

## **Closing Statement**

In closing, I would like to recognize the hard work of the NTSB staff in this investigation. I also want to thank my colleagues for good debate and discussion. I would especially like to thank Member Dinh-Zarr for serving as the Board member on scene in Jacksonville.

Studying the sinking of the *El Faro* is like following a storm as it develops: At first just a potential problem, then looming trouble, and finally, tragically, the disaster itself. The difference is, unlike storms, we humans can make conscious choices.

The recommendations we've adopted today, if acted upon, will result in a broad range of improvements to the safety of marine transportation. As a result of this investigation we've plotted a safer course for future generations of mariners.

But it is up to the recipients of these recommendations to make a conscious choice, the right choice, to follow that course.

We stand adjourned.

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