

## BOC sponsors face lawsuit on lookouts

CHARLESTON — Two major sponsors of the BOC Challenge around-the-world-race find themselves part of a lawsuit that questions whether sailing without lookouts violates international maritime law.

Sailors in the single-handed race use radar and autopilots to sail while they catch short periods of sleep. The race, which started in Charleston last September, ends here next month.

The lawsuit was brought last September after BOC sailor David Scully's boat hit the Lady Olive Marie, a fishing boat owned by Yarmouth Sea Products, off Nova Scotia. The colli-

sion in August occurred during a voyage to qualify for the BOC.

A Yarmouth attorney, Mr John Hughes Cooper, contends Scully was asleep at the wheel or so exhausted he couldn't keep a proper lookout.

The fishermen want R175 000. They originally named Scully and Helen Davis, the owner of the yacht he was sailing, as defendants. This week, however, US District Judge Sol Blatt agreed to add the BOC Corporation and IBM, major sponsors of the race, as defendants.

"If you start jeopardising third parties, it's a public safety issue," Mr Cooper said. — Sapa-AP