

## ***"SARNIA NEWS" CIRCULAR***

(Ref: 264/15/GP)

TO ALL SHIPOWNER CLIENTS TO DOUALA / CAMEROON

27<sup>th</sup> March 2015

### **Re: Vessels grounding in the approaches to Douala port, Cameroon**

Please find below information received, advising of a number of instances where vessels have grounded in the approaches to Douala as the port has not been properly or regularly dredged for several years and also details preventative action that can be taken, which we would suggest is distributed to the relevant personnel, as well as being sent to the Master(s)/Chief Officers(s) of your vessel(s) if relevant.

Best regards

Loss Prevention Team

**From:** Gray Page: Global Alerts [<mailto:noreply@graypage.com>]

**Sent:** 23 March 2015 19:12

**To:** Amgad Wanis

**Subject:** A new alert from Gray Page

## **Risk: Vessels grounding in the approaches to Douala port, Cameroon**

### **Background**

There have been a number of instances where vessels have grounded in the approaches to the port of Douala.

Local P&I correspondents have advised that Douala port has been neither properly nor regularly dredged for several years now. The only available dredger in the port has been non-operational since it was involved in a collision in October 2014. Consequently, the recorded and actual river depths in the channel and the port are unreliable.

It is also reported that most of the buoys in the approaches to the port are either unlit, missing or out of position, hence their reliability for position fixing is questionable.

Port congestion can also result in significant delays being encountered at Douala.

### **Assessment and Analysis**

P&I correspondents recommend that vessels calling at Douala port should either berth on the spring tide (from 2.60m) or arrange lightering during periods of port congestion or delays in berthing.

Owners and ship managers should ensure that vessels calling at the port of Douala have in place a detailed berth to berth voyage plan.

For the latest information on the Port of Douala, Masters of vessels should contact their local port agent.

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