

Offshore Incidents Recorded 16 June 2022 –22 July 2023

SP 79 -E.Leclerc Ville-La-Grand - Antoine Magré - Class 40 – RdR -Grounding – 10 November 2022

In the early hours of the 10th of November 2022 while competing in the Route du Rhum, Antoine Magré hit rocks off the island of Batz off the northern coast of France in the English Channel. The skipper of the Class40 E.Leclerc Ville-La-Grand was rescued by two SNSM boats and was uninjured. The boat's rudders and keel were very damaged. The boat also had shocks to the hull.

Sources:

<https://www.ledauphine.com/sport/2022/11/10/blesse-le-haut-savoyard-antoine-magre-abandonne>

SP 80 -Solidaires En Peloton - Thibaut Vauchel-Camus - Ocean Fifty – RdR – Capsize – 12 November 2022

At approximately 20:00 on the November 12, 2022, Solidaires En Peloton capsized approximately 240miles north of the Azores whilst competing in the Route du Rhum. Skipper Thibaut Vauchel-Camus was rescued from the upturned hull at daybreak on the morning of the 13th of November by Adrian Hardy who towed the boat to the Azores. The skipper was uninjured.



Sources:

https://www.facebook.com/DefiVoileSolidairesEnPeloton/?locale=fr_FR

SP81 - CMA île de France - Briec Maisonneuve - Rhum Multi – RdR – Capsize – 13 November 2022

At approximately 06:30UT on November 13, while leading the Rhum Multi category in the Route du Rhum, Briec Maisonneuve's ORC 50 CMA île de France capsized 300nm east of the Azores. Briec Maisonneuve had recently resumed racing after providing assistance to Amélie Grassi, whose Class40 had dismasted. A sudden autopilot failure led the boat to bear away violently and as a result, it capsized. Briec made his way to the port hull where he had a TPS, beacon and grab bag. He waited inside the hull until daylight, emerging around 0830UT. He continued to make mayday calls which were answered by a freighter and then fellow competitor Jean-Pierre Dick. Jean-Pierre Dick passed the capsized vessel trailing a rope behind his boat. Briec jumped into the water, grabbed the rope, and then boarded Jean-Pierre's boat. They both sailed to the Azores, where Briec stepped off and Jen-Pierre Dick continued the race. The 16th of January 2023 the boat washed up on Guidel Beach, on the south coast of Brittany, France. The remains of the boat were quickly recovered.

Sources:

<https://voilesetvoiliers.ouest-france.fr/course-au-large/route-du-rhum/route-du-rhum-briec-maisonneuve-chavire-il-est-secouru-par-jean-pierre-dick-18b66e26-634f-11ed-822f-aa909ea5cf47>

https://www.facebook.com/chantier.MarsaudonComposites/?locale=en_GB



SP 82 - Nexans – Art & Fenêtres - Fabrice Amedeo – IMOCA – RdR- Hull Structure, Fire, Abandonment – 13 November 2022

At 06:30 UT on November 13th, the starboard ballast tank on IMOCA Nexans – Art & Fenêtres broke during very heavy conditions. After turning downwind to remove the water and with no electricity after the battery bank was flooded, skipper Fabrice Amedeo used his emergency phone to inform his team he did not need assistance and he was headed to Cascais under J3.

On the afternoon of the 13th, Fabrice noticed smoke onboard but used an extinguisher to stop the fire. He made contact with the Race organisers who asked fellow IMOCA competitor James Harayda to divert to assist until the situation stabilised and Fabrice continued his passage to Cascais.

Around 12:30 on the 14th of November, Fabrice noticed more smoke onboard. This was followed by an explosion. With the cockpit warping from the fire Fabrice was forced to abandon his boat. He watched his boat sink in about 30 minutes. Once in the life raft, Fabrice found the satellite phone did not work because of water damage, however he had a Tupperware container with batteries for a handheld VHF. Calling Mayday on the VHF every 30min to save battery, Fabrice spent 3-4 hours in the life raft before making contact with a cargo vessel. Fabrice used flares to help the ship locate the raft and after several passes he was picked up by the crew of M/V MAERSK BRIDA at 14:21 UT. The skipper was shocked but not harmed and taken to Ponta Delgada in the Azores.

Source:

<https://www.routedurhum.com/fr/actualite/573>

SP 83 - Interaction Trimaran - Erwan Thiboumery - Rhum Multi – RdR- Abandoned Boat – 12 November 2022

At 10:30UT on Saturday November 12, Erwan Thiboumery, skipper of the Interaction trimaran, informed the race organisers that he had issues with his headsails and was enroute to Vigo, Spain for repairs but did not require assistance.

At 04:44UT on Tuesday November 15, while enroute to La Coruna, Spain, Erwan was airlifted from his boat after becoming unable to manoeuvre while being pushed close to shore. The skipper was not injured as his boat ran aground on Ferreira beach.

Source:

https://www.facebook.com/salvamentomaritimo.es/?locale=it_IT

<https://www.livesaildie.com/erwan-thiboumery-interaction-rescued-by-helicopter-and-is-safe/>



SPXX - Route du Rhum Finish – Spectator Boat Collision – 16 November 2022

Early in the morning, around 0500am on Wednesday 16th of November as the first boat was finishing the Route du Rhum in Guadeloupe's bay of Pointe-a-Pitre, a boat carrying 11 people was hit



The powerboat at the dock and the two victims in Wednesday's tragedy, Alex Picot (pictured on top) and François Naveilhan. This tragedy has rocked the French sailing world.

© 2022 Route du Rhum

by a wave and capsized. The boat flipped over, trapping several people beneath the vessel, of which two died. The two passengers who died both worked for the race organiser, OC Sport Pen Duick. They were later identified as François Naveilhan and Alex Picot.

During the investigation into the incident, it was found that the boat in question was not authorised to sail at night. On November 16 the Pointe-à-Pitre public prosecutor's office opened an investigation re: manslaughter and involuntary injuries.

