



# MARINE CASUALTIES AND INCIDENTS

PRELIMINARY ANNUAL OVERVIEW  
OF MARINE CASUALTIES  
AND INCIDENTS 2014-2019

March 2020

## Foreword

Based on reports received from the national accident investigation bodies of the EU, 2019 was a positive year for maritime safety, with a 9% reduction in the overall number of accidents and a 40% reduction in the number of fatalities, when compared with the average over the past six years. There was also a 10% reduction in the number of persons injured.

While the number of passenger vessels involved in marine accidents remained stable in 2019, the number of ships in all other categories of accidents fell. This was particularly significant for cargo ships, which experienced a 17% drop compared to 2018.

Over the period 2014-2019, almost half the casualties to ships were navigational in nature, including contact, collision and grounding or stranding.

About one third of all the marine casualties recorded were occupational accidents, i.e. affecting only persons. Of these, the main cause was stumbling and falling, which accounted for 35% of all cases.

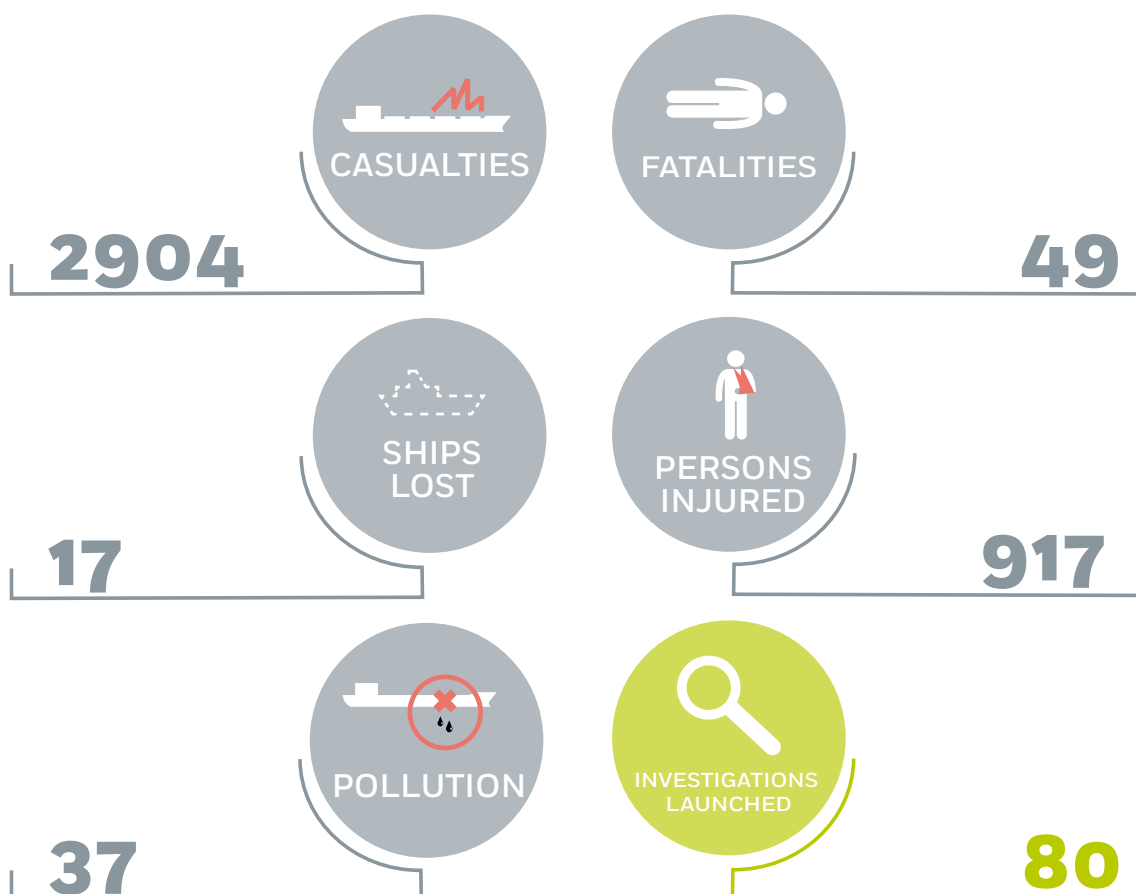
57% of the ships lost over the period were fishing vessels.

