

FLYER TO THE SMALL COMMERCIAL VESSEL INDUSTRY

Collision between RIBs *Osprey* and *Osprey II* resulting in serious injuries to one passenger, 19 July 2016

Image courtesy of Teresa Wong-Hui



Figure 1: *Osprey* and *Osprey II*

Narrative

At 1252 on 19 July 2016, two passenger carrying rigid inflatable boats (RIBs), *Osprey* and *Osprey II*, collided in the Firth of Forth. A passenger who was sitting on an inflatable tube of *Osprey II* was crushed between *Osprey*'s bow and *Osprey II*'s helm console, resulting in her sustaining serious injuries. *Osprey II* was certified to carry 12 passengers, but only had inboard seating provided for 8. On the day of the accident the RIB was carrying 11 passengers, 3 of whom were sitting on the inflatable tubes.

Both RIBs had departed from Anstruther Harbour and were bound for the Isle of May. While proceeding in parallel, the skipper of each RIB increased speed and commenced a power turn away from each other with the intention of passing each other in the course of completing a round turn. However, as the RIBs turned towards each other, it became apparent to both skippers that the RIBs were in danger of colliding. Although they both acted quickly to reduce the speed of their respective vessels and so lessen the impact, they were unable to prevent the collision.



Figure 2: Injured passenger in slumped position following accident

Safety Lessons

1. As the RIBs exited their respective turns at close range, the skippers had insufficient time in which to react and prevent a collision.

The power turn manoeuvre had previously been carried out successfully on several occasions, but it had not been formally risk assessed and no thought had been given to what to do if a potential collision situation developed.

2. Research has identified a wide variety of seating arrangements on passenger tour RIBs. A number of tours, as in this accident, had passengers seated on the inflatable tubes, and a number of examples were found where no inboard seats were provided, necessitating all passengers to be seated on the inflatable tubes.

Passengers seated on the inflatable tubes of passenger tour RIBs have an increased risk of falling overboard, are at significant risk of musculoskeletal injuries and are more exposed to serious injury in the event of a collision.

This flyer and the MAIB's investigation report are posted on our website: www.gov.uk/maib

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