



Bundesstelle für Seeunfalluntersuchung Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation

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Transport and Digital Infrastructure

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The Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation (BSU) published the investigation report No. 168/16 on 18 February 2019. The report deals with the fatal person-overboard accident involving a crew member of the fishing vessel PESORSA CUATRO. Upon request the report will be forwarded. Alternatively, this report is available on

<https://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/News>

for download.

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Very Serious Marine Casualty - Fatal person-overboard accident involving a crew member of the fishing vessel PESORSA CUATRO

On 17 May 2016, the German-flagged fishing vessel PESORSA CUATRO was fishing for crab some 150 nm west of Ireland. During the fishing process, a crew member went overboard at around 1730. The crew member had previously climbed onto the observation deck with other employees in order to identify the next fishing gear marker buoy from there. The exact course of the accident was not observed. The casualty was only noticed when he was already in the water. Despite the immediate return to the scene of the accident, the casualty could only be rescued in an inanimate state. The crew's immediately initiated attempts at resuscitation were unsuccessful and the casualty was later pronounced dead. Following that, the PESORSA CUATRO returned to A Coruña.

It was established during the investigation that the casualty had not been wearing an inflatable lifejacket. It was also established that the guard rail surrounding the observation deck was not completely closed. The BSU believes this was the reason the fisherman fell overboard. At the suggestion of the BSU, the PERSORSA QUATRO was converted at several places.

The safety recommendations developed within the scope of the investigation report are addressed to the vessels owner and the Ship Safety Division of BG-Verkehr.

The vessels owner is called upon to ensure that the obligation of the crewmembers to wear automatically inflatable lifejackets is enforced on board the vessels. Moreover, the vessels owner is called upon to give more consideration to the operating procedures during the fishing process and its procession while carrying out the necessary risk analysis.

The Ship Safety Division is called upon to include the operating procedures during the fishing process more extensively into the scope of the surveys carried out in terms of labor legislation.

All investigation reports, safety recommendations and other information published by the BSU are available on <https://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/Publications>.

Ulf Kaspera
Director