European Maritime Safety Agency Tallies 3,145 Marine Casualties and Incidents in 2016

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Damage to the City of Rotterdam after colliding with the Danish-flagged Primula Seaways on the River Humber on December, 3, 2015. Photo: MAIB

The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) has released its annual overview of marine casualties and incidents involving European-registered ships for the year 2016, showing there were 106 reported fatalities, 957 persons injured, 26 ships lost and 123 investigations launched during the year.

In total, EU Member States reported 3,145 marine casualties and incidents in 2016. Since 2014, the EMSA notes in their report that the number of reported accidents seems to have stabilized at around 3,200 occurrences per year.

"While the number of very serious and serious marine casualties and incidents remained at levels similar to previous years, a limited but continuing increase of less serious accidents reported was noted. However, some underreporting of marine casualties and incidents appears still to exist, although there has been continuous improvement since the implementation of the relevant EU legislation in 2011. Estimates indicate that under-reporting relates mostly to the less serious casualties and incidents," the annual overview report stated.

EMSA began tracking incidents and casualties in 2011 with the launch of the European Marine Casualty Information Platform (EMCIP). Since then, the total number reported in EMCIP has reached 16,500.

"Over the period 2011-2016, half of the casualties were of a navigational nature, such as contacts, grounding/stranding or collision. Amongst occupational accidents, 40% were attributed to slipping, stumbling and falling of persons. Human erroneous action represented 60% of accidental events and 71% of accidental events