

Press Release



NORTH P&I CLUB PUBLISHES NEW GUIDANCE ON AVOIDING ROCKS AND DOCKS

13 APRIL 2015

The 'A' rated 170 million GT North P&I Club has just published a new guide to help ships' bridge teams avoid the mistakes which lead to hitting rocks, docks and other fixed or floating objects (FFO). Collectively known as 'admiralty' incidents, they tend to result in the most expensive insurance claims against P&I clubs.

During the 2013/14 policy year, North experienced its two largest claims ever and both were admiralty related. One involved the grounding of bulk carrier *Smart* in South Africa in August 2013, while the other resulted from tanker *Wu Yi San* contacting an oil terminal in South Korea in January 2014. Potential liabilities for the two claims are estimated to be over US\$100 million.

North's deputy director of loss prevention Colin Gillespie says, 'Vessels running aground or contacting objects other than ships are among the most high profile and costly of all maritime accidents. The cost in both personal and financial terms has increased in recent years. Human error, in various guises, is the most common causal factor.'

Entitled *Rocks and Hard Places: How to Avoid Them*, the new guide is designed to bring to the attention of bridge teams the key contributory factors of groundings and FFO incidents and to stimulate thought by, and discussion between, members of the bridge team, on how risks can be minimised through following good practice.

Gillespie says that ships' navigational systems and on-board procedures for voyage planning, bridge team management and watch keeping are designed to reduce the risk of admiralty incidents. 'All are interdependent, and it is when these systems and procedures start to break down that incidents occur,' he says.

The guide focuses on the importance of planning and monitoring a voyage, navigating with a pilot on board, bridge team communications, situational awareness, fatigue, speed and angle of approach, and weather conditions. Real-life case studies are included to provide examples of poor practice and a starting point for wide-ranging discussions.

Copies of the guide are being circulated to all North's members and entered ships. Non-members can buy them, along with all of North's other loss-prevention publications, from marine bookshops or directly from the club's distributor Anchorage Press, www.anchoragepress.co.uk.

ENDS

For further information contact: Colin Gillespie +44 191 232 5221

Notes to editors

1. *Rocks and Hard Places: How to Avoid Them* is written and published by The North of England P&I Association, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, ISBN 978-0-9574936-2-9, price £30.
2. North, part of North Group, is a leading marine mutual liability insurer providing P&I, FD&D, war risks and ancillary insurance to 127 million GT of owned tonnage and 43 million GT of chartered tonnage. It is based in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK with regional offices in Greece, Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore. The Club is a leading member of the International Group of P&I Clubs (IG), with around 12% of the IG's owned tonnage. The 13 IG clubs provide liability cover for approximately 90% of the world's ocean-going tonnage and, as a member of the IG, North protects and promotes the interests of the international shipping industry. In February 2014 North completed a merger with Sunderland Marine, which operates within North Group as an independent regulated insurer guaranteed by North. Sunderland Marine is a leading insurer of fishing vessels, small craft and aquaculture risks. It is based in Durham with offices in Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa and North America.

The North of England P&I Association Limited. The Quayside, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3DU, UK

Telephone: +44 191 2325221 Facsimile: +44 191 261 www.nepia.com

Copyright © The North of England P&I Association Limited 2015