



## **FINDINGS OF CONCERN**

### **Sector Honolulu**

August 23, 2022  
Honolulu, HI

Findings of Concern 011-22

## **COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL HAZARD AWARENESS TRAINING**

Purpose. The U.S. Coast Guard issues findings of concern to disseminate information related to unsafe conditions that were identified as causal factors in a casualty and could contribute to future incidents. Findings of concern are intended to educate the public, state, or local agencies about the conditions discovered so they may address the findings with an appropriate voluntary action or highlight existing applicable company policies or state/local regulations.

The Incident. A U. S. flagged commercial fishing purse-seiner vessel was conducting fishing operations in the South Pacific Ocean. While completing a fishing set, the primary skiff came along side for two additional crewmembers to board. As one of the crewmembers was preparing to board the skiff, he stepped in front of a davit arm that was just forward of the skiff boarding location. A large swell caused the skiff to surge up and forward and crushed the crewmember against the davit causing fatal internal injuries.

Contributing Factors and Analysis. Although the Coast Guard Investigation was unable to determine exactly why the crewmember stepped in front of the davit, this was a major contributing factor to this casualty. In addition, the Coast Guard identified inadequate crew training and missing warning signs to alert crew of dangerous crush zones onboard the vessel. These factors combined with the significantly large swells present on the day of the casualty caused the skiff to surge unexpectedly and resulted in the fatal injury.

Findings of Concern. Coast Guard investigators have identified the following measures that have been implemented by similar ports and local authorities as an effort to mitigate the risks associated with the identified contributing factors:

- Consider implementation of a crewmember training program to educate crewmembers on how to safely conduct routine fishing operations such as boarding the skiff. Also include general hazard awareness training to highlight potential crush hazards.
- Where appropriate, consider placing warning signs to alert crewmembers of dangerous areas onboard the vessel.

Closing. These findings of concern are provided for informational purpose only and do not relieve any domestic or international safety, operational, or material requirements. For any questions or comments please contact Sector Honolulu Investigations Division by phone at (808) 522-8251 or by email at [D14-DG-SH-SecHono-Prevention-Investigation@uscg.mil](mailto:D14-DG-SH-SecHono-Prevention-Investigation@uscg.mil).