



Bundesstelle für Seeunfalluntersuchung

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The Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation (BSU) hereby announces the publication of the Interim Investigation Report on the investigation of the very serious marine casualty of the fishing cutter FREYJA on 2 September 2022. The cutter foundered due to a fire in the early morning of 18 September southeast of the island of Amrum in the Wadden Sea. The Interim Investigation Report provides information about the subject and course of the investigation.

The report is available for download at

https://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/Publications/Unfallberichte/Unfallberichte_node.html

Very serious marine casualty – Fire and foundering of the fishing vessel FREYJA in the Wadden Sea of Schleswig-Holstein

In the evening of 17 September 2021, a fire broke out in the engine room of the fishing cutter FREYJA that was manned by two fishermen. At the time of the accident, the cutter anchored in the Wadden Sea southeast of the island of Amrum. The rapid spread of fire, accompanied by heavy smoke, forced the two fishermen to activate the life raft and abandon the cutter. The crew of a rescue helicopter, which happened to be in the vicinity, became aware of the accident and the life raft through a signal rocket fired by the skipper of the cutter. The two slightly injured castaways were quickly rescued and transported to the hospital in Heide.

After the rescue of both crewmembers, it became quickly clear to the operational forces activated meanwhile, that further emergency measures were out of question. Inevitably, the wooden vessel burned out completely and foundered in the water at about 0245.

On the next day, the operational forces observed a spreading oil slick; however, it was strongly torn up and had already started to dissipate in the course of the day. The nature and extent of the water pollution emanating from the cutter's wreck made extensive pollution control unnecessary.

Three weeks after the accident, the fishing vessels remains were retrieved by a floating crane, transported to Husum on two workboats and inspected there by the Waterways Police and an investigation team of the BSU.

The investigation of the marine casualty has meanwhile been completed and the BSU is currently in the process of preparing the investigation report. Since the one-year deadline set by the European Union and transposed into national law by the Federal Republic of Germany for its publication cannot be met, the public will be informed of the status of the investigation into this very serious marine casualty by issuing an Interim Investigation Report.

All investigation reports, safety recommendations and other information published by the BSU are available at

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

Ulf Kaspera
Director