

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

Tel: 01665 720370. *The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea.*

From Press Officer:



Lifeboats

## **LATEST CALL OUT INFORMATION**

**Launch Report Seahouses 004/2008**

### **FISHING BOAT SINKING IN HARBOUR**

DATE	TIME LAUNCHED	WEATHER	WIND	SEA STATE	VISIBILITY	RETURNED	REFUELLED READY FOR SERVICE
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2008	<u>5.06am</u>	Fine	Force 0/1 South/East	Calm	Clear	6am	6.15am

At **5.06am** on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2008**, the Seahouses Lifeboat Mechanic was awoken at his home by a local fishing boat skipper, asking for urgent assistance, as his vessel moored in the harbour was sinking. The Mechanic informed the Station Operations Manager at once, who immediately paged the Lifeboat Crew. The Inshore Lifeboat "Peter Downes" was launched, carrying the salvage pump from the All Weather Lifeboat, taking it to the vessel. The casualty was the 32ft wooden fishing vessel "Madonna", which had been beached beside the lifeboat slip in the harbour, for annual maintenance and repainting. The vessel had settled awkwardly on her port side at low tide, and as the tide came in, the vessel had not lifted properly and water had flooded the gunnel and deck, filling the hull. The situation was discovered by her skipper on an early morning routine check on his vessel. All attempts with the salvage pump failed to make headway. A number of lifeboat crew were also conveyed to the vessel, to stand on the starboard side of the boat, in an effort to lift the vessel, without success. No one was injured, and there was no pollution from the incident. The tide continued to rise till 5.58am (High water). Meanwhile all electronic equipment was salvaged from the vessel as a precaution. Once the tide fell, Lifeboat crew returned with their pump, to pump out the water, in case the weight of it damaged the timber hull of the vessel. It is expected that the vessel will be refloated on the next high tide. Humber Coastguard were informed of the situation. Lifeboat Operations Manager Ian Clayton commented "***The Lifeboat had launched on exercise earlier that night, and we had commented on "Madonna's" smart new paint job, as she lay on the beach. There was no indication of any problem at that time. What happened was a piece of really bad luck, we all just hope there is no serious long term damage to the vessel.***"

Ends.

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

*Vision : To be recognised universally as the most effective, innovative and dependable lifeboat service.*

**Donation Hotline : 0800 543210**