

# SEAHOUSES LIFEBOAT STATION - **RNLI NEWS RELEASE**



Tel: 01665 720370. From Station Press Officer:

Lifeboats

## LATEST CALL OUT INFORMATION

### **MISSING DIVER FROM SOMALI WRECK – FOUND TO BE DEAD ON ARRIVAL AT HOSPITAL.**

Call Out No:	12	/ 2004			
Day:	Friday	Time:	12.30PM	Date:	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2004
Weather:	Heavy Rain	Wind Speed:	Force 3	Direction:	South/East
Visibility:	Poor in rain	Sea State:	Moderate/slight		
Lifeboat(s) Launched :	All Weather and Inshore Lifeboats	Crew: - Mersey LB  Inshore LB	Stephen Priestley, John Hanvey, Eric Stanwix, Ian Fisher, Martin Malone, Edward Fordy and Scott Priestley Michael Douglas and David Stanton (Coastguard)	Shore Crew:	Bryan Gregory, Sandie Straughan, Ian Malone, Ian Fisher.
Returned to Station:	3.25pm	Service Duration:	1hr 45 mins	Coastguard Incident No:	017490

At 12.30pm, on Friday 2nd July, 2004, Humber Coastguard received a "Mayday" distress call from the Seahouses based dive charter vessel "Sovereign II", which had a party of divers on the wreck of the Somali, which is between Seahouses and Beadnell. It is believed that a diver who had been diving on the wreck, had surfaced and then gone back under. Something was obviously seriously wrong, and urgent assistance was requested. Both Lifeboats launched immediately, and began a major search of the area, and Seahouses Lifeboat requested the launch of Craster Inshore Lifeboat, to further assist. A Search and Rescue Helicopter from RAF Boulmer also attended. Eight other Seahouses vessels responded to the distress call, and began searching the area. The Seahouses vessel "Quo Vadis" then sighted the diver floating on the surface, some hour and a half after the original alert. The Seahouses Inshore Lifeboat was quickly at the scene and the diver was pulled aboard, before being transferred to the Mersey Lifeboat "Grace Darling". Because of the diver's condition, the Lifeboat requested the Helicopter Paramedic winch man to examine the casualty. The diver was then swiftly airlifted and flown directly to Wansbeck Hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival. He is believed to be a 51yr old male from the Lancashire area. The circumstances surrounding this man's death are still under investigation. **Northumbria Police Marine Unit have launched a formal enquiry and the Coroner has been informed. Any further information required about this incident, should be directed to Northumbria Police Marine Unit.**

Ends.

[www.seahouseslifeboat.co.uk](http://www.seahouseslifeboat.co.uk) RNLI : - Registered Charity 209603

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