



# Bundesstelle für Seeunfalluntersuchung Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation

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

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## PRESS RELEASE No. 20/17

The Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation (BSU) published the investigation report No. 55/15 on 2 November 2017. The report deals with the foundering of the fishing vessel KRISTINA. There is the possibility to download this report – as well as all previous reports – on the website [www.bsu-bund.de](http://www.bsu-bund.de).

Short version

### Untergang des Fischkutters KRISTINA in der Nordsee

On 18 February 2015, the fishing vessel KRISTINA, flying the German flag, reported water ingress into the fish hold. At that time, the fishing vessel was in the North Sea in Germany's Exclusive Economic Zone. Due to the distress call

the Dutch dredger REIMERSWAAL altered her course towards the KRISTINA and was able to take the 3 crewmembers on board. Shortly before this, the fishermen had abandoned the foundering vessel in their immersion

suits. The KRISTINA foundered shortly afterwards. Her crew returned home safe and sound.

The investigation report is available on the Website [www.bsu-bund.de](http://www.bsu-bund.de) and can be downloaded.

Long version:

## **Foundering of the fishing vessel KRISTINA in the North Sea**

At 0949 on 18 February 2015, the fishing vessel KRISTINA flying the German flag, reported water ingress into the fish hold. At that time, the fishing vessel was in the North Sea in Germany's Exclusive Economic Zone east of an offshore-windfarm and about 13 nm north of the Vessel Traffic Separation Scheme German Bight Western Approach. Due to the distress call, the nearby Dutch dredger REIMERSWAAL altered her course towards the KRISTINA. MRCC Bremen alerted further vessels. The REIMERSWAAL was already in close proximity of the KRISTINA while she was starting to list. Therefore KRISTINA's 3 crewmembers, who had abandoned the fishing vessel in their immersion suits, could be taken on board the dredgers fast rescue boat quickly and in good order. The KRISTINA foundered shortly afterwards. Her crew sailed to their port of destination Harlingen on the REIMERSWAAL and from there returned to Denmark where the vessels operator is located at and the crew is domiciled.

Due to the water depth at the scene of the accident, the wreck of the fishing vessel did not pose a threat to maritime traffic. The BSU considers the salvage of the wreck for the purpose of the investigation disproportionate.

After the assessment of all available facts and findings, the BSU is of the opinion that in all likelihood maintenance defects affecting the watertight integrity of the vessel's hull in the area of the fish hold resulted in the foundering of the fishing vessel.

Ulf Kaspera  
Director