

## **Man hit by mooring wire**

### **A. The Incident**

1. At about 1620 hours on 7 May 2003, the Chief Engineer(the deceased) of the PRC coaster (海暉3) was hit by a mooring wire of a local sand barge (永迅) at the stern of the coaster. At that instant the coaster was leaving its berth after finishing cargo at Yik Fung Cargo Pier in Tsing Yi Island. As the coaster moved aft its stern ran into the mooring wire of the local sand barge, which was engaging in a mooring operation at an adjacent pier. The mooring wire became taut and jumped off from the stern frame of the coaster. At that moment the deceased was strolling from forward to the stern and was hit by the wire at the abdomen area. He was sent to Tuen Mun hospital for emergency treatment and was certified dead in later hours at the hospital.

### **B. Findings**

1. The watch sailor of the barge aft had no equipment to communicate with the PIC who was controlling the mooring wire. Should the PIC be notified of the approach of the coaster he could have slackened the mooring wire, the accident might have been avoided. On leaving the berth there was insufficient sea room at the aft of the coaster. As it moved astern it contacted with the mooring wire and the sand barge.
2. The deceased was not engaged on duty. While strolling aft he was not aware of the dangerous situation and unknowingly walked into the straightening path of the mooring wire.

### **C. The Lessons**

1. Masters should observe good seamanship practice in maneuvering of vessel to ensure sufficient sea room before leaving berth. Other crewmembers not involved in related duty in hazardous working station should stay away from such places as far as possible. Crew engaged in the mooring operation should maintain proper communication between the winch operator and the lookout person if the view of the winch operator is obstructed.



Fig. 1 Stern of PRC Coaster “海暉 3”



Fig. 2 Sand Barge “永迅” secured to the cement pier