

Crew member hit by mooring wire of a local barge and fell overboard from the PRC river-trade vessel *Hua Chang Hai 3 Hao* on 15.12.2006

1. The Incident

- 1.1 A fatal accident occurred on board the PRC river-trade vessel *Hua Chang Hai 3 Hao* (華昌海3號) at about 1905 on 15 December 2006. While the Vessel was berthing to the Berth No. 24 of the Tuen Mun River Trade Terminal, a sailor who was engaged in handling mooring rope at the stern was hit by the wire mooring rope of the dumb steel lighter *Transward No. 32*. He fell overboard into the sea and was drowned.
- 1.2 The accident was caused by a long wire mooring rope which sprang off under tension after being caught by the dog of bulkhead door at the stern of *Hua Chang Hai 3 Hao*. The lack of safety awareness of the deceased by locating himself in close proximity to the long wire mooring rope of the dumb steel lighter (DSL) *Transward No. 32* also contributed to the accident.

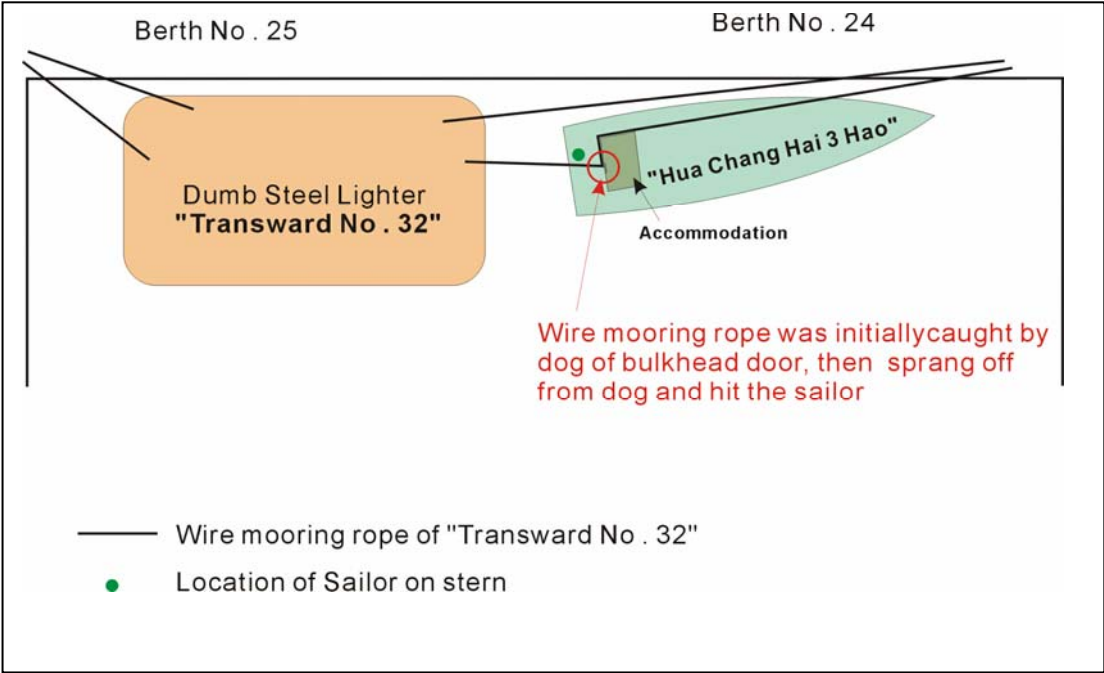


Figure 1 – Diagram showing the mooring arrangement of *Transward No. 32* which was moored to Berth No. 25 when *Hua Chang Hai 3 Hao* was approaching Berth No. 24



Figure 2 – Diagram showing the dog of the bulkhead door where the wire mooring rope of *Transward No. 32* was caught

2. Lessons

- 2.1 Crew members should keep themselves well clear from mooring ropes when berthing/unberthing.
- 2.2 Operators of the dumb steel lighters working within the river-trade terminal should ensure that the mooring ropes of their barges should not cause obstruction and create potential hazard to other vessels which berth/unberth from the berths of the terminal.