Sources:

https://www.espn.co.uk/espn/story/_/id/35040413/2-die-accident-finish-route-du-rhum-sailing-race

<https://www.livesaildie.com/route-de-rhum-organisers-in-mourning-after-losing-two-of-their-own/>

<https://newsinfrance.com/route-du-rhum-the-pilot-of-the-boat-whose-sinking-left-two-dead-indicted/>

<https://www.ouest-france.fr/route-du-rhum/deux-morts-a-l-arrivee-de-la-route-du-rhum-a-lorient-nous-sommes-tous-choques-f16e84a8-65cd-11ed-9023-3db2565e335c>

Image: https://www.latitude38.com/letronic/fatal-capsize-route-du-rhum-finish/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=fatal-capsize-route-du-rhum-finish

SP 84 - Asteria – Tapio Lehtinen – Gaia 36 - Golden Globe Race – Abandon boat – Sinking – 18 November 2022

While participating in the Golden Globe Race, on the 18th of November at 0654UTC Tapio Lehtinen activated Asteria's EPIRB, 460 nautical miles Southeast of South Africa. At 0852UTC Tapio activated the PLB that was inside his life raft. Fellow GGR entrant Kirsten Neuschäfer who was 105nm SSW started to motor towards Tapio while a cargo vessel that was 250nm away was also diverted. At 0922UTC Tapio activated the emergency YB3 tracking and texting device which was inside the grab bag and shortly after acknowledged to a message sent from the GGR organisers indicating he was in the life raft.

At 0510UTC on the 19th of November, Kirsten reached Tapio's position. After initial difficulties in making contact, Kirsten successfully retrieved Tapio. At 0755UTC Tapio was put back in the raft to be transferred to bulk carrier M.V. Darya Gayatri.

When recalling the experience, Tapio commented: "After a total rebuild four years ago and being fitted out and inspected again this year, being flooded up to deck level in five minutes and sinking twenty minutes later in beautiful summer conditions is beyond my comprehension." Tapio was an experienced sailor who had completed the 2018 Gold Globe Race in the same boat spending 322 days aboard.

Sources:

<https://goldenglobrace.com/tapio-is-safe-and-sound/>

<https://www.yachtingworld.com/news/golden-globe-skipper-rescued-by-fellow-competitor-after-24-hours-in-liferaft-141609>

<https://www.nsr.org.za/2022/12/sa-female-solo-sailor-diverts-to-rescue-stricken-fellow-ggr-competitor/>

SP 85 - Jess – Gilles Buekenhout – Multi 40 -RdR – Capsize – Crew Rescue – 23 November 2023

At 1920UTC on the 23rd of November while leading the Rhum Multi category, Gilles Buekenhout triggered his EPIRB. Shortly after he made contact with the race committee informing them he had capsized but was onboard and not injured. He was picked up by cargo ship CHEM PATRIOT. The boat was spotted by helicopter on the 28th of November which started a recovery mission. The boat was towed to Guadeloupe.

Sources: https://www.instagram.com/jess_tri40/

SP 86 - Huntress – Victoria Logan – Sydney 39CR – Collision With Object – Boat Abandoned – 28 December 2022

At approximately 0700 on the 28th of December 2022 while competing in the 2022 Sydney to Hobart yacht race, the crew of Huntress saw the yacht's rudder floating away shortly after hearing a thud, losing steerage and the boat breaching. The crew were 80 nautical miles east of Flinders Island when the incident happened. The crew deployed the sea anchor before Victoria and her 7 crewmates were picked up by water police around 1700. "We assume (we hit) a sunfish because we saw heaps of them down the coast and across Bass Strait." The boat was left drifting at sea and on the 4th of January 2023 washed up on the beach of Cape Barren Island. The boat was recovered from the beach.

See [full report provided by Australian Sailing](#)



Source:

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2023/jan/06/yacht-abandoned-during-sydney-to-hobart-washes-up-on-remote-tasmanian-island>

SP89 – MGM Macau Regatta – Beneteau 40.7 - Collision – Sinking – 6 January 2023

On the 6th of January 2023, during the second race of the day of the GBA Cup Regatta at the MGM Macau Regatta, there was collision between Zhongshan Sailing Team (Beneteau First 40.7) and Shanghai Senior Sailors (Beneteau First 40.7). Shanghai Senior Sailors was severely damaged when Zhongshan Sailing Team collided with the starboard side of the vessel close to the transom. The impact of the collision and the entanglement of the two boats, resulted in the transom being ripped off the Shanghai Senior Sailors yacht. Subsequently the boat sunk, and the crew was rescued.

**Sources:**

[An unfortunate incident at the MGM Macau Regatta - YouTube](#)

<https://sailinganarchy.com/wp-content/uploads/uploads/2023/01/On-the-Bottom.jpg>

SP90 –Flare Fatality– Truly Classic 78 – Flare explosion – 1 January 2023

Just after midnight on the 1st of January 23-year-old Dutch national Willem Kerstjes lit a Pirolec parachute flare to celebrate the new year. The flare exploded. Shortly after, Willem passed away. He was aboard Bonte Koning, a Truly Classic 78, in the middle of the Pacific enroute from Panama to Tahiti. His body was recovered by a passing cargo vessel.

The flare in the incident was a **Red Rocket Parachute Flare L-35** of the **Pirolec** brand, of **batch 0525/2021 – 113** which was manufactured in August 2021 in Spain. Following an investigation by the Dutch Safety Board (OVV) the product has been recalled by the manufacturer LECEA.

Warning message LeCea, Larrea, 17 January 2023



Subject: Recall of lot 113 of rockets with the commercial designation L-35

We hereby inform you that we received notification of an accident involving an L-35 rocket from lot 113, manufactured in August 2021. Taking into account the information received, as a preventive measure, it has been decided to recall all rockets of the aforementioned lot. Likewise, it is recommended not to use the L-35 rockets marked with the lot number 113 and to facilitate their return to the factory.

To this end, once this communiqué has been published, all customers who have received rockets from lot 113 will be contacted, indicating the delivery note number and date of sale of the product so that, in turn, they can contact the end customers and proceed with the recovery of the articles. Rockets or equipment withdrawn will be replaced immediately, free of charge.

We regret the inconvenience that this situation may cause, but we understand that it is the quickest and safest preventive solution for the end customer.

We are at your disposal for any questions you may have.

Bron: <https://www.lecea.eu/avisos?lang=en>

Sources:

<https://www.noonsite.com/news/safety-dutch-safety-board-issues-recall-on-parachute-flares/>

https://maritime.lr.org/l/941163/2023-01-23/6c4gg/941163/1674494138Zo9c0dGA/Alert_Flare_19jan2023.pdf?_gl=1*v6wmpx*_ga*MTY3OTYxMjlyNi4xNjk1NDkwODc0*_ga_BTRFH3E7GD*MTY5NTQ5MDg3NC4xLiAuMTY5NTQ5MDg3NC4wLiAuMA..

