

Safety Alert

Number: 18-14

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Subject: Deck Cargo Shifted – High Potential Near Miss

What Happened / Narrative

A Platform Supply Vessel worked with the stern facing towards the rig and weather (wind 19 m/s – Significant Wave Height 3.2).

As the cargo operation was about to commence, a big wave hit the stern of the ship and water came over the deck. This resulted in shifting cargo; one crewmember was located on the deck in an unsafe position, close to the containers. No personal injuries resulted.

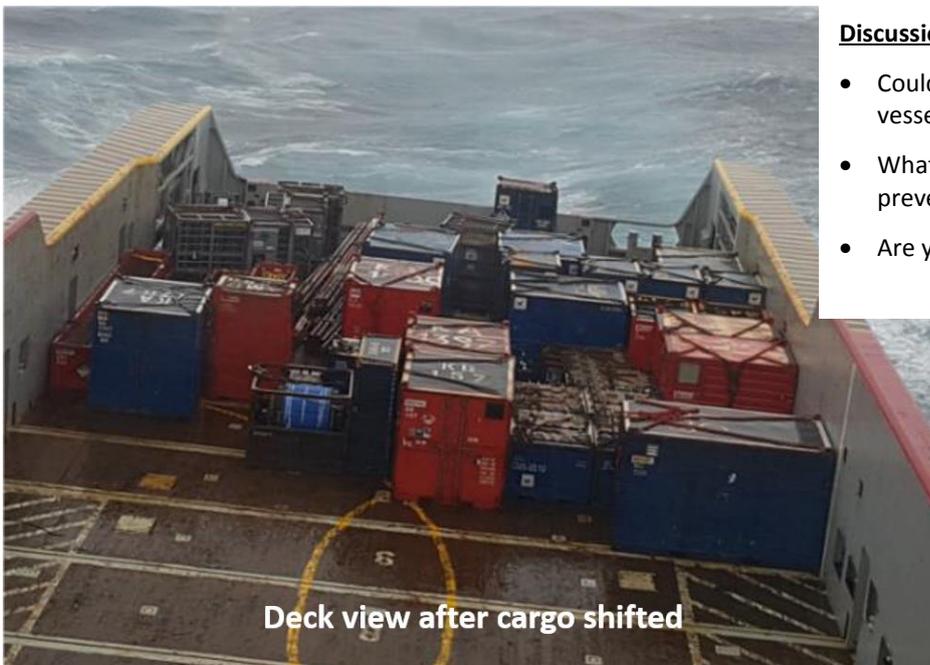
Why Did it Happen / Cause

- Freak wave (unknown height and wave length/period) hit stern of vessel resulted in “green sea” on deck
- Design – reduced height of stern rail (1.4 meter)
- Failure to identify risk
- Cargo not secured related to “green sea” on deck Heavy loaded vessel with bulk (deep draught)
- Position of vessel related to prevailing wind/sea conditions and rig crane

Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

- Minimizing crew exposure on deck during cargo operations
- Vessels with open /low stern rail to consider alternative positioning of vessel to avoid stern towards weather
- Update Risk Assessment to cover for “green sea on deck”
- Never position yourself in between deck cargo if it can be avoided
- Always ensure safe escape route

Photographs / Supporting Information



Discussion Points:

- Could this type of event happen on your vessel?
- What barriers do you have in place to prevent such an incident?
- Are you sure they are robust enough?

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