



Bundesstelle für Seeunfalluntersuchung

Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation

Federal Higher Authority subordinated to the Ministry of
Transport and Digital Infrastructure

Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation, P.O. Box 30 12 20 • 20305 Hamburg

Office building
Bernhard-Nocht-Str. 78
20359 Hamburg
Tel.: + 49 (0) 40 31 90 – 0
Fax: + 49 (0) 40 31 90 – 83 40
posteingang-bsu@bsh.de
www.bsu-bund.de

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+ 49 (0) 40 31 90 – 8311

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Press Release 5/15

The Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation (BSU) hereby gives notice that the investigation report No. 124/14 was published on 18 May 2015. The report deals with the explosion of the shrimp boiler on board the fishing vessel KLAUS GROTH on 19 May 2014 south-west of Amrum.

Upon request the report will be forwarded. Alternatively this report – as well as all previous reports – is available on the website <http://www.bsu-bund.de> and can be downloaded.

Short version:

Explosion of the shrimp boiler on board the fishing vessel KLAUS GROTH on 19 May 2014 south-west of Amrum

At about 2330 on 19 May 2014 the German registered fishing vessel KLAUS GROTH was located south-west of Amrum and hauling in her shrimp trawl. The shrimps were sorted immediately and placed into the shrimp boiler, which is located on the forecastle. All of a

sudden the boilers hearth exploded and a darting flame injured both fishermen. All three crew members assisted each other in extinguishing the fire. The rescue cruiser VORMANN LEISS collected the two casualties and took them to Dagebüll, from

where they were taken to the hospital. The BSU published the investigation report on 12 May 2015. The report is available on www.bsu-bund.de.

Long version:

Explosion of the shrimp boiler on board the fishing vessel KLAUS GROTH on 19 May 2014 south west of Amrum

At about 2330 on 19.05.2014 the fishing vessel KLAUS GROTH, flying the German flag, was located south-west of Amrum and was hauling in her shrimp trawl for the first time on this voyage. The shrimps were immediately sorted and placed into the shrimp boiler located on the forecastle. At this time, the skipper was in the wheelhouse, both fishing hands worked at the boiler. All of a sudden the hearth of the boiler exploded and a darting flame injured both fishermen. Thereby the clothing of the younger fisherman caught fire. He ran to the aft section and pulled his cloth from his body. The older fisherman assisted him and later on the skipper, when he recognized the situation after having descended from the wheelhouse. When the fire was extinguished the extent of the injuries became apparent, and the skipper immediately informed the German Maritime Search and Rescue Association (DGzRS).

The rescue cruiser VORMANN LEISS collected both casualties and took them to Dagebüll, where they were taken to the hospital in Flensburg.

With the assistance of the waterways police, the skipper sailed the KLAUS GROTH back to Büsum.

As a consequence of the accident, the BSU recommends that the Ship Safety Division (BG Verkehr) carries out intensified inspections for potential fire loads and deficiencies in the installation of burner technology and technical supply systems, particularly on older fishing vessels.