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Inside:

Celebrating 140 years
in fishing

Learning from
incidents onboard

SUMMER 2022
EDITION:

www.sunderlandmarine.com  

Celebrating

140

1882-2022

years in fishing

Welcome to Polaris

In this edition, we celebrate 140 years in fishing



We are celebrating a milestone this year - 140 years in fishing!

Throughout our history, we have experienced many changes in the fishing industry, from new technology to the introduction of new practices and regulation. We are proud to have been your insurer of choice over the years.

The COVID-19 pandemic has definitely been one of those world-changing challenges faced in more recent years but as always, the fishing industry has displayed resilience throughout. In 2022 we look forward to the return of more in-person events and the ability to meet more Clients face to face.

We are committed to investing in training and education in the industry and to mark our 140th year, we are working with 'Fishing into The Future'. It is a charity run by fishermen, for fishermen and its mission is to bring together fishermen, scientists and fisheries managers to share knowledge and

build relationships through mutual understanding. Our donation will help to support young trainees and help them develop their confidence, skills and knowledge of all aspects of the fishing industry.

In This Edition

This edition of Polaris brings you our usual updates, including an account of a Client who is one of our longest-serving policyholders ever, retiring after 61 years in commercial fishing – and with plenty of stories to tell!

We also had a dig through the archives to create a timeline of our story and see the world-changing events that Sunderland Marine has survived.

Of course, we also have some useful safety advice from our in-house experts. This time, Alvin Forster explores the unavoidable fact that things can go wrong onboard and what we can learn in the aftermath of an incident.

Find out more

Visit www.fishingintothefuture.co.uk to find out more about the work they do. Fishing into the Future is a UK Charity led by Fishermen. They work to promote learning, sharing knowledge, building connections and collaboration between people in industry, science and government whilst promoting sustainability and a prosperous industry.

Sunderland Marine

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HOW HAVE WE DONE?

Let us know what you think of the latest edition. Contact us at: sally.bettinson@nepia.com

New vessels in 2022



Sparkling Star UL290

Built by Parkol Marine, this 27.8m trawler will fish the West Coast of Scotland landing mainly into Kinlochbervie and Scrabster. Skipper. Owner James Corbett will work with nine crew.



Loch Inchard III

Built at C.Toms & Son Yard, Cornwall for Ian Mackay, the 16.5 Loch Inchard III will work from Kinlochbervie for prime species such as monkfish and megrim sole. This replaces the owner's older wooden boat Loch Inchard II.



Lynsey B LH411

Owner Barry Brunton purchased a 21-foot hull from Cygnus Marine Boats in 2019 and has documented the impressive build process and recent launch of the creel boat on his YouTube channel 'One Man And His Boat'. The vessel was launched from Dunbar in April 2022.

Learning from incidents onboard



Alvin Forster, Loss Prevention Executive at Sunderland Marine, explores what can be learned in the aftermath of an incident when the time is taken to look beyond the initial causes.

Things can and do go wrong. Regardless of best intentions to achieve a zero-target when it comes to accidents, equipment fails, people make mistakes and the unforeseen happens.

But throughout our lives, when things go wrong we learn from the experiences so that they don't happen again. The same should apply to our work - in this case, fishing safety. When incidents occur, we should grasp the opportunity to learn, and this means investigating how they happened.

The purpose of investigating incidents

Why do we carry out an investigation? Well, it depends on its purpose and who it is for.

If it concerns a potential prosecution, then establishing responsibilities and dispensing justice could be the priority. Similarly, when a high profile or tragic accident occurs and public interest is aroused - there is often an insatiable demand from mainstream and social media to find someone to blame.

An insurer or a legal claimant may take another view on the purpose of an investigation. Their priorities are likely to be around liability which, while related to blame, is not interchangeable with it.

Finding someone to blame might seem a neat and tidy solution. But focussing on this aspect can rob us of the opportunity to learn and to improve. Instead of focussing on the "who", we should be looking more at the "how".

