Offshore Special Regulations - Appendix G

Search Patterns for Locating a Lost Man Overboard

A submission from Sten Edholm, Special Regs Sub-committee Member

Proposal

Add the following to session 6 of Appendix G

6.3 Search Patterns
.1 Explain the most common standard search patterns for finding a lost MOB (Expanding Square Search, Creeping Line, Parallel Search and Sector Search)
.2 Navigation consideration (establishing a datum and then what affects the position of the MOB relative to the boat and the ground)
.3 Importance of search lights, the use of PLB and high visibility clothing

Current Position

None

Reason

In the event of the man overboard it is not uncommon in adverse weather conditions or at night to lose sight of the casualty. It is important that the person in charge is aware and have a full appreciation of the method to locate a casualty. As locating a MOB gets increasingly difficult with time, clear and decisive action at the time of the incident is critical. It is furthermore important to harmonize the procedures of sailors with the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual (IAMSAR) Vol III guidelines for SAR units and On Scene Commanders. ISAF should also encourage producers of offshore racing software to implement these standard search patterns in computer assisted navigation procedures.