

This ship probably darkened Bornholm

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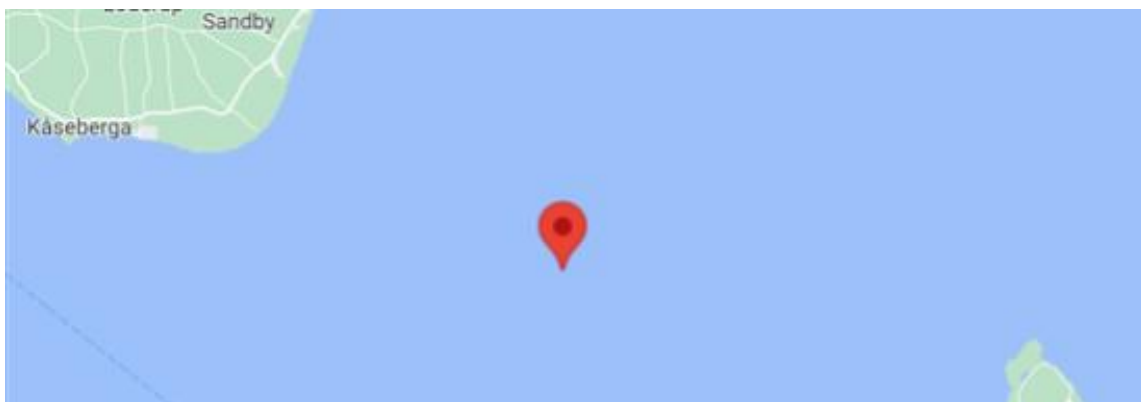
Photo: UNI-TANKERS

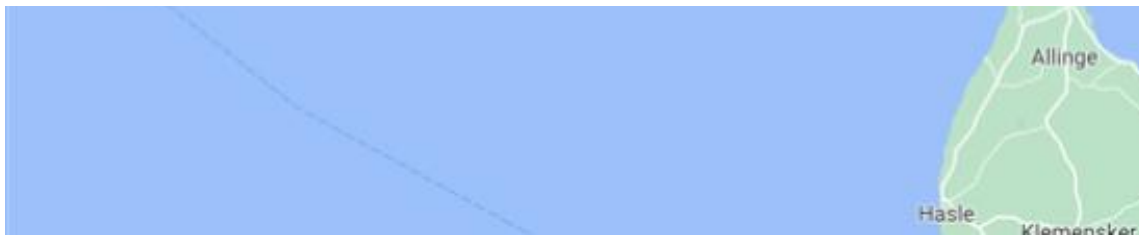
It was probably the tanker Samus Swan that caused the damage to the submarine cable, which nine days ago made Bornholm go black. The ship's Danish shipping company confirms that the ship is involved, that the crew has been questioned and that they are currently cooperating with the authorities in the case.

By: William Husted

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On 26 February 2022 at 06.15, the tanker Samus Swan was in the waters between Bornholm and Sweden on a southbound course. It shows raw data from the AIS system, which TV 2 / Bornholm has analyzed. The same morning at 06.17, the power went out on the whole of Bornholm.





Here is the tanker Samus Swan's position on Saturday 26 February at 06.15. Energinet has published a largely identical position for the damage to the submarine cable, which led to a total power failure at 06.17.

The shipping company confirmed to TV 2 / Bornholm on Monday that their cargo ship Samus Swan is involved in the current case regarding damage to the submarine cable, which subsequently caused the whole of Bornholm to go black.

- We can confirm that the vessel passed the island around the time of the power outage. As the potential involvement was not known, the vessel continued its voyage. When they arrived in Rotterdam, the Dutch authorities visited the ship, and asked the crew to see if there was any potential involvement. We work together, and that is where we are at the moment, says Cor Radings, spokesman for the Danish shipping company Uni-Tankers, which is headquartered in Middelfart.

- I can say that we cooperate with both Danish and international authorities in relation to the alleged involvement in relation to the power outage on Bornholm, says Cor Radings.

What exactly happened that Saturday morning, the shipping company can not comment on, but at Energinet, which is now in the process of re-establishing the power, it is estimated that the damage to the submarine cable is due to an anchor or fishing gear .

- There are still questions as to whether the ship was directly involved or not. Some of the details in relation to the accident are not clear yet, so it would be too early for me to speculate on what happened, says Cor Radings.

Ship was on its way from Latvia to Rotterdam

According to Uni-Tanker's website, the tanker Samus Swan is a chemical and oil tanker that sails under the Maltese flag. The ship is 105.5 meters long and 16.8 meters wide and was built in 2009.

Early on the morning of February 26, Samus Swan was on his way from Ventspils in Latvia to Rotterdam in the Netherlands, according to the spokesman. In this connection, it passed Bornholm in a southerly direction. When it reached Rotterdam, the crew was questioned by the local Dutch authorities at Danish instigation.

- I can confirm that we are in contact with the authorities in relation to the alleged involvement in the case, and I can also confirm that the vessel was in the area. That's how far I can go at the moment in respect of the

and I can also confirm that the vessel was in the area. That's how far I can go at the moment in respect of the authorities, says Cor Radings and says that the company wants to wait for the authorities' investigations and conclusions.

After the power failure, Energinet stated that the damage to the submarine cable had occurred in an area 17 kilometers from Sweden and 26 kilometers from Bornholm. This corresponds to a position in the southern part of the transport corridor that separates ship traffic in the waters between Sweden and Bornholm.

Using historical AIS data from MarineTraffic.com, TV 2 / Bornholm has since been able to identify the tanker Samus Swan, which at the time of the power failure is located exactly where there is now damage to the submarine cable.

Energinet is currently repairing the damage, and in this connection they have previously stated that the case could end with a huge claim for compensation for the ship and shipping company that is to blame for the damage.

- To compare, I can say that a similar damage to a larger submarine cable cost around 100 million kroner. This is going to be a little cheaper, said Steffan Ladegaard Morrison, department manager at Energinet, to TV 2 / Bornholm on 28 February.

Asked whether the company has found damage to Samus Swan, the spokesman answers:

- We have made some assessments, but they have not been completed yet.