

SFF SERVICES – SAFETY FLASH

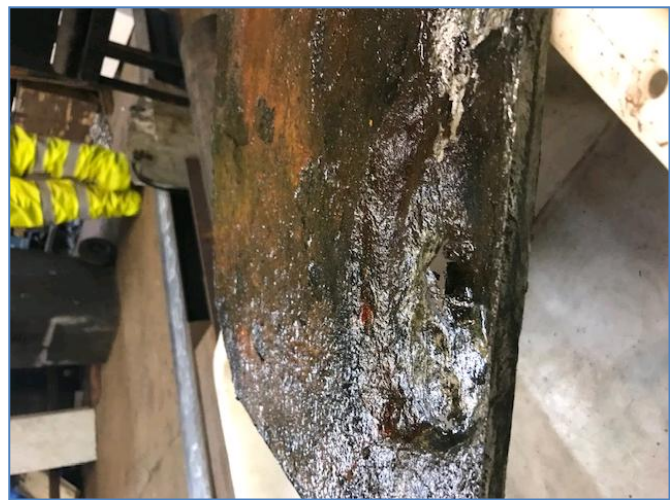
During a guard trip pre-inspection it emerged that a vessel had undergone repairs following the discovery of a small hole in the hull. **SFF Services was pleased to find that the issue had been fully investigated and repaired correctly:**

The hole was inspected on the ship lift and the corroded plate cut back to an acceptable thickness. The area was cleaned and found to be a localised problem as the surrounding areas were found to be in good condition. The small area of erosion appeared to have been caused by a piece of scrap metal lying in the bilge and wearing the hull away over time. An insert plate was fitted by MCA-approved fabricators and the vessel returned to fishing with no further issues.

Documentation confirming the extent of the repairs was submitted to the client and the vessel was permitted to continue onto the scheduled guard trip.



Localised hole



Surrounding plate thickness



SFF Services recommends:

- Any hull integrity issues should be fully investigated and repaired in compliance with MCA regulations
- Documentation confirming the extent of repairs should be requested and retained as evidence of the works
- Debris/loose items should be retrieved at the earliest opportunity and bilges inspected regularly
- Vessels will be asked to complete a normal fishing trip to confirm no issues remain before commencing guard duty