

# **Crew Fatality while Working On Forecastle in Heavy Weather**

## **1. The Incident**

- 1.1 On 16 November 2005, a Hong Kong registered ship "Yong Tong" was en-route from Singapore to Port of Rizhao in China. The weather at the time was very rough with heavy swells. At around 0800, when the Vessel was in a position 22° 03'N 121° 20'E, the Carpenter was found lying on the forecastle deck with a deep cut on his left chest without breath and pulse. The Carpenter was immediately taken to the Vessel's hospital for resuscitation without success. It was believed that the Carpenter had been thrown against the windlass by the waves which broke over the ship's bow.

## **2. Lessons**

- 2.1 Crewmembers should be aware of the hazards of working on exposed deck when the vessel is underway in rough sea. Prior approval from the Master must be obtained if there is any need to undertake emergency work on exposed deck in heavy weather conditions. Such requirement should be incorporated in the ISM Manual and made known to the crew.