

# Gulf Coast Mariners Association



P. O. Box 3589  
Houma, LA 70361-3589  
Phone: (985) 879- 3866  
Fax: (985) 879-3911  
[www.gulfcoastmariners.org](http://www.gulfcoastmariners.org)

**GCMA REPORT #R-429A (Series)**  
**DATE: May 24, 2005**  
**Subject: U.S. Coast Guard Investigations**

**REPRINT: U.S. Coast Guard Marine Casualty Investigation and Reporting: Analysis and Recommendations for Improvement.**

The attached report was prepared by the U.S. Coast Guard Research and Development Center in Groton, CT, in August 1994. We wish that it was outdated, obsolete, and described a bygone era. Unfortunately, much of this report remains true a dozen years later.

We held this report in our files for a number of years (as #A-634A) and referenced it in a number of documents sent to the Coast Guard and to Members of Congress – to no avail.

As a result of a number of serious complaints from our mariners, we have become increasingly displeased with the quality, consistency, and focus of Coast Guard investigations. This “focus” appears to be consistently upon the mariner rather than recognizing the culpability of the employer in a large number of cases. Therefore, we are providing this document as the first in a series of documents to provide concerned mariners and the attorneys that defend them with some important background issues.

This is an electronic reprint of a government document. We apologize for the markings that appear on these pages.

This document contains a number of appendices (A through K) that we did not reprint. They remain available in our files as Document #A-634-B for copying at a per page price of \$0.20.