On 16 August the Washington DC-based National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) released its annual compendium of marine accidents and the lessons learned from them.

Known as Safer Seas Digest 2015 the document is available in print and on the NTSB’s website, to be found at: The report can be found online at http://go.usa.gov/xDC7Y

It examines 29 major marine casualty investigations the agency closed in 2015.

In the words of NTSB Chairman Christopher A Hart: ‘Safer Seas Digest 2015 represents our continuing commitment to sharing the lessons that we learn through our investigations. Many marine accidents can be prevented when crews know of and respond to safety issues early and when crews work together effectively in the event of a crisis.’

The 72-page report lists some of the lessons learned from the investigations, such as better voyage planning, the need for effective communications and recognition of the peril of crew fatigue. These points are well outlined in some of the riders or probable causes provided at the foot of each brief accident report.