

## **MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 48 OF 2016**

### **(Navigational & Seamanship Safety Practices)**

#### **Grounding and sinking of a wooden fishing vessel**

##### **The Incident**

1. A locally licensed wooden fishing vessel, with a coxswain and a crew on board, was proceeding to Ninepine Group from Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter for fishing. The vessel lost propulsion power due to gear box failure when she was underway at the south of Tung Lung Chau.
2. The fishing vessel drifted to the coast of the Tung Lung Chau that resulted in damage to the hull and flooding of the engine room. The coxswain and the crew abandoned the vessel and jumped into the sea. They were rescued by a passing vessel and were sent to the hospital for treatment. The crew suffered from minor injury, but the coxswain was later certified dead.
3. At the time of the incident, the visibility was good with winds of force 4 on the Beaufort scale. The wave height was about 1.5 metres. The sea water temperature was about 22 °C.
4. Investigation into the accident revealed the following contributing factors:
  - (i) anchor was not dropped to stop the vessel drifting towards the coast after the loss of propulsion power that resulted in damage to the hull and flooding of the engine room; and
  - (ii) the coxswain did not wear lifejacket when he jumped into the sea.

##### **Lessons learnt**

5. To avoid reoccurrence of the accident, it is important that
  - a) when a vessel experiences loss of propulsion power at sea, the coxswain or master should take appropriate measures to avoid consequential damage to the vessel, such as dropping anchor to avoid drifting of the vessel as far as practicable; and

- b) lifejackets should be available for use by all crew members upon abandonment of ship.

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