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MARINE SAFETY OFFICE  
HONOLULU HAWAII

JUN 3 '91

U.S. Department  
of Transportation

United States  
Coast Guard



Commandant  
U.S. Coast Guard

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SEA BREEZE PARASAIL INVESTIGATION IN CAPSIZING IN MOANALUA BAY, HAWAII, ON 22 NOVEMBER 1989 WITH INJURY TO THREE PASSENGERS

**ACTION BY THE COMMANDANT**

The report of the investigating officer is approved subject to the following comments.

**COMMENTS ON CONCLUSIONS**

Conclusion 5: That the rated breaking strength of the line used to tow the parasail allowed it to develop a force that exceeded the residual righting arm of the craft.

Comment: We concur with this conclusion in a technical sense. However, the real issue is the vessel's inadequate stability while conducting towing operations. The stability design of a vessel should be suitable for its intended useage. Therefore, the expected towing forces should not exceed the towing vessel's ability to remain upright and should be far less than the breaking strength of the tow line.

Conclusion 7: There is no evidence of ... negligence ... on the part of ... any other person ...

Comment: We do not concur with this conclusion. There is evidence of possible negligence on the part of the operator for failing to know, and operate within, the limits of his vessel. This matter has been referred to Commanding Officer, Marine Safety Office (MSO), Honolulu, for appropriate action.

**ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendation 1: That the operators of winch operated parasail vessels within Hawaiian waters be provided a copy of this report.

Recommendation 2: That Commercial Parasail Corporation of America and Parasail Enterprise, Inc., manufacturers of parasail winch vessels, be provided a copy of this report.

Recommendation 3: That the State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation, Harbors Division, be provided a copy of this report.

Action on Recommendations 1, 2 and 3: We concur with these recommendations. Commanding Officer, MSO Honolulu, will forward copies of the report as recommended.


Recommendation 4: That the towing stability criteria found in 46 CFR 173.095, or some similar standard, be applied to any vessel which applies for small passenger vessel certification for parasail activities.

Action: We concur with the intent of this recommendation. The towing criteria in 46 CFR 173.095 would apply to any parasail vessel applying for Coast Guard certification. However, only uninspected vessels currently conduct parasail operations. Therefore, 46 CFR 173.095 does not apply to the SEA BREEZE PARASAIL or other similar vessels.

Recommendation 5: That a copy of this report, with enclosures, be provided to all Coast Guard District (m) offices for distribution to Marine Safety Offices within their respective districts that have operators conducting parasail operations.

Recommendation 6: That a copy of this report, with enclosures, be provided to the Marine Safety Center for inclusion in a parasail reference file for inspected passenger vessels.

Action on Recommendations 5 and 6: We concur with these recommendations. We will forward copies of the report as recommended.

  
D. F. WALLACE  
By direction

Copy to: MSO Honolulu- MC89006613