

Roose + Partners

Casualty Newsletter ⑭

19th June 2013

FEATURED CASUALTY

MOL Comfort

General cargo with container capacity, Built 2008, 90,613 dwt

Date of Casualty 17 June 2013

Voyage Singapore to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Cargo General cargo

Type of Casualty Structural failure leading to vessel splitting in two

Type of Claim Salvage claim and possible General Average declaration

It will come as no surprise that our featured casualty is the *MOL Comfort*. The vessel, which split in two and was reportedly lost, continues to drift in two sections in the Indian Ocean. Its AIS transmitter is still functioning and both sections are being monitored by an MOL vessel which has been diverted to the scene. News that perhaps all is not lost will come as a welcome relief to insurers who were facing the prospect of huge losses in the aftermath of this casualty.

When the incident was first reported, many no doubt recalled the *MSC Carla* casualty in 1997 and more latterly the *MSC Napoli* in 2005, both vessels having suffered structural failures but with remarkably different results. The *MSC* aft section was successfully salvaged under an LOF contract with Tsaviris Salvage. Despite being the subject of a successful appeal, the resulting salvage award was, at the time, the highest ever award by value under

Lloyd's Open Form. By contrast, the *MSC Napoli*, which encountered difficulties in the English Channel during winter storms, did not break in two but there are nevertheless similarities to the failure of the *MOL Comfort*. The integrity of the bulkheads will be crucial to the successful recovery of cargo on the *MOL Comfort*.

Nippon Salvage and Smit Salvage have today been awarded the LOF contract and are continuing to mobilise craft and equipment to the area. Svitzer and Swire Pacific have also mobilised tugs to assist the vessel and may well be sub-contracted to assist. Teams are not expected to arrive until 23 June. Assuming the sections survive the next few days, the salvors will face challenges similar to those encountered on the *MSC Carla* and the *MSC Napoli*. There will be pollution and contamination concerns which, more latterly, have been an issue in the *MSC Flaminia* and *Amsterdam Bridge*. They will also have to consider where best to take the sections and whether the appropriate permissions will be granted to enter the chosen place of refuge. It is early days in the context of this casualty. The successful recovery of the vessel sections will no doubt assist in the investigation into the cause of the structural failure, which will in turn assist with the recovery actions being undertaken. However, it will also help explain what went wrong and identify how to prevent future casualties.

Roose+Partners are instructed to protect part cargo owners'/underwriters' interests in this matter.



NEW CASUALTIES

Asian Express

General cargo with container capacity, Built 1977, 7,085 dwt

Date of Casualty 12 June 2013

Voyage Port Muhammad Bin Qasim, Pakistan to Maldives

Cargo 4,000 m/t of cement and 2,400 m/t of sand

Type of Casualty Engine failure during bad weather leading to a tear in the vessel's shell plating and water ingress. The vessel was abandoned and later sank 50 nm off the Lakshadweep coast.

Type of Claim Total loss claim

Fedor Shein

General cargo vessel, Built 1956, 2,072 dwt

Date of Casualty 13 June 2013

Voyage Unknown – proceeding on Volgo-Balt Canal

Cargo 2,000 tons of sawn timber

Type of Casualty Water ingress leading to a list. Tugs are presently assisting and the cargo may have to be discharged to a crane barge.

Type of Claim Possible salvage claim and General Average declaration

Professor Shtokman

Research vessel, Built 1979, 561 dwt

Date of Casualty 13 June 2013

Voyage n/a

Cargo n/a

Type of Casualty Fire in the steering gear compartment at Portovaya ship repair yard, Kaliningrad, during welding operations.

Type of Claim Fire damage

OTA-933

Tug, Built 1971, 498 gt

Date of Casualty 13 June 2013

Voyage n/a

Cargo Towing Russian Barge 7916, in ballast

Type of Casualty Grounding (both tug and barge) on the Upper Sheksna River, the Volgo-Balt Canal.

Type of Claim Possible salvage claim

Unicorn Logger

General cargo vessel, Built 2008, 8,725 dwt

Date of Casualty 13 June 2013

Voyage Tawau, Malaysia to Gamagori, Japan

Cargo 836 MT lumber

Type of Casualty Grounding off Malipipi Island, Philippines, alleged damage to 270 m² of coral reef

Type of Claim Reef damage and possible GA declaration

Lady of Carmel

details unknown

Date of Casualty 14 June 2013

Voyage Pio Duran, Luzon to Burias Island, Philippines

Cargo n/a

Type of Casualty Sinking. 44 out of 66 people on board accounted for.

Type of Claim Total loss and personal injury/loss of life claims

Fri Ocean

General cargo with container capacity, Built 2000, 3,640 dwt

Date of Casualty 14 June 2013

Voyage Fort William, Scotland to

Varberg, Belfast

Cargo Woodchips and timber

Type of Casualty Grounding off the Isle of Mull, Scotland. Vessel refloated by crew and anchored at the Lynn of Lorne for survey

Type of Claim Hull damage claim and possible GA declaration

Nissos Mykonos

Passenger Ro/Ro, Built 2005, 2,651 dwt

Date of Casualty 14 June 2013

Voyage Piraeus, to Samos, Greece

Cargo n/a

Type of Casualty Fire in engine-room. The crew brought the fire under control. Vessel proceeded to Samos Port for repairs and class inspection

Type of Claim Fire damage and possible personal injury



Celeste Ann

Offshore support vessel, Built 1979, n/a dwt

Date of Casualty 14 June 2013

Voyage n/a

Cargo n/a

Type of Casualty Sinking after collision with an oil rig south of Southwest Pass at the mouth of the Mississippi River.

Type of Claim Total loss claim

St Gregory the Great

Passenger Ro-Ro, Built 1992, 3,520 dwt

Date of Casualty 15 June 2013

Voyage Manila to Cagayan de Oro, Philippines

Cargo n/a

Type of Casualty Vessel's hull was holed when she hit a submerged rock. The engine room flooded with sea water. Vessel proceeded under its own power to the port of Iloilo.

Type of Claim Hull damage



Quacker 1

Amphibious tourist craft, other details unknown

Date of Casualty 15 June 2013

Voyage n/a

Cargo Passengers

Type of Casualty Sinking. 27 passengers treated in hospital

Type of Claim Total loss claim and possible personal injury claims

Massimo M

Passenger Ro-Ro, Built 1975, 10,320 dwt

Date of Casualty 19 June 2013

Voyage Leghorn to Olbia, Italy

Cargo Unknown

Type of Casualty Fire whilst off Olbia. The vessel was assisted by a local Coast Guard vessel and tug *Alessandro* and the fire was extinguished.

Type of Claim Fire damage claim, possible salvage claim and GA declaration