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detection of a maritime accident: The case of MOL Comfort

On 17 June 2013, the container ship MOL Comfort suffered a crack amidships during inclement weather in the Arabian Sea. The ship broke into two sections that sank on 27 June and 10 July 2013, respectively. A triplet of hydrophone station HA08 of the International Monitoring System recorded underwater sound phases associated with the sinking of the two sections. Arrivals derived from progressive multi-channel correlation processing of the hydrophone triplet data match the time and location of both events and must have travelled in the Sound Fixing and Ranging channel of the oceanic water column. Our findings are corroborated by results from long-range propagation modeling. These observations further highlight the exceptional capabilities of the IMS hydroacoustic network and its value for civil and scientific applications.

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