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

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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
Safety Issue Areas

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

US Coast Guard headquarters, sector, and VTS center personnel