<https://www.zeilen.nl/actueel/nieuws/correspondent-overzee-bemanningslid-om-het-leven-gekomen-stille-oceaan/>

<https://www.lecea.eu/avisos?lang=en>

Red Rocket Parachute flare L-35 / L-35A (Pirolec)



Pirolec Red Rocket Parachute flare L-35

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Pirolec Red Rocket Parachute flare L-35A
Ongevalsbatch 0525/2021 113 08/2021 – 08/2025

Bron: Onderzoeksraad voor Veiligheid

SP91 – Globe 40 – Class 40 – Mega- Fauna Strike/attack – 16 June 2022

On June 16, 2022, while competing in Prologue of the Globe 40, Class 40 Milai was surrounded by a pod of Orcas near the entrance to Gibraltar Strait. The animals repeatedly contacted the boat which resulted in the lower section of the starboard rudder being broken off. At the stopover before the start, the skipper Masa Suzuki was able to install the replacement rudder and continue with the race.



Source:

Video: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1690213507990243>



SP92 - Globe 40 – Class 40 – Collision with UFO – Keel and Structural Failure – 12 January 2023

At 0900UTC on the 12th of January 2023 while competing in leg 6 of the Globe 40, Class 40 Milai had a collision with a UFO. The boat was running down wind off the coast of Argentina at the time of the incident. The two crew members, Masa Suzuki and Estelle Greck, were unharmed but after noticing major cracking in the structure of the boat they stopped racing and headed to Mar Del Plata to further inspect the damage. On further inspection, large cracks were found at the mast base and around bulkheads. The head of the keel bulb was bent and had started to separate.

Sources:

<https://www.globe40.com/en/milai-in-orient-as-the-epilogue-of-the-globe40/>

https://m.facebook.com/milai.aroundtheworld?_tn_=%2As-R



SP93 – America’s Cup Testing/Preparation – INEOS Britannia T6 Test Boat (LEQ12)– Fire – 8 February 2023

On the 8th of February 2023, while preparing for the 2024 America’s Cup, the INEOS Britannia T6 Test Boat capsized in Palma Bay, Mallorca, Spain. The boat capsized after rounding up from a downwind course in 18kts of wind. After initially resting on its side, the boat fully inverted. As a result of water ingress into the boat’s power systems, the lithium batteries caused a fire on board. This was quickly managed as a result of prior training and specialist fire extinguishers.



Sources:

<https://www.sail-world.com/news/258493/Cup-Spy-Feb-8-Brits-test-boat-catches-fire>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/sport/americas-cup/131183906/fire-on-british-americas-cup-boat-after-full-capsize>

<https://www.sail-world.com/news/258493/Cup-Spy-Feb-8-Brits-test-boat-catches-fire>

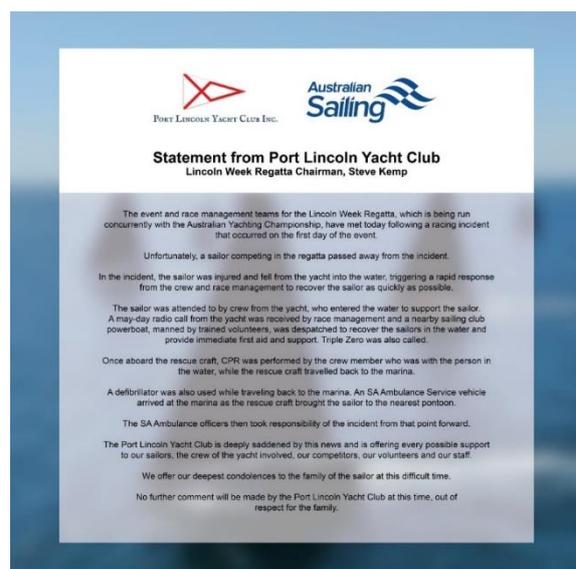
SP95- Lincoln Regatta Week – Man overboard – Fatality – 20 February 2023

Around 11am on the 20th of February 2023 on the first day of racing at the Lincoln Regatta Week Andrew McLeod was injured during an incident and fell into the water. Crew members from the same yacht entered the water to assist Andrew who was shortly recovered by a nearby powerboat staffed by trained volunteers who provided immediate first-aid support. CPR was performed by a fellow crewmember on the journey to shore in addition to a defibrillator. An ambulance met the powerboat at the marina who took over the situation. Shortly after Mr McLeod was pronounced dead by police.

[See Australian Sailing Report for more information.](#)

Source:

https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=641883574610763&set=a.492063772926078&locale=en_GB



SP97 – The Ocean Race – Head Injury – Treated on-board – 26 March 2023

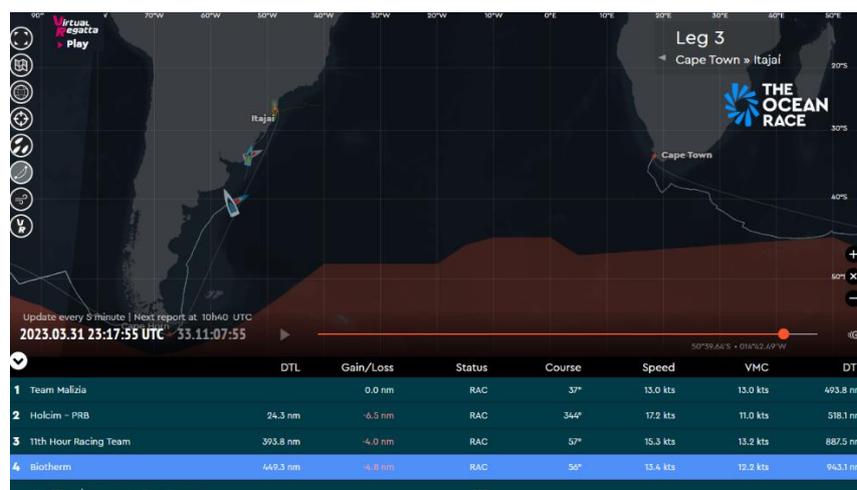
Around 0900UTC on the 26th of March, Rosalin Kuiper suffered a head injury while competing in The Ocean Race. The boat, Team Malizia (IMOCA), was near Cape Horn and was wiped out and slammed unexpectedly in heavy seas. Rosalin, who was off watch/resting at the time, fell from her bunk when the boat turned and slammed unexpectedly. She did not lose consciousness but was bleeding badly and showed signs of concussion. With remote medical guidance from the Race Doctor Spike Briggs, she was treated and monitored by crewmembers on-board.

