

## **Collision between M.V. Gaby Delmas and Chinese registered cargo ship Hua Xue 166 on 22.7.2004**

### **1. The Incident**

- 1.1. At about 2336 local time on 22.7. 2004, M.V. Gaby Delmas collided with the Chinese registered cargo ship Hua Xue 166 at the approximate position 29° 37.6'N 122° 25.55'E, southeast of Shanghai. At the time of the accident the weather conditions were moderate and the visibility was about 5 miles.
- 1.2. Hua Xue 166 immediately sank after the collision. Three crew members were rescued. Two crew members were dead and the other six crew members were found missing. Gaby Delmas sustained minor damages to the hull.

### **2. Findings**

- 2.1. Hua Xue 166 which was a give-way vessel to Gaby Delmas appeared to have failed to comply with Rule 15 of Colregs to keep out of the other vessel's way in the crossing situation.
- 2.2. Gaby Delmas, being a stand-on vessel, appeared to have failed to comply with Rule 17 of Colregs to take appropriate action as will best aid to avoid collision when Hua Xue 166 was not taking appropriate avoiding action in accordance with Colregs.
- 2.3. Hua Xue 166 and Gaby Delmas both appeared to have failed to maintain a proper look-out as required by Rule 5 of Colregs.
- 2.4. The investigation further identified that the Master of Gaby Delmas handed over the navigational watch to the Third Officer when a crossing situation had already been developing and the inexperienced Third Officer of Gaby Delmas failed to call the Master in ample time to handle the crossing situation.
- 2.5. After taking the action to avoid the collision, the Master made a cursory assessment of the situation and took it for granted that Gaby Delmas had kept clear of Hua Xue 166 and resumed the course and speed, hence

missed the first opportunity to save the distressed crew members of Hua Xue 166.

### **3. Lessons**

- 3.1. The attention of the owner of Gaby Delmas is drawn to the inappropriate action taken by the master in handing over watch to an inexperienced officer and the subsequent actions taken after the collision had occurred.