

VALE COMMENT on IO 180: Yangtze Harmony, Townsville to Vietnam in September 2019

Feed and water

IO SUMMARY: The water supply was constant with one exception at 12:10am on day 10. At that time there was no water on all eight decks while maintenance crew shut down water for approximately two hours to repair a valve in the water pump. The observer checked again at 6:00am and confirmed that water supply was back on to all decks. There were no adverse health and welfare effects on the cattle observed.

VALE COMMENT: how long was the entire ship deprived of water? 6 hours?

Ventilation

IO SUMMARY: Fixed dry bulb and wet bulb thermometers located on Deck 7 and sling psychrometer readings were taken daily across all decks at 8:30am. These 8:30am temperatures were observed to be approximately 1 °C lower than the hottest part of day.

VALE COMMENT: as VALE suspected and brings into question why temperatures are taken early morning and not during the hottest part of the day.

IO SUMMARY: The maximum deck temperature during the voyage was 30 °C wet bulb, 80% humidity at 4:00pm on day 12 in the South China Sea.

VALE COMMENT: appears to have been mild conditions for *Bos indicus* cattle

Pen conditions

IO SUMMARY: Pen densities were in accordance with, or lower than, ASEL requirements, with most cattle able to lie down simultaneously in their pens.

VALE COMMENT: unusual

Health and welfare

IO SUMMARY: Four mortalities were attributed to pneumonia, one to bloat, one to misadventure during the sea voyage, and one to inanition whilst in a sick pen after the vessel had berthed at the destination port.

VALE COMMENT: it is poor for cattle to die of inanition – if this animal was not eating and actually died, one assumes it must have been in poor health for some time ie why wasn't euthanasia performed (especially as discharge is stressful and may not even have been possible)?

IO SUMMARY: In general, the livestock displayed no stress indicators such as open-mouth panting or vocalisation; however, four of the heavy bulls occasionally had elevated rates of breathing, probably due to heat conditions at the time. All these four bulls were discharged without appearing to have lost condition.

VALE COMMENT: despite relatively mild conditions, 4 bulls showed heat stress.

IO SUMMARY: An estimated 95% of cattle appeared to at least hold their condition throughout the voyage, with a proportion gaining weight.

VALE COMMENT: presumably 5% actually lost weight but this was not discussed.