Finding the cause

At Sunderland Marine, we get to see a lot of owners' incident investigation reports from

both the fishing and merchant shipping sectors. In most cases, an attempt is made to establish the 'root cause'. Invariably, this is concluded to be:

- The person made a mistake - human error
- The person failed to follow procedures

The owner's investigation then stops at this point, and corrective actions are issued based on these 'findings'. These typically include: the requirement for those involved to receive more training (or get sacked); the addition of more procedures; or adding another layer of oversight.

Will these corrective actions achieve anything and prevent the same thing from happening again? There is a strong likelihood that they won't because the real reasons why the incident occurred have not been uncovered. 'Human error' and 'failed to follow procedures' are not root causes. They only scratch the surface and should be the starting point for further investigation. Otherwise, we cannot properly learn from the incident.

Let's look at these two factors in turn.

Human error

When an outsider comes along and looks at (or is told about) the apparent circumstances of an incident, their initial response is to question the competence of those involved or conclude that they "lacked common sense!".

Failure to follow procedures

Safety management systems - when implemented correctly - are massively beneficial. But it's important to remember that policies, procedures and checklists won't stop things going wrong. Humans are not robots and won't follow procedures blindly.

So, what are the possible reasons that someone might not follow the procedures? There are many, and it's rarely because of a reckless disregard of system. More likely, it is down to the fact that the set procedures are difficult (or in some cases impossible) to comply with, or that they are badly written and easily misunderstood. Maybe the individuals involved didn't know where to find the right information?

There are other reasons why people 'break the rules', such as to save time or to maximise profits, sometimes under the misguided impression that they are helping the owner - rather than for their own benefit.

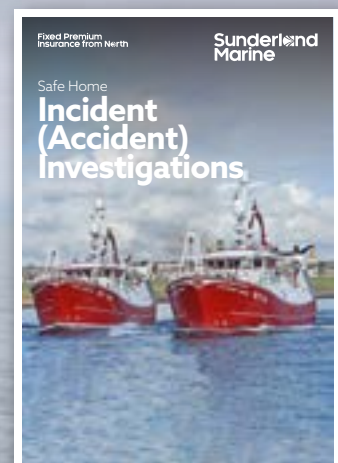
Digging deeper

Once a better understanding of what influenced the decisions of those involved is established - and why they deviated from the set procedures - there is an opportunity to learn much more about how the incident really happened and to identify effective measures to prevent similar incidents from happening in the future.

When a cause is listed as "failed to follow procedures", is the appropriate action to discipline the person involved and add more detailed procedures in the hope it will help future compliance? Or does it present an opportunity to find out if those procedures are really fit for purpose and reflect the realities of working on board?

Find out more

See our briefing on Incident Investigation at <https://www.sunderlandmarine.com/publications/safe-home-incident-accident-investigations/>



Celebrating 140 years in fishing 1882 – 2022

This year, we celebrate our 140th anniversary. When Sunderland Marine was established in 1882, Queen Victoria was on the throne and fishing vessels were powered by steam.

Since then, we have experienced two world wars and tremendous change across the fishing industry as a whole. In these years, the company has grown from insuring just a few vessels in the North East of England to providing cover for over 8,000 vessels all over the globe.

1882

SUNDERLAND MARINE ORIGINS

'Total Loss Mutual Steamship Insurance Company' was formed in Sunderland and by 1884 they insure 64 vessels. Queen Victoria is on the throne and Sunderland is one of the UK's major ports.

1914
1918

WORLD WAR I

All steam trawlers, drifters and their crews are instructed to return to their home ports. During the war they are used as mine-sweepers and patrol boats.

1939
1945

WORLD WAR II

Again, fishermen are called upon to play their part in the British Naval Forces but with the fleet now ageing and in poor shape.

1982

100 YEARS OF SUNDERLAND MARINE

It insures nearly 3,000 fishing vessels, representing over 50% of the entire inshore fishing fleets in the UK & Ireland.

1974

A MERGER TAKES PLACE

Sunderland Marine merges with the marine underwriting firm Salvus, Bain & Arnott Ltd, also based in Sunderland. They had a combined total of 1,600 insured vessels.

