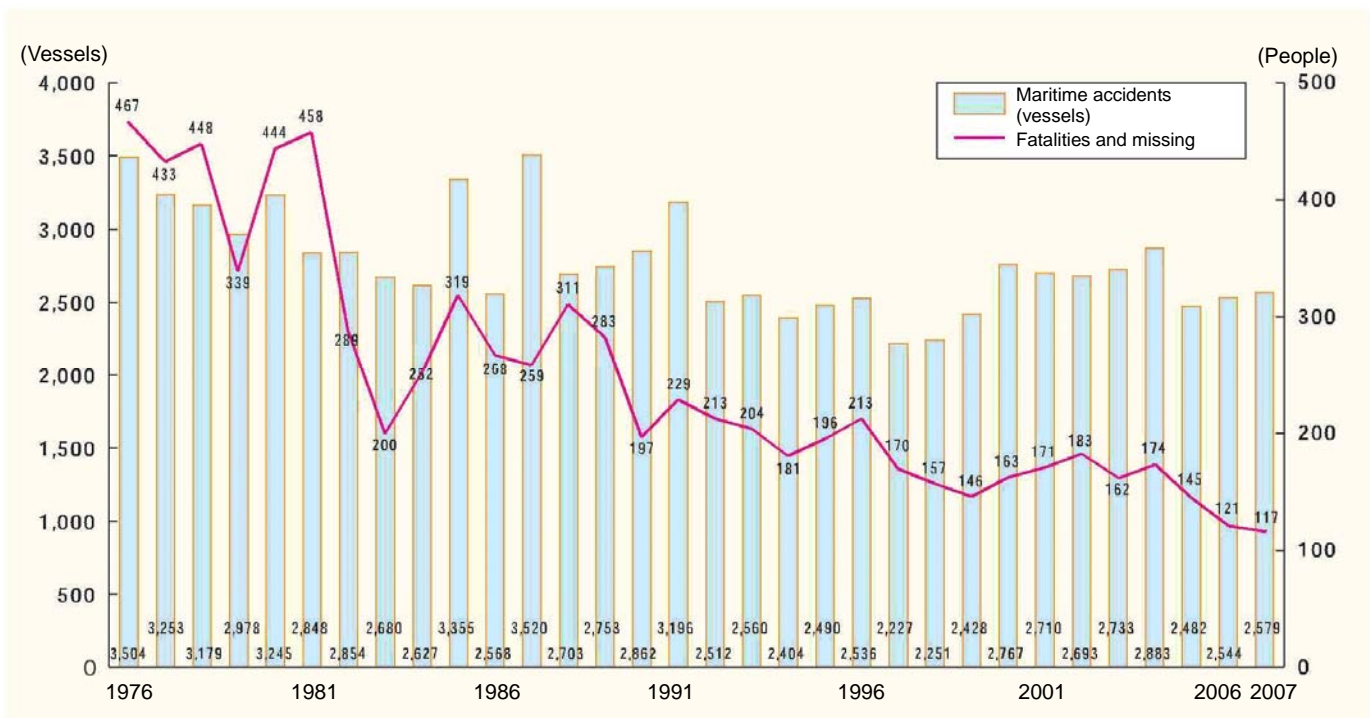


1 Maritime Accident Trends

1-1 Maritime accidents and rescues in 2007

- (1) A total of 2,579 vessels were involved in maritime accidents, with 922 of them returning to port without assistance. Of the remaining 1,657 vessels, 1,451 were rescued. A total of 17,104 people were on board the vessels involved in accidents. The vessels that required no assistance carried 11,763, while 5,254 of the remaining 5,341 were rescued.
- (2) There were 117 people who died or became missing in maritime accidents, and 108 people who died or became missing after falling overboard.
- (3) Fishing vessels reported the largest percentage of total fatalities and missing persons involved in maritime accidents or falling overboard, 68% for the former and 59% for the latter.
- (4) In the sea south of Chiba Prefecture (Nojimazaki), a fishing boat “Seitoku Maru” and JMSDF Escort Vessel “Atago” crashed in February 2008. Two crew members of “Seitoku Maru” were declared missing, and search-and-rescue operations were conducted by the Japan Coast Guard after this accident. With respect to this collision accident, Japan Marine Accident Inquiry Agency designated this accident as a serious marine accident case, and they are still investigating the causes for the collision.

