



RNLI PRESS RELEASE

REPORT No: 21/99

Yacht on rocks at Newton Haven, south of Beadnell.

At 8pm on Saturday 14th August, 1999, Tyne Tees Coastguard received a report from a yacht in Newton Haven, south of Beadnell, that they could see another yacht aground on rocks off Newton point. A Coastguard unit was dispatched and a second report was received from another yacht in the area. Attempts to contact the yacht aground had proved unsuccessful, and one person could be seen aboard. The Coastguard requested the launch of the Seahouses Inshore and All Weather lifeboats to proceed and investigate. The casualty was identified as the yacht "Sonela", from Granton on the Forth, which was on passage to Essex via Blyth. The yacht was then seen to get free of the rocks, and was finally contacted by radio as the Inshore lifeboat reached it. The skipper stated that he did not require any assistance whatsoever and that his boat was undamaged. The Coastguard expressed concern that he had not seen fit to advise them by radio of his situation, and in consequence, two lifeboats had been launched and Coastguard units deployed. The lifeboats were then cancelled and returned to their station.

It is important that anyone getting into difficulty, should advise the Coastguard as soon as possible, which may prevent an unnecessary deployment of Lifeboats or Coastguard personnel, or indeed ensure a prompt rescue operation can be commenced before the situation becomes critical.

Ends.

9.20am 15th August 1999.