

M.V. LEEDS CASTLE

IMO No. 8010697

Collision

Location: Off West coast of India

Date of casualty: 7 January, 2008.

Summary



The vessel was navigating in Arabian Sea on a voyage from port Mundra to Mumbai.

At 1325 hours on the day of the incident, while the submarine “INS Sindhughosh” engaged in exercise was apparently surfacing, made contact with the hull of the Panama registered cargo ship M.V. “Leeds Castle” in position about 25miles south of Diu Head.

The railings, mast and antennae of submarine at conning tower level were seen in damaged condition and no apparent damages to hull of MV Leeds Castle were reported.

MV “Leeds Castle” on completion of statutory exchange of information was allowed to proceed on her voyage to port of Mumbai where the further inquiry was conducted. The vessel was allowed to sail without any liabilities.

Causal Factors

- There was insufficient information about submarine’s exercise area.
- The submarine was outside the demarcated “submarine exercise area” as marked on the navigation chart.
- There was a lack of proper look out on MV Leeds Castle.

Lessons Learnt

- In compliance with rules of the road for vessels navigating at sea should maintain sharp lookout at all times by sight, hearing and aid of navigational equipments.
- In good sea conditions sharp lookout and effective usage of navigational equipments could have detected the surfacing of submarine in time, avoiding the collision.
- Navigational equipments, e.g. radar performance monitor should be checked on regular basis and record maintained to improve its efficacy.



Image: MV LEEDS CASTLE



Image: INS SINDHU GHOSH



Image: India –west coast Savai Bet to Veraval