On a more positive note, pollution resulting from marine casualties has also dropped significantly since 2015. It fell by almost half from 2018 to 2019.

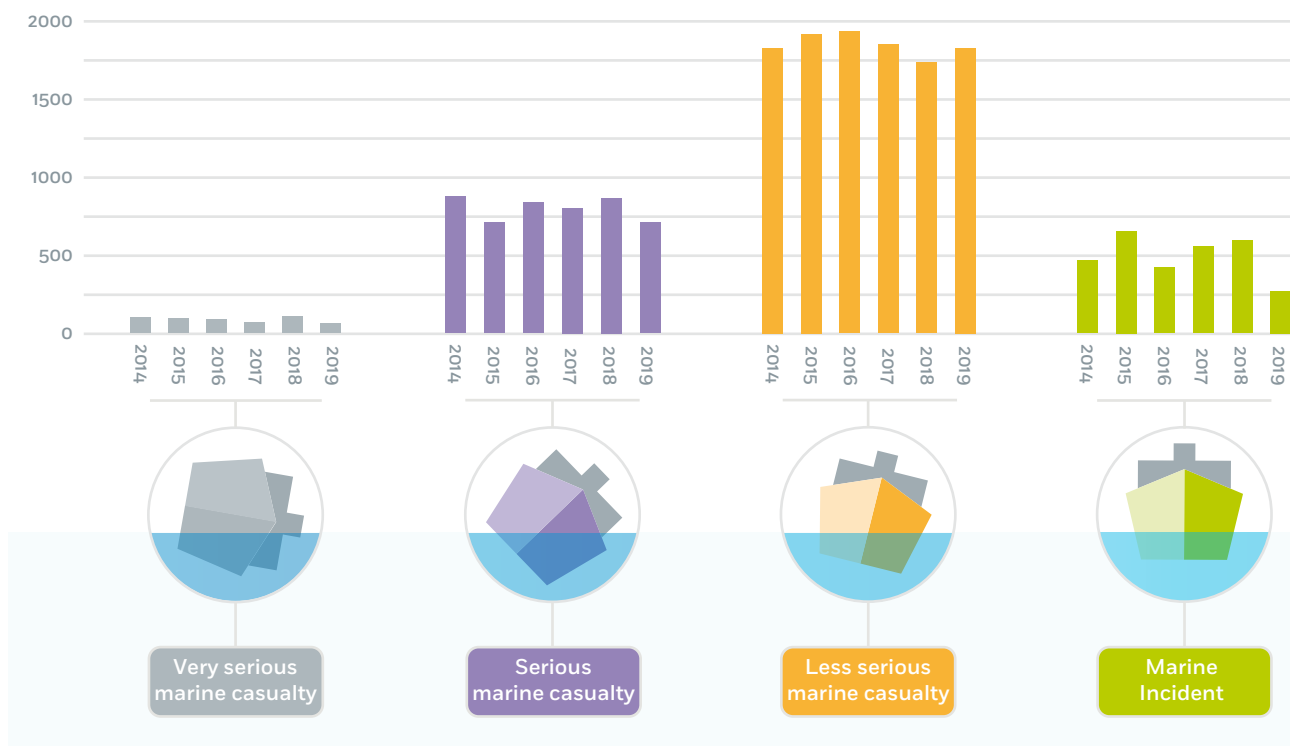
Accident investigation bodies of the EU have launched approximately 800 investigations in the past six years, of which 627 have been concluded. This has led to 1780 safety recommendations mainly targeting the area of Ship Related Procedures.

