

Groundings of the Hong Kong Registered High-Speed Craft *Universal Mk 2008* & *Universal Mk 2010* at Macau Channel on 20 May 2007

1. The Incident

- 1.1 At about 1144 on 20 May 2007, the Hong Kong registered high-speed craft *Universal Mk 2008* with 131 passengers on board ran aground at approximate position 22° 11.01'N, 113° 34.60'E near light beacon no. DN2 on the north breakwater of Macau Channel. The vessel had just departed from Macau and was bound for Hong Kong. About one minute later i.e. 1145, another Hong Kong registered high-speed craft *Universal Mk 2010* with 243 passengers on board ran aground nearby at approximate position 22° 10.86'N, 113° 34.82'E at the end of the north breakwater of Macau Channel. The vessel departed from Hong Kong and had just entered the Macau Channel. The weather was cloudy and squally. The visibility was poor with heavy showers. There was no casualty and oil pollution resulting from the groundings. *Universal Mk 2008* sustained damages with water ingress into port fore peak tank and port and starboard T-foil tanks while *Universal Mk 2010* sustained damages with water ingress into No. 2 and No. 4 void compartments on the port side and No. 5 void compartment (engine room) on the starboard side.

2. Lessons

- 2.1 Masters should closely monitor the vessel's position in restricted visibility and vessels should be slowed down to allow more time to assess the situation. They should tune the radars properly before departing from berths.