

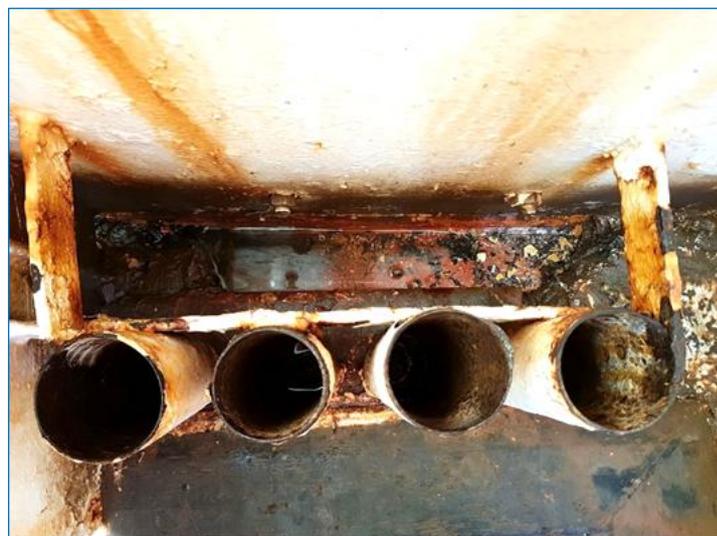
GUARD VESSEL NEAR MISS NOTIFICATION

BACKGROUND

Whilst on transit to guard location, the sound of water was heard moving around the cabin bilge compartment. The compartment was drained into the engine room where pumps could discharge the water overboard. On inspection of the cabin bilge compartment no water ingress could be clearly identified.

Given the vessel was only 53 miles from Lerwick, the Skipper decided to change course and enter port to allow for the matter to be fully investigated. The cause of the ingress was found to be wear to the starboard aft deck, caused by shooting poles coming into direct contact with the deck plate while in the storage position. Over the period of only a few years the two steel surfaces had rubbed together causing enough wear to allow water to pass through.

Repairs were effected immediately and the vessel was permitted to continue onto the scheduled guard trip.



ANALYSIS

Given that the pole storage rack restricts the view preventing a visual inspection, it would have been extremely difficult to have previously identified the wear and potential ingress.

Once alerted to the problem the crew acted quickly and prevented a serious incident occurring. Shetland Coastguard were informed as a precaution and received regular updates until the vessel's arrival in port. SFFSL were also informed immediately, allowing the client to be kept updated.

LESSONS LEARNT

- The incident reinforced the importance of taking precautionary measures in order to avoid a potentially more serious situation developing
- The incident highlighted the potential hazard of wear between two steel surfaces



SFF Services recommends:

- Inspecting similar storage areas on steel vessels for any wear and tear
- Installing a barrier of some kind to prevent shooting poles coming into direct contact with the steel deck