

Marine Department Notice No. 74 of 2012

(Navigational & Seamanship Safety Practices)

Cautions to be exercised while navigating in the area near the Adamasta Rock

A Chinese registered river trade cargo vessel ran aground at the Adamasta Rock while proceeding in the North Cheung Chau Traffic Separation Scheme and sustained serious hull damage.

2. The investigation into the accident reveals that the main factors contributing to the accident were the navigating officer : -

- did not carry out proper voyage planning for the safe passage of the vessel;
- did not request for additional watch-keeping ratings to assist in the look-out duty while the vessel was sailing in the Traffic Separation Scheme;
- had relied solely on an unreliable Electronic Charting System on board for monitoring of ship's position during sailing; and
- was distracted by reporting ship's positions to the Marine Department and making logbook entries prior to the accident.

3. To avoid recurrence of similar accidents, masters and officers of all vessels are reminded to take following precautionary measures : -

- to carry out proper voyage planning for the safe passage of a vessel before sailing, and to ensure proper charts, nautical publications and all available information are used, and paying particular precaution while transiting the area;
- to provide additional watch-keeping ratings to assist in look-out duty having regard to the prevailing circumstances; and

- to instruct all navigating officers to make proper use of paper and electronic charts, GPS and radars for monitoring the ship's position.
4. This Notice supersedes Marine Department Notice No. 101 of 2011.

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Director of Marine

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Date: 4 June 2012

Action file ref.: MAI/S 902/135-2011