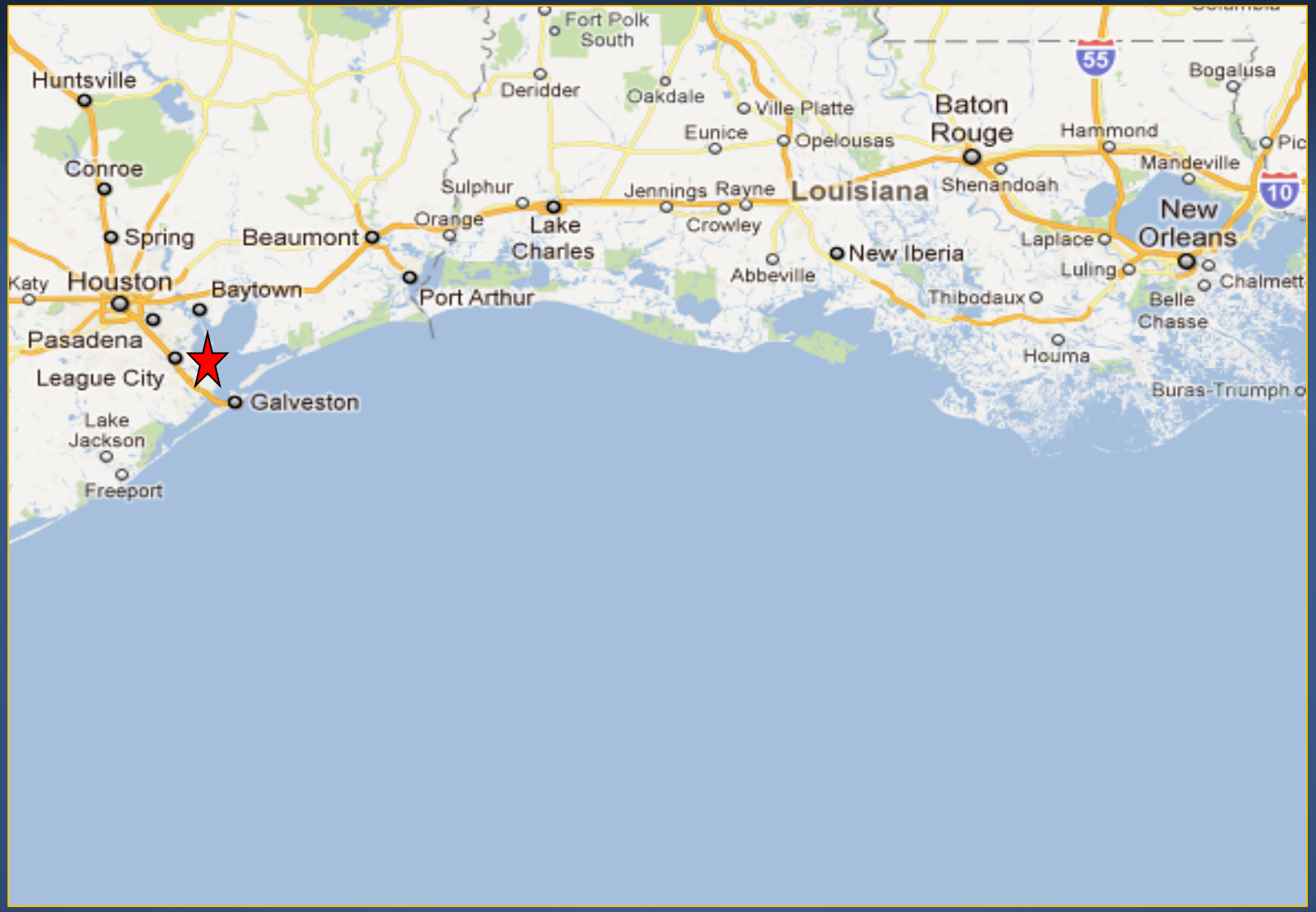
National Transportation Safety Board

Collision of Tankship *Elka Apollon* with Containership *MSC Nederland* Houston Ship Channel Upper Galveston Bay, Texas October 29, 2011

