

VALE COMMENT ON IO 92 Yangtze Fortune Fremantle to China March 2019

Personnel

IO SUMMARY: The observer noted that some of the crew were inexperienced and displayed some uncertainty when dealing with the cattle and took unnecessary risks, such as getting into the pens with “stirred-up” stock, to perform tasks that could have been performed from outside the pen, however, there were no animal welfare issues noted.

VALE COMMENT: did IO write “there were no animal welfare issues noted or did the Dept add this?”

Feed and water

IO SUMMARY: Two reverse osmosis desalination plants provided fresh drinking water to float activated water troughs located on the outside rails of the pens. On day 2 of the voyage, several floats were observed to be broken but the cattle still had access to water. The issue was raised at the daily management meeting and maintenance was carried out.

VALE COMMENT: water infrastructure issues on this ship AGAIN.

IO SUMMARY: At various times during the voyage the observer noted there were issues with the cleaning of water troughs. This issue was raised at the daily meetings and over the course of the voyage the cleaning regime improved.

VALE COMMENT: what happened before IOs present?

IO SUMMARY: The observer noted the cattle had adequate access to feed and water for the duration of the voyage.

VALE COMMENT: IO statement or Dept? Clearly water supply was not clean at some times.

Ventilation

IO SUMMARY: The average morning dry bulb temperature were 30°C, with an average humidity reading of 78%. On day 12 the temperatures dropped to 12°C as the voyage drew closer to its destination.

VALE COMMENT: this is a very significant temperature variation for cattle.

Pen conditions

IO SUMMARY: On day 3, around half of the pen pads on Deck 7 port side were observed to be wet and sloppy due to cattle chewing on the trough hoses and the hoses leaking. Corrective action was taken by the crew.

VALE COMMENT: hose issues been noted before on this vessel

IO SUMMARY: On day 4, some pads were observed to be very wet and sloppy as rain had leaked into the pens. The crew made repairs, cleaned the pens and applied sawdust.

VALE COMMENT: usual voyage risk

Health and Welfare

IO SUMMARY: Sixty percent of treatments were for injuries and lameness, whilst the other 40% were for Bovine Respiratory Disease. Heavy fat cattle may have been predisposed to lameness.

IO SUMMARY: There were 6 mortalities during the voyage. Two non-importing country protocol cattle were inadvertently loaded and were required to be euthanised. An animal was euthanised when it was unable to be unloaded and another was smothered to death during the discharge. Three other cattle died during the voyage due to causes including a suspected lung disorder and from unknown causes.

VALE COMMENT: two out of spec animals is not acceptable.

Discharge

IO SUMMARY: At the time of discharge the observer noted that drinker valves were not turning off which caused a large amount of water to spill into the pens onto the pads of other cattle and into walkways and areas of work. The master assured the observer the valves would all be replaced.

VALE COMMENT: but did AMSA or the Dept check? We are guessing they didn't.

Representative photographs of the voyage

Some very fat and heavy cattle on this voyage.