

Betreff: SY STORMVOGEL / status

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Datum: 24.06.2014, 23:30

An: Norsand LTD <info@norsand.co.nz>

+++ IMPORTANT +++ PLEASE FORWARD TO PETER PALMER ++++

Hello Peter,

first the good news: I believe we are not in danger any more. The leak makes still water, but only 3 litres an hour.

We fixed the centre board mechanic at starboard side (housing for the sealings, arm for hydraulic ram) with some strong teak timber from the side where the sensor was direct to the centre board shaft (arm).

As the housing of the sealing was still moving (much less than without the timber, but moving) and we still had 700 sm to go we decided to fill the bilge (including the timber) with concrete (cement) which we got from a container ship at open sea.

So I'm sure that we will make it safely to CAIRNS / AUSTRALIA.

But we have to talk about why this dramatic failure could happen and who will take over the responsibility for that.

We did sent out a MAYDAY and fire the EPIRB Sunday night as we did not find the leak in the first panic. All bilges where completly flodded and the water starts to run above the floor boards. So we cant see anything. Than Heidi got the idea to look at the centre board bilge at starboard side - of course also full of water but with a mobile electrical pump we got the water away and saw the whole stuff (housing, arm and hydraulic ram) moving!!! With each move, the water flows!

I tried to find the bolts to fix them again, but you / Karl know that there is no access when the arm for the hydraulic ram is mounted. But one bolt I found in the bilge - broken! Shared away!

As we never had the issue, that the housing for the seals was falling apart from the hull there must be something went wrong in WHANGAREI. The leakages before where just where the seals cover the shaft - never in between housing and hull.

The only thing I can imagine is that the new hydraulic ram is not only longer, its too long. So by pushing up the centre board it (maybe) pushes to far and gives pressure to the whole construction and so the bolts starts to break one after the other.

As the dirty water in the bilge destroyed our mobile pump after a while we only got another mobile bilge pump in spare. Together with the skippers of two other boats we made this emergency repair and we got a second bigger bilge pump on board for this bilge.

I don't like to think about what's happens with us without their help. They did take high risk to come on board on STORMVOGEL at open sea and 2 metres swell.

As of now, we plan to arrive in CARINS on Saturday and hope to start repair on Monday.

Please discuss the situation with your manager / owner of NORSAND. I talked to my insurance company and they said that STORMVOGEL is insured for everything but not for failures which where made by a commercial third party (like a yard) as this cant be insured. The only thing in this case is that they will pay the lawyer and justice costs in case that it comes so far.

I don't like to go to court with that - but I can not ignore it. The failure is much to dramatic and the repair will not be cheap.

So please let me know your thoughts about that. When we arrive in AUSTRALIA we will have better internet and a mobile phone for a better communication.

Best,

Peter and Heidi / SY STORMVOGEL.

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