

Division for Investigation of Maritime Accidents - Denmark

Collision with pier/personal injury – EGESUND – 20 January 2010

Summary

SEJERØFÆRGEN is a Ro-Ro passenger ferry with a tonnage of 1,433 BT and a length of 48.50 m. It is built in 1998. The ferry is in service between Sejerø and Havnsø. The crossing time is approximately 1 hour.

On arrival at Havnsø 1 December 2009 at 0740 the ferry hit the north eastern corner of the ferry berth with great force. There were 25 passengers on board. 4 passengers received minor injuries when falling. One passenger got seriously injured when falling down a flight of stairs. The injured passenger was by ambulance taken to a hospital. 5 vehicles on the car deck received damages.

At the collision with the ferry berth the ship got impressions at the bow at starboard side. Some brackets in the fore peak tank were bent. There were no ingress of water. After having been in detention for a limited time the ferry returned to normal operation.



Sejerøfærger

Conclusions

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

- To high speed at approach due to the masters underestimation of the effect of wind and seas.
- Problems with the bow thrusters have reduced the master's alertness at approach causing the maneuvering to be performed to late and without adequate efficiency.
- The fact that the master was alone on the bridge may have caused that the passengers not were warned about the collision and thus were subject to injuries.
- A fresh breeze was coming in from astern.
- The stay in the stair cases may be risky.

Recommendations

The Division for Investigation of Maritime Accidents has recommended the ship owner:

1. To revise the procedures for arrival and departure to ensure the safety of the passengers the best possible.
2. To change the functionality of starting and stopping the bow thrusters.
3. To consider other initiatives to ensure the safety of the passenger the best possible at arrival and departure.

A report is available in Danish.