



INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
2018PSSG0008-000167
Feb. 6, 2018

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
BC Coroners Service

BC Coroners Service makes recommendations in Leviathan II investigation

VICTORIA – The BC Coroners Service has concluded its investigation into the sinking of the Leviathan II whale-watching boat off Plover Reefs near Tofino on Oct. 25, 2015, which claimed six lives.

Investigating coroner Courtney Cote concluded the six passengers died from drowning as a consequence of saltwater immersion and classified the deaths as accidental. In the Coroner's Report, she provided two recommendations to Transport Canada to prevent future deaths in similar circumstances:

- 1) To require that lifejackets be worn by all passengers on the outer decks of vessels greater than 15 gross tons carrying more than 12 passengers; and
- 2) To review the regulations regarding emergency position indicating radio beacons (EPIRB) with consideration for expanding the class of vessels required to carry these devices.

The BC Coroners Service, RCMP and Transportation Safety Board all investigated these deaths. Jamie's Whaling Station, the operator of the vessel, also initiated changes to its procedures and practices to prevent further incidents within the local industry and also communicated with members of the industry to make broader changes.

Learn More:

Audio from the regional director for the Vancouver Island Region, Jess Gunnarson, on the recommendations: <http://ow.ly/nRXg30idsNm>

Transportation Safety Board recommendations on improved passenger vessel safety measures: <http://www.bst-tsb.gc.ca/eng/medias-media/communiqués/marine/2017/m15p0347-20170614.asp>

BC Coroners Service's Recommendations Letter to Transport Canada Regarding Capsizing of Leviathan II in October 2015: <http://ow.ly/uE8C30ieMOU>

Coroner's Reports

- Nigel Francis Hooker: <http://ow.ly/aFrw30ieMYe>
- Raveshan Pillay: <http://ow.ly/7ZZz30ieNgB>
- Jack Slater: <http://ow.ly/EPJh30ieN9O>
- Katie Nicola Taylor: <http://ow.ly/Jgk530ieN2o>
- David Wyndham Thomas: <http://ow.ly/MYO430ieNj2>
- Stephen David Thomas: <http://ow.ly/GdoN30ieNlm>

For further information, please contact:

Andy Watson
Manager, Strategic Communications
BC Coroners Service
250 356-9253

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/coroners>

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: news.gov.bc.ca/connect