



Bundesstelle für Seeunfalluntersuchung

Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation

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Press Release 22/16

The Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation (BSU) hereby gives notice that the Interim Investigation Report No. 499/15 was published on 15 December 2016.

The report deals with the grounding of the multi-purpose ship BBC MAPLE LEA on 17 December 2015 in the Canadian Lac Saint-Louis. This report – as well as all previous reports – is available on the website <http://www.bsu-bund.de> and can be downloaded.

Short version:

Grounding of the BBC MAPLE LEA in the Lac Saint-Louis, Canada

The multi-purpose ship BBC MAPLE LEA, flying the German flag, cast off in the morning of 17 December 2015 in the port of Côte-Sainte-Catherine in order to start her voyage to Falmouth. For the passage of the Saint-Lorenzo-Seaway, a pilot had embarked. For lack of an

opportunity to turn in the cargo port, the ship first passed the Canal de la Rive Sud in a westerly direction in order to turn in the Lac-Saint-Louis. Four the turning manoeuvre, the pilot favored the fairway area west of the buoy A13. According to the shipboard passage planning it was

intended to carry out the turning manoeuvre in the area off the locks of Beauharnois. This would have meant a detour of altogether 12 nm (6 nm in each direction). The draught of the BBC MAPLE LEA amounted to 8 m.

The turning manoeuvre west of the buoy A13

failed, so that the BBC MAPLE LEA sailed out of the fairway southwest of the buoy A18 and grounded there in an area with water depths between 6 m and 7.3 m. This resulted in the bow thruster being damaged so that a small quantity of hydraulic oil escaped. People were not harmed.

The BBC MAPLE LEA could be towed free in the course of the day.

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