

# **The rissaga of 15-6-06 in Ciutadella (Menorca), a meteorological tsunami**

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The “rissaga” in the port of Ciutadella (Menorca, Spain) is a sea level oscillation of large amplitude (1 m, in usual cases) and short period (10 minutes) that can be considered as an amplified “seiche”, being some kind of meteorological disturbances (traduced on rapid sea level pressure oscillations) the forcing mechanism. This phenomenon appears several times every year and it usually only produces minor problems. But on 15 June 2006 an extraordinary rissaga occurred, with 4-5 meters of amplitude and catastrophic consequences: around 100 ships were damaged and 35 of them were sunk. An impressive pressure rise, accompanied by strong wind, being part of a squall line system, is the probable origin of this extraordinary rissaga. An analogous convective disturbance was identified in another catastrophic rissaga, the one occurred on 21 of June of 1984. The forecasting of these extraordinary rissagues is now an open challenge.