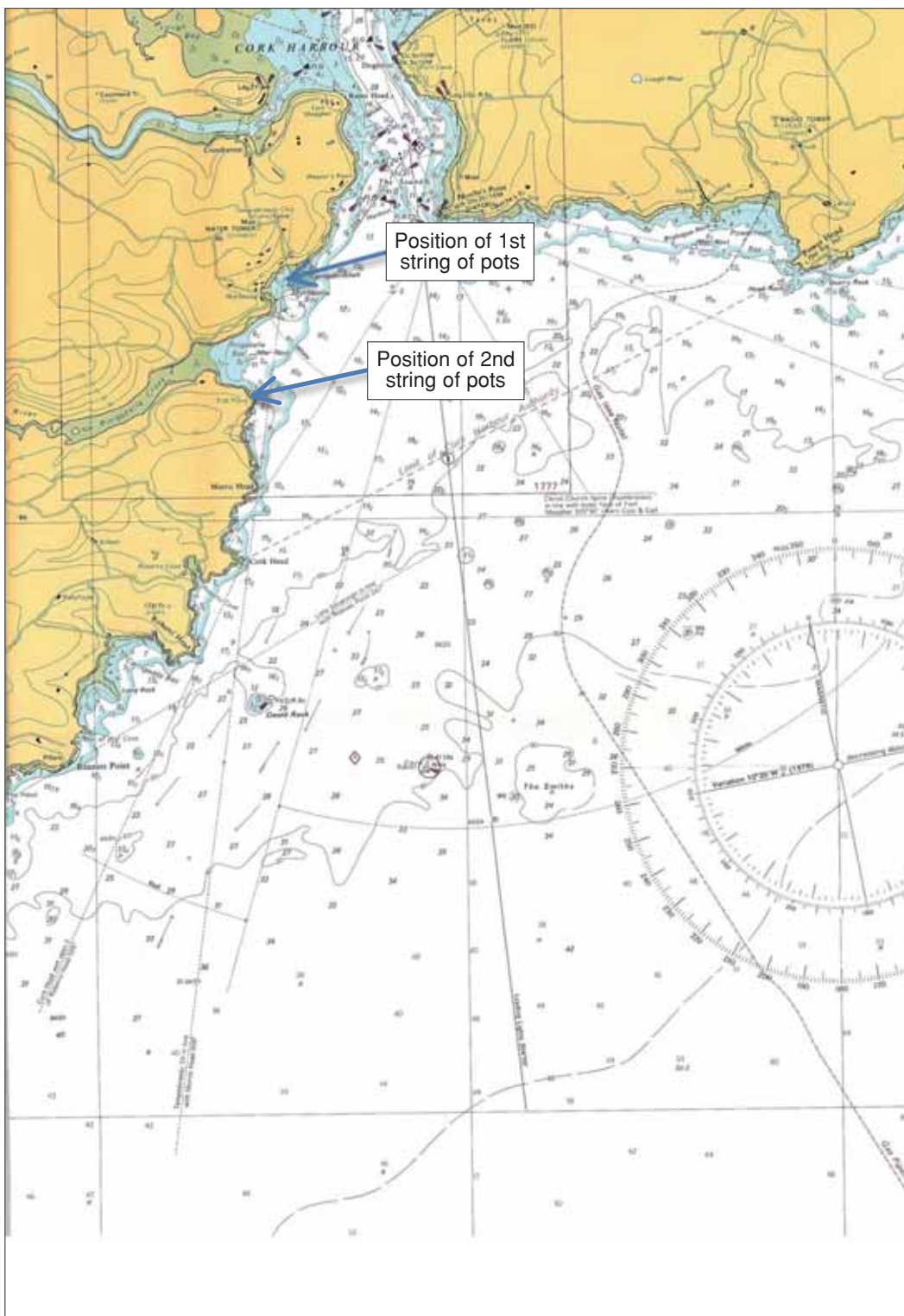
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Appendix 8.1 Extract from Chartlet No. 1777 - location of incident.



Extract from Chart No. 1777, Showing Approximate Position of Sinking.

Appendix 8.1 (a) Extract from Chart No. 1765.



Appendix 8.2 Met Éireann Weather Information.



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27/1/2010

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Your Ref. MCIB/197

Estimate of weather conditions in the Ringabella Bay, entrance to Cork Harbour, on the 20th January 2011, between 6 hours and 18 hours.

6 - 12hours

Weather: the weather was dry and rather cloudy but with clear or sunny spells also, especially towards the end of the period. There were also isolated patches of mist in the general area

Winds: light, Force 3, 15km/hour to 20km/hour, from an east to north-east direction

Visibility: mostly good, greater than 10km, but moderate or poor for short periods in any mist.

Temperatures: air temperatures rose 5°C to 8°C, and the sea temperature was 8°C

Waves offshore: moderate, with a significant wave height of 1.5m to 2m and maximum wave of 3m

12 – 18 hours

Weather: the weather was dry with some cloud but good sunny or clear spells also. There were also isolated patches of mist in the area.

Winds: light, Force 2 to 3, 10km/hour to 20km/hour, from an east to south-east direction

Visibility: mostly good, greater than 10km, but moderate to poor for short periods in any mist.

Temperatures: air temperatures fell 8°C to 5°C, and sea temperatures was 8°C

Waves offshore: moderate, with a significant wave height of 1.5m to 2m and maximum wave height of 4m

Evelyn Murphy B.Sc. M.Sc. Meteorologist
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Appendix 8.2 Met Éireann Weather Information.



