AMVER

Press Release

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AMVER PARTICIPING MERCHANT VESSELS RACES TO SAVE CREW OF MISSING CHINESE SHIP

NEW YORK – Multiple rescue operations are ongoing in the case of the Hai Ton 7, a Chinese merchant ship which sent an electronic distress alert and apparently sank 370 nautical miles northwest of Guam in the wake of Typhoon Man Yi.

The American flagged ship Horizon Falcon diverted 180 miles, braving 25 foot seas and winds in excess of 30 knots. When the Horizon Falcon arrived in on scene the crew located three people in the water and a large oil slick. Despite dangerous seas the master of the Horizon Falcon immediately ordered a small boat lowered and successfully rescued one Chinese crew member before waves damaged the rescue boat.

The Amver participating vessel Ikan Bilis rescued eight more crew members reporting one of the survivors suffered head injuries and another had a broken leg. The Coral Emerald, another Amver participant, rescued two crew members.

One survivor stated their cargo was logs and "…they shifted in the high seas and the vessel sank quickly with no time to get into lifeboats."

Rescue operations continue with additional merchant vessels, United States Navy, and United States Coast Guard resources involved.

The Amver system is a voluntary, worldwide ship reporting system. Prior to sailing, participating ships send a sail plan to the Amver computer center. Vessels then report every 48 hours until arriving at their port of call. This data is able to project the position of each ship at any point during its voyage. In an emergency, any rescue coordination center can request this data to determine the relative position of Amver ships near the distress location. On any given day there are over 3,200 ships available to carry out search and rescue services. Visit http://www.amver.com to learn more about this unique worldwide search and rescue system.

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