



Statens haverikommission
Swedish Accident Investigation Board

SUMMARY

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Report RS 2003:02e

**Accident involving the fishing boat VY 45 DROTT,
southwest of Stora Karlsö, I county, on the 11th of January
2003**

Case S-01/03

SHK investigates accidents and incidents with regard to safety. The sole objective of the investigations is the prevention of similar occurrences in the future. It is not the purpose of this activity to apportion blame or liability.

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Translated from the original Swedish by Ken Welch at the request of the Swedish Accident Investigation Board.

In case of discrepancies between the English and the Swedish texts, the Swedish text is to be considered the authoritative version.

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2003-12-15

S-01/03

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Report RS 2003:02e

The Swedish Accident Investigation Board (Statens haverikommission, SHK) has investigated an accident that occurred on the 11th of January 2003, southwest of Stora Karlsö, I County, involving the fishing boat VY 45 DROTT.

In accordance with section 14 of the Ordinance on the Investigation of Accidents (1990:717) the Board herewith submits a final report on the investigation.

Carin Hellner

Per Lindemalm

Report RS 2003:02e (Summary)

S-01/03

Report finalized 2003-12-15

<i>Vessel; registration, call sign</i>	VY 45 DROTT, SFB 5264
<i>Certificate</i>	Vessel certificate not issued (not required)
<i>Registered owner/ operator</i>	Private ownership
<i>Nationality/ Flag state</i>	Sweden
<i>Date and time of occurrence</i>	11-01-2003, likely shortly after 13:50 hours <i>Note:</i> All times are given in Swedish standard time (UTC + 1 hr)
<i>Place of occurrence</i>	Southwest of Stora Karlsö, I County, (position 57°14.1857'N 017°50.3528'E)
<i>Persons on board: crew</i>	2
<i>Injuries to persons</i>	One fatality, one person missing
<i>Damage to vessel</i>	Total wreckage
<i>The master: Sex, age</i>	Male, 43 years old
<i>Crew member: Sex, age</i>	Male, 40 years old

The Swedish Accident Investigation Board (SHK) was notified on the 13th of January 2003 that the fishing vessel DROTT had disappeared southwest of Stora Karlsö, I County, on the 11th of January.

The accident has been investigated by SHK represented by Carin Hellner, Chairman, and Per Lindemalm, Chief maritime technical investigator.

SHK was assisted by Sten Anderson, Swedish Maritime Administration, as an expert. The investigation was followed by Björn Molin, Swedish Maritime Administration.

Summary

On the morning of the 11th of January 2003, the fishing boat DROTT left the port of Klintehamn, Gotland. On board were the owner and another fisherman. The intention was to fish for cod in the area southwest of Stora Karlsö.

In the morning the weather was calm and cold. During the day the wind increased to fresh breeze, and later to fresh gale from the southwest.

As the boat had not returned in the evening as agreed, the Coastguard was called and searched during the night and the following day. The boat was not found.

During the night between the 22nd and the 23rd of January, the submarine-rescue vessel of the Navy found the boat which had sunk. The body of the owner was found on the bottom in the vicinity of the boat. The other fisherman has not been found.

The crew was experienced and used to similar conditions.

The weather was rough, but not worse than what fishing vessels of this size and type are built for.

The fact that the liferaft did not have a hydrostatic release device has probably not had relation to the fact that the crew did not succeed in rescuing themselves in the liferaft.

SHK has not been able to establish a cause of the accident.

Ice covering with ensuing capsizing is a possible and probable cause of the accident.

The fact that the cargo hatch could not be battened down involved a serious risk. Probably, this deficiency had an essential part in the accident. With the hatch well sealed and battened down, DROTT should have stayed afloat even while being repeatedly washed over.

Recommendations

None.