

Contact between passenger ferry “Praia” and Government Buoy B20 at the north of the Southern Fairway in the Victoria Harbour

1. The Incident

- 1.1 At about 0409 on 1 August 2000, in clear visibility and slight sea condition, the starboard after strut of the jetfoil passenger ferry “Praia” collided with a semi-submerged object which was later confirmed by the Marine Department to be the chain of unlit Government Mooring Buoy B20 at approximate position 22 ° 17.58’N 114 ° 07.59’E north of the Southern Fairway in the Victoria Harbour. The jetfoil sustained serious damaged strut resulting in compartment No. 13 being flooded to about half depth. A cabin attendant sustained minor injury and was later sent to hospital for medical treatment. As both the engines failed to re-start, the vessel was towed back to Macau Ferry Terminal by a tug.

2. Lessons

- 2.1 The collision resulted mainly from the failure of the Master to monitor the position of the vessel during the passage. Other contributory factors were the failure of the Chief Officer to report vessel’s position to the Master even though he had regularly checked the position of the vessel, particularly when the jetfoil was off track in the vicinity of Government Mooring Buoys, and the failure of the Night Vision Officer to detect and report the presence of unlit B20.
- 2.2 The Master failed to report to the Marine Department immediately after the collision. Though the Company did report to the Marine Department of engine break down, the delay of reporting caused serious flooding to compartment No. 13.
- 2.3 The Company is recommended to enhance the position tracking system.