

**Whilst plying on foilborne mode from Hong Kong to Macau, the jetfoil Sao Jorge (銀星) encountered bad weather and was brought down on hull in the approximate position of 2 miles east of Siu A Chau North Buoy.**

**A. The Incident**

1. At about 1405 on 24 July 2003, the Hong Kong registered high speed passenger craft Sao Jorge (銀星), while plying on foilborne mode from Hong Kong to Macau, was suddenly brought down on hull in the approximate position  $22^{\circ} 12.34'N$   $113^{\circ} 57.03'E$  which was about 2 miles east of Siu A Chau North Buoy.
2. At the time of the incident, tropical cyclone warning signals had earlier been cancelled in Hong Kong while signal No. 3 was still hoisted in Macau. The weather conditions were cloudy with southeasterly wind of about 63 km per hour and the visibility was good.
3. Three rows of passenger seats at the forward center on main deck collapsed (Figure 1). About 22 passengers and 4 members of crew claimed that they were injured but none of them were in serious condition. No oil pollution was reported.

**B. Findings**

1. The investigation identifies the most probable cause of the sudden brought down on hull of the craft and the subsequent failure of the passenger seats was due to the craft had been operating in adverse sea conditions with a sudden onset of a large wave.

**C. Lessons**

1. Subsequent to cancellation of typhoon signals, in the areas exposed to the open sea, the sea condition may continuously be subject to gale force wind over a prolonged period. The consideration in maintaining or resuming services provide by high speed passenger craft after typhoon passage could not be relied on the weather warning signals alone. High speed craft operators should obtain as much relevant weather information as possible and carry out a proper assessment on such information for safe navigation.

Figure 1 The damaged Passenger seat of Sao Jorge (銀星)

