United States Coast Guard

Report of Investigation into the Circumstances Surrounding the Incident Involving L/B Superior Challenge; Sinking

On 06/30/2003

MISLE Activity Number: 1840641
Originating Unit: MSO Morgan City
MISLE Activity Owner: Commandant (G-MRI)
MISLE Activity Controller: Commandant (G-MRI)
MISLE Case Number: 0
I. INCIDENT BRIEF

32/113/03

46 CFR 4.40-5 (d)(2) - major marine casualty, loss of vessel >100GT

On June 30, 2003, the liftboat SUPERIOR CHALLENGE was on location at Eugene Island 193-A, and was later secured for heavy weather and evacuated due to the approaching Tropical Storm Bill. The tropical storm caused the liftboat to capsize and sink. The owner of the liftboat, Superior Energy Services, have contracted Bisso Marine to salvage the SUPERIOR CHALLENGE. Duty investigator does not deem it necessary to enforce drug and alcohol testing on crewmembers; liftboat was evacuated prior to storm. Unknown damage amount. No pollution reported in area.

LTJG [REDACTED]
MSO Morgan City Investigations
(985) 380-5341
II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Incident Summary

32/113/03

46 CFR 4.40-5 (d)(2) - major marine casualty, loss of vessel >100GT

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Incident Involved: Marine Casualty, Reportable

Level of Investigation: Data Collection
IMO Classification: Routine
USCG Classification: Major Marine Casualty
Was this a Serious Marine Incident? Yes
Was a Marine Board Convened by Commandant? No

Personnel Casualty Summary

Total Missing (Active Search) = 0
Total Missing (Presumed Lost) = 0
Total Dead = 0
Total Injured = 0
Total Uninjured = 0
Total People at Risk = 0
Other Personnel (Not at Risk) = 0

Vessel(s) Status Summary

Actual Total Loss(es) = 0
Total Constructive Loss, Salvaged = 0
Total Constructive Loss, Unsalvaged = 1
Damaged = 0
Undamaged = 0

Property Damage Summary/Total Damage
Report of Investigation

Vessel(s) = $
Cargo = $
Facility(s) = $
Other = $

* Includes estimates

Waterway Mobility Summary

Vessel Delays (including speed restrictions): None
III. ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THIS REPORT

Actions on Recommendations

Safety Alerts
IV. FINDINGS OF FACT

Subjects of the Investigation

**Vessels.** The following vessels were subjects of this investigation. Particulars for each vessel follow.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vessel Name</th>
<th>SUPERIOR CHALLENGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flag</td>
<td>UNITED STATES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vessel Identification Number:</td>
<td>1052908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call Sign:</td>
<td>WDA5218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status:</td>
<td>Total Constructive Loss: Unsalvaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role:</td>
<td>Involved in a Marine Casualty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vessel Class, Type, Sub-Type:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Tonnage(GRT):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Tonnage(NRT):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadweight Tons:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length:</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home/Hailing Port:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keel Laid Date:</td>
<td>12/15/1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivery Date:</td>
<td>06/12/1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of Construction:</td>
<td>LOCKPORT, LA., , UNITED STATES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Builder Name:</td>
<td>BOLLINGER SHIPYARDS, INC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propulsion:</td>
<td>Diesel Reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horsepower:</td>
<td>1710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classification Society:</td>
<td>CARDINAL SERVICES INC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner:</td>
<td>3703 SOUTH LEWIS STREET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PO DRAWER 9350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NEW IBERIA, LA, 70562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SUPERIOR ENERGY SERVICES LLC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5509 curtis lane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Iberia, LA, 70560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operator:</td>
<td>CARDINAL SERVICES INC</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>3703 SOUTH LEWIS STREET</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspection Subchapter:</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Recent Vessel Inspection Activity:</td>
<td>1634045, 06/19/2002 2:37:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Certificate of Inspection:</td>
<td>Issued on 06/30/2000, by MSO MORGAN CITY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Facilities. The following facilities were subjects of this investigation. Particulars for each facility follow.

Parties and Organizations. The following people and organizations were subjects of this investigation.

SUPERIOR ENERGY SERVICES INC
Status: Not at Risk
Role: Reporting Party
Email Address: 
Phone Number(NVDC Phone Number): 337-364-9704
Address(Primary Place of Business): 5509 Curtis Lane
New Iberia, LA 70560
US
Comments:

Drug and Alcohol Testing. The following people have been determined by the Coast Guard, Law Enforcement Personnel, and/or the Marine Employer to have been directly involved in a Serious Marine Incident as defined in 46 CFR 4.03-2:

Response Resources. The following incident response resources were subjects of this investigation.

Other Subjects. The following were subjects of this investigation.

Waterway Segment(s). The following waterway segment(s) were subjects of this investigation.

EUGENE ISLAND
Role: Location
Local Name: GULF OF MEXICO - EUGENE ISLAND
Description:

Incident Information

Location(s).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EUGENE ISLAND; Block 193-A</td>
<td>28 42.0 N</td>
<td>091 30.0 W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sequence of Events.
**Event Details:**

**06/30/2003 17:00 to 06/30/2003 17:00 (Estimated):**

- **Event Type:** Capsize
- **Event Class:** Overwhelmed by Sea and/or Wind
- **Event Subclass:**
- **Location:** Known; US Waters
  - Description: EUGENE ISLAND; Block 193-A
  - Latitude: 28 42.0 N
  - Longitude: 091 30.0 W

**Subject(s) and Details:**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Vessel</td>
<td>Total Constructive</td>
<td>Involved in a Marine Casualty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHALLENGE</td>
<td></td>
<td>Loss: Unsalvaged</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Details Filed: Detail Description

Refer to summary.

**06/30/2003 17:45 to 06/30/2003 17:45 (Estimated):**

- **Event Type:** Sinking
- **Event Class:** Damage Control Efforts Not Possible
- **Event Subclass:**
- **Location:** Known; US Waters
  - Description: EUGENE ISLAND; Block 193-A
  - Latitude: 28 42.0 N
  - Longitude: 091 30.0 W

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V. CAUSAL ANALYSIS

The Initiating Event of the Incident

Initiating Event:

**Failures of Defense Against Subsequent Events in the Incident**
VI. REFERRAL FOR ENFORCEMENT ACTION

The following referrals for enforcement action have been made as a result of this investigation and represent those instances where the Coast Guard has gathered evidence that indicates one or more alleged violations or offenses may have occurred. Any determinations as to whether or not one or more actual violations or offenses have occurred are documented in the appropriate Coast Guard enforcement activities.
APPENDIX 1 - EVIDENCE

1840641 #001/[#]: Document/CG-2692 Report of Marine Accident, Injury or Death
CG-2692 Report of Marine Accident, Injury or Death
Collection Information:
   Date/Time:  07/09/2003 10:51:00 AM
   Location:
   Collected By:  USCG Gathered; ,
   Witnessed By:  USCG Witness; ,
Tracking:
Attachments:
   - 1.pdf; MSO MORGAN CITY; [REDACTED]; 07/09/2003;
APPENDIX 2 - CORRESPONDENCE