

5. Summary (Conclusion)

The following characteristics were found in the occurrence of collision accidents with fatalities or missing persons.

- Of the vessels which sustained fatalities or missing persons in collision accidents, **approximately 50% were fishing vessels and 20% were pleasure boats** by vessel type.
- **Approximately 90% of vessels which sustained fatalities or missing persons were small vessels of less than 20 tons.**
- Of the vessels involved in collision accidents with fatalities or missing persons for which the recognition status of the other vessel is revealed, **about 40% recognized the other vessel and about 60% did not recognize the other vessel.**

The case studies of collision accidents with fatalities or missing persons revealed that the following points are mainly important in preventing accidents.

- To keep **a proper lookout at all times**
- For the operator to accurately assess the blind spot situation and, if a blind spot exists, keep a lookout to compensate for the blind spot
- To perform **acoustic signaling in restricted visibility conditions**

The questionnaire results on the effectiveness of AIS device revealed the following.

- When asked if they no longer feel threatened by other vessels approaching their vessels, **a total of about 80% said "No" and "Less" together.**
- When asked if they thought AIS was useful, **a total of about 90% answered "Yes" and "A little."**

AIS installed on small vessels, such as fishing vessels, as a lookout aid, is effective in preventing collisions.

A word from Director for Analysis, Recommendation and Opinion

I am sure that all operators of vessels operate their vessels with due consideration for safety on a daily basis, taking appropriate precautions such as keeping a proper lookout to prevent accidents.

Although the installation of AIS is subject to some restrictions such as locations to be installed and costs, the recent development of smartphone applications, in addition to simple AIS, has made information more readily available for collision avoidance.

I hope that the accident prevention measures described in this Digest will help to ensure safety for all of you.

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