

# **Man overboard from the local open sampan *P40098S* in adverse weather conditions on 11.12.2005**

## **1. The Incident**

- 1.1 At about 1000 on 11 December 2005, while the local open sampan *P40098S* was proceeding from a position southeast of Tung Lung Chau to Chai Wan Typhoon Shelter after fish catching, the Master and his spouse fell overboard in open sea at a position 22° 14.20' N 114° 18.70' E (Figure 1). They were rescued by a passing Chinese coastal vessel and were transferred to a Marine Police launch. They were later transferred to ambulances which delivered them to Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital for medical treatment. The woman was certified dead on arriving at the hospital.

## **2. Findings**

- 2.1 The cause of the accident was due to rough weather and the general lack of safety awareness of the Master and his spouse on the potential dangers associated with operating small open sampan in exposed waters in rough weather.

## **3. Lessons**

- 3.1 Every person should take safety precaution by putting on lifejacket against the risk of falling overboard while catching fish on local open sampan in adverse weather conditions.
- 3.2 Open sampan should not operate in adverse weather conditions i.e. operators should not commence voyages when the strong winds and heavy seas prevail.



Figure 1 – Approximate Man Overboard Position