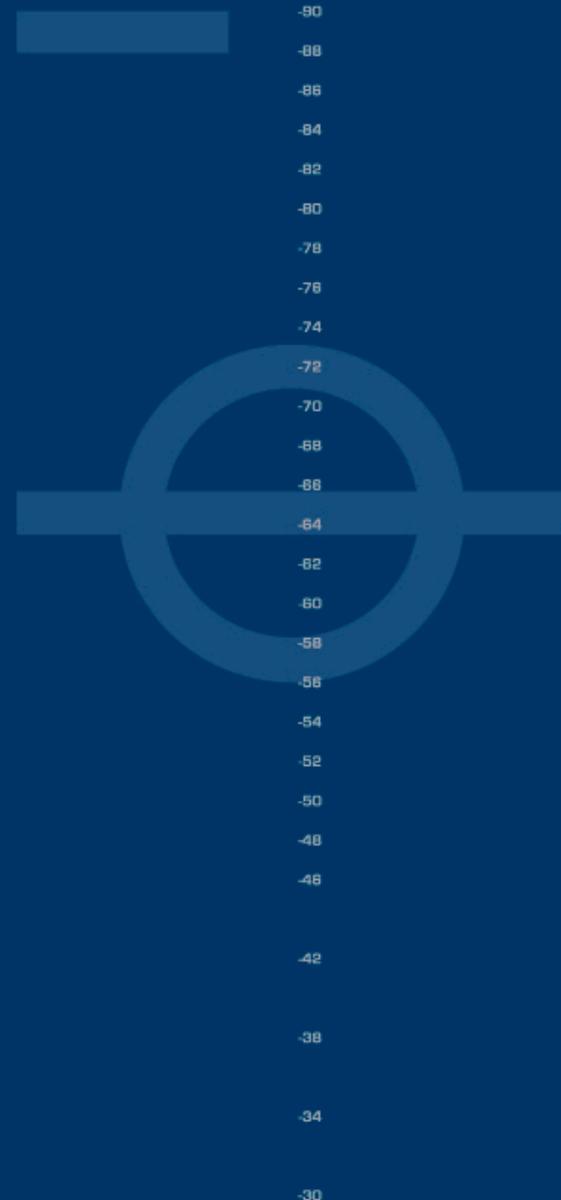


UKMPA Meeting 14th September 2016

The 'Asterix' incident 2015





Loss of Asterix

- The vessel
- The task
- The incident
- Rescue and recovery
- Causes
- Actions taken by Solent Towage







-7B
-74
-72
-70
-6B



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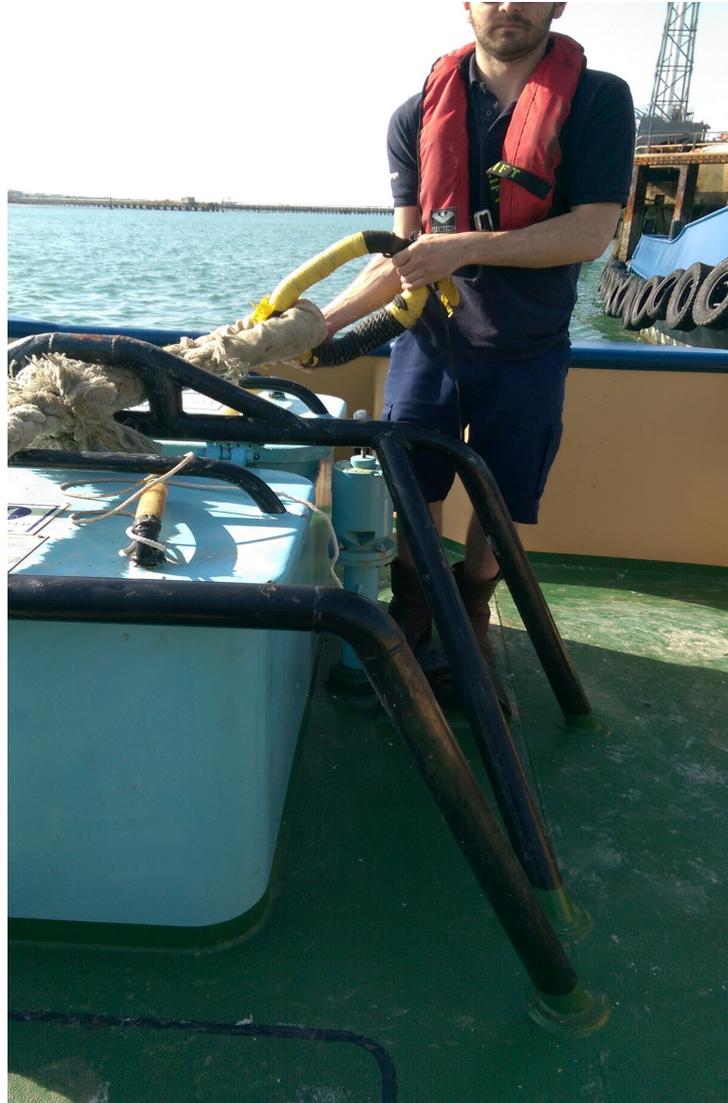


