

BACKGROUND

On Friday, May 10, 2019, at 3:15 p.m. the 754-foot tanker Genesis River and the towing vessel Voyager collided on the Houston Ship Channel near Bayport, Texas. The towing vessel Voyager was transporting two Kirby Inland Marine barges each loaded with 25,000 gallons of Reformate, a gasoline blend stock.

Upon collision, barge MMI3041 capsized. The barge Kirby 30015T was struck on its starboard side breaching cargo tanks No.2 and No. 4 and discharging approximately 11,276 barrels of Reformate into the Houston Ship Channel.

There were no crew injuries associated with the incident.

A unified command, consisting of U.S. Coast Guard, Texas General Land Office, Port of Houston Fire Department and Kirby Inland Marine, was established to respond.

The Houston Ship Channel was closed from Light 61- Light 75. Additionally, a safety zone closed Clear Creek Channel from the entrance to Clear Lake and extending east to Light 66 on the Houston Ship Channel and north up to but not including the Bayport Ship Channel.

Kirby 30015T, the barge damaged from the collision, was transferred to the Southwest Shipyard at Channelview, while MMI 3041, the capsized barge, was taken to Barbours Cut Turning Basin where lightering operations occurred.

Previous news releases as well as imagery from the response can be found at: <https://bayport-response.com/>

The hearing will be streamed live each day at:
<https://livestream.com/accounts/21068106/events/8780675>.

For interview requests throughout the week, contact 281-464-4810.

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



8TH COAST GUARD DISTRICT FORMAL HEARING

**Collision between the T/S GENESIS RIVER and BARGE 30015T and oil spill May 10,
2019, in the Houston Ship Channel near Bayport, Texas**

Mr. Clarence Rice **Lead Investigating Officer** **U.S. Coast Guard**

Mr. Clarence Rice is currently serving as the Senior Investigating Officer (SIO), at U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Paducah and has served in this role since January, 2011. In this position, Mr. Rice oversees marine casualty investigations in the MSU Paducah area of responsibility, to include vessel collisions, groundings, personnel casualties, and other incidents affecting the safe navigation of the waterways. Mr. Rice and his office work closely with several local, State, and Federal partners including the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), on multi-jurisdictional investigations. His office also initiates and manages personnel investigations under 46 CFR Part 5, to include representing the Coast Guard at Suspension and Revocation Hearings.

Mr. Rice has over 30 years combined experience in the Coast Guard, having previously served on active duty prior to serving in his current role as SIO. During his active duty time in the Coast Guard, Mr. Rice conducted law enforcement boardings; directed search and rescue operations; responded to major pollution events; investigated marine casualties in coastal and inland ports; and initiated numerous civil and administrative enforcement proceedings. Mr. Rice has educated over 5000 mariners on topics including Coast Guard Investigations, licensing, and marine casualty reporting requirements. Mr. Rice retired from active duty after almost 29 years and has been in his current position for 8 years.

Mr. Clarence Rice was appointed by the Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, to serve as the lead investigating officer to the formal investigation into the probable cause of the collision between the GENESIS RIVER and the BARGE 30015T on the Houston ship channel on May 10, 2019.

**Andrew C. Ehlers
Marine Accident Investigator
Office of Marine Safety
National Transportation Safety Board**

Andrew Ehlers joined the National Transportation Safety Board's Office of Marine Safety in February 2016. As a marine accident investigator, he is responsible for investigating major marine casualties in US waters or on US-flagged vessels worldwide.

Mr. Ehlers's maritime career began in 1993, when was commissioned in the US Navy. Throughout a 20-year career in the service, he served on various guided-missile destroyers and frigates and was a plankowner on the USS *Winston S. Churchill* (DDG 81). From 2010–2012, he commanded the destroyer USS *Cole* (DDG 67) during counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden and pre-deployment training in the western Atlantic Ocean. Mr. Ehlers's military awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



A native of Syracuse, New York, Mr. Ehlers holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the Pennsylvania State University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Indiana University.

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Lieutenant Commander Geralyn van de Krol

**Legal Advisor
U.S. Coast Guard**

Lieutenant Commander Geralyn M. van de Krol serves as the legal advisor at the Coast Guard Investigations National Center of Expertise (INCOE) in New Orleans, LA. In this role, LCDR van de Krol advises the INCOE, field units and district offices on complex marine casualty investigations, administrative law topics, and other prevention law related issues. As a fully qualified investigating officer, she has served as lead investigating officer on two formal investigations. As an attorney, she has supported seven formal investigations as both a legal advisor and recorder. LCDR van de Krol also serves as a collateral duty military judge, presiding over special courts-martial.

From 2015-2017, she served as the Branch Chief, Trial Services in Alameda, California. In that position, she managed a staff of four attorneys and two support staff. She served as lead prosecutor on numerous complex courts-martial, including several multi-victim sexual assault cases. From 2011-2015, LCDR van de Krol served as a staff attorney at the Legal Service Command (LSC), Alameda and Coast Guard Pacific Area (PACAREA), advising shore-based support units and underway operational cutters on a range of legal matters, including ethics, administrative, military justice, and operations law. During her time at the LSC and PACAREA, she served as a D11/PACAREA operational law duty attorney, providing advice to the D11 Commander on emergent operational law issues.

