

SUMMARY IN ENGLISH

At noon on 17 August 2021, the work vessel SEAWORKER ran aground at Bredbåden south of Karlskrona. Two people were on board, the master and a deckhand. They had been on their way from Utklippan back to Karlskrona. Auto-matic steering was used to keep the course. Some time into the trip, the master became very tired and felt that he needed to rest. He then left the conning of the ship to the deckhand, who, however, remained in the passenger seat. The deckhand lacked nautical competence, but had been on trips to Utklippan before.

Just before Bredbåden, the deckhand noticed that they were about to run aground. There was no time to make any corrective measures and the ship hit the ground at a speed of about 15 knots.

The sea rescue operation was hampered by the fact that the area around the ship was shallow and no other ships could go near SEAWORKER. Both crew members were rescued by being lifted into a sea rescue helicopter, less than an hour after the grounding.

The crew of SEAWORKER escaped with bruises and abrasions. The damage to the SEAWORKER, however, was extensive and the ship was later scrapped.

At the time, there was a weak southwesterly wind and meter-high swells. The visibility was very good.

The grounding was caused by a lack of attention to lookout and navigation. Due to fatigue, the master left the operation of the ship to the deckhand, who had no formal nautical training. He also did not have proper conditions to be able to perform the task as he remained in the passenger seat in the wheelhouse. An underlying reason may be that the master was ill the previous week and probably misjudged his general condition, this in turn may have influenced the decision to let the deckhand handle the ship from the passenger seat.

Safety recommendations

No safety recommendations have been issued.