



**National  
Transportation  
Safety Board**

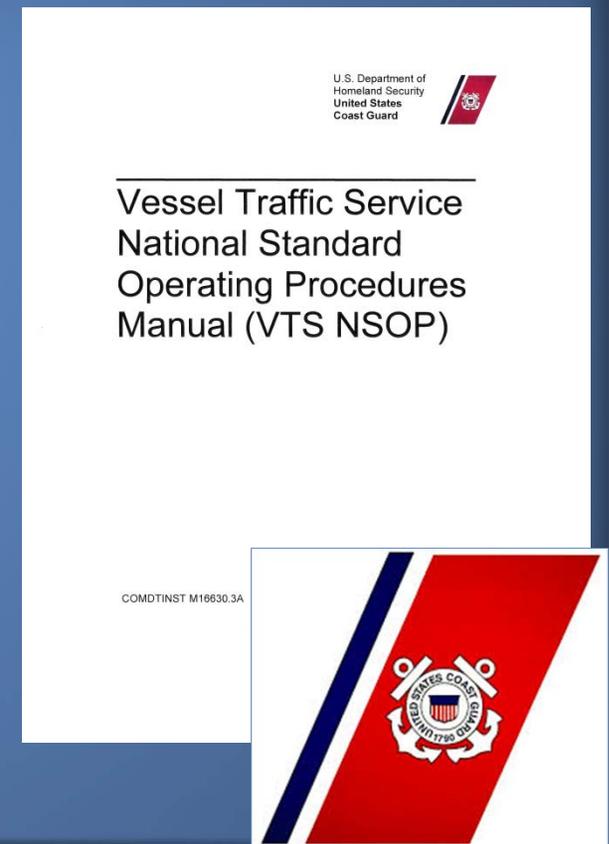
# An Assessment of the Effectiveness of the US Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) System

James H. Ritter

Director, Office of Research and Engineering

# Coast Guard VTS System

- Surveillance and communications system
- Reduce collisions, allisions, and groundings
- 12 VTS centers







# NTSB Interest in VTS

- In 1972, the NTSB published a special study in response to the *Arizona Standard* and *Oregon Standard* accident
- Since then, NTSB has issued numerous recommendations in support of the Coast Guard's use of VTS to promote vessel safety

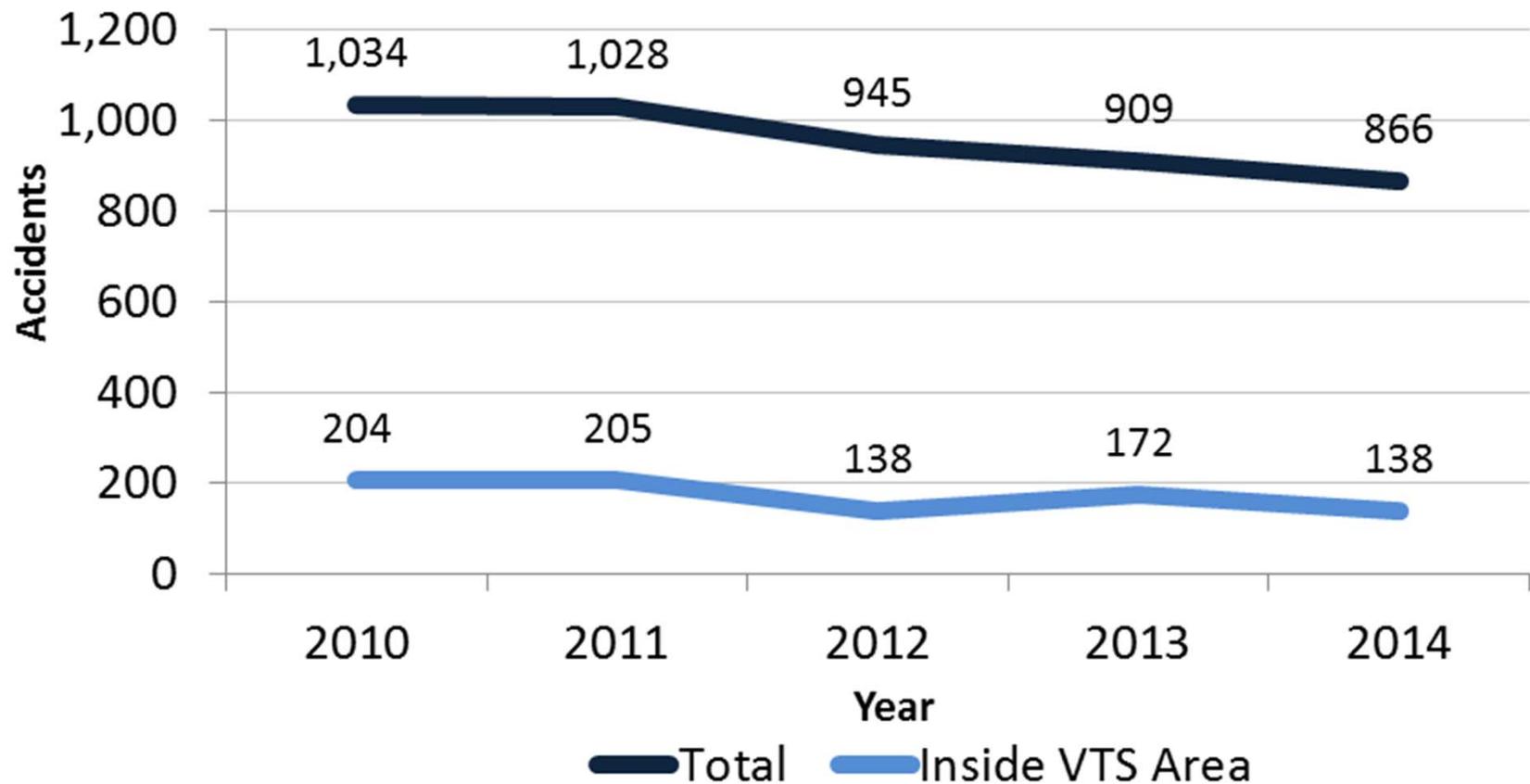
# Purpose

- Assess the effectiveness of the Coast Guard VTS system reducing the risk of collisions, allisions, and groundings
- Evaluate the need for safety improvements

# Methods

- Analysis of accident, vessel movement, and VTS center data
- Review of procedures, documents, and training
- VTS watchstander survey
- VTS center visits and interviews
- Stakeholder comments
- Comparison with international guidelines and foreign counterparts

## Collisions, Allisions, and Groundings Involving Vessels Meeting the Requirements of a VTS User, 2010-2014



# Safety Issue Areas

- Application of VTS authority
- VTS watchstander training and qualification
- Safety risk management

# NTSB Staff

Eric Emery

Loren Groff

Kathleen Curry

Rob Jones

Morgan Turrell

Nathan Doble

Ivan Cheung

Christy Spangler

Jesus Cudemus

Robert Dodd

Mike Brown

## Organizational Assistance

US Coast Guard headquarters, sector, and VTS center personnel



# National Transportation Safety Board