

**Whilst Navigating in the Vicinity of the Northern Fairway,
the Mainland Coastal Cargo Vessel Dong Gang 999
Collided with another Mainland Coastal Cargo Vessel Bei Ji 7**

A. The incident

1. At about 1537 on 5 November 2003, two mainland coastal cargo ships, Dong Gang 999 (東港999) and Bei Ji 7 (北機7), collided with each other in the vicinity of the Northern Fairway at the approximate position 22⁰ 18.94'N 114⁰ 07.61'E.
2. At the time of the accident, the weather conditions were fine with good visibility. The wind was variable at force 2. Bei Ji 7 sustained heavy damage to its port hull and was sunk at the seawall on the south side of the Stonecutters Island. Dong Gang 999 did not suffer any apparent damage. No oil pollution or crew injury resulted from this incident.

B. Findings

1. The masters of both vessels failed to maintain a proper look-out while navigating and to take appropriate collision avoidance actions in accordance with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972.
2. On the passage from the Pun Shan Shek Anchorage to the container terminal, the master of the sunken vessel had chosen to ignore the fairways and tracked through the Western Anchorage, the Western Dangerous Goods Anchorage and then the Northern Fairway whereby putting his vessels in conflict with the marine traffic navigating along the fairway.

C. Lessons

1. Masters of vessels should maintain a proper look-out and endeavour to follow the fairways when navigating in Hong Kong waters.
2. They should always observe the good seamanship practices and comply with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972.

Figure 1 Be Ji 7 was sunk at the seawall



Figure 2

VTC Radar plots showing the collision tracks of Dong Gang 999 and Bei Ji 7

