



# Department of Homeland Security United States Coast Guard



## Marine Casualty and Vessel Data for Researchers

The United States Coast Guard is the nation's leading marine safety organization and has broad, multifaceted jurisdictional authority and responsibilities. In executing these responsibilities, the Coast Guard relies upon information it develops through detailed investigations of various occurrences. Marine Investigations are designed to determine the cause of each incident, document the event and their causes, and initiate the necessary corrective actions. Data collected during marine casualty and pollution investigations are entered into the Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement (MISLE) database. Access to this information can be obtained via the Homeport or CGMIX internet sites.

To access Marine Casualty and Pollution Data files, go to: <http://homeport.uscg.mil> On the left side of the screen, click "Investigations". Scroll towards bottom and click "Marine Casualty/Pollution Investigations"



- ✓ **Marine Casualty and Pollution Data for Researchers**

Provide details about marine casualty and pollution incidents investigated by Coast Guard. The database can be used to analyze marine accidents and pollution incidents by a variety of factors including vessel or facility type, injuries, fatalities, pollutant details, location, and date. The data collection period began in 1982 for marine casualties and 1973 for polluting incidents, and is ongoing.

- ✓ **Merchant Vessels of the United States**

A data file of merchant and recreational vessels documented under the laws of the United States by the U.S. Coast Guard.

- ✓ **Notable Oil Spills in U.S. Water 1989 to 2009**

Each year the Coast Guard investigates several thousand polluting incidents in waters of the United States. The investigation reports show that, in any given year, greater than 70% of the annual spill volume can be attributed to fewer than 20 incidents. This report describes the most significant of those incidents.

- ✓ **Oil Spill Compendium 1969 to 2009**

Contains pollution related data and graphics from 1969 to 2009. It covers 40 years of data and more than 357,000 investigation records.

Available at <http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/foia.html> the National Response Center (NRC) provides an on-line query system of all oil and chemical spill data **reported** to the NRC. **NOTE:** there is a significant difference between a spill reported to the NRC and a spill investigated by the Coast Guard (as reflected in HOMEPORT and CGMIX):



1. Not all spills reported to the NRC occur under the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard; and,
2. It is common for a spill to be reported by several parties, each report generates a NRC report.



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United States Coast Guard  
Maritime Information eXchange

Located at <http://cgmix.uscg.mil> CGMIX makes Coast Guard maritime information available on the internet in the form of searchable databases.

## **CGMIX Constraints & Caveats**

- ✘ Open investigations are not released
- ✘ Incident severity determines the amount of data recorded in MISLE
- ✘ Per the Privacy Act, some information cannot be released
- ✘ Optional data items may be null, (e.g., river mile)
- ✘ Need to understand data structures

The CGMIX Database Search Engines include:

- **Port State Information Exchange** - vessel specific information derived from MISLE. The information contained in PSIX represents a **weekly** snapshot of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) data on U.S. flag vessels and foreign vessels operating in U.S. waters, and Coast Guard contacts with those vessels. Information on unclosed cases or cases pending further action is considered privileged information and is precluded from the PSIX system.
- **Incident Investigation Reports** - provides information regarding maritime incidents investigated by the U.S. Coast Guard. These published reports are limited to reportable marine casualties, as defined in 46 CFR Section 4.05 that were closed after October 2002. Additional reports, those closed prior to November 2002, may be added in the future.
- **MARPOL Certificates of Adequacy** - contains a listing of U.S. Ports and Terminals holding valid MARPOL Certificates of Adequacy (COAs) which are issued as evidence that their facilities meet the requirements of Annexes I, II, and V of the 1978 Protocol to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78).

## **The Freedom Of Information Act**

If you are unable to locate the information that you are seeking, you may request it through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). FOIA requests may be submitted in writing via mail or overnight carrier to:

Commandant (CG-611)  
Attn: FOIA Officer  
2100 2nd Street, SW 7101  
Washington, DC 20593-7101

Or via electronic mail to: [EFOIA@uscg.mil](mailto:EFOIA@uscg.mil)