

Incident occurred: 25/07/2020 19.27 local time, 15.27 GMT (16.27 BST)

Location: off Blue Bay, Mauritius

Probable cause: grounding in an environmentally sensitive area

Impact: marine exposure; environmental pollution

Issued by Skytek: at 12:00 GMT on 09/08/2020

Summary: In the late evening of 25th July 2020, the large bulk carrier Wakashio IMO - 9337119 was pursuing her voyage in ballast from jetty 88 at Xin Su Iron ore terminal in China for Tubarao in Brazil. The Captain reported that his vessel has run aground around 800m off Pointe d'Esny on Mauritius' south-eastern coast. From the plotted track in Fig. 1 it appears the ship had planned to pass very near to the reef. Available navigational charts show that 800m more to the east, the ship would have had depths of more than 1000m.



Figure 1 - Skytek maps ship's track few hours prior grounding

On July 26th, The Mauritius National Oil Spill Contingency Plan was enacted, and the ship was surrounded by oil booms. A designated salvage company, Smit Salvage Pty Ltd was awarded the contract of salvage operations.

The ship track data shows that on the 25th July the ship grounded bow at around 11.7 knots speed, and during the next few days, the SE-ly swell dragged the vessel further onto the reef and she was turned with stern on the rocks, which unfortunately exposed ship's bunker tanks to potential puncture. Mauritius Minister of Environment stated that "although the vessel was not carrying any cargo, it had 3,894 tons of low-sulphur fuel oil, 207 tons of diesel, and 90 tons of lubricant oil on board".

Wakashio is one of the largest bulk carrier 299m long by 50m width and 17,91m max draft in ballast condition at the time of the incident with 8,7m draft, of DWT 203130T, and built on May 2007. The vessel is owned and run by Nagashiki Shipping Co Ltd, flying a Panama flag, in class with Nippon Kaiji Kyokai – in Apr 2020 her last annuals, and insured with Japan Ship Owners Mutual P&I.

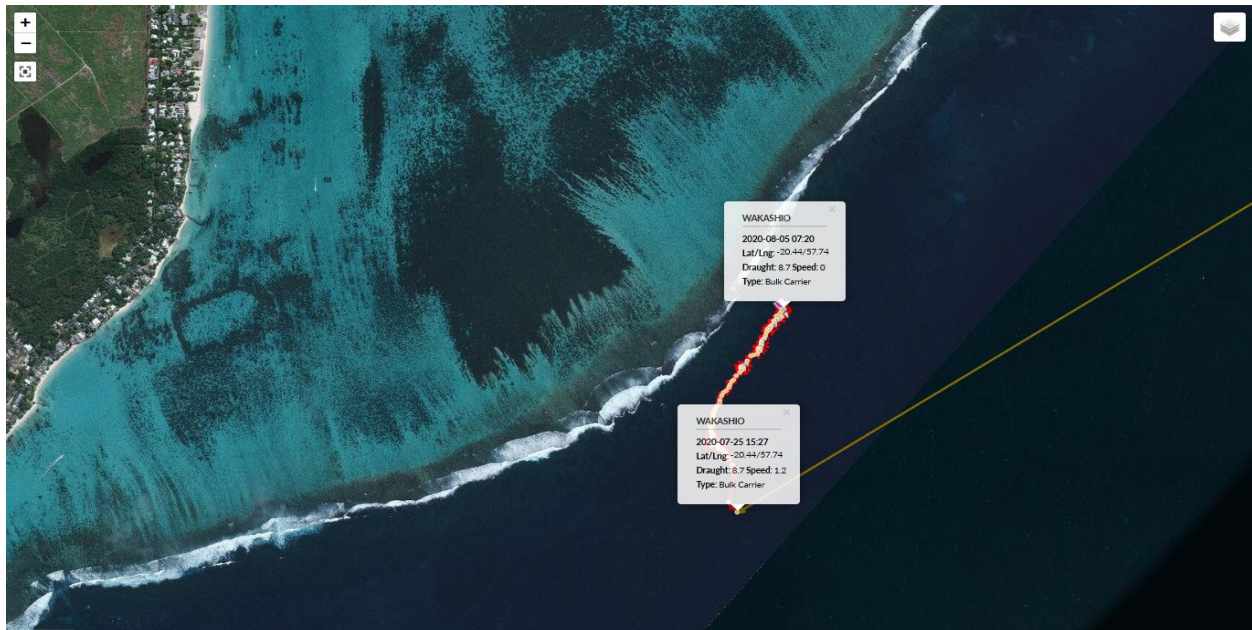


Figure 2 - After grounding, Skytek monitors Wakashio's drift with the winds and swell



Figure 3- Skytek capture of Wakashio shortly after grounding 25th Jul 23UTC

With the prevailing weather, the swell made the ship's stern drag along the reef and eventually a starboard side fuel tank ruptured and started leaking fuel into the sea. Satellite photos are showing fuel leaked into the sea being dispersed into the sea.

On 08th August, Mauritius declared a state of environmental emergency and sought assistance from France saying that coping with refloating the large size bulk carrier and fighting pollution is beyond the country's capacity.