Lieutenant Commander van de Krol graduated from the University of Arizona, with a B.A. in Media Arts. After spending approximately 18 months working as a reporter at the Orange County Register, she enlisted in the Coast Guard in 2001. She served on the Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw (WAGB-83) from 2002 until 2005 and advanced to the rate of Quartermaster Second Class before attending Officer Candidate School in 2005. After receiving her commission, she served at Sector New Orleans from May 2005 until September 2008, spending time in the Investigations Division and Command Center. She was selected for the Coast Guard's funded legal education program and received a Juris Doctor from Chicago-Kent School of Law in Chicago, Illinois in 2011. Lieutenant Commander van de Krol is a member of the Illinois Bar.

Individual military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Coast Guard Commendation Medal with the Operational Distinguishing Device and the Coast Guard Achievement Medal (2) with the Operational Distinguishing Device.

LCDR van de Krol was appointed by the Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, to serve as legal advisor for the formal investigation into the probable cause of the collision between the GENESIS RIVER and the BARGE 30015T on the Houston ship channel on May 10, 2019.

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Lieutenant Jonathan Scott

**Investigator
U.S. Coast Guard**

Lieutenant Jonathan Scott is currently the Supervisor of Marine Safety Detachment (MSD) Lafayette, Louisiana. In this position, he oversees all Coast Guard marine safety and pollution response activities in the South Central Louisiana region. He manages commercial vessel and waterfront facility inspections, construction, and operations to ensure compliance with domestic and international law. The MSD investigates marine casualties such as collisions, groundings, sinkings, fires, injuries, and fatalities aboard vessels in U.S. waters and prosecutes mariners before a Federal Judge in licensing litigation hearing for violations of law or regulations.

LT Scott attended the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Government. Upon commissioning as an ensign, he served as a deck watch officer on the *USGCG TAHOMA (WMEC-908)* homeported in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. During these assignments, LT Scott participated in law enforcement boardings, illegal immigrant interdiction, counter-narcotics operations, and search and rescue.

LT Scott's prior assignments include marine inspections at Marine Safety Unit Morgan City, Louisiana Director of Vessel Traffic Service Berwick Bay in Morgan City, Louisiana, and Chief of Investigations at Marine Safety Unit Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

LT Scott is the recipient of the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, Coast Guard Achievement medal, Commandant's Letter of Commendation, Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation (four), Humanitarian Service Medal, Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Coast Guard Special Operations Service, and several other awards.

LT Scott was appointed by the Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, to serve as an investigator for the formal investigation into the probable cause of the collision between the GENESIS RIVER and the BARGE 30015T on the Houston ship channel on May 10, 2019.

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LT John Disibio

Recorder/Investigator

U.S. Coast Guard

LT John Disibio is currently an Investigating Officer assigned to U.S. Coast Guard Sector Houston/Galveston. In this position, LT Disibio conducts marine casualty investigations throughout Sector Houston/Galveston's area of responsibility to include vessel collisions, allisions, groundings, flooding, fire, and personnel casualties, as well as many other marine incidents.

LT Disibio began his U.S. Coast Guard career by enlisting in 2002. LT Disibio served onboard two Coast Guard Cutters, the CGC POLAR STAR (WAGB-10) and CGC SKIPJACK (87353). In addition to his sea service, LT Disibio completed land tours at Integrated Support Command Seattle, Sector San Juan, and as the Recruiter in Charge in Dallas, TX.

LT Disibio graduated from Officer Candidate School in 2015 and was assigned to Marine Safety Unit Texas City. During this tour, LT Disibio earned qualifications as a Port State Control Examiner of, Foreign Passenger, Tank, and Freight vessels, as well as Domestic Inspector qualifications of Small Passenger Vessels, Towing Vessels and Barges.

LT Disibio is the recipient of two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, two Coast Guard Achievement Medals, and two Letters of Commendation all with Operational Distinguishing Devices, as well as several other personal awards.

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LCDR Matt Capon **Technical Advisor** **U.S. Coast Guard**

LCDR Matt Capon is currently the Assistant Chief of Inspections at Coast Guard District Eight in New Orleans, Louisiana. In this position, he provides commercial vessel safety program guidance and investigation oversight across a 26 state area of responsibility in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and Western Rivers.

LCDR Capon began his career in the Navy receiving a commission as an ensign in 2000. LCDR Capon completed his two division officer tours serving as the Strike Warfare Officer on USS O'KANE (DDG-77), and Navigation Officer on USS FORT McHENRY (LSD-43). During these operational assignments he participated in both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. While completing Navy shore duty at PACAREA in Alameda, California, he served as a Liaison Officer between the Navy and the Coast Guard and subsequently completed a lateral transfer to the Coast Guard.

LCDR Capon's prior Coast Guard field assignments include Chief of Inspections at Sector Northern New England in Portland, Maine; Investigating Officer at Marine Safety Unit Morgan City, Louisiana; and Apprentice Marine Inspector at Sector Los Angeles – Long Beach.

LCDR Capon is the recipient of two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, two Coast Guard Achievement medals, two Navy Achievement medals, as well as several other awards.

LCDR Capon was appointed by the Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, to serve as the technical advisor to the formal investigation into the probable cause of the collision between the GENESIS RIVER and the BARGE 30015T on the Houston ship channel on May 10, 2019.