

# Republic of the Marshall Islands

## MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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### MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY No. 16-22 (Rev. 1)

**To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Nautical Inspectors, Recognized Organizations**

**Subject: PROPULSION INCIDENTS ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER**

**Date: 23 June 2023**

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”) has been notified by United States Coast Guard (USCG) Sector New Orleans that during the first half of 2022 they have observed an increase in propulsion incidents on the Mississippi River.

Due to the restricted nature of the navigable waterway, the USCG has designated the Mississippi River (from the Head of Passes to river mile marker 233.9) as a regulated navigation area<sup>1</sup> for the purpose of preventing allisions, collisions, and groundings.

The Administrator continues to receive reports of propulsion incidents on the Mississippi River and surrounding waters of the United States of America Gulf Coast. Since July 2021, this region alone has accounted for 19 of the reported 94 global propulsion incidents received by the Administrator. The majority of the incidents can be attributed to control and automation failures, and fuel oil system failures.

The Administrator recommends that owners, operators, and Masters of ships calling the Mississippi River review the requirements detailed in USCG Sector New Orleans Marine Safety Information Bulletin Volume XVIII, Issue: 017, [Mississippi River Regulated Navigation Area Vessel Requirements](#). Additionally, the Administrator reminds Masters the importance of conducting proper pre-arrival and pre-departure testing, as required by 33 CFR §164.25, *Tests before entering or getting underway*.

A summary of the Administrator’s requirements for reporting marine casualties and marine incidents can be found in RMI Marine Guideline [6-36-2](#). While RMI regulations require immediate notification (within 24 hours of occurrence) of marine casualties and marine incidents, owners, operators, and Masters are encouraged to notify the Administrator as soon as safely possible at: [dutyofficer@register-iri.com](mailto:dutyofficer@register-iri.com).

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<sup>1</sup> 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §165.10 defines a regulated navigation area as “a water area within a defined boundary for which regulations for vessels navigating within the area have been established under this part”. Specific requirements for ships navigating the Mississippi River regulated navigation area are detailed in 33 CFR Part 165.810.

This MSA is evaluated annually by the Administrator and expires one year after its issuance or renewal unless otherwise noted, superseded, or revoked.