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Beaufort Scale of Wind

Force	Description	Speed*		Specification -sea	Wave height** (metres)
		knots	km/hr		
0	Calm	<1	<1	Sea like mirror	
1	Light air	1-3	1-5	Ripples	0.1 (0.1)
2	Light breeze	4-6	6-11	Small wavelets	0.2 (0.3)
3	Gentle breeze	7-10	12-19	Large wavelets, crests begin to break	0.6 (1)
4	Moderate breeze	11-16	20-28	Small waves becoming longer, frequent white horses	1 (1.5)
5	Fresh breeze	17-21	29-38	Moderate waves, many white horses, chance of spray	2 (2.5)
6	Strong breeze	22-27	39-49	Large waves, white foam crests, probably some spray	3 (4)
7	Near gale	28-33	50-61	Sea heeps up, streaks of white foam	4 (5.5)
8	Gale	34-40	62-74	Moderately high waves of greater length	5.5 (7.5)
9	Strong gale	41-47	75-88	High waves, dense streaks of foam, spray may reduce visibility	7 (10)
10	Storm	48-55	89-102	Very high waves, long overhanging crests, visibility affected	9 (12.5)
11	Violent storm	56-63	103-117	Exceptionally high waves, long white foam patches cover sea	11.5 (16)
12	Hurricane	64+	117 & over	Air filled with foam and spray, sea completely white	14 (-)

*Speed = mean speed at a standard height of 10 metres.
**Wave height is only intended as a guide to what may be expected in the open sea.
Bracketed figures indicate the probable maximum wave height.

Wave Heights / State of Sea

The wave height is the vertical distance between the crest and the preceding or following trough. The table below gives a description of the wave system associated with a range of significant wave heights.

Sea State (Descriptive)	Significant Wave height in meters
Calm	0 – 0.1
Smooth (Wavelets)	0.1 – 0.5
Slight	0.5 – 1.25
Moderate	1.25 – 2.5
Rough	2.5 – 4
Very rough	4 – 6
High	6 – 9
Very high	9 – 14
Phenomenal	Over 14

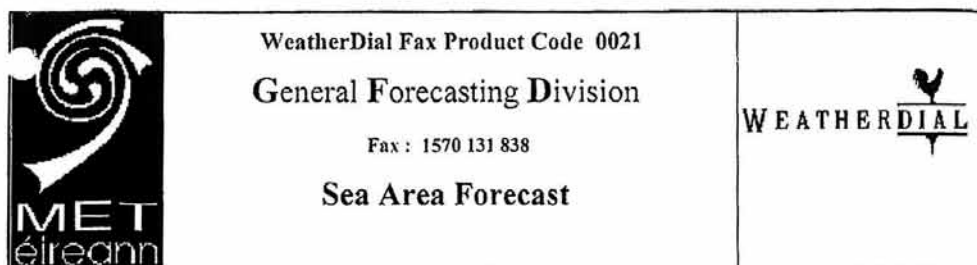
Individual waves in the wave train will have heights in excess of the significant height. The highest wave of all will have a height about twice the significant height.

Visibility

Descriptions of visibility mean the following:

Visibility (Descriptive)	Visibility in nautical miles (kilometres)
Good	More than 5 nm (> 9 km)
Moderate	2 – 5 nm (4 – 9 km)
Poor	0.5 – 2 nm (1 – 4 km)
Fog	Less than 0.5 nm (< 1 km)

Appendix 8.2 Met Éireann Weather Information.



Sea Area Forecast until 0600 Friday 21 January 2011
Issued at 0600 Thursday 20 January 2011

1. Gale warning: NIL
Small craft warning: Nil

2. Meteorological situation at 0300: A stable mainly southeast airflow covers western areas with an anticyclone of 1038hpa centred over the east of Ireland.

3. Forecast for coasts from: Roches Point to Loop Head to Malin Head

Wind: South to southwest force 3 or 4 in the northwest otherwise Southeast to east force 3 or 4 decreasing force 2 or 3 later.

Forecast for coasts from: Malin Head to Howth Head to Roches Point and the Irish Sea

Wind: Variable or southeast force 1 to 3.

Weather for all sea areas: Mostly fair, some mist or fog inshore on Irish Sea coasts.

Visibility for all sea areas: Mostly good, locally poor in any mist or fog

3a. Warning of heavy swell: Nil

4. Outlook for a further 24 hours until 0600 Saturday 22 January 2011: Moderate southeast winds on the southwest and west coasts otherwise light variable. Mostly fair weather, some mist locally.

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

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October 2011

27 Our Ref. 22/52/2


Ms. Eve Reddin
Secretariat
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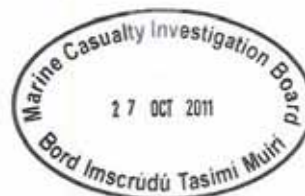
Draft Report of the Investigation into the sinking of the FV "Carraig an Iasc" on 20th January 2011

Dear Ms Reddin,

I wish to advise that the draft report in relation to this incident has been reviewed and the Coast Guard has no observations to make in respect of same except to recommend that a copy of the final report is forwarded to the Chair of the Marine Safety Working Group.

Yours sincerely,


Eugene Clonan
Chief of Operations



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MCIB RESPONSE

The Board notes the contents of this correspondence.

