

Computers



It's important to remember what they are going to do next!
She ran aground doing 21 knots!!

The 128-m Ro-Ro ferry 'Marco Polo', operated by Jadrolinija Rijeka and with 41 passengers and 64 crew, ran aground on the Croatian island of Sit on Oct. 24 at 0250 Local Time. No injuries reported. The accident has been attributed to human error. The vessel was on its regular Rijeka-Split-Dubrovnik-Barin service at the time.
[From Croatia Times Online - Correspondent Capt. Nebojsa Vukalovic, 27-10-09]

The shipmaster, second deck officer and two navigators of the Marco Polo have been blamed for the incident. Sibenik Maritime Safety Inspectors claim the 128-metre ferry was in good technical condition but ran aground on 24 October because crew members forgot to change its programmed route on the computer. They are now facing fines of between 1,000 kunas (137 Euros) and 30,000 kunas (4,000 Euros) and having their licences suspended for two years.



Local tugs only succeeded in moving the vessel 1.5 metres in the week following the grounding, she was finally refloated after a month by a salvage team from Rotterdam.

Ferry owner Jadrolinija paid a reported 1.15 million US dollars for the re-floating. The ferry has been anchored not far from the scene of the accident as experts examine damage. It will later be taken to shipyards in Mali Losinj.

According to the daily, the 36-year old ferry is insured for four million US dollars and its low-budget re-floating will probably cost one million US dollars +-so the ship may end up in the scrapyard.

But, the grounded ferry is not the only problem. Eighteen private cars are also trapped in the ferry, and their owners do not know when they will get them back.

Meanwhile, Marco Polo is being publicised as a tourist attraction because it is rare to see a ship "parked" on the island.

BalkanInsight.com - Oct 26, 2009



The people who live in the nearby white house inspect their new garden feature.

