

Fatal Accident on board Fishing Vessel “好利叁號” while preparing to launch fishing nets to sea for pair trawling operation

1. The incident

- 1.1 At about 0700 on 5 August 2007, six fishermen on board a Hong Kong licensed fishing vessel “好利叁號” were preparing to launch fishing nets to sea for pair trawling in the South China Sea. While they tried to transfer the load of an anchor chain to a rope stopper attaching to a wooden board on deck, the board slipped out from its seating, hit and killed one of the fishermen.

2. Lessons

- 2.1 All trawling gears and deck fittings should be maintained in good working order.
- 2.2 Only proper permanent mooring fixture, e.g. permanent D-ring, should be used to secure similar stopper in a pair trawling preparation.
- 2.3 Personal protective gears, e.g. safety helmet, should be worn in such operations.