

# Safety Report

## Safe anchorage

### Narrative

Three mates wanted to get away from it all and embarked upon a weekend fishing trip in their dinghy. They drove out to a busy little river close to home, got the boat into the water and cast a line. As the sun set, they chose not to turn on the all-round white light on, for fear of scaring the fish away. As the fishing became slow the crew fell asleep.

Later that night, further upstream, another vessel was heading back home after a successful days fishing. Parts of the creek are known to have snags, so the skipper and his friends were using torches to navigate the vessel through the creek. However, they switched the torches off once they reached the main part of the river.

The skipper believed that there were no other vessels in his path, so increased speed. Unfortunately, his belief was wrong and he collided with the anchored vessel. The persons on the anchored dinghy were thrown overboard but were uninjured. Extensive damage was caused to both ships.

### Lessons

- 1. Whenever a boat is anchored between sunset and sunrise, an all round white light should be shown.**
- 2. Additional lighting will improve the chances of your boat being seen.**
- 3. When anchored an 'anchor watch' should be maintained by the crew.**
- 4. Because a ship is anchored, it does not relieve the crew of their responsibility to take action to avoid a collision.**
- 5. When operating a ship at night reduced vision must be taken into account in determining a safe speed.**
- 6. Proper use of lights and sound signals, even yelling could have attracted the attention of the other vessel and avoided the collision.**

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