

Abstract

This paper investigates the causes of European shipping accidents between 2010 and 2020 with severe weather as an additional factor. For this purpose the EMCIP database was used. This data collection of European shipping accidents provides a clear view of all shipping accidents that have occurred in European waters or among ships flying the flag of an European Member State. Furthermore, investigation reports freely available on websites of the various investigative bodies of European member states were consulted. Research shows that both the total shipping accidents and the shipping accidents in severe weather conditions follow the same trend, i.e. an increase in the first half of the decade followed by a stagnation of the number of accidents in the latter part of the decade. Moreover, this study came to the conclusion that general cargo ships are the most common ship type involved in accidents. Finally, this paper has found that the causes of severe weather accidents are dominated by human error and lack of engine power. The recommendations presented by this study therefore mainly focus on the revision of the safety management system and additional training for the seafarers.