

## **1. SUMMARY**

The 22.34 metre beam trawler GREY FLAMINGO capsized and sank in calm conditions at 0555 hrs on 24 November 1989 off Lamorna, near Land's End. Two crew members lost their lives.

The vessel snagged both her trawling gear nets during fishing. Whilst trying to free the nets a decision was made to transfer the tow wire from the head of the starboard derrick to the outboard side of the vessel, to enable the vessel to lift the heavy load without introducing excessive heel. However, both port and starboard wires were under load so that when the starboard quick release mechanism was operated to effect the transfer, a very heavy load came on to the port wire acting at the derrick head: the vessel heeled to port very quickly, capsized and then sank.

Two crew members were rescued from the sea by the F.V. FOUR SISTERS. Another member of the crew was rescued by helicopter but later died; it is believed that the fourth member of the crew, the Skipper, was trapped in the wheelhouse and went down with the vessel.

The Skipper and crew of the F.V. FOUR SISTERS are to be commended for the action taken in saving the survivors.