

Recreational Off-Duty (ROD) Fatality

Capsized Fishing Boat



E-9 and Contract Employee Drowning

Activity: A Boston Whaler rented from MWR with 4 personnel - 2 Navy service members (E-9 and E-7), 1 contractor boat captain and 1 contractor deckhand - was being used on a routine fishing excursion at the Ocean Side, South Point, Diego Garcia. While the deck hand was gaffing a fish, a large 10-15' swell caused the 34-foot long boat to capsize. All passengers were ejected in different directions. The E-7 and deckhand were able to swim safely to the shore and called for help. Search and rescue operations found the E-9 in the water and unresponsive, and the boat captain was found unresponsive at the shoreline.

Direct Cause: Capsized fishing boat

Communication Points

- Boat operators must adhere to the rules of navigation and safe operating guidelines
- Boat operators and passengers must maintain situational awareness at all times
- Float Plan must be completed prior to departure
- Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) should be worn while afloat, and must be provided in the boat
- Know weather and sea-state conditions prior to going underway

P-1300 NAVFAC Safety and Health Handbook: 56