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Marine Casualty Investigation Board



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**REPORT
OF THE INVESTIGATION
INTO THE GROUNDING OF THE
MV "LOCATOR"
OFF SAINT MACDARA'S
ISLAND, OFF THE COAST OF
GALWAY
ON 31st MARCH 2007**

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

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	PAGE
1. SYNOPSIS	4
2. FACTUAL INFORMATION	5
3. EVENTS PRIOR TO THE INCIDENT	6
4. THE GROUNDING	7
5. EVENTS AFTER THE GROUNDING	8
6. CONCLUSIONS	9
7. RECOMMENDATIONS	10
8. LIST OF APPENDICES	11

1. SYNOPSIS

- 1.1 Shortly after 08.30 hrs. on the morning of the 31st March 2007, with a crew of three persons, whilst on passage from Inishbofin Island to Kilkerrin Pier, the United Kingdom registered vessel MV "Locator" of Gross Tonnage 181, went aground on the shoreline of Saint MacDara's Island off the coast of Co. Galway.
- 1.2 According to the crew, the vessel had experienced steering problems shortly prior to grounding. According to the crew, they cleared a net from the propeller and rudder at low water. At approximately 16.00 hrs. the vessel refloated and proceeded to Kilkerrin Pier.
- 1.3 There was no injury to the crew, no pollution of the marine environment and damage to the vessel was not major.

2. FACTUAL INFORMATION

2.1 Name of Vessel:	"Locator"
Owners:	Aimsiu Tracht Na Hoillain, Dorie Na Casla, Co. Galway
Port of Registry:	Rochester
Flag of Vessel:	United Kingdom
Year of Build:	1970
IMO Number:	7923881
Call Sign:	GOPT
Gross Tonnage:	181
Length:	30.21 metres
Engine Power:	171 kw

International Loadline Certificate: Issued at London on 16th May 2005,
Annual Survey 7th July 2006.

On board cement silo: 70 tonnes

Crane Capacity: 2670 kg

Safety Equipment: 1 x Rescue Boat
2 x 6 Person Liferafts

2.2 Name and Qualifications of Crew on board were:

Mr. Eamonn Mylotte - Master
Certificate of Service as a Second Hand Special.

Mr. Martan O'Conghaile - Crew
Class 1 (unlimited) Chief Engineers Certificate of Competency issued by the
Department of Transport.

Mr. Michael Mylotte - Crew and Son of the Master
Class 2 (unlimited) Second Engineers Certificate of Competency issued by the
Department of Transport.

3. EVENTS PRIOR TO THE INCIDENT

- 3.1 The vessel was purchased by the owners in early February 2007. The owners/operators of the vessel have a local quarrying business and have a seagoing background. The purchase of the vessel was to compliment the business and facilitate building works on local offshore Islands. The vessel MV "Locator" is fitted with a 70 tonne cement silo.
- 3.2 The vessel completed discharge at Inishbofin the previous evening at about 21.30 hrs. According to the crew they went to sleep and sailed from Inishbofin at about 04.30 hrs. on the morning of the 31st March 2007. The vessel was on passage from Inishbofin to Kilkerrin Pier with three crew members, who managed and operated the vessel. All navigation equipment and steering gear were said to be in good order.

4. THE GROUNDING

- 4.1 Mr. Eamonn Mylotte, the Master, was on the bridge when the vessel encountered steering difficulties. He spoke to the two crew and decided to seek shelter and anchor inside off Saint MacDara's Sound. The Master said he was familiar with these waters and he believed that this would be the best course of action. However, at the entrance to the Sound, the Master said he lost steering completely and very shortly afterwards the vessel grounded in position $53^{\circ} 18.0'N$ $009^{\circ} 54.8'W$ at approximately 08.30 hrs. (See Appendix 8.1).

