



Overview	
Case Study #	001
Date	18 October 2025
Location	The Swinge, Channel Islands
Type of Boat	Hallberg-Rassy 36 Mk1
Sailing or Motoring	Motor
Incident Summary	Fishing line around propellor
Damage Caused	No damage
Rescue or Solution	Able to motor to harbour

Description of Incident
<p>On 18 October, a Hallberg-Rassy 36 Mk1 encountered a lobster pot line while transiting from Alderney to Guernsey through the Swinge under motor sail in force 3–4 conditions with moderate swell.</p> <p>The vessel was under mainsail only, with the engine running at approximately 2000rpm. Shortly after exiting the Swinge, the skipper spotted an orange fishing buoy around two boat lengths away on the starboard side. Although it initially appeared the vessel had cleared the marker, a change in engine note and a drop in revs of 200 rpm indicated that a line had been caught.</p> <p>The engine was immediately placed into neutral and inspection over the stern confirmed the vessel was towing a line and buoy. Due to tidal conditions and a limited weather window, the decision was made to continue towards St Peter Port under reduced engine use.</p> <p>During the passage, the buoy detached, but inspections confirmed line remained wrapped around the propeller shaft. The engine continued operating without vibration or abnormal indications, although at reduced revs.</p> <p>After arriving at Victoria Marina, further manoeuvring attempts resulted in the engine stalling and the gearbox becoming stuck in forward gear. Marina staff assisted the vessel onto a berth and later arranged for the yacht to dry out on a marina pad for inspection.</p> <p>Once dried out, the skipper discovered significant rope wrapping around the cutlass bearing housing, shaft and propeller. The line was removed with a single cut using a safety knife and unwrapped manually. Fortunately, there was no apparent damage to the propeller, shaft or gearbox, and normal engine and gear operation resumed following removal.</p> <p>The vessel subsequently completed its onward passage to Roscoff without further issue.</p>

Additional Notes
Weather: Force 3-4 with a swell

Photo Thumbnails

Lobster Pot Entanglement - Case Study Case Study # 001

	<p>File name: Case Study 001 - image 1 Location: St Peter Port, Guernsey Photo Description: Fishing line around propellor Photo Credit: © Ian Randall</p>
	<p>File name: Case Study 001 - image 2 Location: St Peter Port, Guernsey Photo Description: Fishing line around propellor Photo Credit: © Ian Randall</p>

Find out more: www.theca.org.uk/lobster-pot-campaign