Transition in the number of vessels, fatalities and missing people in maritime accidents



- Notes:
1. Source: Japan Coast Guard
 2. Figures for fatalities and missing people include those who, due to illness or other reasons, became unable to operate the vessel and died as it drifted.

1-2 Major constituents of 2007 maritime accidents and rescues, including pleasure boats

- (1) A total of 1,033 pleasure boats were involved in maritime accidents, 174 of which returned to port without assistance. Of the remaining 859 vessels, 788 were rescued.
- (2) The number of pleasure boats involved in maritime accidents increased by 88 from the previous year, and pleasure boats accounted for 40% of all vessels in maritime accidents.

* A pleasure boat is a general term denoting motor boats, sailboats, personal water craft, and other small vessels used by individuals for sports or recreation.

2 Current Maritime Traffic Safety Measures

2-1 Maritime environment enhancements

- Maintenance of traffic safety facilities

In accordance with the Priority Plan for Social Infrastructure Development, projects were carried out to improve the water way designated to be developed and preserved, to maintain ports and harbors, and also to enhance the earthquake resistance of ports and harbors. Under the Long-term Development Plan for Fishing Harbors and Fisheries, which was newly introduced for the first time in fiscal year 2007, infrastructure improvements were made to facilities around fishing harbors, to promote the greater safety for fishing vessels.

2-2 Maritime safety campaigns

- Spreading the principle of prevention

In order to prevent maritime accidents, it is important to spread and raise the awareness of maritime affairs related parties such as ship operators, and of marine leisure lovers about the prevention of maritime accidents, and they also need to gain knowledge about and acquire skills in the prevention of maritime accidents. Therefore, by visiting ships and through maritime accidents prevention seminars, they were encouraged to know well the laws related to maritime affairs and to operate vessels safely. In addition, the Regional Coast Guard Headquarters implemented safety campaigns tailored to the characteristics and needs of the respective regions, such as prevention of accidents resulting from typhoons, accidents during seasons of heavy fog, and accidents due to falling asleep while the self-steering system is in operation.

2-3 Ensuring Safe Operation

- Enhancement of the inspection of safety management

Inspections for passenger ships or cargo ships are performed on the basis of the Marine Transportation Law and the Coastal Shipping Law. Improvements in inspection method and enhancement of the entire system were thus carried out.

- Implementation of the transport safety management system

Establishment of a unified security management system from top management to site employees in operators was promoted. The “Transport Safety Management System” that evaluates the safety management system of operators was introduced by the government in October 2006 and continuous efforts have been made to spread the knowledge about the system. Moreover, the transport safety management evaluation was officially started in the District Transport Bureau from the fiscal year 2007 and it has been implemented in 244 companies from October 2006 to the end of March 2008.

2-4 Augmentation of safety measures for small vessels, etc.

- Promotion of safety measures for pleasure boats

The Japan Coast Guard provides in-depth guidance to acquire meteorological and oceanographic information and to comply with the laws and regulations related to maritime affairs through a variety of endeavors, including visiting vessels in ports to provide guidance to the crews, and hosting maritime accident prevention seminars. Likewise, the police engaged in a number of water safety efforts that concentrated on ports and other areas of heavy vessel traffic, popular swimming beaches, and waters frequented by marine leisure sport enthusiasts. The efforts involved providing safety guidance from police boats, patrolling with support from police aircrafts, and collaborating with community organizations and relevant organizations. Maritime safety was promoted through maintenance of the marine leisure environment, safety guidance to marine leisure providers, and also to raise the safety awareness of marine leisure users.