

OVERVIEW OF MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION IN THE UNITED STATES



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NTSB

- Created in 1967 by the Independent Safety Board Act
- Investigates:
 - › All aviation accidents
 - › Major marine accidents
 - › Serious rail, pipeline and hazardous material accidents
 - › Highway and bridge accidents

USCG

- In 1838, began investigating marine accidents as the “Steamboat Inspection Service”
- Investigates:
 - › Any accident involving commercial vessels, including major marine accidents

Major marine accidents

- Six or more lives lost
- Total loss of a self-propelled vessel of 100 gross tons
- More than \$500,000 in property damage
- Serious threat from the release of hazardous materials
- Generally, 30 to 50 per year occur

NTSB

- NTSB reports directly to Congress
- 5 NTSB Board members are appointed by the President
- NTSB Office of Marine Safety currently has 17 staff members based in Washington, D.C.
- Conducts about 12 marine safety investigations per year

USCG

- USCG reports to Department of Homeland Security
- Commandant is appointed by the President
- 35 USCG Sectors throughout the U.S. have a total of about 200 investigators
- Conducts about 5,000 marine casualty investigations per year

NTSB

- The independent investigation body
- Conducts only safety investigations
- Concentrates on serious accidents
- Determines probable cause
- Issues safety recommendations
- Does not maintain trend statistics for all marine casualties

USCG

- The regulator – responsible for inspections, vessel and port safety, etc.
- Conducts safety, personnel action, and civil penalty investigations
- Determines cause and issues safety recommendations
- Maintains trend statistics for all marine casualties

NTSB and USCG

- Cooperate to ensure the best outcome in every case
- Investigate accidents together whenever possible
- Maintain a Memorandum of Understanding regarding marine accident investigation to facilitate day to day operations

NTSB and USCG

- Support the MAIIF motto “Maritime Safety through Investigation and Cooperation”
- Hope to see you at MAIIF 18 in Cyprus !
- Wish you a safe journey home.