

**The Sinking of the Locally Licensed Fishing Vessel M60461S**  
**In Position about 22 25.67'N 114 24.87'E**

**A. The incident**

1. The locally licensed fishing vessel M60461S was reported missing on 13 January 2004.
2. The vessel was last seen at about 2300 on 12 January 2004 departing from the Chai Wan cargo handling basin proceeding to the mainland China. The owner of the vessel, who was reported to be the only person on board, could not be found.
3. At the time of the incident, the weather conditions were fine with northerly force 4 wind at a speed of about 23 km per hour.
4. The wreck was subsequently salvaged on 19 February 2004 but the owner of the vessel was not found. Whether he was on board when the vessel sank cannot be ascertained.

**B. Findings**

1. The owner did not possess a Certificate of Competency as Master of Fishing Vessel nor any other certificate.
2. The vessel's hull was found intact after it was salvaged. It is inferred that the most probable cause of its sinking is the progressive flooding of its underdeck compartments due to shipping of seas on the deck.
3. The vessel was loaded with a cargo of used tyres.

**C. Lessons**

1. Vessels should only be operated by appropriately qualified personnel.
2. Fishing vessels should not be used to convey cargo other than fish.

Figure 1 Position of the wreck

