



## ***FINDINGS OF CONCERN***

### **Sector / Air Station Corpus Christi**

February 8, 2019  
Port Aransas, TX

Findings of Concern 005 - 19

## **Enhanced Passenger Safety Measures**

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. While underway on a deep sea fishing trip, a passenger onboard an inspected small passenger vessel fell while walking from the bow seating area along the pilothouse to the handrail on the port side. The passenger stood up from the seating area and began walking through empty deck space toward another passenger standing along the handrail when the vessel went down into a wave trough, came up, and went down into another trough before coming up and throwing the passenger into the air. When the passenger landed on the deck, she was severely injured.

Contributing Factors and Analysis. The investigation identified that the injured passenger should not have been walking on the bow area where no rails existed while the vessel was underway at approximately 10 knots with wave heights approximately 1.3 meters (4.25 feet). The Master made a safety announcement over the loudspeaker from the wheelhouse as the vessel exited from its slip in protected waters, which cautioned passengers to remain seated while underway. However, the announcement was not fully heard or complied with by all the passengers.

Findings of Concern. Coast Guard investigators have identified the following prudent measures to be implemented on vessels in similar service to mitigate the risks associated with the above identified contributing factors:

- Masters provide the safety briefing dock side with the passengers gathered around and within eye sight and audible range of the person providing the brief to ensure the passengers are listening and understanding.
- The operator post permanent signage onboard the vessel alerting passengers to use hand rails or remain seated at all times while underway.
- Deckhands increase patrols during underway transit to and from fishing grounds, checking and informing passengers to use hand rails or remain seated during the transit.

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 / Air Station Corpus Christi Investigations Division by phone at (361) 939-5140 or by email at [CorpusChristiIO@uscg.mil](mailto:CorpusChristiIO@uscg.mil).