CASE STUDY

VESSEL TYPE: Fishing Vessels
TITLE: A Real Eye Opener
CATEGORY: Personal Injury/Illness

THE INCIDENT:

This claim involved a purse seine fishing vessel engaged in fishing for tuna. The Chief Engineer was working in the vessel’s workshop when a foreign body entered his eye. The eye proved painful and the Master decided to land the injured engineer ashore for medical treatment. The nearest port was three days steaming away.

Doctors removed the foreign body and the vessel returned to the fishing grounds.

OBSERVATIONS:

The medical examination revealed the foreign body (a piece of rusted metal) was “lodged superficially” on the eye and was easily removed by the attending doctor.

Two points arise from this incident. Firstly, if the Chief Engineer had been wearing safety goggles, the chances of the metal entering the eye would have been prevented and the incident would not have occurred. Secondly it is a little surprising that no apparent attempt was made to treat the injured party on board. The foreign body was superficially lodged and the vessel carried a medical outfit compliance with flag state requirements.

ROOT CAUSE:

Poor Safety Practices.

FINANCIAL COST:

The cost to the Member in terms of the deviation was US$15,500 comprising fuel, port and hospital costs. The cost to the Member in lost fishing time during the 7 day deviation far exceeds this amount.

Issue Date: 13/06/05

Case No. 43868