Sources:

[Team Malizia's Rosalin Kuiper suffers a head injury near Cape Horn - she is conscious, stable and recovering \(imoca.org\)](#)
[Team Malizia's Rosalin Kuiper suffered a head injury near Cape Horn - she is conscious, stable and recovering | Team Malizia & Boris Herrmann Racing - Professional sailing team racing around the world \(team-malizia.com\)](#)
[Team Malizia's Rosalin Kuiper suffers a head injury near Cape Horn - she is conscious, stable and recovering - The Ocean Race 2022-23](#)

**SP99 – The Ocean Race – Collision with object – Structural Failure – 31 March 2023**

While competing in the third leg of The Ocean Race, at 2257 on Friday the 31st of March, Biotherm (IMOCA) hit an unidentified object in the water. The port foil and foil bearing were damaged resulting in water ingress of approximately 50L per hour. The team completed emergency repairs on the bearing and continued to the finish line. There were no injuries sustained in the incident.



Sources:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=557563943184445> (video)

<https://www.theoceanrace.com/en/news/13809> Biotherm-safe-but-slow-after-hitting-floating-object

SP100 – Offshore Passage – Raindancer - Megafauna Strike – Boat sunk -Crew rescued – 13 March 2023

At approximately 1330 local time on the 13th of March 2023 while sailing across the Pacific, halfway between the Galapagos and the Marquesas Islands (French Polynesia), Raindancer, a KP44 collided violently with a whale leading to structural damage. The boat started taking on water quickly, so the crew collected as much emergency equipment as possible and got into the life raft and dinghy. They set off an EPIRB and sent out distress signals. The messages were picked up and relayed by boats participating in the World ARC which were also crossing the Pacific. At approximately 0500 local time the crew was rescued by a sailboat not participating in the event. The skipper of Raindancer has noted the crew's Iridium GO! device and their SPOT tracker in addition to the message sent out by SSB were instrumental in their rescue.

Sources:

<https://boatwatch.org/top-articles/four-sailors-rescued-from-liferaft-after-sv-raindancer-hit-by-whale-in-south-pacificsouth-pacific/>

<https://www.sailworldcruising.com/news/259821/The-rescue-of-Raindancer-crew-%E2%80%93-non-World-ARC-boat>

SP101 – Bodrum Açıkdeniz Yelken Kulübü - Skymarine Aquavit – Collision with vessel – Boat sunk – Crew Rescued - 02 April 2023

During the second day of racing of the 5th “leg” of the “Bodrum Açıkdeniz Yelken Kulübü” the Beneteau First 44.7, Skymarine Aquavit, was on starboard when it collided with another vessel. While manoeuvring in an attempt to avoid the collision one crew member fell into the sea and was rescued by a nearby zodiac. Shortly after the incident the boat started taking on water and sunk before it was able to return to the marina. The crew was rescued.



Sources:

Video: <https://www.yenisafak.com/en/video-gallery/news/boat-sinks-after-collision-during-sailing-race-in-turkiyes-bodrum-3663078>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CqnInGGI4Xk/>

http://www.bayk.org/duyuru_detay.php?id=26

SP102 – Golden Globe Race – Puffin – Dismasting, skipper injured and rescued – 10 April 2023

At 1540UTC on the 10th of April, Ian Herbert-Jones communicated with the event organisers that he was in extreme weather (50kts gusting to 70kts), the yacht “Puffin” a Tradewind 35 Cutter had rolled, dismasted, and was taking on a small amount of water. He reported that he could not deploy his drogue, was low on power and had injured his back.

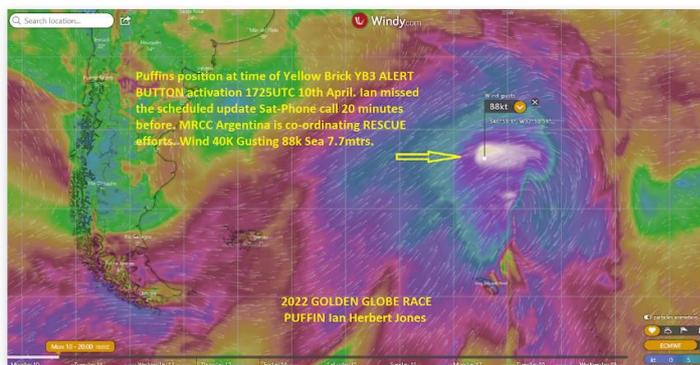
Because he was unable to make contact via sat phone, Ian activated his EPIRB. (time not noted)

At approximately 1800UTC, around 25 min after a missed planned safety call, Ian activated the alert button on the Yellow-Brick tracker. At 1842UTC Ian sent the following message via the YB3– “*Rolled Dismasted, injured Back, hard to move, 2ft water in boat.*” Then at 1844UTC he sent another: “*Situation getting worse. Need weather break to cut rig from PUFFIN*”. At 2015UTC Ian rang the event organisers and explained he had gashed his head, and his back was getting stiff, but the water ingress was under control and he had started to cut away the rig.

At 0150UTC MRCC Argentina SAR confirmed that the Lilibet and UK flagged 50m fisheries patrol vessel had been diverted. It was 300nm away with an ETA of 29 hours. At 0647UTC MRCC Tiwan also diverted the course of fishing vessel Zi DA Wang which was 90nm from Puffin with an ETA of 1900UTC on the 11th.

At 0842 UTC Ian sent a message through his YB3 “ALL RECD THKU! OK HERE TOUGHNIGHT TRYING2STAYWARM”, shortly followed by another message at 0852UTC “GRTNEWS REF FISHIMGBOAT WAITING4 FIRSTLIGHT 2CLEAR RIG.”

At 1830UTC the first vessel on the scene was Zi DA Wang. The weather had improved with 25kt wind and 4m sea. At 1930UTC the event organisers were informed that Ian was on board the Zi DA Wang. While originally reported that Puffin was scuttled as not to become a navigational hazard, on the 24th of April it was announced that it had been abandoned at sea and the EPIRB had been activated. They believe it activated automatically as the boat flooded/sank.



Source:

<https://goldenglobrace.com/day-218-epirb-activation-in-extreme-storm-puffin-golden-globe-race/>

<https://goldenglobrace.com/day-219-ian-herbert-jones-rescue-underway-first-eta-1700-utc-today/>

<https://goldenglobrace.com/day-219-ian-herbert-jones-rescued-safe-onboard-taiwan-flagged-f-v-zi-da-wang/>

https://www.facebook.com/goldenglobrace/?locale=en_GB

SP106 – Offshore Passage – Mega-Fauna Strike – No injuries– 22 May 2023

During an offshore passage, on May 22 between 5:35 and 6:30 pm, the boat Lancelot was “attacked” by at least eight orcas.

“An hour under their battering, it was very impressive, and we were very scared,” declared the double Vendée Globe participant and Lancelot Skipper, Sébastien Destremau. “We saw them coming from quite a distance and we immediately understood that this time it was for us.”

