



# UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

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## 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

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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.

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

**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:

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**Incident Information**

**Location(s).**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
EUGENE ISLAND; Block 193-A	28 42.0 N	091 30.0 W

**Sequence of Events.**

Report of Investigation
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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:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Role</u>
SUPERIOR	Vessel	Total Constructive	Involved in a Marine
CHALLENGE		Loss: Unsalvaged	Casualty

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

Subject(s) and Details:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Role</u>
SUPERIOR	Vessel	Total Constructive	Involved in a Marine
CHALLENGE		Loss: Unsalvaged	Casualty

Details Filed: Detail Description  
Refer to summary.



## 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/[REDACTED]: 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**