




<b>Overview</b>	
<b>Case Study #</b>	003
<b>Date</b>	June 2025
<b>Location</b>	Off Dungeness
<b>Type of Boat</b>	Westerly Ocean Ranger
<b>Sailing or Motoring</b>	Motor
<b>Incident Summary</b>	Fishing line around propellor
<b>Damage Caused</b>	N/A
<b>Rescue or Solution</b>	Rescued by RNLI

<b>Description of Incident</b>
<p>While crossing from Dunkirk to Eastbourne following the Westerly Owners' Association (WOA) Rally in the Netherlands, a yacht encountered multiple poorly visible lobster pots off the English south coast near Dungeness.</p> <p>Crew reported that many markers were difficult to spot due to the use of small floating debris as markers, while some buoys were partially submerged by tidal conditions and insufficient buoyancy.</p> <p>Approximately one mile from Dungeness, the yacht struck a line while motoring at around 3000 rpm. The impact caused the engine to stall immediately, with the crew initially fearing significant damage to the propeller or shaft assembly. The crew checked there was no water ingress.</p> <p>Dover Coastguard was contacted and issued a Pan Pan. The Dungeness RNLI lifeboat attended and freed the vessel from the entanglement. Lifeboat crews later advised that they respond to similar incidents several times each month.</p> <p>As the yacht had lost propulsion and there was insufficient wind for sailing, itl was taken under tow to Eastbourne, involving coordinated assistance from both Dungeness and Eastbourne lifeboats.</p> <p>Following lift-out inspection in Eastbourne, only limited damage was identified, including minor movement in the P-bracket. After consultation with marina technical staff and a marine surveyor, the vessel was considered seaworthy and able to continue its voyage.</p>

<b>Additional Notes</b>
Weather: Light wind

<b>Photo Thumbnails</b>
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## Lobster Pot Entanglement - Case Study Case Study # 003

	<p>File name: Case Study 003 - image 1 Location: Dungeness / Eastbourne Photo Description: Fishing line around propellor Photo Credit: © Gerard Versluis</p>
	<p>File name: Case Study 003 - image 2 Location: Dungeness / Eastbourne Photo Description: Unmarked fishing gear Photo Credit: © Gerard Versluis</p>
	<p>File name: Case Study 003 - image 3 Location: Dungeness / Eastbourne Photo Description: RNLI rescue Photo Credit: © Gerard Versluis</p>

Find out more: [www.theca.org.uk/lobster-pot-campaign](http://www.theca.org.uk/lobster-pot-campaign)