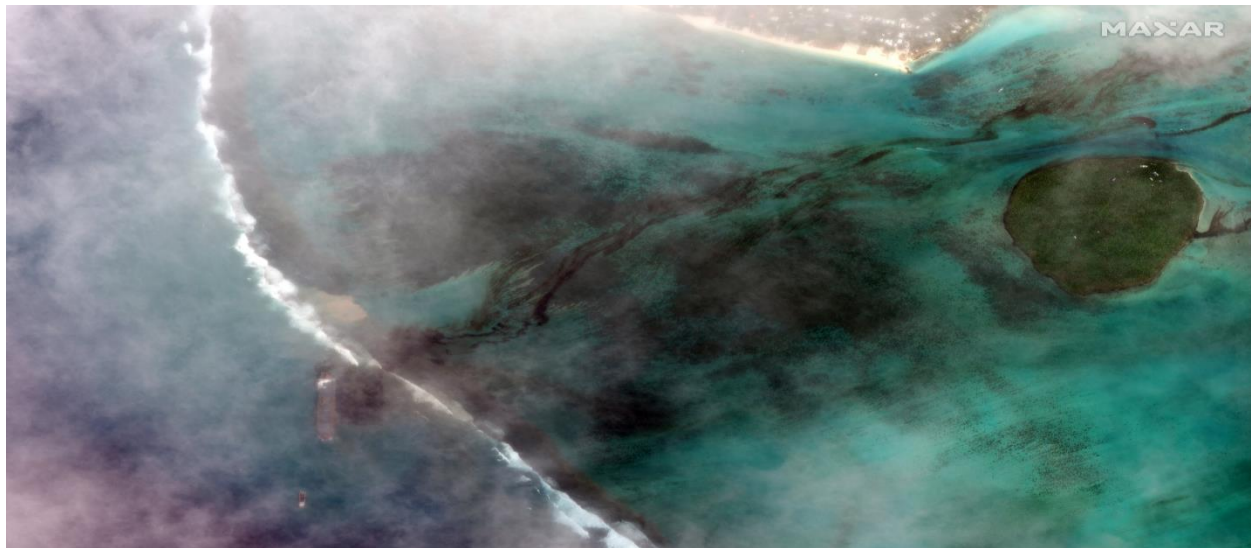


Figure 4 - Satellite imagery showing the leak of fuel oil - 07th Aug - source Maxxar

Since August 5th, the Wakashio AIS tracker is no longer transmitting. Currently, there are several vessels in the area assisting with salvage operations. Skytek's system captures tankers Elise – IMO 9612272 and Tresta Star – IMO 9869629 in the area. It is expected that Wakashio will offload her bunkers to

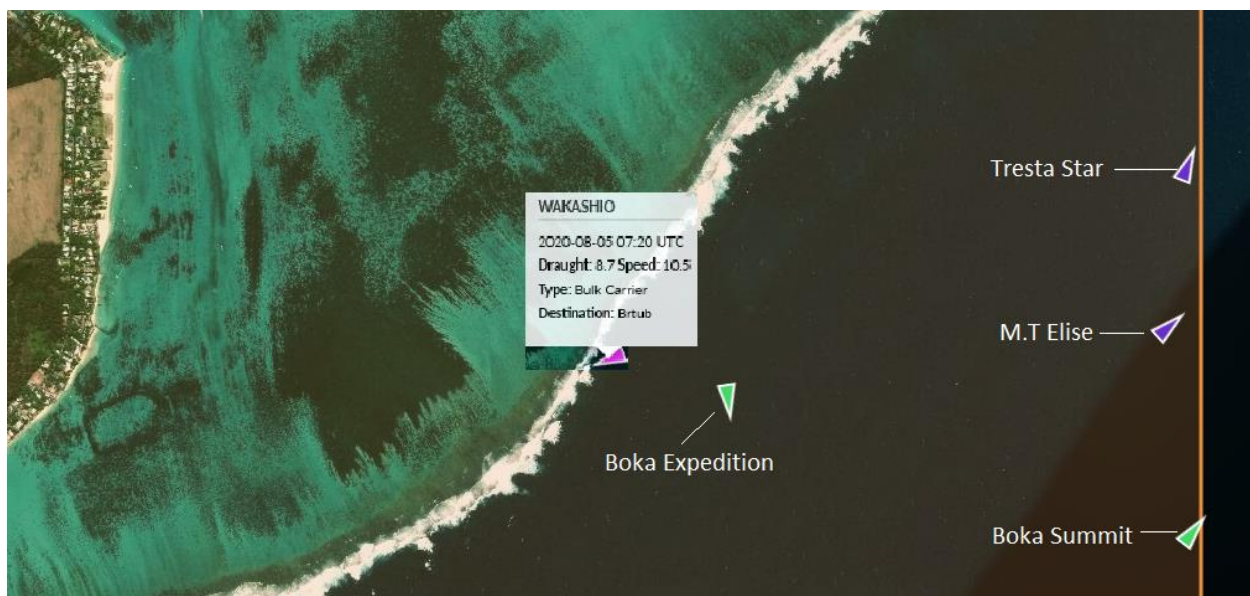


Figure 5 - Skytek AIS track of salvage efforts on the spot

minimize leak into the sea. Tugs Boka Summit – IMO 9315575 and Boka Expedition – IMO 9358943 are also tracked assisting the salvage on the spot.

About Skytek

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