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CASE STUDY ON MARINE ACCIDENTS OCCURRED IN VTS AREAS

ABSTRACT

During the last decade, it became necessary to create alternative routes for sustainability of safe maritime trade. As a result, alternative routes are increasing day by day, in large marine areas such as open seas and oceans, by evaluating the safety of navigation and the economic efficiency of maritime trade. The other way to make safety sustainable in the growing maritime trade is to provide safer navigation on existing routes. To this end, national/international organizations are developing legal regulations and technological developments being adapted to the maritime industry.

One of the most important safety providers is Vessel Traffic Services (VTS), especially since alternative routes are not possible in narrow channels and restricted waterways. VTSs have started to spread all over the world since the late 90s. Today, VTSs are working in more than forty different sea areas and contributing to navigation safety. Despite all the technological developments and legal regulations, however, marine accidents continue to occur especially in narrow channels and restricted waterways. One of the reasons for this is the human interaction between the VTS employees and the vessels involved in the accident. In this study, 3 cases of collisions and 1 case of grounding, in which VTS actions/attitudes were involved in the accident between 2005-2015, were examined with an expert group of 5 persons. Causes and causal factors have been revealed. As a result, recommendations have been identified to improve actual VTS.

Keywords: Vessel Traffic Services (VTS), Maritime Surveillance, Sea Traffic Management

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