

**CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
**Aircraft Accident Investigation and Inquiry Board**  
**Aircraft Accident Report**

**BASIC INFORMATION**

Aircraft Registration No. : RP-C8158

Make and Model : McDonnell Douglas (MD) 369 E

Owner/Operator : Trans Pacific Journey Fishing Corporation (TPJFC)

Address of Operator : 1094A North Bay Blvd., Navotas City, Metro Manila

Date/Time of Accident : September 9, 2018/1300H

Place of Accident : International Water near the Federated States of Micronesia

Type of Operation : General Aviation

Phase of Operation : Hovering

Type of Occurrence : Ditched into the sea during hover

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On September 9, 2018 at around 1137H, an MD 369E type of helicopter with Registry Number RP-C8158 owned and operated by Trans Pacific Journey Fishing Corporation (TPJFC) sustained substantial damage when it ditched into the water after the Pilot who was the lone occupant lost control of the aircraft in a fishing ground near the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The pilot egressed the helicopter under water and swam overboard and was later rescued by the fishing vessel personnel. The pilot sustained minor bruises to his hand and legs. The helicopter's final position was noted at coordinates 03 39.0 N 160 16.0 E. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time of accident. The accident happened in the international water.

**PROBABLE CAUSE**

- Failure of the pilot to establish safe height above the water surface before executing rearward hover flight.

**SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **Actions taken by the Operator**

Following the occurrence, Trans Pacific Journey Fishing Corporation (TPJFC) Management issued a Memorandum dated September 28, 2018 to all their helicopter pilots not to fly below 10 feet above the surface of the water during hovering and herding of fish to prevent contact with water surface when initiating hovering flight maneuvers (Appendix A).

The safety deficiencies presented in this report have been fully addressed and no further safety actions are recommended.