

## **Whilst engaging in wakeboarding, the local pleasure vessel Wakeaholic collided with a local mechanized sampan on 28 July 2002**

### **A. The incident**

1. At about 1156 on 28 July 2002, the local pleasure vessel Wakeaholic, whilst engaging in wakeboarding, collided with the locally licensed mechanized sampan in the approximate position 22° 17.64' N 113° 54.79' E, north of Lantau Island near the Hong Kong international Airport (Fig. 1).
2. Wakeaholic sustained minor scratches and damages to her hull whilst the sampan sustained considerable damages to her hull on the port side and the casing of the outboard engine (Fig.2 and 3). Two persons on board the Sampan were killed and other two suffered severe injuries.
3. The sampan was overloaded by 10 persons on board.

### **B. Findings**

1. The investigation has revealed that the most probable cause for the collision was that both the masters of Wakeaholic and the sampan had failed to maintain a proper lookout in the early detection of collision risk with each other's vessel. In this regard both masters had failed to comply with the requirement of Rule 5 of COLREGs.
2. The contributory factors to the failure in maintaining proper lookout are that the attention of the master of Wakeaholic was distracted by focusing in the condition of the wakeboarder being towed behind; the forward view of the master of the sampan was impaired by the canopy erected and the large number of persons sitting in front of him; both masters had demonstrated lack of vigilance when operating their vessels in the area of the accident; and the master of Wakeaholic misjudged the collision risk and failed to initiate adequate and effective collision avoidance actions in a timely manner.

### **C. Lessons**

1. The masters of local vessels should maintain a proper lookout while their vessels are underway in the waters of Hong Kong.
2. Owners and masters of all local vessels should not, under any circumstances, allow any permanent or temporary fixtures, passenger or stowed cargo obstructing the clear view as required for proper lookout in the navigation.
3. Owners and masters of all local vessels should ensure numbers of person on board not exceeding the numbers of persons permitted to carry.

Fig. 1 The Collision Tracks of the local pleasure vessel Wakeaholic and the locally licensed mechanized sampan.

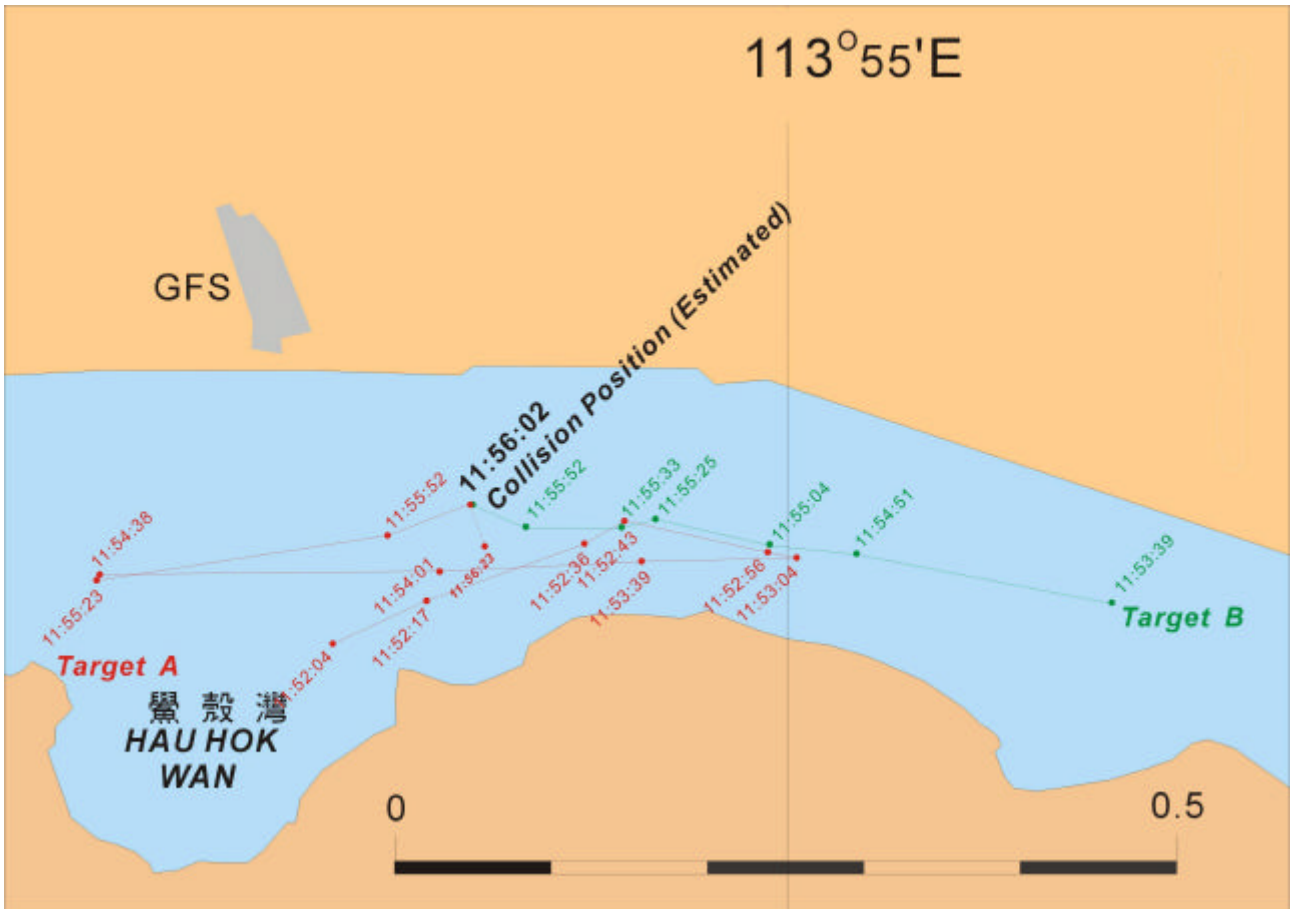


Fig. 2 Damages to the hull on the port side



Fig. 3 Damages to the casing of the outboard engine

