

While Underway at Crooked Harbour, the Local Wooden Cargo Vessel M20187A Collided with the Police Patrol Launch, Police 44

A. The Incident

1. At about 2115 on 25 June 2003, the local wooden cargo vessel M20187A, while underway at Crooked Harbour, collided with the police patrol launch, Police 44 at the approximate position of 22^o-32.93'N, 114^o-16.49'E, southeast of Ap Chau (Figure 1).
2. At the time of the accident, the weather conditions were cloudy with light wind and the visibility was about 10 miles.
3. The hull and superstructure of the Cargo Vessel were seriously damaged. PL44 also sustained considerable damages to its hull. The master of the Cargo Vessel and 4 policemen on board PL44 were injured.

B. Findings

1. The master and look-outs of PL44 probably failed to detect the Cargo Vessel in sufficient time to avert the collision. The master also failed to proceed at a safe speed and keep clear of the Cargo Vessel prevailing to the circumstances.
2. The master of the Cargo Vessel failed see PL44, which was approaching from the direction of about 7 points on its port bow.

C. Lessons

1. Proper look-out should be maintained at all time, especially in hours of darkness.
2. The vessel should be operated at a safe speed prevailing to the circumstances.

Figure 1 Sketch showing the estimated tracks of PL44 and M20187A

