



Directorate General of Shipping

SITREP – 27, 1800 Hrs on 05/07/2025

Explosion on WAN HAI 503 (IMO no – 9294862, Flag Singapore) West of Kerala

The contents of this SITREP are based on both written and verbal inputs received from the stakeholders

1. Incident Overview:

Refer to SITREP – 2, 2200 hrs on 09/06/2025

2. Response Actions Initiated:

Refer to SITREP – 3, 2200 hrs on 10/06/2025

3. Present Status:

As of 1200 hours on 5th July 2025, MV Wan Hai 503 remains under tow by Offshore Warrior, maintaining its position outside the Indian EEZ. The vessel's coordinates are 07° 34.26'N, 074° 29.80' E, with a course of 260° and speed of approximately 1.2 knots. Weather conditions remain moderate, with winds from 262° at 16 knots, and no significant operational impact reported from sea state.

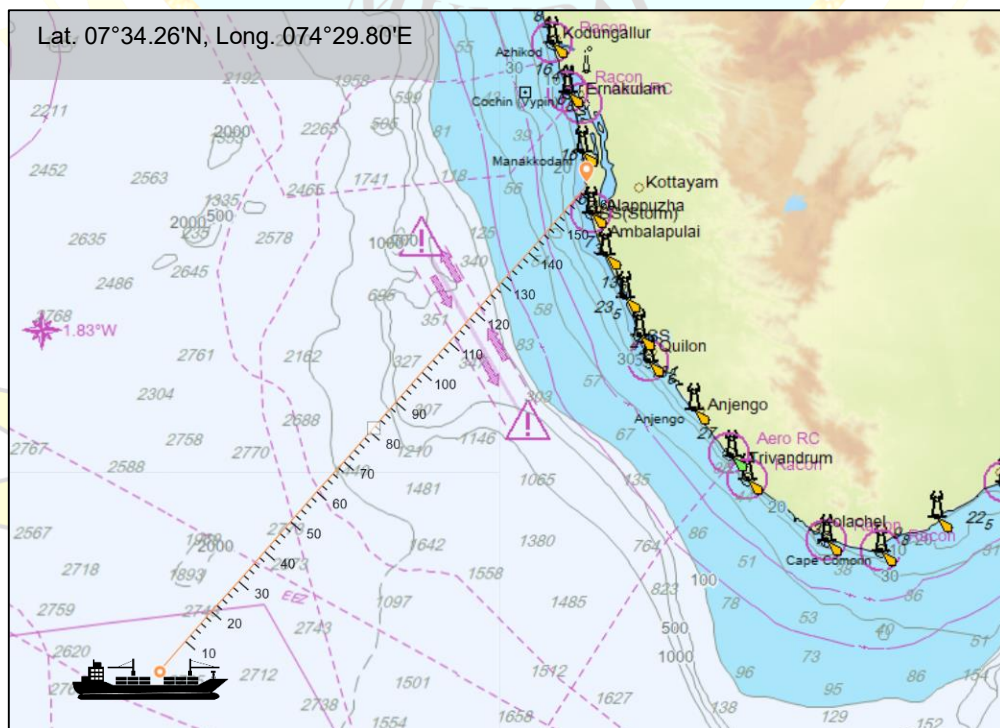


Figure 1: Position of the vessel on 04.07.2025 0600 hrs

Visible black smoke continues to emit from the casualty, though onboard temperature readings reflect gradual improvement in affected areas, but residual heat within cargo holds persists, particularly in Hold No. 4. Isolated flare-ups and intermittent smoke are anticipated to recur, attributed to the nature of the residual cargo smouldering within enclosed spaces.



Figure 2: Condition of the vessel on 05 July 2025

The salvage team currently consists of five firefighters and five salvors. Dewatering efforts have successfully reduced engine room water levels to approximately two meters, though additional pumping is ongoing to identify and control the ingress source, which is suspected to be linked to previous firefighting water runoff.

The hydraulic Power Pack, which encountered debris-related malfunctioning, has been restored, with one hydraulic pump and one electric pump operational for dewatering. The vessel's name and flag markings remain visible, and the general structural condition is reported stable at this stage.

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4. Additional Support:

Firefighting and boundary cooling operations are being undertaken by SCI Panna and Advantis Virgo. The teams onboard these vessels are maintaining fire suppression

efforts as required, with an emphasis on controlling temperature escalation and preventing fire spread.

Water Lily continues to provide critical support for personnel and material transfers between salvage assets and the casualty vessel. The vessel has been effective in ensuring logistics continuity, given the limitations in transferring using larger vessels alongside WAN HAI 503 due to sea conditions.

Offshore Warrior remains engaged in towing operations, with preparations underway to replace the existing soft towline with a steel wire rope as soon as favourable weather permits. The replacement is considered a priority for ensuring secure long-term towage, especially ahead of anticipated deteriorating weather.

Virgo remains equipped with an additional stock of Pyrocool for localized fire suppression, should conditions allow its application. Saksham has returned to Kochi Port for flag state formalities and crew change and is expected to rejoin operations upon completion of customs processes.

The salvage team is also preparing for increased Pyrocool deployment, with logistics in place to mobilize 15,000 litres of additional supply from Singapore if required.

5. Situation Assessment

The overall fire remains localized and is assessed to be under control; however, elevated temperatures within Hold No. 4 and inaccessible areas limit further inspection and tank soundings. The portside forward area remains unsafe for entry until further cooling is achieved. Small flare-ups, smoke, and high heat in isolated compartments continue to present operational constraints.

Dewatering of the engine room remains the top priority, with the immediate goal of reducing water levels to trace and rectify the ingress point. Divers are on standby but are not being deployed inside the engine room at present due to concerns over water contamination from unknown cargo residues. Controlled dewatering will proceed to lower water levels sufficiently for inspection without necessitating diver entry.

The situation demands operational patience, with timelines contingent on prevailing fire conditions and vessel stabilization. Efforts are being made to maintain the current position, balancing logistical access, safety, and proximity to support assets.

Port of Refuge discussions remain active and the vessel remains within logistical support range of Kochi, facilitating continued resupply and operational support. Stakeholders have been urged to prioritize securing the forward forecastle area, completing towline replacement, conducting bunker tank soundings, and ensuring structural and environmental safety before any further relocation or port entry is executed.

6. Navigational Hazards:

Refer to SITREP – 3, 2200 hrs on 10/06/2025

7. Coordination Measures:

Refer to SITREP – 3, 2200 hrs on 10/06/2025

8. Cargo Assessment:

Refer to SITREP – 3, 2200 hrs on 10/06/2025

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