

## TOWING VESSEL UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2018

### **Team News**

Welcome to the first edition of the monthly Meridian Towing Vessel Update. The purpose of this tool is to inform our clients and personnel of the latest program development. We look forward to exchanging ideas with our stakeholders on how to best promote safety, security, and environmental stewardship of towing vessels.

2 Feb USCG approved Meridian as a Subchapter M TPO Services Provider.

23 Feb Meridian participated in Tug & Barge Solutions' TSMS Workshop in Orange Beach, AL.

### **Industry Updates**

12 Feb The Coast Guard announced that it is seeking applications for membership on the Towing Safety Advisory Committee.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/02/12/2018-02696/towing-safety-advisory-committee-vacancies>

21 Feb The Coast Guard, in partnership with the AWO, released the National Quality Steering Committee's annual safety report for 2016.

[http://www.americanwaterways.com/sites/default/files/2017\\_USCG-AWO\\_AnnualSafetyReport.pdf](http://www.americanwaterways.com/sites/default/files/2017_USCG-AWO_AnnualSafetyReport.pdf)

### **Did You Know?**

What must a TPO do before issuing a TSMS Certificate? Prior to issuance of the company's TSMS Certificate, a TPO must review the TSMS to verify compliance with the requirements of 46 CFR 138.220 and conduct a Management Audit as described in 46 CFR 138.315(a). The TPO is not required to visit individual vessels before issuing the TSMS certificate.

### **Marine Casualty**



2 Feb The National Transportation Safety Board has issued a report on grounding of towing vessel Atlantic Raider near Jacksonville, FL on October 26, 2016. The probable cause was a stern hull fracture that allowed ingress of water into the rudder compartment and caused the vessel to sink. Contributing to the accident was flooding through an open door to the engine room.

### **Program Development**

- 1 Feb USCG sent a letter to towing vessel owners and operators encouraging them to contact their local OCMI to schedule initial inspections for certification on Subchapter M towing vessels.
- 15 Feb In issuing an initial COI, the Coast Guard requires the TPO vessel audit to include witnessing of emergency drills, i.e., at the minimum, fire. The USCG recognizes that there is a gap, in that neither ISM or RCP requires witnessing of drills as part of issuing SMS documents. Auditors are to review CG-CVC Policy Letter 17-02.
- 15 Feb Surveyors and Auditors to review District Eight Field Notice on delayed enforcement of certain Subchapter M items.

### **Upcoming Events**

- 20-21 Mar Towing Safety Advisory Committee and its subcommittees will meet in Charleston, South Carolina.