



NTSB National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Marine Safety

Vessel Traffic Service (VTS)

VTS Mission & Locations

- Navigational risk reduction



VTS Equipment

Sensor Integration

- Radar
- Closed circuit television
- VHF radio
- Automatic identification system (AIS)



Vessel Traffic Reporting

- Vessel Movement Reporting System
 - Sailing plan
 - Position reports
 - Final report
 - Deviation report

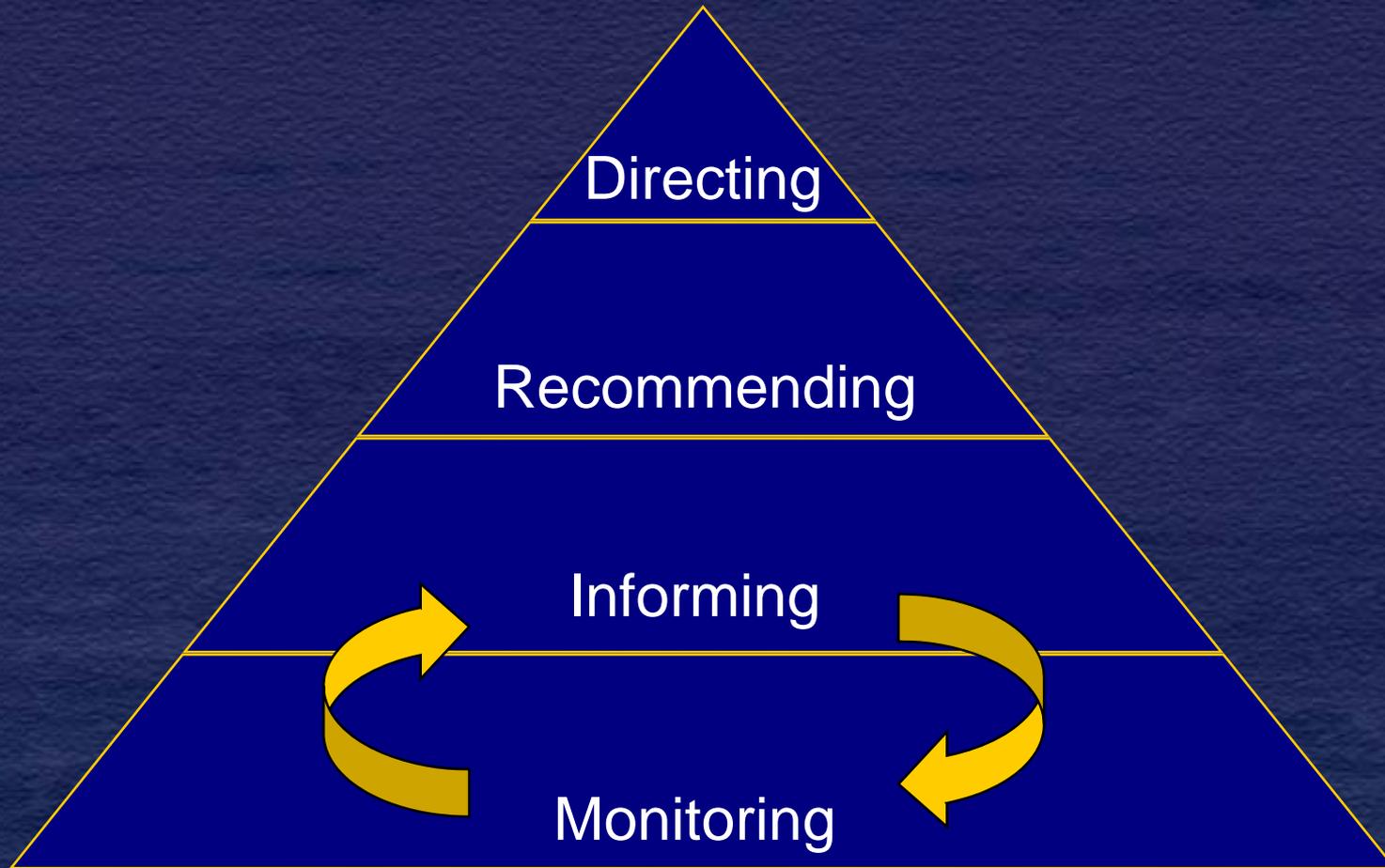
Vessel Participation

- Participation is only mandatory for
 - Power driven vessels of 131' or more
 - Towing vessels over 26'
 - Passenger vessels certificated to carry 50 or more passengers
 - Power driven vessels of 131' or more

Vessel Control Authority

- May order a vessel to operate or anchor in a specific manner, if such direction is justified in the interest of safety
- Delegated through Chain of Command
 - *Code of Federal Regulations*
 - Marine Safety Manual
 - Locally generated policy and procedure

Continuum of Control



VTS & Pilot Interaction

- 05:10 Low visibility procedures implemented
- 06:36 Pilot provided sailing plan
- 08:06 Pilot provided position report
 - No standing orders or procedure to prohibit vessel movement in periods of reduced visibility

VTS & Pilot Interaction

08:27 VTS operator believed the pilot may be deviating from the *Cosco Busan's* submitted sailing plan

- Attempted to verify transit intentions and provide navigational assistance via VHF radio

VTS & Pilot Interaction (cont'd)

- VTS: *Unit Romeo, Traffic.* 
- Pilot: *Traffic Romeo.*
- VTS: *Roger Captain, are you still proceeding out?*
- Pilot: *Traffic.*
- VTS: *Unit Romeo, Traffic. AIS shows you on a 235 heading. What are your intentions? Over.*
- Pilot: *Um, I'm coming around, I'm steering 280 right now.*
- VTS: *Roger, understand you still intend the Delta Echo span. Over.*
- Pilot: *Yeah, we're still Delta Echo.*
- VTS: *Uh, roger Captain.*

VTS & Pilot Interaction (cont'd)

- VTS personnel remained concerned about *Cosco Busan's* atypical course
 - No escalation of vessel control level
 - No communication about vessel's position relative to Delta–Echo span
- Pilot designator used versus vessel name or call sign



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