

Collision between High Speed Passenger Ferry “Taipa” and Local tug “Fairwind No. 10”

A. The Incident

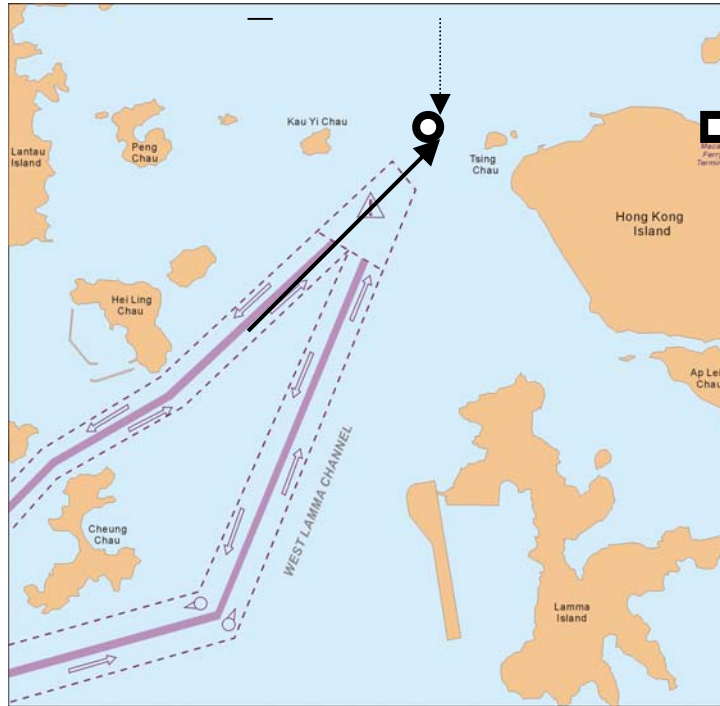
1. At about 2012 on 31 July 2003, a Hong Kong registered high speed passenger Jetfoil “Taipa” (帝后星) with 221 passengers on board collided with a local tugboat “Fairwind No.10” (金風 10) while approaching to Victoria Harbour. The collision was mild and took place after both vessels had taken avoidance action to slow down. The location of collision was in position at about 0.3 nautical mile northwest of Green Island. “Taipa” proceeded on an easterly course and “Fairwind No.10” was crossing from the port side of “Taipa” heading on a southerly course.
2. As a result of collision “Taipa” sustained minor structural damage at its bow. “Fairwind No.10” sustained minor dent to her starboard side. Both vessels were capable to continue the voyage after the collision. There were three reported minor injuries in this accident on board “Taipa”.

B. Findings

1. The primary cause of the incident was determined to be the failure to take early avoiding action as a give way vessel on the part of the Master of “Fairwind No.10”. Contributing to this accident was the Master of “Taipa” that the action to slow down his vessel as a stand on vessel was not taken in ample time and no whistle warning signals had been given to alert “Fairwind No. 10” when this tug was observed at 0.3 nautical mile from “Taipa”.

C. The Lessons

1. As a stand on high speed vessel it appeared that “Taipa” could have taken avoidance action at an much earlier stage when the Master realized that the other vessel is not taking substantive action to avoid collision. The Master should not wait to respond until “Fairwind No. 10” became dangerously close to his own vessel. The Master might have over relied on the capability of the short stopping distance of the high speed vessel and misjudged the time and distance for it to slow down to avoid collision.



- Destination in Macau Ferry Terminal

→ Track of Taipa
- Approximate collision position

----> Track of Fairwind No. 10

Fig. 1 The collision position



Fig. 2 : Photograph of Jetfoil similar to “Taipa”