“Respecting the recommended procedure in the event of an attack (GTOA Protocol), the skipper immediately brings the boat to a stop by lowering the sails. “After this experience, I am not at all convinced that stopping the ship is the right strategy but as I don't speak the language of the orcas, it is difficult for me to be sure. More seriously, it's terrifying to feel a fifteen-ton boat being shaken like a nutshell. We weren't far on board.” The MRCC Tarifa is warned by VHF on channel 72 and remains on stand-by while keeping the emergency services ready to intervene if the situation degenerates.

“There were no injuries on board, I just twisted my thumb with the helm when an orca hit the rudder, a large piece of which came off. The boat is not filling up with water and we are not asking for assistance at the moment,” the skipper told the Tarifa emergency services by radio.

The boat diverted towards Cadiz in the south of Spain to carry out checks.



Sources: <https://www.faceocean.fr/attaque-par-les-orques/>

<https://voilesetvoiliers.ouest-france.fr/securite-en-mer/video-secoue-comme-une-coquille-de-noix-par-des-orques-frayeur-pour-sebastien-destremau-7330e9f8-f93b-11ed-b43f-8b3773bbb4> (see video)

SP107 – Pro Sailing Tour – Le Rire Medecin-Lamotte - Mega-Fauna Strike – No injuries– 24 May 2023

While participating in the Pro Sailing tour, Thibaut Vauchel-Camus on the Ocean 50, Défi Voile Solidaires En Peloton, alerted the fleet to another recent mega-fauna incident (see SP106). Luke Berry on *Le Rire Medecin – Lamotte*, a fellow participant a few miles ahead replied by informing that they had just had 2 strikes on their rudders.

“We confirm! They have just come to test our rudders!

- Thibaut: In what position?
- Vers 36°08 200N; 006°06.03 W
- Us too, just now... twice
- They didn't stay very long. Damages?
- Two surprising keys. A priori RAS. And you?
- Yes, the same. RAS for now. It's surprising! We didn't even see them; the boat was just shaken a lot.



Sources: <https://www.facebook.com/prosailingtour/>

<https://voilesetvoiliers.ouest-france.fr/course-au-large/pro-sailing-tour/pro-sailing-tour-apres-sebastien-destremau-des-orques-viennent-titiller-la-flotte-des-ocean-fifty-e915f2a6-fa2d-11ed-9dad-48744aab688c>

SP108 – The Ocean Race – 11th Hour Racing – Collision with object – Injuries including head – 25 May 2023

At 1541 UTC on Thursday, May 25, while racing in Leg 5 of The Ocean Race, 11th Hour Racing Team activated its Hazard Button to alert Race Control and the wider fleet they had hit something, suspected to be a marine mammal or megafauna.

The Team was in the mid-North Atlantic Ocean at 52°N, 35°W – approximately 750 nautical miles [863 miles/1,389 km] off the coast of Newfoundland, sailing at 29 knots [33mph/54 kmph], in 28+ knots [32 mph/52 kmph] of wind speed – some of the fastest conditions yet seen in the race.

The impact was sudden, and the crew onboard were thrown forward, causing two injuries onboard. Trimmer Charlie Dalin (FRA) has a suspected mild concussion, and Media Crew Member Amory Ross (USA) has injured his shoulder. The Race's on-call Doctor – Dr Spike Briggs – has spoken to the sailors onboard the boat by satellite phone. Dr Briggs has prescribed painkillers, bunk rest, and plenty of water to hydrate, and is monitoring the situation closely. The two sailors are reported to be comfortable, and their next of kin have been informed.

The crew are all very shaken by the incident and will follow best practices, reporting the suspected strike to the International Whaling Commission.

After the incident, the crew slowed the boat down to conduct checks: the boat, as far as they can visually assess, has no damage.

The three other sailors onboard are all uninjured. Skipper Charlie Enright (USA), Navigator Simon Fisher (GBR), and Trimmer Justine Mettraux (SUI) – will continue to race the boat towards their final destination – Aarhus, Denmark.

Source: <https://www.11thhourracingteam.org/news/incident-onboard-11th-hour-racing-team/>

SP111 – JOG Cowes-Deauville Race– Man Overboard – Fatality – 26 May 2023

At approximately 21:10BST on the 26th of May while competing in the JOG Cowes – Deauville Race (organised Junior Offshore Group in collaboration with Royal London Yacht Club, Royal Southern Yacht Club and Deauville Yacht Club) X-332 Alexa skippered by Mark Wynter was on a beam reach in Force 5-6 with 1.25-2.5m waves. Approximately 12nm north of Deauville, the boat was suddenly rolled by a large wave, swamping the cockpit. One of the 3 crew members on deck (4 crew on board) Robin Lilley was thrown across the cockpit and under the guard wires. Alexa issued a MAYDAY call that alerted other boats in the race as well as several commercial vessels in the area to the incident and subsequently joined the search, however Robin's body was not recovered. On the 2nd of June a body was found on the beach at Colleville-sur-Mer however it has not been confirmed if it is linked to this incident.

Sources: WS Incident Reporting Portal

<https://www.jog.org.uk/jog-news/jog-news-article/cowesdeauville/>

<https://www.yachtingworld.com/all-latest-posts/two-man-overboard-incidents-in-cross-channel-races-british-sailor-dies-145845>

<https://www.islandecho.co.uk/french-authorities-search-in-vain-for-Island-man-overboard-during-cowes-to-deauville-race/>

<https://myjog.jog.org.uk/boatdetails2/8014209a-441a-ed11-b83f-b83f-000d3ad5859c/1ff32d96-441a-ed11-b83f-000d3ad5859c/7da9d88e-2543-46c7-8ded-420feaaf6380?returnUrl=%2Fentered%3Ffaceguid%3D8014209a-441a-ed11-b83f-000d3ad5859c%26class%3Ddafdfc2c-2414-4286-9ca5-d5c01cc600e5%26t%3D0%26p%3D0%26s%3D25>

<https://www.jog.org.uk/jog-news/jog-news-article/cowesdeauville2/>

<https://www.ouest-france.fr/societe/faits-divers/un-corps-retrouve-sur-la-plage-de-colleville-sur-mer-pres-de-bayeux-c4886424-013e-11ee-97b8-b87233f6e13c>



SP112 – Sussex Yacht Club Royal Escape Race – Man overboard – Fatality – 26 May 2023

