

Seahouses Lifeboat Station.

Seahouses Harbour, Northumberland, Tel: 01665 720370

LAUNCH REPORT No: 23/2000

DIVE BOAT HITS ROCKS AT FARNE ISLANDS - 11 RESCUED.



DATE : Friday, 13th October, 2000.

TIME : 11.12am.

LIFEBOATS LAUNCHED : All Weather Lifeboat “Lifetime Care” and Inshore Lifeboat “Martin, John and Ann”. Also Berwick All Weather and Inshore Lifeboats and RAF Rescue Helicopter from Boulmer.

Tyne Tees Coastguard received an urgent radio distress call from Dive Boat “Deep Blue” with eleven persons on board, which had struck rocks at the Knivestone, near Longstone Island at the Farne Islands. The boat was holed, the engines damaged and it was believed that some persons were in the water. Both Seahouses and Berwick Lifeboats were requested to launch immediately, and an RAF Helicopter from Boulmer was scrambled. Two local boats, the “Three Sisters” and the “Golden Promise” (skipped by the lifeboat coxswain), also responded to give assistance. The “Golden Promise” took the vessel in tow after taking the divers aboard, as the lifeboats arrived on scene. The Lifeboats then escorted the “Golden Promise” and the casualties who were then brought safely to Seahouses Harbour.

The eleven divers aboard the “Deep Blue” were all over 20yrs, and from the Newcastle area. None required medical assistance, and all were members of a diving instructors’ organisation. The Dive Boat was a 7.5 metre inflatable rigid inflatable, which suffered damage to its hull and engines, and reached Seahouses at 12.08pm. Meanwhile the Berwick Lifeboats and the Rescue helicopter were stood down and returned to their stations.

Ends.