5. EVENTS AFTER THE GROUNDING

- 5.1 The Master indicated that he believed that due to the light winds and low swell, the vessel, though aground, was in no immediate danger. They contacted two local vessel owners to standby and assist if required (MV "Ceol Na Farrage" and MV "Connemara"). They also contacted Carna Lifeboat, which also came to the scene.
- 5.2 Whilst at low water, according to the Master, the crew cut a net free from the propeller and rudder. At approximately 16.00 hrs. on the same day (31st March 2007) the vessel refloated and accompanied by the MV "Connemara" berthed at Kilkerrin Pier at approximately 18.30 hrs.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The vessel was later inspected at Glynsk, Co. Galway and approximately 4 metres x 1 metre of bottom plating was renewed. The vessel was detained for safety reasons by the Department of Transport on the 2nd April 2007 on account of 1) the Masters Certificate not as required and 2) as a result of a grounding incident.
- 6.2 The crew are experienced seafarers. The two crewmembers each possess a Engineering Certificate of Competency. The Master does not possess an appropriate Certificate as Master for the vessel MV "Locator" as required by the STCW Convention (Standards for Training and Certification of Watchkeepers).
- 6.3 A distress or urgency message was not broadcast.
- 6.4 The Irish Coast Guard were not informed of a potential pollution incident as required by the MARPOL Convention, IMO Convention on Prevention of Pollution from Ships.
- 6.5 A passage plan was not made for the voyage to Kilkerrin Pier.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 All vessels, including coastal vessels are required to comply with the STCW Convention when proceeding to sea.
- 7.2 All vessels, including coastal vessels are required to comply with the MARPOL Convention, IMO Convention on Prevention of Pollution from Ships and report to the nearest coastal state (Ireland) when the vessel is involved in an incident which may or does give rise to pollution.
- 7.3 All owners and operators of coastal vessels, which are not registered in Ireland and intend to work on the Irish Coast, are required to comply with International Conventions and Irish legislation. If in any doubt, owners and operators of coastal vessels should contact the Marine Survey Office of the Department of Transport prior to any operations.

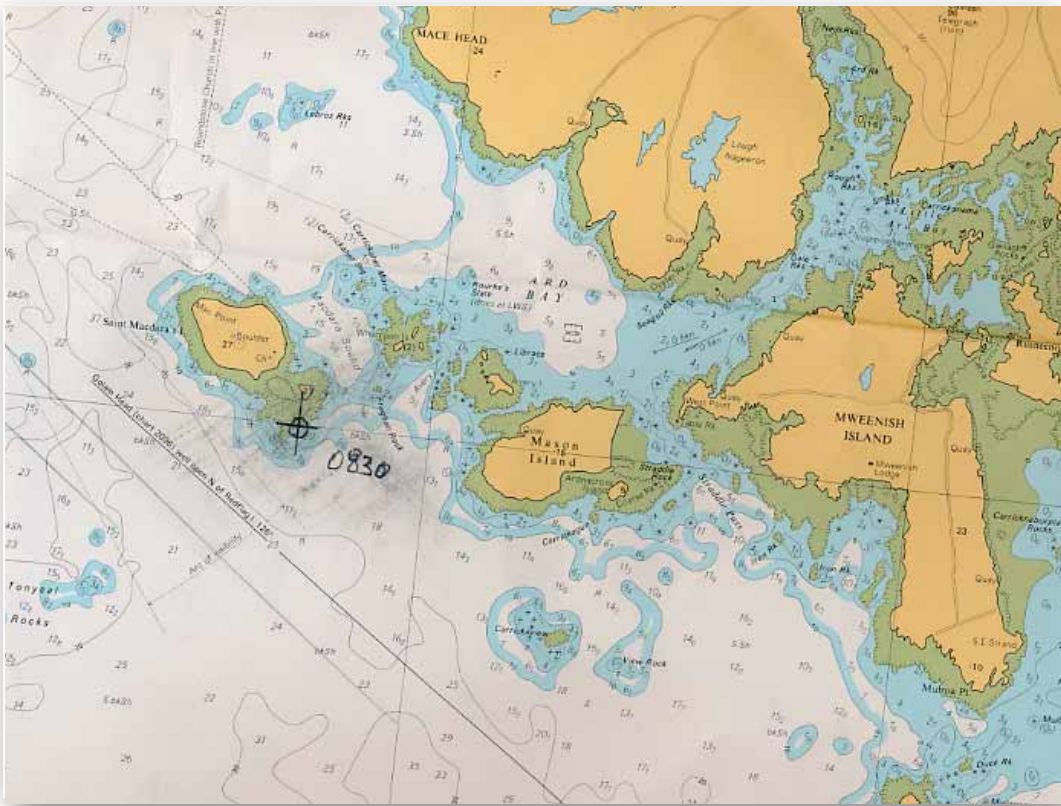
8. LIST OF APPENDICES

PAGE

8.1	Section of Admiralty Chart No. 2709 indicating position of grounding at approximately 08.30 hrs. on 31st March 2007.	12
8.2	MV "Locator" alongside at Kilkerrin Pier.	13
8.3	Photograph showing section of hull with damaged plate cropped.	14
8.4	Photograph showing new plate after repair.	15
8.5	Photograph of MV "Locator".	16

APPENDIX 8.1

Appendix 8.1 Section of Admiralty Chart No. 2709 indicating position of grounding at approximately 08.30 hrs. on 31st March 2007.



Appendix 8.2 MV "Locator" alongside at Kilkerrin Pier.



APPENDIX 8.3

Appendix 8.3 Photograph showing section of hull with damaged plate cropped.



Appendix 8.4 Photograph showing new plate after repair.



APPENDIX 8.5

Appendix 8.5 Photograph of MV "Locator".