Before the end of each year, EMSA prepares the "Annual Overview of Marine Casualties and Incidents" publication, which gives much more detailed information on the statistics gathered from the accident investigation bodies of the EU.

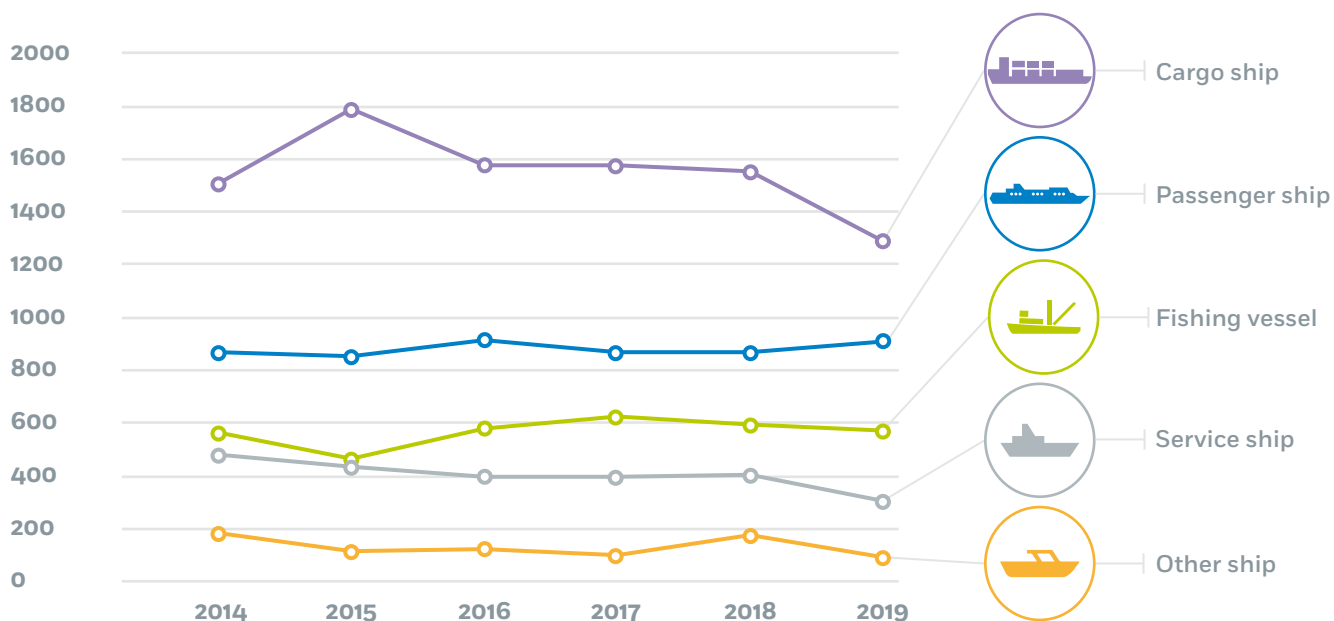
## Overview of key figures for 2019



## Severity of marine casualties and incidents

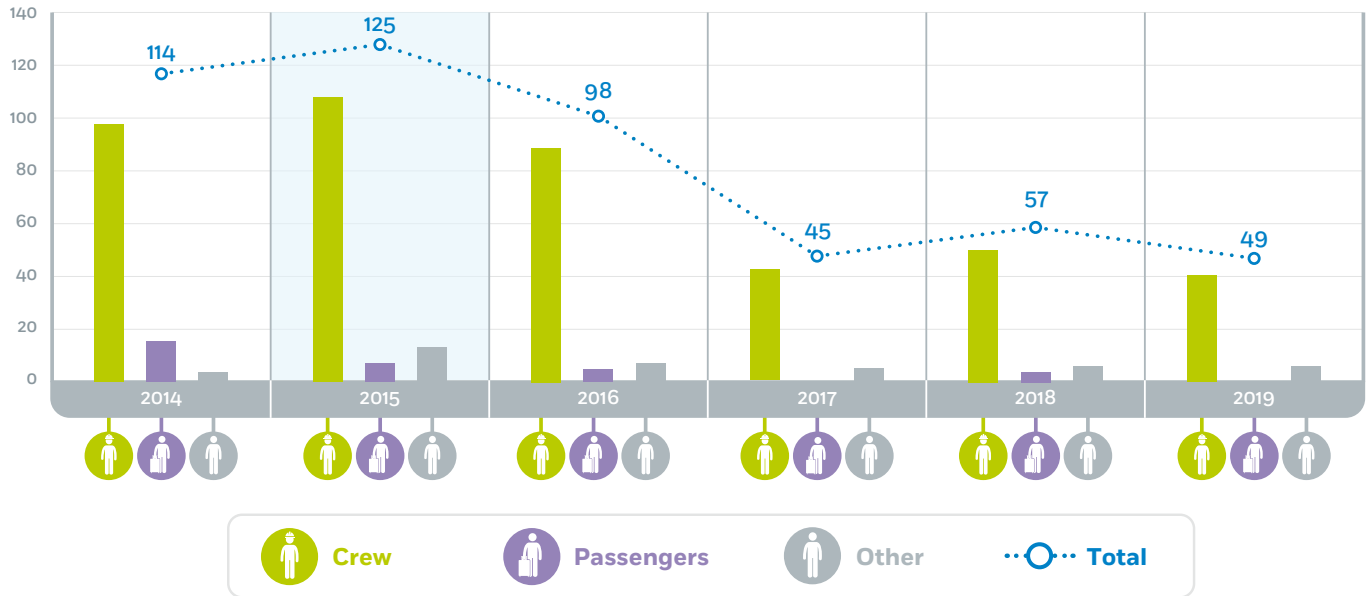