Brian Curtis

Investigator-In-Charge

Accident Location



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Tankship *Elka Apollon*

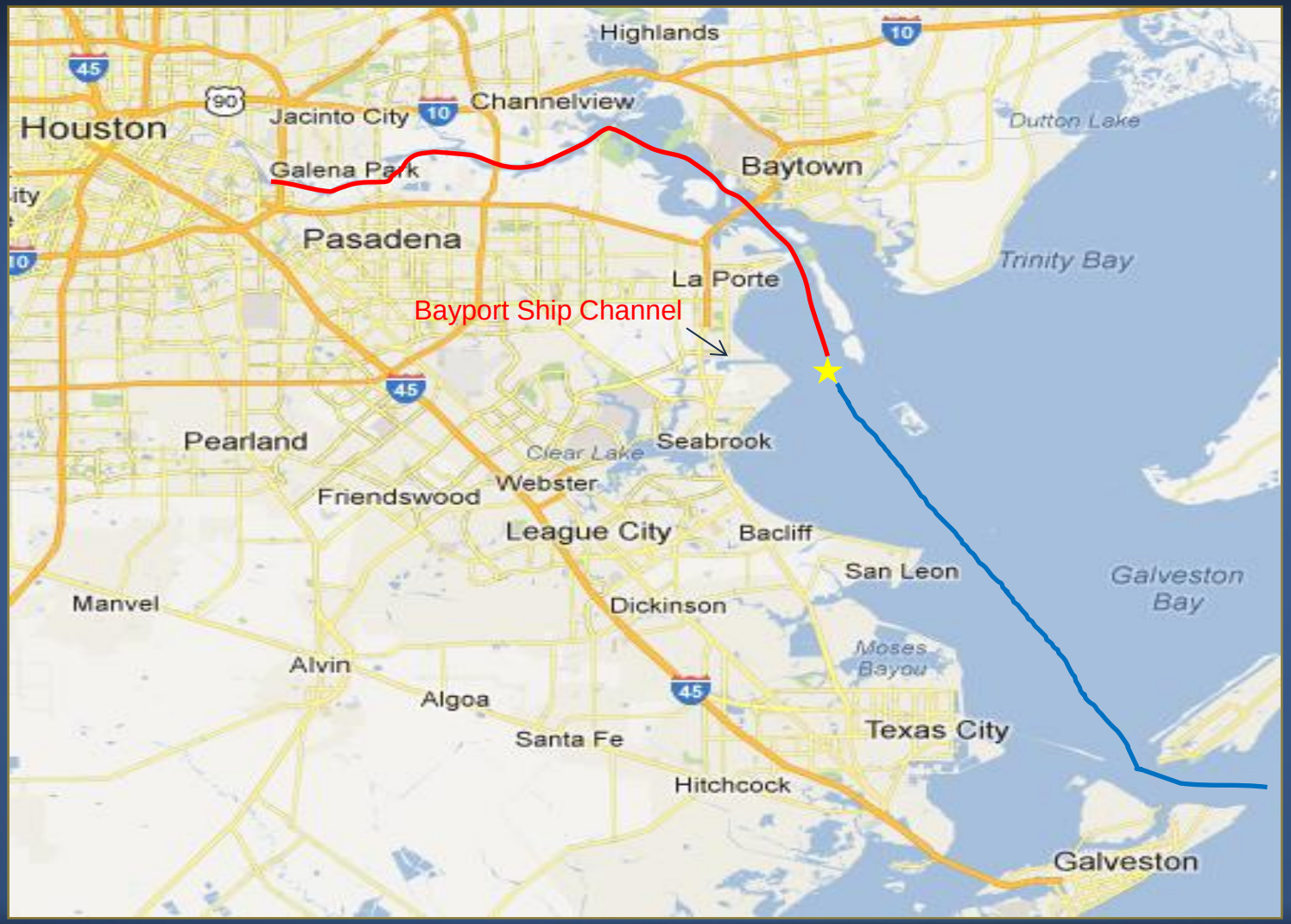
Source: www.worldmaritimenews.com

Containership *MSC Nederland*

Photo by Wayne Court, www.marinetraffic.com

