

KPI Safety Information SaIN-February-2013
(Possibility of Grounding in the port of Alexandria, Egypt entrance)

As reported by a reliable source; a vessel was recently involved in a grounding incident while approaching the port of Alexandria, Egypt. The incident took place near buoy No.4 at the entrance of the "Great Pass", which is the port's main approach channel.1.

At the time of the grounding a pilot was present on the bridge and reports from the vessel indicate that during the approach the vessel did not violate the existing channel marker buoy system.

Only a week after this incident, a second grounding, involving another vessel, in virtually the same location took place.

According to the report, no formal notification has been issued by the Port Authorities regarding changes to the marker buoy system in the Alexandria port entrance channel. It has, so far, not been possible to confirm whether any of the buoys have been wrongly repositioned or are missing.

Until it has been confirmed that the position of the marker buoys in the Alexandria port approach channel is accurate and in accordance with current charts, it is recommended that shipping companies calling at the port of Alexandria advise their Masters to pay

particular attention when approaching this port and navigate with extreme caution. Correctly positioned floating marker buoys are of considerable assistance when navigating in shallow waters but should never be trusted as a sole means of safe navigation. And although pilots are knowledgeable about local waters, it is always the duty of the Master and the officer on watch to monitor the pilot's actions and to verify the position of the vessel through proper use of updated charts, radars and other means of fixing the position.

It is also recommended that the contents of the Bridge Procedures Guide concerning Passage Planning & Pilotage to be restudied & the bridge team management strategies are reiterated & conclusive of the matters related to the issue.