



Bundesstelle für Seeunfalluntersuchung

Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation

Federal Higher Authority subordinated to the Ministry of Transport,
Building and Digital Infrastructure

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Press Release 13/17

The Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation (BSU) hereby gives notice that the Annual Report 2016 was published today. Upon request the report will be forwarded. Alternatively this report – as well as all previous reports – is available on http://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/Publications/Jahresstatistik/Jahresstatistik_node.html and can be downloaded.

This Annual Report is more extensive than the former reports. On the occasion of the 15 anniversary of the BSU, the investigators get the chance to explain their work as authentically as possible.

In 2016, a total of 469 (previous year: 510) accidents and incidents were reported to the BSU, 221 (268) of which were to be classified as marine casualties. 5 (previous year: 8) fell within the category “very serious marine casualty” with fatal consequences, total loss or serious environmental pollution. Moreover 7 (previous year: 16) serious marine casualties and 209 (previous year: 244) less serious casualties were reported. The number of notifications with respect to merchant shipping decreased in 2016 and the notifications for leisure craft decreased again this year.

In 2016, 4 very serious marine casualties with a total of 5 fatalities occurred in merchant shipping, 3 of which occurred on or with fishing vessels and claimed the lives of 4 people. With 121 notifications, collisions between ships or ships with objects, locks, accounted again for the most frequent type of accident.

In 2016, the BSU concluded 11 investigations with the publication of an investigation report. Moreover, the BSU published 11 interim investigation reports and prepared 9 internal investigation reports. On 31 December 2016, 28 investigations were still ongoing.

The investigations and the final investigation reports of the BSU do not serve to apportion blame or to clarify liability issues. They shall not sanction but instead give incentives for the prevention of future accidents and include all parties involved in a safety partnership.

All investigation reports and safety recommendations published by the BSU, sorted by the year of publication, are available on the website www.bsu-bund.de.

Ulf Kaspera
Director