

Collision between “*First Ferry XI*” and “*Xin Hui Ji 9*” North of Lamma Island, Hong Kong on 20 March 2009

1. The Incident

1.1 At about 0527 on 20 March 2009, the Hong Kong local licensed passenger ferry *First Ferry XI* collided with the Chinese registered cargo ship *Xin Hui Ji 9* at position 22° 15.3’N, 114° 04.8’E, about 1.5 n.m. south of Kau Yi Chau, Hong Kong.

1.2 Both vessels sustained hull damage. A total of 13 passengers and crew on board *First Ferry XI* suffered minor injuries. They were sent to the hospital for treatment by the Marine Police launch(es) and ambulance(s) for treatment. There was no oil pollution to the sea water.

1.3 At the time of the incident, the weather was foggy with poor visibility less than 100 metres. The sea was calm with southeasterly breeze.

1.4 The investigation into the accident revealed that the main contributory factors to the accident are:

- The Master of *First Ferry XI* did not maintain a proper radar lookout to make a full appraisal of the situation and failed to determine the risk of collision. Since *First Ferry XI* was not maintained at a safe speed and without a full appraisal of the situation, the Master therefore failed to take appropriate action to avoid close-quarters situation and collision with targets detected.
- The Chief officer of *Xing Hui Ji 9* did not maintain a proper radar lookout to make a full appraisal of the situation and failed to determine the risk of collision. The watch-keeping seaman in the wheelhouse of *Xing Hui Ji 9* was not certificated to maintain visual lookout.

2. Lesson

The lesson learnt from this incident is:

- Navigation officers should follow COLREGS at all times, in particular to observe the precautions as set forth in Rule 19 of COLREGS when navigating under restricted visibility, such as proceeding at a safe speed, sounding appropriate signals, and maintaining proper lookout by all available means, including systemic radar observation and plotting by competent radar operator to assess the risk of collision with the targets.