

A fisherman was killed while engaged in fishing on board “Yue Dong Guan 04150” near Nim Wan on 19 June 2004

1. The Incident

- 1.1 At about 0600 on 19 June 2004, while a Chinese fishing vessel Yue Dong Guan 04150 was engaging in fishing near Nim Wan, a rope stowed at the forward part of the vessel accidentally dropped from the deck into the water and fouled the propeller.
- 1.2 A fisherman, when attempting to free the rope, suddenly felt unwell and fell into the water and went missing.
- 1.3 His body was later found near Lok On Pai, Tuen Mun.

2. Findings

- 2.1 The deceased was a swimmer but had a medical history of muscular contraction and atheroma. It appears that he had not evaluated the situation whether his physical fitness could warrant him to carry out this heavy duty.
- 2.2 Furthermore, he had not taken any safety measures to safeguard himself, such as wearing a lifeline or life jacket, before going overside of the vessel to free the fouled rope at the propeller.
- 2.3 Due to decomposition of his body, the autopsy could not ascertain the exact cause of the death of the deceased but the possibility of drowning could not be excluded.

3. Lesson

- 3.1 Ship's personnel should be aware the danger associated with carrying out work on underwater fittings of vessel and the safety precautions to be taken.