Towing Hook

Towing Line

Gog rope





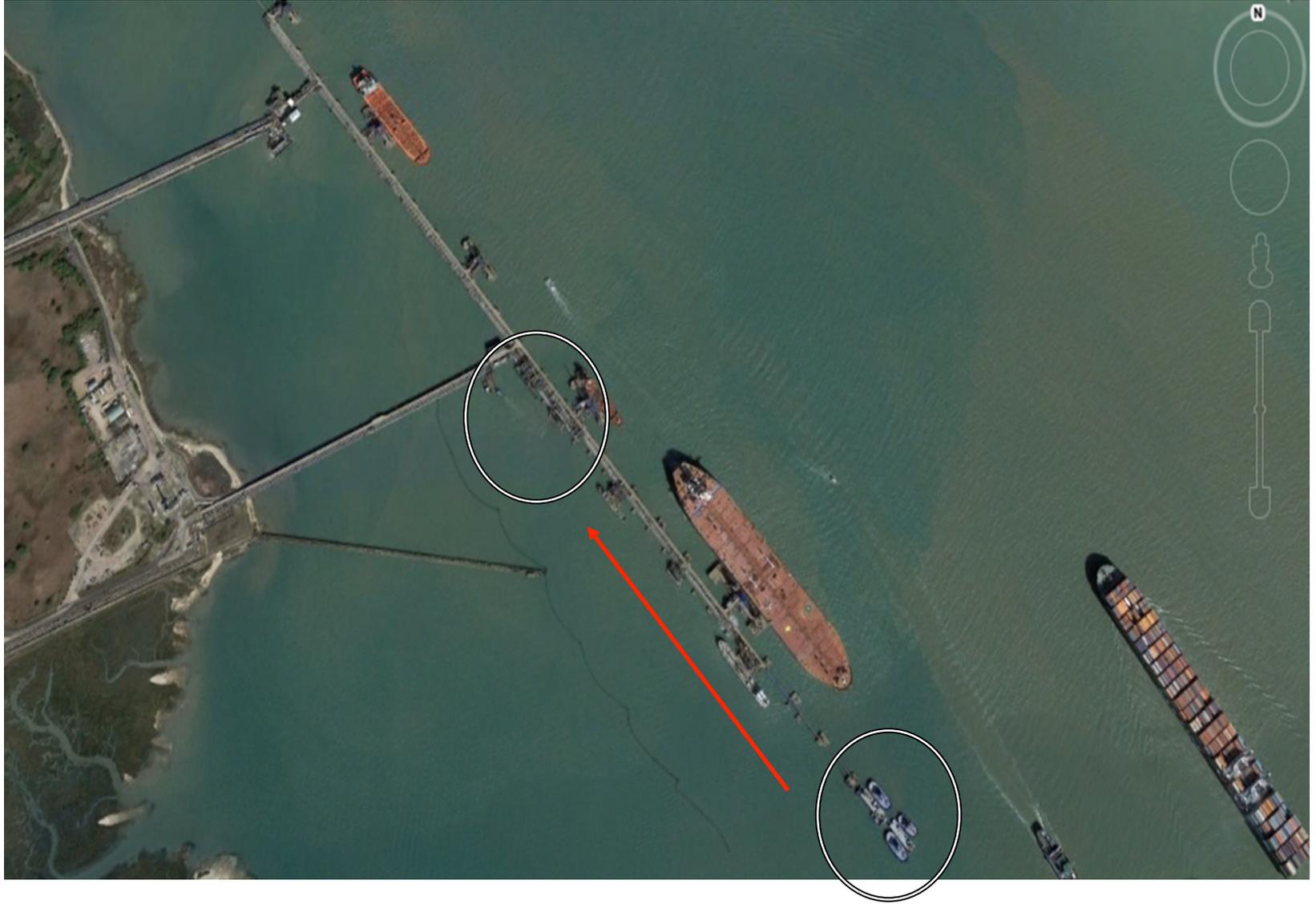




The task

- This incident occurred on the evening of March 30th 2015
- The task was to assist in the departure of 'Donizetti' a small chemical tanker berthed port side to on one of Fawley's coastal berths
- On berth wind of force 4 – 5
- Tide was nearing the end of the flood
- Departure was at 2000
- It was a dark cold winter night







