



MCIB

Marine Casualty Investigation Board
Bord Imscrúdú Taisní Muirí



**INTERIM REPORT OF AN
INVESTIGATION INTO A
MARINE CASUALTY INVOLVING
THE FISHING VESSEL AMBITIOUS
IN OR AROUND
INISHMORE, CO. GALWAY
ON OR ABOUT
3 MARCH 2024**

**REPORT NO. MCIB/335/INTERIM
(No.1 OF 2025)**

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.

Section 34 of the Merchant Shipping (Investigation of Marine Casualties) Act, 2000, as amended by Section 12 of the 2022 Act, requires that where the Board is unable to publish a report within 12 months of the date of the casualty, it shall publish at least one interim report of the investigation during that period.

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 On the 2 March 2024 at approximately 17.00 hours (hrs), the fishing vessel (FV) Ambitious departed Rossaveel, Co. Galway. At approximately 18.00 hrs the nets were deployed and fishing operations commenced south of Rossaveel. The vessel Owner/Skipper was on watch and towed the fishing gear to the east, parallel to the coastline.
- 1.2 At 23.00 hrs the Skipper informed the crew below in the cabin that it was time to recover the fishing gear onboard. This task was completed by 23.45 hrs. The vessel was now three miles south of Spiddal Harbour. The drive was disengaged and while the crew worked on the deck processing the catch, the Skipper rested.
- 1.3 On the 3 March 2024 at approximately 01.00 hrs when the catch had been processed, the crew awakened the Skipper as previously agreed. Due to the poor catch retrieved onboard and the improving weather forecasted, the Skipper decided to try alternative fishing grounds north of the Aran Islands.
- 1.4 The Skipper then engaged the drive and placed the vessel on a heading of 265 degrees and set the speed at 4 knots. The Skipper requested that two crew remain on watch maintaining the vessel course/speed and instructed them to wake him at 04.00 hrs.
- 1.5 At approximately 04.40 hrs, the FV Ambitious ran aground on the north side of Inishmore Island. The crew assembled in the wheelhouse and the Skipper gave the instruction to don lifejackets that were stowed below deck in the aft cabin.
- 1.6 As the vessel began to list to port, the only liferaft onboard was deployed and the crew entered the liferaft from the forward deck.
- 1.7 At approximately 06.18 hrs, the rescue helicopter R115 arrived on scene and the crew were winched onboard and were then transferred to hospital in Galway as a precaution and discharged later that day.

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



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