

# MCIB

Marine Casualty Investigation Board  
*Bord Imscrúdú Taisní Muirí*



**INTERIM REPORT OF AN  
INVESTIGATION INTO  
A MARINE CASUALTY  
INVOLVING A VESSEL IN  
OR AROUND NIMMOS PIER,  
GALWAY HARBOUR,  
CO. GALWAY  
ON OR ABOUT  
25 AUGUST 2023**

**REPORT NO. MCIB/330/INTERIM  
(No.4 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.**



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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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## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 On the morning of 25 August 2023 at around 10.00 hours (hrs) local time, a recreational boat with two male persons onboard, a Skipper and another person hereafter known as the Casualty, departed from the inner Nimmos Pier, The Claddagh, Co. Galway to go mackerel fishing in inner Galway Bay. The boat made the approximate 0.8 nautical miles (NM) voyage to the fishing area and commenced fishing using handlines. The few hours spent fishing were uneventful with the boat visiting different fishing spots around the area.
- 1.2 At around 13.30 hrs the fishing concluded, and the two men decided to return to Nimmos Pier. The boat proceeded towards Nimmos Pier with the Skipper in the cabin operating the boat from the coxswain seat. Meanwhile the Casualty remained on the back deck of the boat tending to the catch and cleaning down the boat.
- 1.3 On the return voyage back to Nimmos Pier, the Skipper noticed the Casualty was no longer on the boat. The Skipper proceeded to broadcast a distress alert by Very High Frequency (VHF) radio alerting the Coast Guard and commenced searching for the Casualty.
- 1.4 Emergency services including Galway Bay Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), Sligo rescue helicopter R118, and Costello Bay Coast Guard Unit were mobilised. The Casualty was removed from the water by rescue helicopter R118 approximately one hour after mobilisation of the emergency services and transferred to Galway University Hospital where he was later pronounced dead.

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



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