

SYNOPSIS

The accident was notified to the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) on 7 June 1999 and an investigation commenced the same day.

A crew member from the 11.03m potting vessel *Purbeck II* was dragged overboard when a bight of back rope caught round his neck.

Once in the water the crewman lost consciousness due to the tightening of the rope.

Fortunately, the quick thinking of the skipper and a crewman on deck prevented him from being pulled beneath the sea surface and the rope becoming tighter around his neck.

He was quickly retrieved back on board by the crew, then transferred by the rescue services to hospital, where he made a full recovery after suffering from severe bruising and rope burns to the neck.

The cause of the accident was a bight of back rope being caught round the crewman's neck while shooting.

A contributory cause was the lack of a safety measure preventing the crew coming into contact with back rope during shooting operations.

The investigation has resulted in a recommendation to the skipper/owner of *Purbeck II* to adopt an alternative deck system, such as a detachable pot - toggle system, which would prevent the crew from coming into contact with the back rope during shooting operations.