1962

THE COMPANY IS RENAMED

'Sunderland Marine' was born. Queen Elizabeth has been on the throne for a decade and the era of steam-powered vessels is well and truly over, with steam replaced by diesel-power.

2014

THE NORTH GROUP IS FOUNDED

Sunderland Marine merges with North P&I, giving increased financial security and global reach.

2022

140 YEARS OF SUNDERLAND MARINE

In our 140th year we are proud to insure over 8,000 vessels and have over 3,000 Clients globally.

Celebrating
140
years in fishing

THANK YOU

Sunderland Marine would not be here to celebrate this anniversary without the support of our Clients and we would like to say a huge thank you to you all.

Sunderland Marine in Aberdeen: Scottish Skipper Expo & The Fishing News Awards

The Sunderland Marine team headed to Aberdeen recently to attend the Scottish Skipper Expo and The Fishing News Awards for the first time since 2019. Thank you to everyone who stopped by our stand to say hello! The Sunderland Marine team headed to Aberdeen recently to attend the Scottish Skipper Expo and The Fishing News Awards for the first time since 2019. Thank you to everyone who stopped by our stand to say hello!



From left to right: Graham Darke, Alan Ure, John Lamb, Holly Rowley, David Burke and Craig McBurnie on the Sunderland Marine stand at the Scottish Skipper Expo 2022, held at the P&J Live Arena in Aberdeen.

Congratulations to Isla Gale, Trainee Fisherman of the Year 2022

Craig McBurnie was pleased to present the award for Trainee Fisherman of the Year to Isla Gale, a 17-year old from the Isle of Man who hopes to continue her career in fishing and become the first female skipper on the island. Congratulations to Isla and all the nominees!



From left to right: Awards host Des Clarke with Trainee Fisherman of the Year winner Isla Gale, Craig McBurnie of Sunderland Marine and Fishing News Editor Andy Read.

Proud Sponsor of the Fishing News Awards

We are also committed to supporting safety and training initiatives whenever possible and understand the importance of bringing new trainees into the fishing industry, as well as equipping them with the right skills to build successful and rewarding careers. Sunderland Marine is proud to sponsor the Trainee Fisherman of the Year category and support the future of the UK fishing industry. Find out more about the awards at fishingnews.co.uk/awards



Nicola Cook celebrates 20 Years at Sunderland Marine

Nicola Cook joined Sunderland Marine in 2002, and we would like to congratulate her on her career in Underwriting.

Starting her career in the mail room at The Esplanade offices, Nicola has progressed to the role of Senior Underwriting Executive. All who have worked with Nicola will attest to her dedication and attention to detail in any situation.

Thank you Nicola for all your hard work and commitment over the last 20 years.

Ian Balgowan retires after 58 Years as a Sunderland Marine Client

After an impressive 61 years in commercial fishing, and 58 of those years as a Client of Sunderland Marine, Stonehaven fisherman Ian Balgowan, has retired. From all at Sunderland Marine, we wish Ian the very best for his retirement!

John Lamb and Alan Ure of Sunderland Marine visited Ian recently to present a retirement gift and hear more about Ian's fascinating career and the ups and downs he's experienced over his decades in the industry. Doug Johnston, who was a surveyor for Sunderland Marine before retirement, also joined them.

Keep an eye out on our website and social media channels for more to come from our interview with Ian.



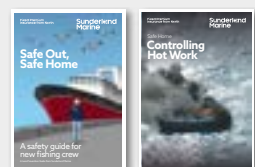
Pictured L-R: Ian Balgowan, John Lamb, Alan Ure and Doug Johnston

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We hope you find the news and resources on our website useful. Here is a reminder of what you can access.

- Industry News
- Sunderland Marine Updates and Publications
- Health & Safety Guides and Briefings
- Health & Safety Posters
- Team Information and Contact Details



What do you want to see more of on our site? Please get in touch to let us know via info@sunderlandmarine.com

Your team

Our staff are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to assist you with your needs. Contact our underwriters and claims handlers on: +44 (0)191 232 5221 or at the email addresses below.



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