



Bundesstelle für Seeunfalluntersuchung Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation

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On 12 December 2019, the Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation (BSU) published the interim investigation report about the loss of containers of the MSC ZOE in the Traffic Separation Scheme – German Bight – on 1 and 2 January 2019. The interim investigation report provides information on the subject, the course and the current state of the investigation.

The report is available on

https://www.bsu-bund.de/DE/Publikationen/Unfallberichte/Unfallberichte_node.html

for download.

Very serious marine casualty – loss of containers MSC ZOE

In the night of 1 to 2 January 2019, the Panama flagged MSC ZOE, laden with 8062 containers, lost 342 containers in the Traffic Separation Scheme Terschelling – German Bight in the North Sea in heavy swell. Due to the fall, the containers were largely destroyed in the swell and foundered in the coastal sea. Cargo remnants were washed on the Frisian Islands. For this purpose, the affected area was searched with side-scan sonars. 297 containers could be found in the Netherlands and 45 in Germany. On the MSC ZOE, no lubricants and bunkers escaped and nobody was harmed. In the Netherlands, the cleanup is still going on.

Panama as Flag State was designated as Lead Investigation State for the investigation of the cause of the accident by mutual agreement and the Netherlands and Germany as involved Coastal States. The accident investigation bodies agreed upon a collaborative procedure. The Flag State Panama carries out an on-board investigation. DSB deals with questions regarding the voyage planning for comparable ships and the

BSU with the ship's behavior. Several expert opinions were commissioned. Results are to be expected in spring next year.

All investigation reports, safety recommendations and other information published by the BSU are available on

<https://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/Publications>.

Ulf Kaspera
Director