## Ship types involved

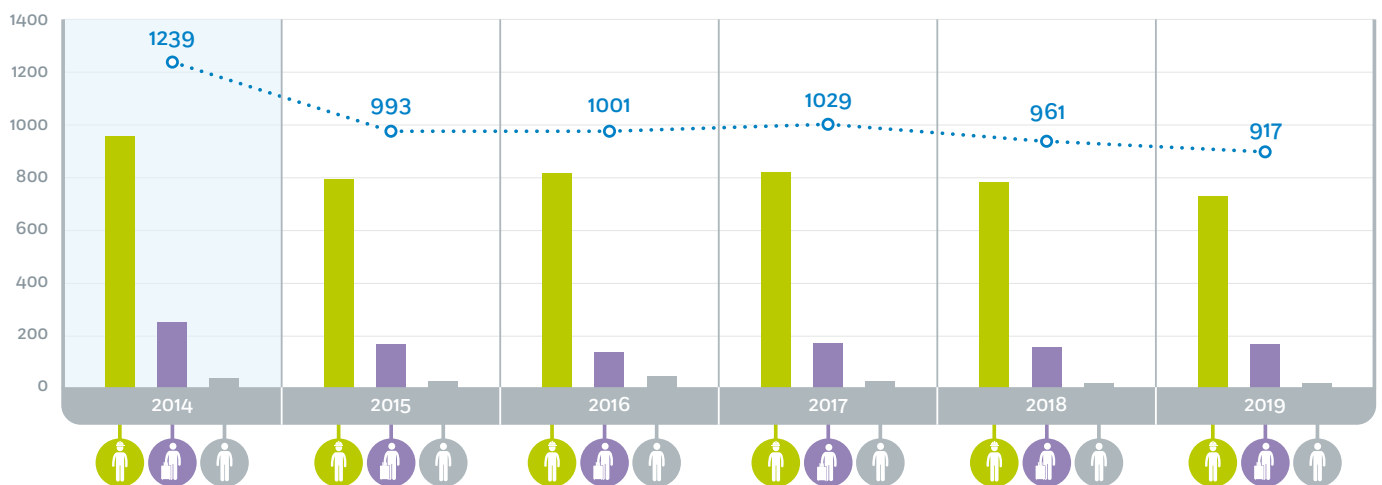


# Consequences to persons

## Fatalities



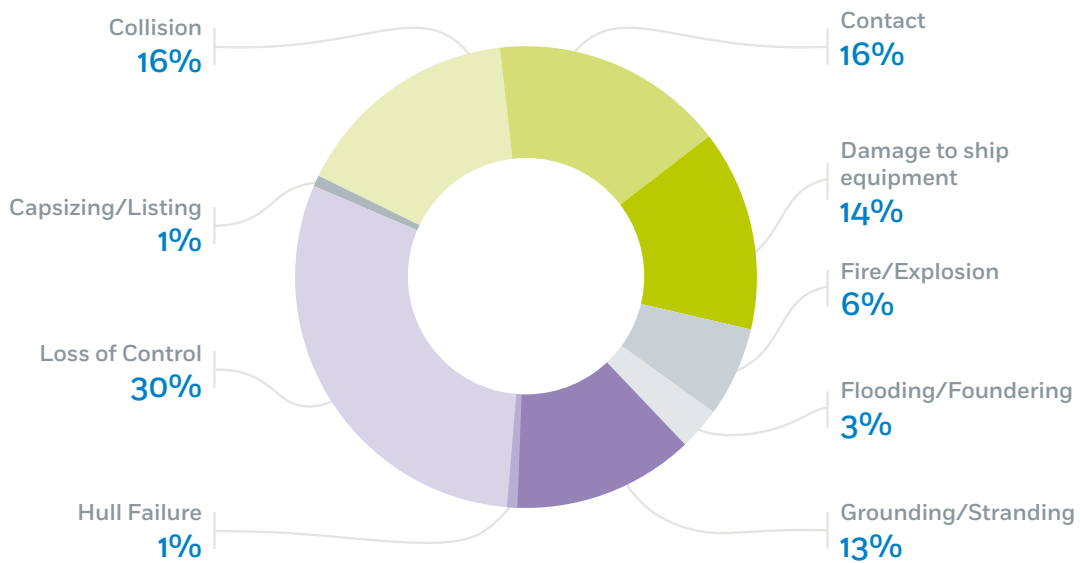
## Injuries



MN Bourbon Rhode departed Las Palmas on 18/09/2019 for Georgetown (Guyana) with 14 persons on board. The vessel was in transit at 1200 nautical miles off Martinique island and 60 nautical miles South-South East from the eye of category 4 hurricane Lorenzo. On 26/09/2019 at 08:01 UTC the vessel reported a situation of distress as it was taking on water in the engine room. Three members of the crew were rescued on 28/09/2019 and they confirmed that the vessel sank on 26/09/2019. Eleven crew members are still missing.



