

## **Collision of Hong Kong registered container carrier *COSCO BUSAN* with the Delta Tower of the San Francisco - Oakland Bay Bridge on 7 November 2007**

### **1. The incident**

- 1.1 At about 0830 local time on 7 November 2007, the Hong Kong registered container carrier *COSCO BUSAN*, while transiting from Oakland Inner Harbour to sea under the navigational control of a licensed pilot, collided with the fendering system around the Delta Tower of the San Francisco - Oakland Bay Bridge in foggy weather with poor visibility. The port side shell plating of the vessel punctured after the collision rendered about 200 tonnes of heavy fuel oil spilled into the San Francisco Bay. The fendering system of the Delta Tower was also damaged.

### **2. Lessons**

- 2.1 The presence of pilot on board does not relieve the duties and obligations of the master or officer in charge of navigational watch for the safety of the vessel.
- 2.3 A berth-to-berth instead of pilot-station to pilot-station passage plan should be prepared before sailing from port.
- 2.4 A proper pilot-master exchange should be conducted between the Master and the Pilot when arriving or leaving port.