

Captain faces 'drunkenness at sea' charge

A Swedish court on Thursday charged the captain of a Dutch ship with "aggravated drunkenness at sea" after the vessel ran aground this month near the southwestern port of Helsingborg.

Andrey Sharafonenko, a 44-year-old Ukrainian, was arrested on Aug. 13, shortly after the 85-metre *Flinterforest* ran aground in the Oeresund strait that separates Denmark and Sweden.

Court documents said Sharafonenko was at least twice over the legal limit for navigating, which is 0.1 milligrams of alcohol per litre of breath.

Police had at the time said his alcohol level, as measured by a breath test, was four times over the limit.

The court said it charged the captain with "aggravated" drunkenness after considering he was working in conditions that demanded his full attention, that the Oeresund is a tight passage with heavy traffic, and that the way he commanded the ship "posed a significant risk to safety at sea."