

1. SUMMARY

The 22.5 metre seine net fishing vessel PREMIER capsized and later sank with the loss of six lives about 30 miles east of Lerwick, on the 12 December 1990.

At 0639 hours on 12 December 1990 an EPIRB alert was received from the capsized vessel. A major search was initiated involving RAF Nimrod aircraft, helicopters, a lifeboat and many other vessels.

At the time of capsizing a northerly wind of storm force 10 was blowing. Reports indicate that the conditions were particularly severe, with wave heights regularly reaching 21 metres.

The last certain information about PREMIER before the capsizing is that at 1000 hours on 11 December she was fishing near the Bergen Bank, 60-70 miles east of her final position. It is known that her Skipper had heard the weather forecast broadcast at 0555 hours which gave warning of storm force winds and that he was considering making for Lerwick; it appears that he did so, but whether PREMIER was still on course for Lerwick when she capsized, or was hove to and dodging, cannot be known.