

Rescuers fight raging storm to rescue stricken fishermen



SEA HEROES: Scots rescuers braved shocking weather to drag the crew of the stricken Jack Abry to safety after the boat was damaged

TRAWLER IS HOLED BY ROCKS

By MAGGIE BARRY

BRAVE Scots rescuers fought through a raging storm to rescue a fishing crew from certain death.

The nine men were plucked from mountainous seas as their stricken trawler was swept onto jagged rocks.

Stornoway Coastguard rescue helicopter lifted them to safety after their vessel, the Jack Abry, ran aground off the east coast of North Uist in the Western Isles.

The rescue operation, carried out in darkness, was further hampered by 50mph winds and huge waves which threatened to swamp them.

The crew, made up of eight Frenchmen and one Portuguese, were eventually taken off safely and flown to Benbecula Airport before being treated for shock and minor injuries.

The coastguard's Marine Accident Investigation Branch was last night still probing the incident.



HELP: The boat is tugged home

as much as anything. They have now had something to eat, and they have all telephoned home so I think they are feeling a bit better.

"They've been sitting next door and blethering in French and I think they are going to a hotel shortly."

The Jack Abry was from L'Orient in Brittany.

Along with skipper Bertrand, on board were Serge Degois, 33, Stephane Langlois, 27, Luc Lebraf, 22, Jean-Louis Gueguen, 21, Sandy Monfinet, 21, Georges Vautrain, 19, Bastian Cluzel, 19, and Portuguese, Paulo Jorge Oliviera Gramata, 31.

The incident provoked fears that there could be a major pollution incident as the wreck was full of red diesel fuel.

Some did escape but was quickly dispersed by the huge waves.

Salvage crews were last night happy the hull would hold out - at least for the time being.

The trawler was refloated at high tide then tugged back to

6 MONTHS 15P PEAK

Kodak ADVANTIX
FREE!



FREE
NOKIA
3310

Ref: 1402VMR

ON

PLUS

ON

FR

STAND
CALL

FR

FR

FR

FR