

Safety Alert

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Subject: **Safe Mooring**

What Happened / Narrative

During routine mooring operations, a vessel was letting go aft. The stern line was slackened off the bitts and linesman on the quayside threw the tail end of the rope into the water. Due to a strong wind and ebb tide, the rope end was carried under the vessels stern and became fouled. A diver was subsequently contracted to remove the line with no damage caused.

Why Did it Happen / Cause

- Communication should have been established with the linesman before the vessel commences mooring operations. When letting go, linesman should be requested to walk slack lines along the quayside so that the deck crew can heave the rope in.
- Where possible efforts should be made to avoid mooring ropes touching the surface of the water however it is recognised that due to vessel type/design this is not always possible; in these cases efforts must be made to control the amount of rope in the water to minimise the risk of ropes getting drawn into propulsion.

Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

Please review all ship specific mooring risk assessments onboard, considering the following factors:

- A toolbox talk should be conducted prior to mooring operations. During the discussion the current and predicted tidal streams should be discussed. The Chief officer should clearly instruct the crew which lines are to be made fast/let go and in which order. All deck crew should be clear on their role in the operation.
- Junior crew should receive training on correct rope handling techniques. These crew should be rotated between the fwd. and aft mooring stations to familiarise themselves accordingly.
- Hydraulic machinery such as capstans and windlasses are there to assist the crew in mooring operations. **All** personnel should be familiar in their use.
- 1m messenger lines should be spliced to the tail ends of mooring ropes, for use by the harbour's linesman. (Please note this may vary from harbour to harbour – ensure you are aware of each harbour requirements)

Photographs / Supporting Information



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