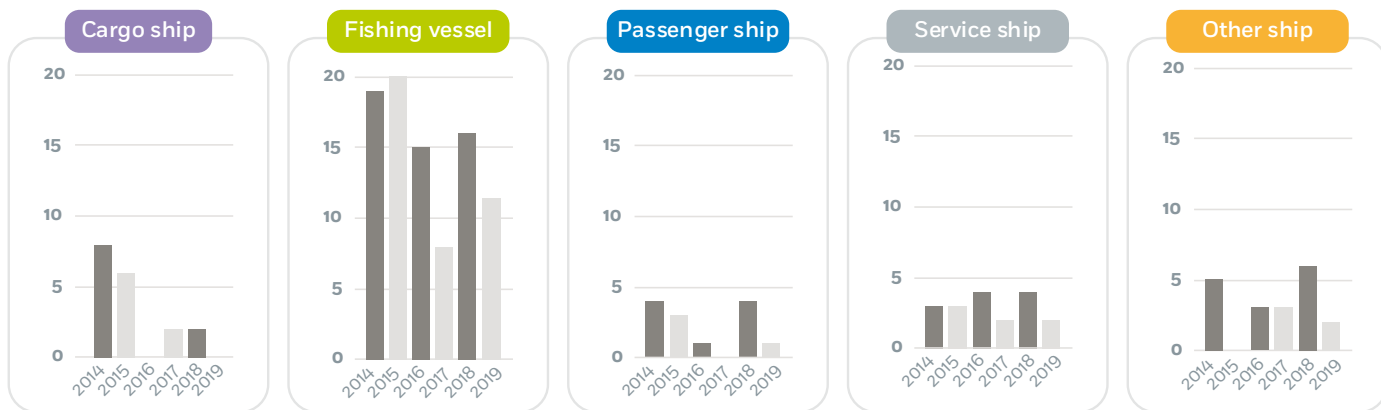
## Causes of accidents to ships



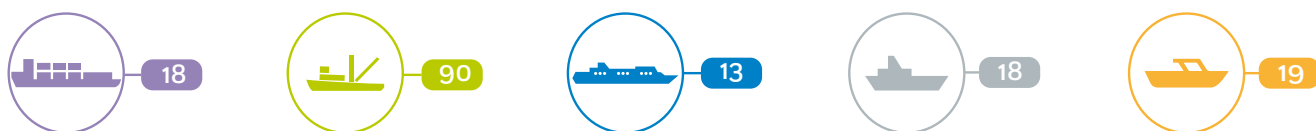
## Causes of accidents to persons

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Body movement under or with physical stress	68	62	84	87	131	103	↓
Body movement without any physical stress	237	289	281	216	221	267	↑
Breakage, bursting, splitting, fall, collapse of material agent	110	102	76	80	80	69	↓
Deviation by overflow, overturn, leak, flow, vaporisation, emission	56	68	48	35	43	37	↓
Deviation due to electrical problems, explosion, fire	21	23	21	10	14	7	↓
Loss of control of machine, means of transport, handling equipment	227	224	195	237	194	135	↓
Slipping - Stumbling and falling - Fall of persons	544	552	555	591	537	437	↓
Other / Unspecified	115	156	189	201	165	182	↑

