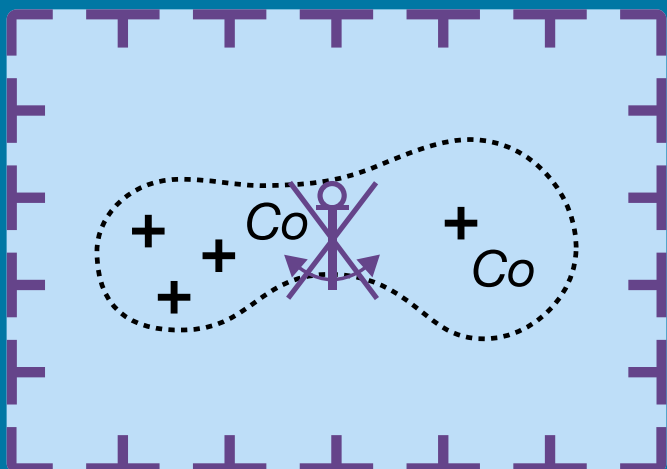


TIP OF THE MONTH – PREVENT ANCHOR INCIDENTS



- **HELMET ELEMENT 7 'Mooring and Anchoring' – Item 1 'Safe Mooring and Anchoring'**
- **OCIMF – Anchoring Systems and Procedures**
- **RIGHTSHIP Inspection Questionnaire – Section 3.23 (Navigation) & 10.18 (Mooring)**
- **SOLAS - Chapter V Regulation 34 'Safe navigation and avoidance of dangerous situations'**
- **IHO: Regulations of The IHO For International (INT) Charts and Chart Specifications of The IHO**

INCIDENT

During an on-board Navigational audit, P@S Auditor was on the vessel's Bridge and the vessel was approaching the Port's designated anchorage area. Upon vessel's arrival, the Master noticed a congestion in the area and maneuvering between other vessels for finding an anchoring position was a high-risk task. The Master requested from the Officer of the Watch to point another spot, where the vessel could anchor safely. According to the Passage Plan notes, the next available spot was in 2 miles distance away from the initial point. The vessel was about to drop anchor, when the Port Authority called on the VHF and warned the Master that anchoring in this specific area is prohibited due to local regulations protecting the coral reef ecosystem. The Port Authorities provided a new anchorage position.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Incidents in which coral reefs are destroyed continue to increase over the years and seafarers need to keep in mind that laying the anchor may affect and damage the seabed of the area. The ecological impact of such cases is enormous and most of the times irreversible for the marine environment. Significant fines may be imposed for vessel's non-compliance with local regulations; thus, it is important to first contact the Port Authorities and receive specific instructions before anchorage.

BEFORE CHOOSING AN ANCHORAGE

- Be aware through the Pilot books of the local environmental restrictions and regulations.
- Prepare in advance an alternative plan including contingency anchorage, cross-checked by responsible Officers.
- Check the chart for underwater obstructions or pipelines and review ECDIS Abbreviations & Symbols for the nature of the seabed.
- Evaluate the meteorological conditions of the area and the risk of dragging the anchor.
- Always seek advise from the local Port Control / Authorities before any action.

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