



RNLI PRESS RELEASE

REPORT No: 27/99

Dive Support Boat taking water and requesting assistance at Big Harcar, near the Longstone, Farne Islands.

On Wednesday 15th September, 1999, Tyne Tees Coastguard received a radio message from the dive support boat "Sovereign 2" with 9 persons on board, that it had was taking water through its propeller shaft, and that it required urgent assistance. At 1.58pm, Tyne Tees Coastguard requested immediate launch of the Seahouses All Weather Lifeboat, to give assistance and take out a pump, which is carried on the lifeboat. The lifeboat under the command of 2nd Mechanic John Hanvey, reached the casualty at 2.25pm and a pump was transferred to the "Sovereign". Another vessel, "Glad Tidings IV", skippered by Billy Shiel from Seahouses, had meanwhile also come alongside, and 5 adult and three children were transferred to that boat and taken ashore. The skipper of the "Sovereign 2", Ian Douglas, also from Seahouses, had managed by this time, to control the water leak, and the lifeboat's portable pump operated by the lifeboat crew, removed most of the water from the vessel. It was then taken in tow to Seahouses, arriving back at the harbour at 3.30pm, where it was met by local coastguards.

No one was injured in the incident, and the casualty "Sovereign 2" is expected to be speedily repaired.

Ends.