

LEARNING FROM RO-RO FERRY ACCIDENTS

Over a seven year period 3 236 casualties and incidents involving ro-ro vessels were reported by accident investigation bodies into the European Marine Casualty Information Platform. Drawing lessons from this data is the objective of EMSA's latest [safety analysis](#) which focuses specifically on the investigations involving ro-ro vessels. As many as 439 safety recommendations were made following the investigated accidents, one fifth of which were fire related. The [main findings of the safety analysis](#) highlight several areas in which the safety levels of this popular ship type could be improved. Situational awareness, working practices and properly securing vehicles are some of the areas pinpointed.



USERS EXPLORE HOW RPAS FLIGHTS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The first RPAS User Group took place in EMSA on 10 October and gathered 16 member state participants as well as EASA, EFCA and Frontex. The objective of the event was to allow users to present how Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) are able to contribute to their operational activities, as well as to review [RPAS capabilities](#), share the procedures for requesting EMSA's RPAS service, and to gather lessons learned and suggestions for the future. The interesting range of presentations contributed significantly to the success of the event. The RPAS user group meeting will take place regularly to exchange the various experiences and to streamline the RPAS services provided by EMSA and tailor these to the needs of the member states. EMSA recently started and is continuing to provide four RPAS services in parallel to its European users: general maritime surveillance in Croatia, Portugal and Spain; and emissions monitoring in Greece.



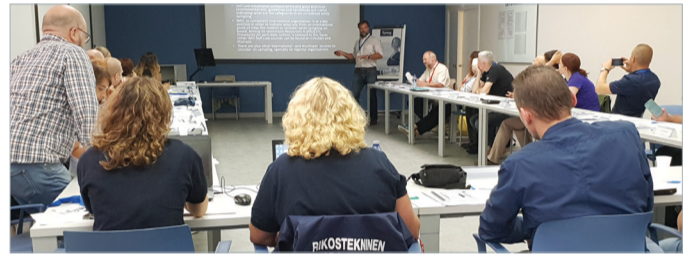
STRONG RISE IN USE OF EMSA'S INTEGRATED MARITIME SERVICES

EMSA's integrated maritime services for member states have grown steadily since they officially went live in 2015, recently hitting the 1 400 user mark, as noted at the bi-annual IMS User Consultation Meeting on 24 October. IMS users belong to more than 160 different national authorities within EU and EFTA member states. The service integrates data from many of EMSA's valuable data sources (satellite-AIS, SafeSeaNet, Copernicus, CleanSeaNet, LRIT and Thetis), creates an added-value knowledge based maritime picture at a global level, and provides [Automated Behaviour Monitoring](#) tools, covering the needs of cross sectoral and cross-border users. IMS participants at the meeting emphasised their support to the continuous development of IMS functionalities (collaborative chat tool and SAR drift modelling components) and highlighted their satisfaction at the different platforms made available for the [IMS service](#) (SEG, IMS mobile app and system-to-system).



EMSA HOLDS FIRST OIL SPILL SAMPLING COURSE IN SPAIN WITH SASEMAR

EMSA organised a two-day training session on oil spill sampling, which was attended by 23 participants and six trainers from EU/EFTA member states on 19-20 September, under the framework of the Consultative Technical Group for Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response (CTG-MPPR). The course was designed to facilitate the exchange of expertise and knowledge as well as to extend cooperation among experts. The focus was the various oil spill sampling procedures used in Europe, based on existing practices, and the training addressed operational, practical and legal elements of oil spill sampling, including a demonstration of national 'sampling kits' and practical exercises. Proper technique and specialised equipment is critical to collect forensic evidence for litigation. This was the first training course on oil spill sampling organised by EMSA, hosted by Sasemar, and took place at the Jovellanos Training Centre near Gijón, Spain. The centre's facilities were ideal for sampling practice from small boats and of real oil. Oil sampling was also practiced on board a Sasemar vessel in the port of Gijón. [See the video here.](#)



WORKSHOP ADDRESSES STCW MARITIME EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

On 29 October, EMSA organised a workshop on maritime education, training and certification which drew in 41 participants from 22 member states, Norway and the European Commission. The focus was on three topics: the [STCW information system](#) (STCW-IS) [seafarers' statistical review](#); the digitalisation of STCW certificates; and, the horizontal analysis (mid-cycle) of Directive 2008/106/EC. The process involved in developing and maintaining the STCW-IS and in reviewing and analysing its data was discussed with a view to making best use of the information available. Participants agreed that there is potential for the STCW-IS to more effectively support EU policies for education, training and certification of seafarers. The presentation on the digitalisation of STCW certificates by the Danish Maritime Authority resulted in a long exchange of views among the participants. It appears that some are already working on the development of similar systems. Finally, the participants reflected that some realities governed by the STCW Convention have changed given industry developments, and that therefore EMSA horizontal analyses could help to catalyse proposals for regulatory change both at EU and at IMO level.

EMSA WELCOMES A DELEGATION FROM THE PORTUGUESE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND SEA

On 24 October a delegation of 14 MPs from the Committee on Agriculture and Sea of the Portuguese Parliament led by Mr Joaquim Barreto (President of the Committee) and Mr João Dias (Vice-president) paid a visit to EMSA. During the visit, Markku Mylly presented EMSA's tasks and activities, and discussed topics of mutual interest. A visit to the [Maritime Support Services](#) control room gave the MPs the opportunity to discover first-hand the full range of maritime monitoring systems, such as the Integrated Maritime Services provided by EMSA as well as the [RPAS surveillance operations](#) currently available for member states.



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VACANCIES: Officer for the RPAS Data Centre (deadline: 12/11/2018)

PROCUREMENT: Call for expression of interest for the setting up of a database of external experts (deadline: 19/12/2020); see website for more.