

## Marine Safety Forum – Safety Flash 06-41

Issued: 16<sup>th</sup> October 2006

Subject: Dangerous Practice During Mooring Operations in Port

The following incident occurred when mooring an offshore survey vessel recently.

A vessel arrived at a port at 0100 hours. The first rope was sent ashore using a heaving line with a monkey's fist on the end. On receiving the heaving line, it was obvious that the monkey's fist was heavily weighted. The monkey's fist was looped onto the end of the heaving line so was confiscated by one of the linesmen. On investigation it was found that the knot was tied around a substantial lump of lead. The rope was wet and weighed in at 800 gms.

Below is the relevant extract from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seamen:

**25.3.2 Vessels' heaving lines should be constructed with a 'monkey's fist' at one end. To prevent personal injury, the 'fist' should be made only with rope and should not contain added weighting material.**

This is the second occurrence of this type and is a bad, old practice which most ports were under the impression had disappeared.