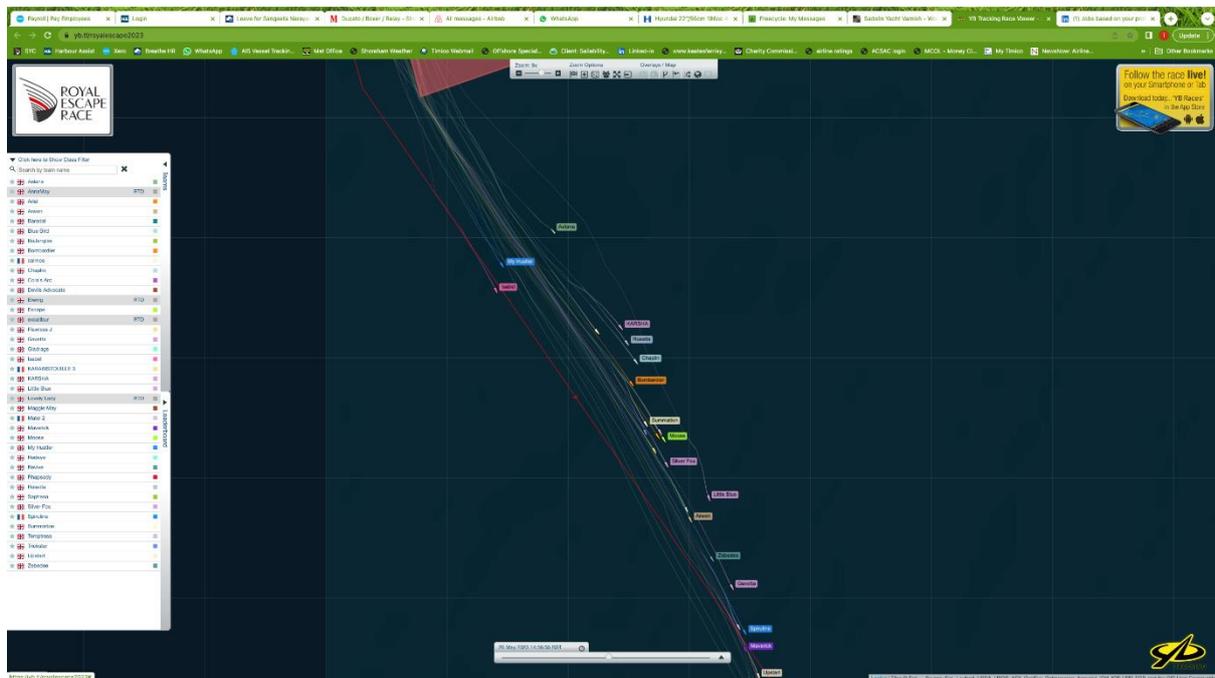
At approximately 1500BST (not supplied – estimated from tracking) on the 26th of May while competing double-handed in the Royal Escape Race (Brighton to Fécamp) organised by the Sussex Yacht Club, Aelana, an Elizabethan 29, was knocked down while reaching (wind direction 060°, 25-30 Kts gusting to 35kts, 2-3m sea, heading between 150°-180°) shortly after clearing the Dover Straits TSS. Both crew went overboard. Skipper Stuart Harrison was clipped on and was wearing a lifejacket, which failed to inflate. It is not clear if the crew member was wearing a lifejacket or if they were clipped on at the time and/or the tether failed. Stuart managed to pull himself onboard, lowered the sails, put the engine on and made a MAYDAY call. Having located his crew member, he was unable to bring them back onboard. A fishing vessel in the area that responded to the MAYDAY call, arrived, and recovered the crew member who was unresponsive and face down in the water. CPR was administered before the crew member was taken to a hospital in France by helicopter and pronounced dead on arrival. Aelana drifted west before being towed to Fécamp by a French lifeboat.

Sources:

WS Incident Reporting Portal

<https://www.yachtingworld.com/all-latest-posts/two-man-overboard-incidents-in-cross-channel-races-british-sailor-dies-145845>

<https://www.facebook.com/sailsussex>



SP113 – IMA Maxi European Championships – ARCA SCR - Keel Failure – No injuries – Crew rescued – Boat recovered - 12 May 2023

At 2330 on the 12th of May 2023 while competing in the offshore race of the IMA Maxi Europeans Championships as part of the Regata dei Tre Golfi, ARCA SGR was leading the fleet around Zannone when she started to have issues with her canting keel. The crew issued a Mayday and soon after the 90ft maxi, Shockwave 3, was standing by. They were joined by a Coast Guard patrol boat to which the majority of the crew was transferred. The patrol boat then towed ARCA SGR to the nearby island of Ponza.

“The most important thing is that all the crewmen are safe,” said skipper Furio Benussi. *“Thanks to the hard work and preparedness of the crew, despite the drama of the situation, we prevented injuries and ARCA SGR from sinking. I would like to extend a big thank you to the great sailors of Shockwave 3 who were the first to assist us and to the Coast Guard, who arrived in record time to assist in the rescue.”*

Maxi Class Technical Committee reported the incident and requested the race committee and the owner to submit reports, however neither were willing. A report was eventually provided to the Executive Office by the Event Organiser

Sources: <https://www.internationalmaxiassociation.com/imanews.php?newsID=978>

VIDEO (in Italian): [L'incidente di Arca SGR: Furio Benussi racconta, la barca sarà riparata - YouTube](#)

SP114 – Offshore delivery –Groupe Berkem – Fire – No injuries – Crew rescued – Boat abandoned - 31 May 2023

During the night 30th-31st of May 2023, on a delivery to the start of the Normandy Channel Race, Class 40 Groupe Berkem caught fire between Bréhat and Saint-Quay-Portrieux along the northern coast of France. The two skippers Edgard Vincens and Julien Pulvé were forced to evacuate the boat. They were rescued around 04:30 am by the SNSM in 60-70kts of wind and 3-4m seas. *“Recovered on board their life raft, the two sailors “were not injured, just a little sick and in slight hypothermia”* specifies Yann Riou from the SNSM. *“The two skippers told us that everything had caught fire in two minutes and that doesn’t surprise me too much. Racing boats are made of flammable materials.”* It is believed that electronic equipment would be the cause of the fire.

