

### FEATURE CASUALTY

## Smart

Bulk carrier, 1996 Built, 151,279 dwt

**Date of Casualty** 19 August 2013

**Voyage** Richards Bay, South Africa to Fangcheng, China

**Cargo** 147,650 m/t of coal

**Type of Casualty** Grounding leading to the vessel breaking its back

**Type of Claim** Cargo loss, wreck removal



The 1996 built capsized bulk carrier *Smart* ran aground in rough seas on Monday afternoon shortly after departing the port of Richards Bay, South Africa having loaded a cargo of coal bound for China. After leaving the port at 1330 hours the vessel, which according to the Richards Bay harbour master, was not under pilot control, grounded on a sandbank adjacent to the Port's exit channel. Although the seas state is reported to have been rough, with a 10m swell, there are some reports that the vessel may have suffered engine failure which led to the grounding.

Within a couple of hours of the vessel going aground and despite the considerable efforts of three local tugs dispatched by the Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) to try to refloat the vessel, the *Smart* began to break up under the influence of the 10m swell which caused the vessel to move up and down on the sandbank. With the structural integrity of the vessel compromised, the Master ordered that the vessel was abandoned and the crew were subsequently airlifted from the vessel by a TNPA helicopter, which made four sorties to rescue the 23 strong crew and the local pilot from the vessel.

The grounding, which comes a little over a week since the grounding of the *Kiani Satu* off the coast of Knysna, will inevitably raise fresh concerns for the potential threat to the environment posed by the vessel's bunkers. The grounding site is only 6km from the Richards Bay

game reserve. The South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) have reported that the *Smart* was carrying some 1,769 m/t on fuel oil and 300 m/t of diesel. Their personnel have boarded the vessel and confirmed that at present the bunker tankers are intact. We understand that Smit Salvage and Subtech, who were initially reported to have been awarded the LOF salvage contract, have now been contracted by the owners to remove the bunkers. As with the operation on the *Kiani Satu*, which you will recall was our feature casualty last week (see follow-up), the operation will be carried out in conjunction with SAMSA.

Reports that the grounding of the *Smart* followed an engine failure will raise questions as to whether the vessel was seaworthy at the commencement of the voyage and may well assist cargo owners who will no doubt be looking to pursue cargo claims against the contractual carrier and/or shipowner.

### NEW CASUALTIES

#### Gas Texiana

LPG carrier – Built 1995, 5,174 dwt

**Date of Casualty** 14 August 2013

**Voyage** Godau, Vietnam to Mesaieed, Qatar

**Cargo** In ballast

**Type of Casualty** Mechanical issues whilst 220 nm south east of Sri Lanka. Tsaviris Salvage were contracted to assist on LOF Salvage terms and the vessel was taken in tow by the tug Maha Wewa to Hambantota. The vessel is now reported to be underway off Galle, Sri Lanka.

**Type of Claim** Salvage claim

#### Tenaka

Ro/Ro, Built 1964, 166 dwt

**Date of Casualty** 14 August 2013

**Voyage** n/a

**Cargo** n/a

**Type of Casualty** Fire whilst docked at Heriot Bay, Canada. The crew and fire services extinguished the fire.

**Type of Claim** Fire damage claim

#### Havila Fano

Supply vessel, Built 2010, 3,878 dwt

**Date of Casualty** 15 August 2013

**Voyage** n/a

**Cargo** n/a

**Type of Casualty** Fire whilst docked at Ørskov Shipyard, Frederikshavn.

**Type of Claim** Fire damage claim

#### Al Zeina

General cargo vessel with container capacity, Built 1980, 3,435 dwt

**Date of Casualty** 16 August 2013

**Voyage** Nemrut Bay to Volos

**Cargo** General cargo

**Type of Casualty** Engine problems and anchored off Cape Karaburun to effect repairs.

**Type of Claim** Possible General Average declaration



#### St. Thomas of Aquinas/ Sulpicio Express 7 ▲

*St. Thomas of Aquinas* – Ro/ro, Built 1972

*Sulpicio Express 7* – General cargo vessel, Built 1981, 11,464 dwt

**Date of Casualty** 16 August 2013

**Voyage** Agusan del Norte to Manila / Cebu to Davao

**Cargo** n/a / General cargo

**Type of Casualty** Collision just off Cebu leading to the sinking of the *St. Thomas of Aquinas* and significant casualties

**Type of Claim** Collision damage claim, total loss and loss of life claims

#### H. Pioneer

Bulk carrier, Built 1982, 30,900 dwt

**Date of Casualty** 17 August 2013

**Voyage** None

**Cargo** Unknown

**Type of Casualty** Bomb explosion hit Iraq's Umm Qasr commodities port, Baghdad.

**Type of Claim** Damage claim

#### RBD Borea

Fully cellular containership, Built 2007, 8,228 dwt

**Date of Casualty** 17 August 2013

**Voyage** Haiphong, Vietnam to Hong Kong

**Cargo** General containerised cargo

**Type of Casualty** Fire in cargo hold when a container of phosphorus ignited. The vessel was assisted by tug SAR 411 and the fire was

extinguished on 18 August. The affected containers were reportedly offloaded at Haiphong and the vessel has since arrived at Hong Kong.

**Type of Claim** Possible salvage claim and General Average declaration and/or fire damage claim



#### Isamar ▲

Luxury motor yacht, Built 1995

**Date of Casualty** 17 August 2013

**Voyage** Unknown

**Cargo** n/a

**Type of Casualty** Sinking after hitting a reef at Roccapina. Abelle Flanders assisted from Ajaccio, Corsica.

**Type of Claim** Salvage or total loss claim

#### Estancia

Livestock carrier, Built 1975,

**Date of Casualty** 18 August 2013

**Voyage** Adabiya, Egypt to Berbera, Somali Republic

**Cargo** In ballast

**Type of Casualty** Fire whilst anchored off Berbera, Gulf of Aden, waiting to load livestock.

**Type of Claim** Fire damage claim

#### Edgar Lehman

General cargo vessel, Built 2007, 12,000 dwt

**Date of Casualty** 18 August 2013

**Voyage** Istanbul, Turkey to Alexandria and Misir, Egypt

**Cargo** In ballast

**Type of Casualty** Engine failure north of Dardanelles in Marmara Sea. Vessel was towed to a position off Sarkoy and anchored.

**Type of Claim** Possible salvage claim



#### Cielo di San Francisco ▲

Bulk carrier, Built 2011, 37,056 dwt

**Date of Casualty** 20 August 2013

**Voyage** Davant, USA to Ringaskiddy and Dublin, Ireland

**Cargo** 22,376 m/t of animal feed

**Type of Casualty** Grounding off Dun Laoghaire, Ireland. Smit Salvage BV were appointed to assist under an LOF Salvage contract and were mobilising craft and equipment to the grounding site. After pumping of the forepeak ballast tank, the vessel refloated with the rising tide at 10.30pm yesterday evening. Although reportedly undamaged, she is anchored off Dublin awaiting inspection.

**Type of Claim** Possible salvage claim

### CASUALTY FOLLOW-UP

**Wilhelm E** – edition 22 - Stichling Hahn Hilbrich GmbH, General Average Adjusters have kindly advised that no GA security will be sought because of the limited GA expenses incurred.

**Kiani Satu** – edition 22 - was refloated on 17 August. Salvors have been ordered to tow her away from the South African coast amidst fears that she will sink. The vessel, which is under tow of the Smit Amanda, was reported to be shipping water and the salvage crew have been evacuated from the vessel.