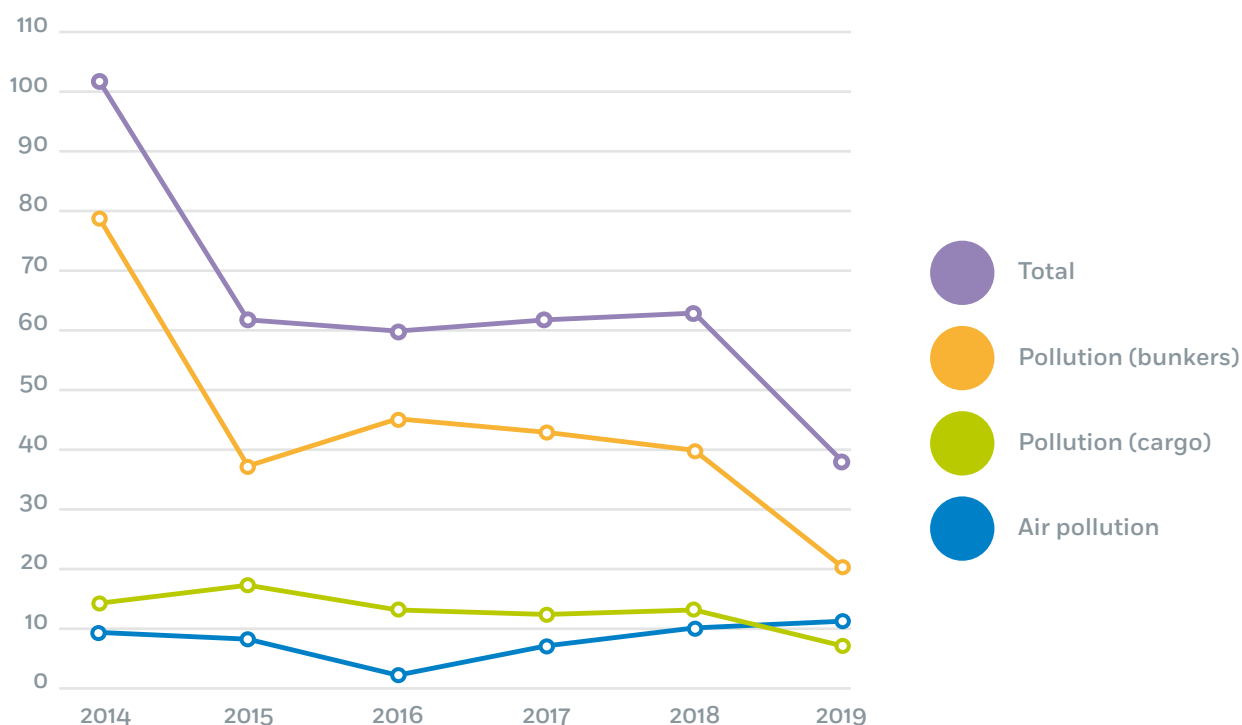
# Loss of ships



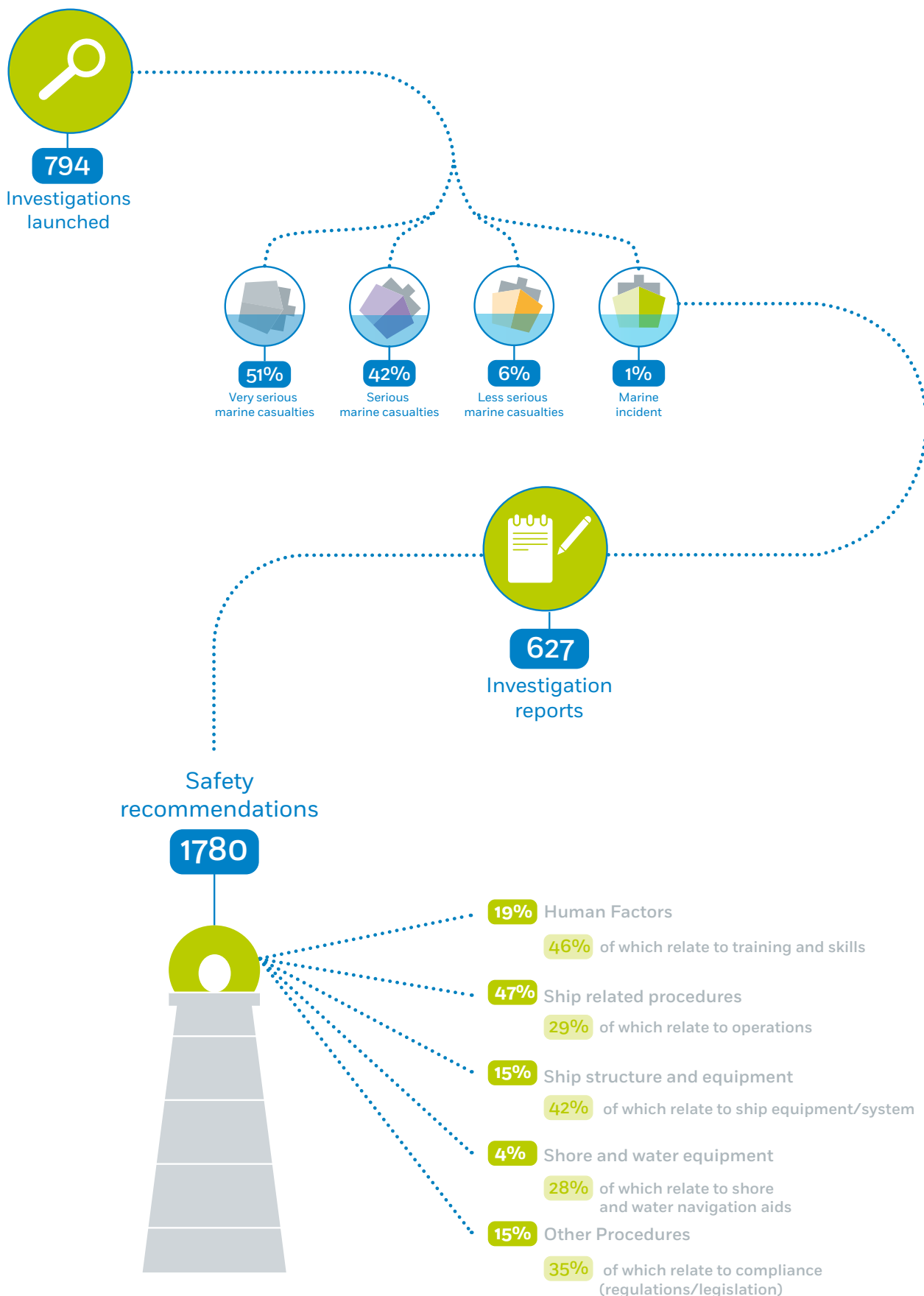
## Total losses of ships 2014-2019

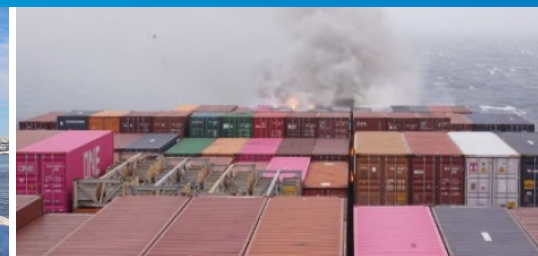
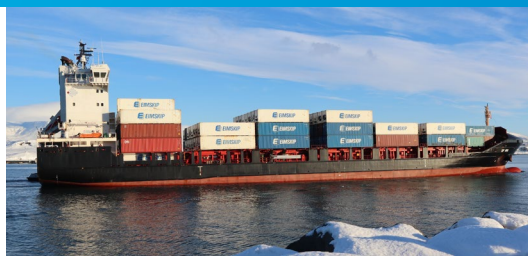


# Pollutions resulting from marine accidents



# Investigations launched and safety recommendations





## ABOUT THE EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY

The European Maritime Safety Agency is one of the European Union's decentralised agencies. Based in Lisbon, the Agency's mission is to ensure a high level of maritime safety, maritime security, prevention of and response to pollution from ships, as well as response to marine pollution from oil and gas installations. The overall purpose is to promote a safe, clean and economically viable maritime sector in the EU.

Cover image: On the night of January 1, 2019, MSC ZOE lost approximately 342 containers in heavy weather on the journey from Portugal to Bremerhaven.

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Photo credits: NL/DSB – LU/AET – PT/GAMA – Hapag Lloyd

## ABOUT CASUALTY DATA AND EMCIP

This publication contains statistics on marine casualties and incidents that: involve ships flying a flag of one of the EU Member States; occur within EU Member States' territorial sea and internal waters; or involve other substantial interests of the EU Member States.

The figures presented provide a general overview of the safety of maritime transport in the scope of European interests.

More detailed information can be found at:

[www.emsa.europa.eu/accident-investigation-publications.html](http://www.emsa.europa.eu/accident-investigation-publications.html)

and at:

[www.portal.emsa.europa.eu/emcip-public/#/public-occurrences](http://www.portal.emsa.europa.eu/emcip-public/#/public-occurrences)

[emsa.europa.eu](http://emsa.europa.eu)

### Get in touch for more information

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