

Division for Investigation of Maritime Accidents - Denmark

Accident to seafarer – DARWIN – 19 August 2009

Summary

DARWIN is a trawler with a tonnage of 498 BT. The trawler is built in 1984.

Darwin is equipped with RSW-tanks for storage of the catch. During navigation to the fishing grounds the crew was preparing for fishery. Amongst other things some of the RSW-tanks were to be cleaned. The leading seaman went forward to carry out this task. When he did not return as expected a crew member went forward to fetch him. The crew member found the leading seaman lying unconscious/immobile at the bottom of one of the tanks.



First aid and resuscitation were given. A rescue helicopter carrying a doctor arrived after approximately 45 minutes. After examining the leading seaman he was declared dead.

There were no witnesses to the accident. It is in every probability plausible that the leading seaman died due to the injuries he was subject to when he crawled up the ladder to exit the tank. The seaman was not using any kind of fall arrest systems.

Conclusions

It is the opinion of the Division for Investigation of Maritime Accidents that the causes to the occupational accident were:

- Loss of grip and/or foothold when leaving the tank.

Recommendations

The Division for Investigation of Maritime Accidents has recommended:

That the owner draws up work risk assessments for any work in the tanks and the access to the tanks.

That the owner takes initiative to enhance the safety culture on board in order to ensure that precautionary measures are performed as prescribed.

A report is available in Danish.