

Skylarks Report : Request to Authorise Publication

This report summarises the investigation commenced following an accident investigation involving the Jersey registered sailing catamaran Skylarks and recommends that the report be published in order that relevant lessons might be learned by the wider maritime community.

BACKGROUND

On 13th May 2021, the Jersey registered catamaran Skylarks, which was en route to the Cape Verde Islands on her maiden voyage, suffered a weld failure at the base of the support pillar of the helm seat. The 48-year-old skipper, who was on watch at the time and occupying the seat, fell to the deck and was injured.

INVESTIGATION

The Jersey Administration was first advised of the incident by the skipper on 26th May 2021 and a Maine Incident investigation was commenced, with input received from the owner, the skipper, and the vessel's builders.

The report found that in view of the actions already taken by the owner and by the builder there are no additional recommendations in this case.

The report has been referred to the Law Officers' Department in accordance with Article 166(6) of the Shipping (Jersey) Law 2002. Following that review, the Registrar of Aircraft and Shipping is now satisfied that it would be appropriate to consider releasing the report to the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Marine Accident Investigation Branch and into the public domain in accordance with Article 166(5) of the Law and for follow-up of the recommendations to continue, so that appropriate lessons can be learned from the incident.

OUTCOME

The Minister has authorised publication of the attached report in accordance with Article 166(5) of the Shipping (Jersey) Law 2002 and to instruct the Registrar to ensure that the report is promptly forwarded to the to the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Marine Accident Investigation Branch.

Registrar of Aircraft and Shipping

4th October 2021