



香港商船資訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Collision between two vessels in the coastal sea of the Republic of Korea

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Masters, Officers and Crew

Summary

Two fishermen were killed and four missing after their fishing vessel collided with a Hong Kong registered bulk carrier in the coastal sea of the Republic of Korea. This Note draws the attention of shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, masters, officers, and crew including coxswains of fishing vessels to the lessons learnt from this accident.

The Incident

1. A Hong Kong registered bulk carrier (*the vessel*) collided with a fishing vessel in the coastal sea of the Republic of Korea. The collision caused the fishing vessel to capsize. Four out of the seven fishermen went missing. The coxswain and another two fishermen were rescued at sea, but only the coxswain survived.
2. The investigation revealed that the main contributory factors of the accident were as follows:
 - (a) prior to the collision, both vessels were not aware of the risk of collision or even the presence of the other vessel. They did not comply with the requirement of Rule 5 (Look-out) of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972 (COLREGS), i.e. failed to maintain a proper look-out by sight and utilize a radar to plot and check other vessels in the vicinity to determine the risk of collision; and
 - (b) the master of *the vessel* did not comply with the requirement of the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code (the STCW Code), which requires that the officer in charge of the navigational watch should not be assigned to undertake any other duties which would interfere with the safe navigation of the ship. Being the sole lookout person on the bridge at that time, the second officer of *the vessel* carried out the master's assignment to calculate the distances for the coming voyages and violated the STCW Code's requirement.

Lessons Learnt

3. All masters, officers and crew of sea-going ships should comply with the Rules of COLREGS and Section A/VIII-2 of the STCW Code at all times, particularly to the requirements of maintaining an adequate composition of a navigational watch on the bridge and a proper lookout all the time.
4. Coxswains of fishing vessels should also comply with the Rules of COLREGS all the time, particularly to the requirements of maintaining a proper lookout at all times.
5. The attention of shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, masters, officers and crew including coxswains of fishing vessels is drawn to the lessons learnt above.

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