Skipper (Julien Pulvé): During the delivery of the @Class 40 "Groupe Berkem" alongside Edgard Vincens between La Rochelle and Caen to take part in the CIC Normandy Channel Race, start on Sunday June 4th. On the night of Tuesday 30 to Wednesday 31 May, around 01:20 local time, we were sailing off the island of Bréhat, everything was fine when the boat caught fire, we had to make the decision to leave the boat in a few seconds only. Having had the right reflexes thanks to the mandatory survival courses that Edgard and I have followed many times, we launch a MAYDAY and contact the CROSS CORSEN to inform them that the "Poyel 2" boat is on fire and that the 2 members of crew will leave to the life raft. The time to grab the survival suits, the "grab bag" and trigger the life raft, it is flames more than 2m growing that escape from the descent of the boat... Horrifying scene. We jump overboard, follow the line that connects the raft to the burning boat. Once the raft is back in place, we throw the equipment on board and we hoist ourselves in the raft. Contacted by the CROSS CORSEN who coordinates the rescue, we reassure ourselves and put on our survival suits to avoid hypothermia, on standby on channel 16 waiting for help. Around 4:30 a.m. local time, the SNSM Station of Loguivy de la Mer came to pick us up in difficult conditions (25 knots of wind and 3-4 m of hollow) but we are healthy and safe. It's a situation I'm trained in, living it is another thing and a test of survival, I'm happy to come out of it alive. These images will remain etched in my memory.

Sources:

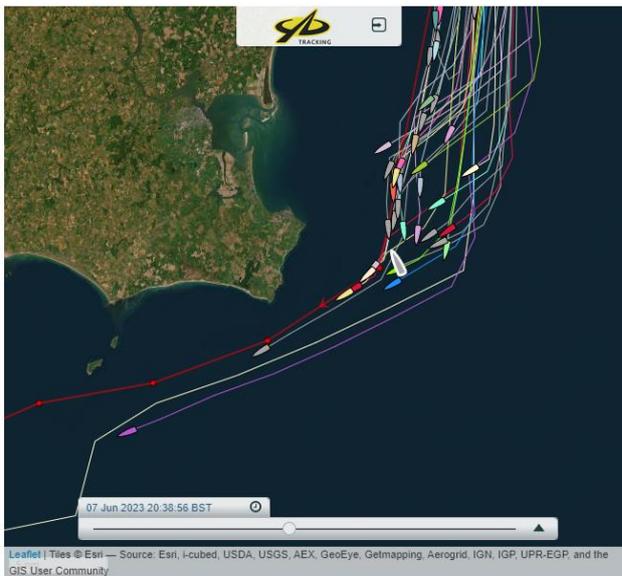
<https://voilesetvoiliers.ouest-france.fr/securite-en-mer/incendie/class40-un-voilier-de-course-part-en-fumee-avant-de-couler-b25c255c-fb2-11ed-a786-1c739936b602>

https://www.facebook.com/julienpulveskipper/?hc_ref=SEARCH&fref=nf

SP116 – Dun-Laoghaire-to-Dingle Race – WOW – Rudder Failure – No injuries – Boat recovered – 7 June 2023

At approximately 20:45 on June 7th while on a broad reach competing in the Dun Laoghaire-to-Dingle Race, WOW, a Reichel Pugh Xtreme 37, snapped the rudder. The boat rounded to weather and the crew took down the sails while issuing a PAN PAN signal due to the proximity of to the Tusker Rock. The crew deployed the emergency steering system which allowed them to stay on station. Another competitor, Blaoga, stood by as they were not able to make way. After checking for water ingress, WOW waited for assistance from the RNLI. After an initial assessment that towing the boat was not possible given the sea state and lack of steerage, the crew deployed a drogue. The boat was then towed to Rosslare about midnight.

Dun Laoghaire Dingle Race Live Tracker 2023



Sources:

<https://afloat.ie/sail/events/dunlaoghaire-to-dingle/item/59171-four-yachts-retire-from-volvo-dun-laoghaire-dingle-race-with-gear-failure>

<https://www.racing-yachts.com/x-treme-37-reichel-pugh-rp37-385.html>

SP118 – Sydney to Hobart – Patriot – Rudder Failure – Boat rescued – 26 December 2023

[See report provided by Australian Sailing for more information.](#)

SP119 – The Ocean Race – Team Jajo – Mega-fauna strike – Boat continued racing – 22 June 2023

At 1450UTC on June 22, 2023, while approaching Gibraltar straits in the last leg of The Ocean Race, Team Jajo (Ocean65) was approached by three orcas. As the Orcas started to make contact with the rudders, the crew took down the sails and slowed down the boat. Once the orcas moved away from the boat, they resumed racing.

**Sources:**

https://www.theoceanrace.com/en/news/14453_Orca-encounter-This-was-a-scary-moment

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/E1rqcl2jJLY>

Tracker: <https://www.theoceanrace.com/en/racing/tracker>

SP120 – Jester Baltimore Challenge – Minke – Suspected Man-overboard and fatality – 28 June 2023

At 12pm on the 18th of June 2023 a fleet of 51 boats participating in the Jester Baltimore 2023 Challenge started at the Plymouth breakwater to sail single-handed to Baltimore Haven. Among the fleet was Duncan Lougee's 25ft Folkboat, Minke. It was expected that Duncan would arrive in Ireland on the 22nd of June. On the 25th of June it was reported that all boats expected to finish in Ireland had arrived in Baltimore except for Minke. There had been no communication with the boat after the start, however it was sighted near the Helford River around 1400 on the 19th of June. On the 28th of June Minke was found approximately 75 miles southeast of Ballycotton, County Cork, 113km northwest of Trevoise Head, UK. Duncan Lougee was not aboard. The UK authorities recovered the boat, and the search was stood down.

The Jester challenge states on the website (<https://jesterchallenge.wordpress.com/jester-guidelines/>) that it is not a race and reiterated this in its communications regarding this incident. Duncan was carrying both an EPIRB and PLB of which neither were activated. Sea conditions had been calm over the period. Duncan was an experienced solo sailor including a single-handed Atlantic crossing.

