

The sinking of the Chinese registered grab dredger barge "Yue Xin Hui Gong 1108 " on 22 September 2006

1. The Incident

- 1.1 On 22 September 2006, the Chinese registered grab dredger barge "*Yue Xin Hui Gong 1108*" was reported to have sunk in a position 22° 13.26' N 114° 19.78' E, about two nautical miles south west of Ninepin Group Islands. At time of the incident *the dredger* was towed by a tug "*Guang Bo Tuo 403*" from Zhuhai to Xiamen. All the eight crewmembers abandoned *the dredger*. Seven crewmembers were rescued and one crewmember was drowned.

2. Lessons

- 2.1 The tug should be manned by competent master and officers;
- 2.2 The Master of the tug should assess the weather condition for the towing voyage; and
- 2.3 The Master of the tug should ensure the vessel being tow have adequate freeboard and proper water integrity.