

**MCIB**

Marine Casualty Investigation Board  
*Bord Imscrúdú Taisní Muirí*



**INTERIM REPORT  
OF AN INVESTIGATION  
INTO A MARINE CASUALTY  
INVOLVING THE FISHING VESSEL  
AQUILA  
OFF THE CO CORK COAST  
7 NOVEMBER 2021**

**REPORT NO. MCIB/312/INTERIM  
(No.6 OF 2023)**

The Marine Casualty Investigation Board (MCIB) examines and investigates all types of marine casualties to, or on board, Irish registered vessels worldwide and other vessels in Irish territorial waters and inland waterways.

The MCIB objective in investigating a marine casualty is to determine its circumstances and its causes with a view to making recommendations for the avoidance of similar marine casualties in the future, thereby improving the safety of life at sea.

The MCIB is a non-prosecutorial body. We do not enforce laws or carry out prosecutions. It is not the purpose of an investigation carried out by the MCIB to apportion blame or fault.

The legislative framework for the operation of the MCIB, the reporting and investigating of marine casualties and the powers of MCIB investigators is set out in The Merchant Shipping (Investigation of Marine Casualties) Act, 2000.

In carrying out its functions the MCIB complies with the provisions of the International Maritime Organisation's Casualty Investigation Code and EU Directive 2009/18/EC governing the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector.

EU Directive 2009/18/EC governing the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector is transposed into Irish law by EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (MERCHANT SHIPPING) (INVESTIGATION OF ACCIDENTS) REGULATIONS 2011. Under Regulation 11(3) where the report into the investigation that comes within the Regulations, cannot be published within 12 months of the date of the casualty, the Board should publish an interim report within 12 months of the date of the casualty.

**This is an interim report and no conclusions should be drawn from its contents.**



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The Marine Casualty Investigation Board was established on the 25th March 2003 under the Merchant Shipping (Investigation of Marine Casualties) Act, 2000.

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## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The fishing vessel (FV) Aquila with five crew onboard left the fishing port of Union Hall, Co.Cork at approximately 21.00 hours (hrs) on the evening of the 6 November 2021 to fish south of the Kinsale Gas Rigs. At approximately 12.00 hrs on the 7 November the fishing vessel was at the fishing grounds and the crew were hauling the second haul of the day using the vessel's net handling crane when the crane's hydraulic system experienced a sudden loss of hydraulic oil pressure causing the cranes jib and power head to uncontrollably lower inboard, trapping a crewmember between the power head and the underside of the deck supporting the net drum. The Crewmember suffered crush injuries.
- 1.2 The Skipper contacted Cork Coast Guard Radio (CGR) by Very High Frequency (VHF) radio at 12.38 hrs advising them of the incident and requesting a medical evacuation of the injured Crewmember ashore. At approximately 15.00 hrs Irish Coast Guard (IRCG) helicopter R115 airlifted the injured Crewmember to Cork University Hospital (CUH) for medical attention. The injured Crewmember was discharged from CUH on the 8 November and passed fit to fly home and returned to the Philippines. The Crewmember has since returned to work as a fisher onboard an Irish registered fishing vessel.

Note: Times are local time = UTC + 1 (Co-ordinated Universal Time + 1)



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