

**mv *Ruyter* grounding
10 October 2017
Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) report**

In summary, the MAIB report (No11/2018 published on 20 June 2018) indicates that at 2311 on 10 October 2017, The Netherlands registered general cargo vessel *Ruyter* (89.99m loa; 2528gt; built 2006) on passage from Skagen, Denmark to Warrenpoint, Northern Ireland, ran aground on the north shore of Rathlin Island. It was found that the master who was the watchkeeper had left the bridge unattended.

The bridge navigational watch alarm system, which could have alerted the chief officer to the fact that the bridge was unmanned, had been switched off. Consequently, no action was taken to correct a deviation from the ship's planned track.

There was extensive damage to the forward third of the hull. No pollution was reported.

It was found that the master had been consuming alcohol prior to taking over the watch but the chief officer, who had previously warned the master against excessive consumption of alcohol, had been satisfied that the master was fit for watchkeeping duties.

Report and safety lessons

The MAIB report into the grounding of *Ruyter* is available here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5b27c3c9ed915d2cd5d01be9/MAIBInvReport11_2018.pdf

Analysis of the incident has delivered the following safety lessons:

- When the sole watchkeeper left the bridge unattended and the bridge navigational watch alarm was turned off, there was no means to alert the chief officer to the fact that the bridge was unmanned.
- The consumption of alcohol prior to taking over the watch had an adverse effect on the master's ability to maintain a safe navigational watch.
- Although the chief officer had concerns about the master's excessive alcohol consumption, he did not feel sufficiently empowered to raise the matter with the company.

As for recommendations, in view of the actions taken, none are made.

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