

The sinking of the Chinese container vessel *Kai Peng* (凱鵬) east of Tung Lung Chau on 23 Nov 2004

## 1. The Incident

- 1.1 At about 2032 on 23 November 2004, the Chinese container cargo vessel *Kai Peng* (凱鵬), while enroute from Jiujiang, Guangdong to Quanzhou, listed and sank at the approximate position of 22<sup>o</sup> 14.995'N 114<sup>o</sup> 19.047'E, about 0.8 mile east of Tung Lung Chau.
- 1.2 The weather conditions were cloudy with easterly force 5 wind at a speed of about 31 km per hour. The visibility was about 9 km.
- 1.3 Seven crew members were rescued by a Marine Police launch but one crew member was missing.

## 2. Findings

- 2.1 The investigation establishes the sinking of the vessel was probably caused by the shifting of the improper secured containers and the cargo inside them. The shifting was due to an error in an execution of a bold rudder to alter course at full speed while the vessel was beam-on to wind in rough sea conditions. The shifting of the containers made the vessel listed further to port until the heeling moment overcame the righting moment resulting the vessel to capsize and sink.

## 3. Lesson

- 3.1 It is dangerous to execute bold rudder at full sea speed while the vessel was beam-on to wind in rough weather conditions.
- 3.2 The containers should be proper secured before sailing.

Figure 1 Position of Capsizing and Sinking of *Kai Peng*

