



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS



नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

F. No.25-19011/6/2020-NT-DGS

Date:03.11.2023

Casualty Circular - 03 of 2021

Sub.: One of the crew member lost overboard, while working on the bow during severe weather conditions

Summary of Incident:

On 15 May 2021, 09:30 hrs vessel departs from New Mangalore port, on her voyage from New Mangalore port to Hazira, Gujarat. After departure from New Mangalore port started encountering strong winds and very rough weather due to the cyclone 'Tauktae' that was prevalent in the region. Upon departure port and completion of departure stations, the crew was engaged in securing the anchor(s) at the forward station, under the supervision of the Chief Officer. While crew was engaged in securing activity on the bow of the vessel, the vessel encountered a large wave on the bow, while the crew working on the bow, and the impact of which was such that it resulted in injuries to five of the crew members. The wave lifted the crew members and took them in various directions with the flow of the water, resulting in fractures, however, one of the crew member i.e AB who was working at the forward most part of the bow, after being hit by the wave was seen lying still and unconscious on the forecastle deck. Thereafter, the bow of the vessel was hit by a subsequent wave which caused the AB lying on deck to be dragged overboard.

Master then announces emergency on the PA system, and forms an emergency team comprising of second engineer, second officer, cook and oiler and instructed them to go forward to ascertain the situation. While emergency team went forward, master altered course to provide lee, thereafter all five personnel including the three seriously injured personnel were transferred to accommodation, and the AB who was seen lying unconscious could not be found. Master then called MRCC for assistance for the person lost overboard and three personnel requiring medivac, and turned back vessel for new Mangalore port. However, due to severe weather conditions MRCC could not provide assistance and vessel had to wait for weather to improve for pilot to board the vessel, which finally happened on 16 May PM hrs. The five injured were then sent to hospital on 16 May PM hrs after berthing of the vessel.

Causal Factors:

1. In adequate understanding of the weather warnings in regard to the cyclone Tauktae.

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2. Port was not well in time before the arrival of cyclone, resulting in departure of vessel in severe weather conditions.
3. Master could not provide adequate lee for the personnel working on the forecastle of the vessel
4. Inadequate situational awareness of the crew working on the bow.

Action Taken:

1. MRCC was contacted for assistance in regard to one crew member lost overboard and medivac of three crew members who were seriously injured.
2. Emergency team was formed to ascertain the situation on the bow and to transfer the injured to the accommodation.
3. Vessel was turned back to New Mangalore port to transfer the injured to the hospital

Lessons Learnt:

1. Port operations need to be closed well in time before arrival of cyclone / heavy weather conditions, so that vessels departing port can clear before onset of adverse weather conditions.
2. Master needs to take weather in cognizance and ensure safety of personnel working on deck, and needs to take steps required to ensure safety of vessel and crew in adverse weather conditions.
3. Crew working on deck during heavy weather conditions needs to have situational awareness of weather conditions, as same may change very fast and take cover as required
4. Proper communication with bridge should be established at all times, so as to ensure necessary action can be taken by bridge.



. 03/11/2023

(Capt. Harinder Singh)
Nautical Surveyor cum DDG (Tech.)

To,
All stakeholders through DGS website.