The incident

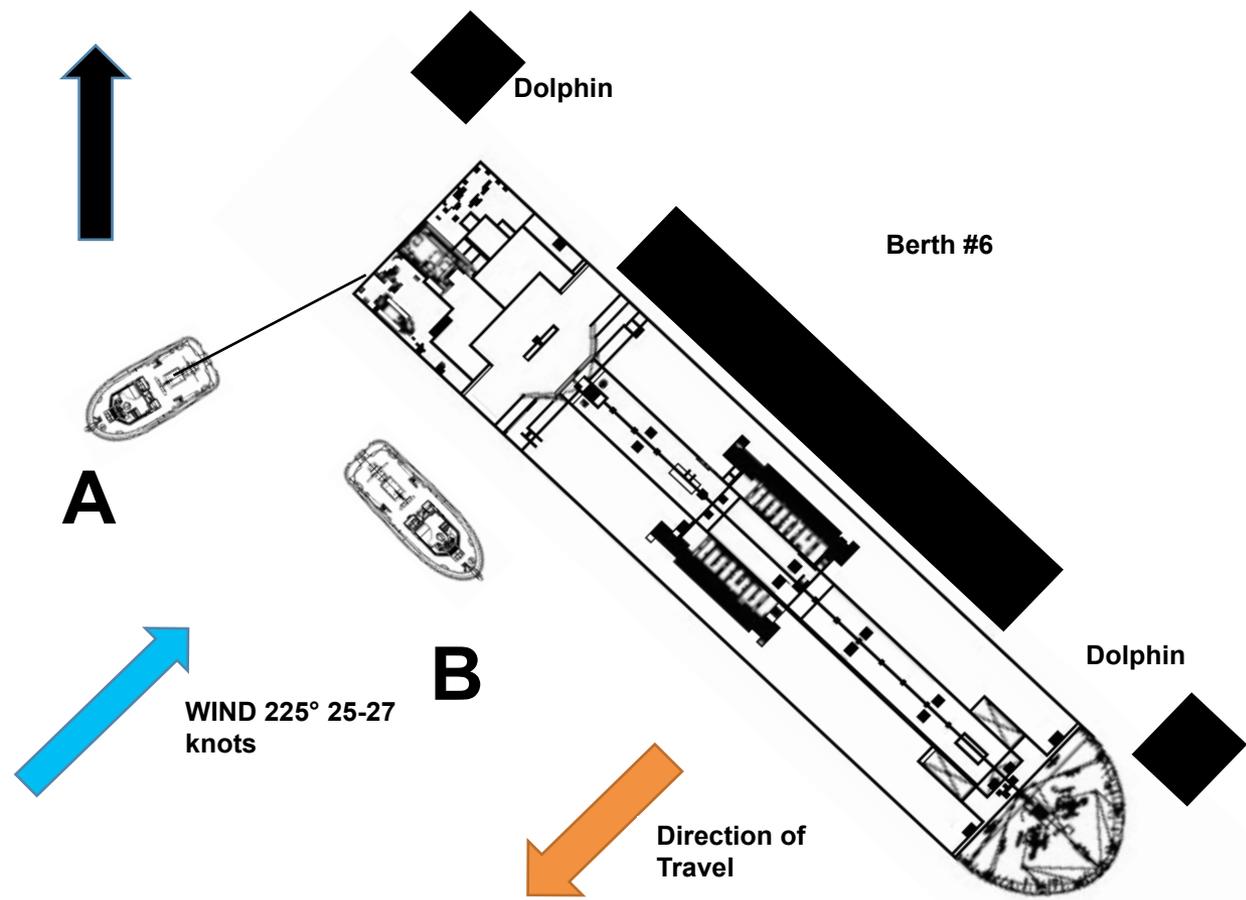
- Asterix was instructed to make her tow fast on the starboard quarter on Donizetti and stand by to lift the stern off the berth whilst the bow thruster would be used to lift the bow off.



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Causes

- Direct -
 - Excessive transverse force acting on Asterix
 - Failure of hook release system
- Indirect -
 - Ineffective communications between tug and vessel
 - Lack of situation awareness by coxswain and crew member
 - Insufficient RA detailing the risk of operating with a fixed gog line
 - Vessel's acceleration and speed whilst initially clearing the vessels berthed ahead of Donizetti





Actions taken by Solent Towage

- Upgraded the level of training required by a Coxswain before being signed off
- Upgraded the risk assessment on towing to include greater detail on the risks of girting and the effective use of a gog rope
- Any future small tug will be fitted with a gog winch
- Upgraded the training schedule and planned maintenance routine to include more emphasis on tripping the hook under load
- Developed a pre-tow checklist which includes confirming the passage plan with the pilot / vessel prior to passing the tow line up

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Actions continued

- In collaboration with ABP Southampton, instigate joint training between pilots and coxswains
- Installed foot operated microphones for VHF radios
- Greater emphasis on weather conditions prior to assigning a tug to the task
- Preparations to certificate all coxswains with
- Voluntary Towage Endorsements