**Sources:**

<https://jesterchallenge.wordpress.com/2023/06/30/jester-baltimore-challenge-2023-sitrep-4-30-6-2023/>

<https://jesterchallenge.wordpress.com/2023/06/29/jester-baltimore-challenge-sitrep-3-29-6-23/>

<https://jesterchallenge.wordpress.com/2023/06/25/jester-baltimore-challenge-2023-sitrep-2-25-06-23/>

<https://www.pbo.co.uk/all-latest-posts/missing-sailor-jester-challenge-duncan-lougee-77834>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-suffolk-66063102>

<https://www.facebook.com/fiona.gordonclarke/posts/pfbid02rg2eMMf9CySFL58YXS6L4XjX5uw9uZo7j2UGjs3vuPjJpL2PN3U2x7DwipV2SBml>

SP121 - Gotland Runt – Farr 38 R/C - Pandion – Rudder Failure – No injuries – Boat Abandoned – Crew Rescued – Boat Recovered – 3 July 2023

On the 3rd of July at 04:30CET Jon Sindeman and Ola Astradsson on Farr 38 R/C Pandion were competing in the Gotland Runt (OSR Cat 3) double-handed when they experienced a rudder failure. At the time the boat was about 7nm north-east of Gotska Sandon, sailing upwind in 26-30kts and 3-4m seas. The helmsman could see the whole broken rudder floating away from the boat. The crew lowered the sails, inspected the boat (did not identify and damages or leakage) and deployed a drogue at the bow. Finding the drogue (size approx. 1 m²) had limited effect, the crew deployed 2 larger sail bags as drogues. Sweden Rescue which arrived after about 45min advised that due to the sea state, the crew would be evacuated by helicopter. The crew secured sails and other equipment onboard, and the boat was abandoned and left drifting. The crew was hoisted from the bow of the boat and the helmsman from the water. The day after, the Swedish Coast Guard's aircraft located the drifting boat, and later then the sea state was lower, a tug towed the boat to shore. There was no obvious reason for the failure. The boat was recovered, and the rudder blade washed up on Estonia.

Sources:

WS Incident Reporting Portal

Image: <https://sweden.postsen.com/local/120153/Ola-and-Jon-were-rescued-by-helicopter-during-Gotland-Runt.html><https://svenskasjo.se/svenska-sjo-i-stor-raddningsinsats-under-gotland-runt/>

SP122 – Around Australia Record Attempt – Mini 6.5m Waterline - Collision with object - Injury requiring hospitalisation - Boat abandoned – Crew evacuated – Boat recovered - 7 July 2023

After departing Southport, QLD on May 4th to attempt the record for the fastest single-handed circumnavigation of Australia, Xavier Doerr on Waterline, a modified Mini 6.5, stopped in Fremantle, WA for repairs on June 7th. On the 29th of June Waterline departed Fremantle, WA with the objective of the record for the youngest sailor and smallest boat to circumnavigate Australia. Waterline encountered extreme weather while crossing the Great Australian Bight. Xavier activated his PLB at 16:20 ACST after colliding with an unidentified object which caused the boat to capsize. During this he sustained head and back injuries and the boat started to take on water. After making contact with Xavier, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority diverted 2 ships to assist. After 3 attempts Xavier was transferred to bulk carrier Theodore JR 630 km west of Kangaroo Island. He was then evacuated to Adelaide to receive medical treatment. On the 14th of July the boat was recovered by a fishing vessel and towed to Port Lincoln.



Sources:

Tracker: <https://www.thelittleaussielap.com/tracker>

Images: <https://www.9news.com.au/national/missing-solo-sailor-great-australian-bight-search-south-australia-national-news/2f31b617-5918-49c9-b636-dcd3bf7d8ee7>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-07-08/search-for-boat-in-great-australian-bight/102578820>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-07-10/sa-xavier-doerr-reunited-with-mum-in-adelaide-after-sea-rescue/102581872>

SP123 – Qualification Passage – Mini 6.5 (Proto) - POCH'TROT – Grounding – No injuries – 16 July 2023

On the 16th of July when approaching Port Bourgenay, France at the end of a 1000nm qualification passage, Ambre Hasson on Proto 138, POCH'TROT, ran aground after being pushed outside the channel by a wave. A tow boat tried to assist however was unsuccessful and the keel pierced the hull. Ambre abandoned the vessel and swam to shore.



Sources:

https://www.instagram.com/p/Cu-kmWqr1CM/?img_index=1

SP124 – Delivery Passage – ORMA 60 - Defiant - Boat and Skipper Missing – 13 July 2023

Donald Lawson departed Acapulco, Mexico on his ORMA 60, Defiant, single handed on July 5th 2023 bound for Baltimore, US via the Panama Canal to prepare for a single-handed world record attempt. On July 9 he communicated that he was experiencing rigging issues as well as relying on a wind generator due to engine failure. On the 12th of July he communicated that he lost his wind generator in a storm. On the 25th of July, the Mexican Navy reportedly identified the capsized boat off the coast of Acapulco, however, was not able to approach due to conditions. No communication with Lawson could be made. On July 28 the Mexican Coast Guard inspected the vessel reporting that Doland was not onboard. It was noted that a life raft was missing.

Sources:

<https://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/2023/07/22/lost-contact-with-lawson-along-mexico/>

<https://bvmsports.com/2023/07/22/record-setting-sailor-donald-lawson-goes-missing-in-the-pacific-ocean-near-mexico/>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/baltimore/news/mexican-navy-finds-capsized-sailboat-missing-baltimore-man/>

<https://www.sail-world.com/news/264951/Keeping-a-candle-lit-for-Captain-Donald-Lawson>

SP125 – Fastnet – Sunfast 3600 - Vari –Boat sunk – Crew rescued – 22 July 2023

After starting the Fastnet race, at approximately 16:30 while in the western Solent, Sunfast 3600, Vari, started taking on water quickly. 20min after raising the alarm, the boat sank. The RNLI recovered the double-handed crew from their life raft shortly after and they were taken to hospital. The cause of the water ingress has not been confirmed.

Sources:

<https://www.yachtingmonthly.com/boat-events/yacht-sinks-four-dismasted-in-50th-rolex-fastnet-race-amid-dramatic-weather-94703>

<https://www.sail-world.com/news/264620/2023-Rolex-Fastnet-Race-day-1>

<https://rnli.org/news-and-media/2023/july/24/annual-fastnet-race-sees-yarmouth-rnli-tasked-to-multiple-shouts-throughout-day>

SP126 – Fastnet – C&C115 - Azora – Steerage Failure – 22 July 2023

About 5nm east of Swanage, Azora, a C&C115, suffered steering failure and requested assistance. A lifeboat arrived within 20min and due to the conditions at the time decided not to transfer crew. However they did transfer a drogue and towline. Under guidance of the lifeboat the crew assembled the equipment, and the boat was towed to Poole Harbour. The cause of the steerage failure has not been confirmed.

Sources:

<https://rnli.org/news-and-media/2023/july/22/swanage-lifeboat-involved-in-three-rescues-to-yachts-in-50th-fastnet-race>

SP127 – Fastnet – Carkeek CF 520 - Oystercatcher XXXV– Structural Failure – 22 July 2023

While competing in the Fastnet Race, Oystercatcher XXXV reported “deck failure” and retired from the race. Images indicating separation of the deck at the shearline were provided.

Sources:

<https://www.yachtingmonthly.com/boat-events/yacht-sinks-four-dismasted-in-50th-rolex-fastnet-race-amid-dramatic-weather-94703>