NTSB

Houston Ship Channel



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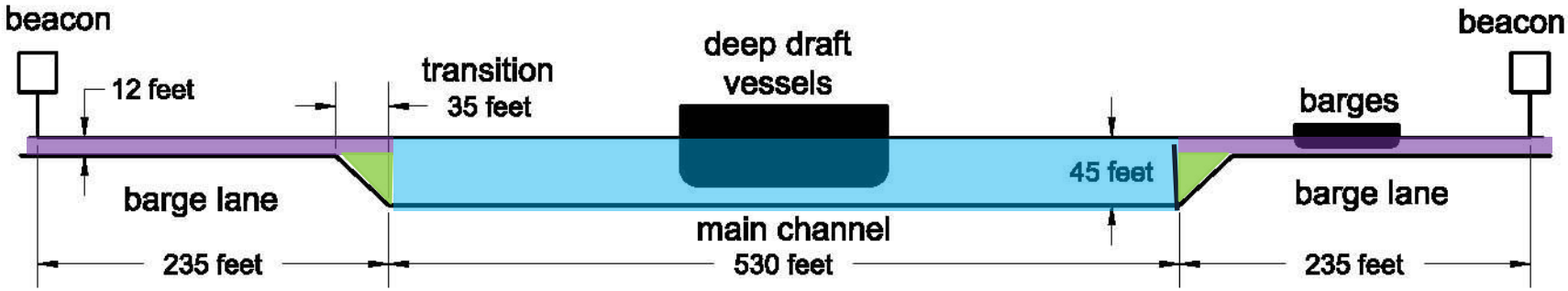
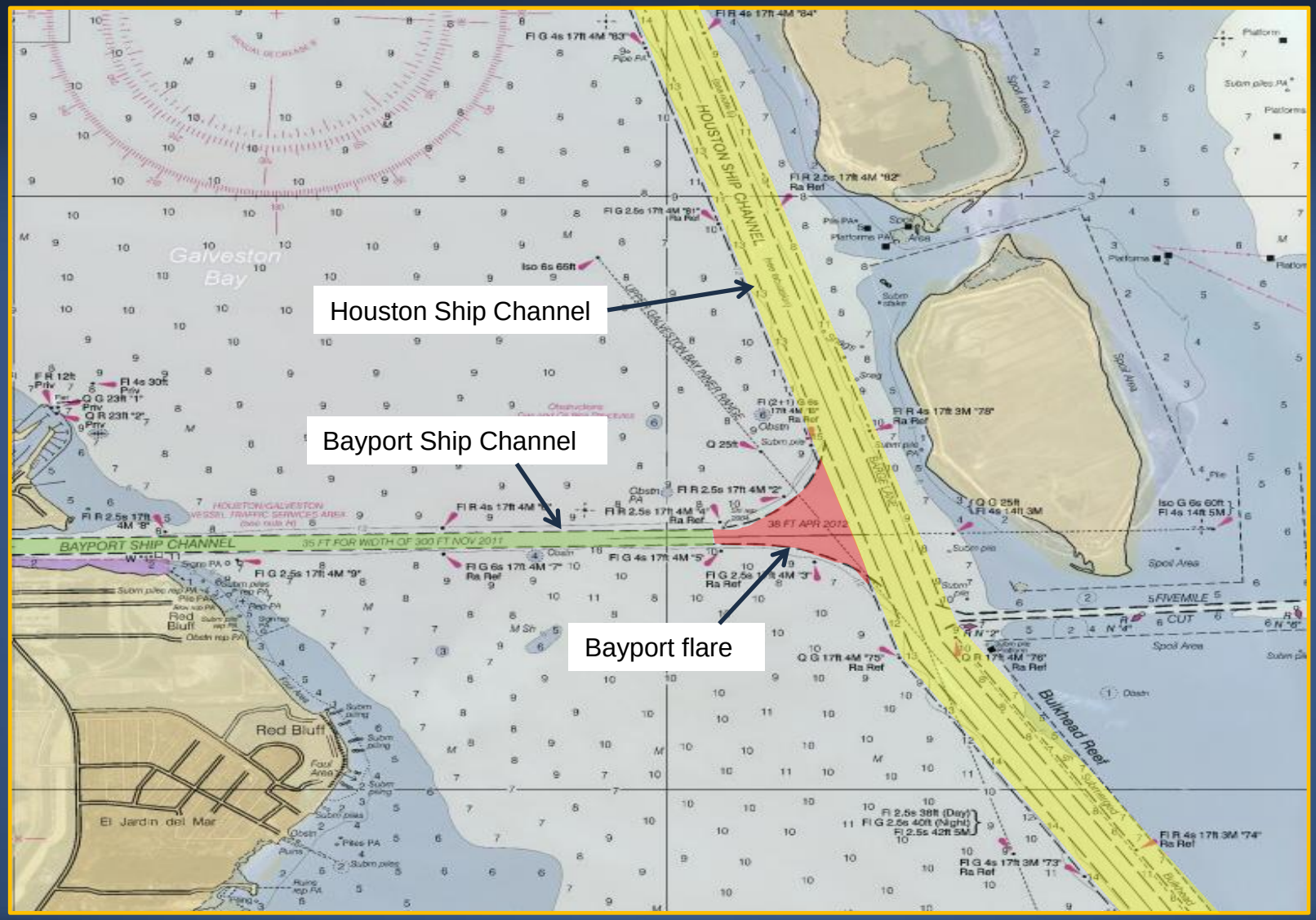
Channel Configuration



Collision Area



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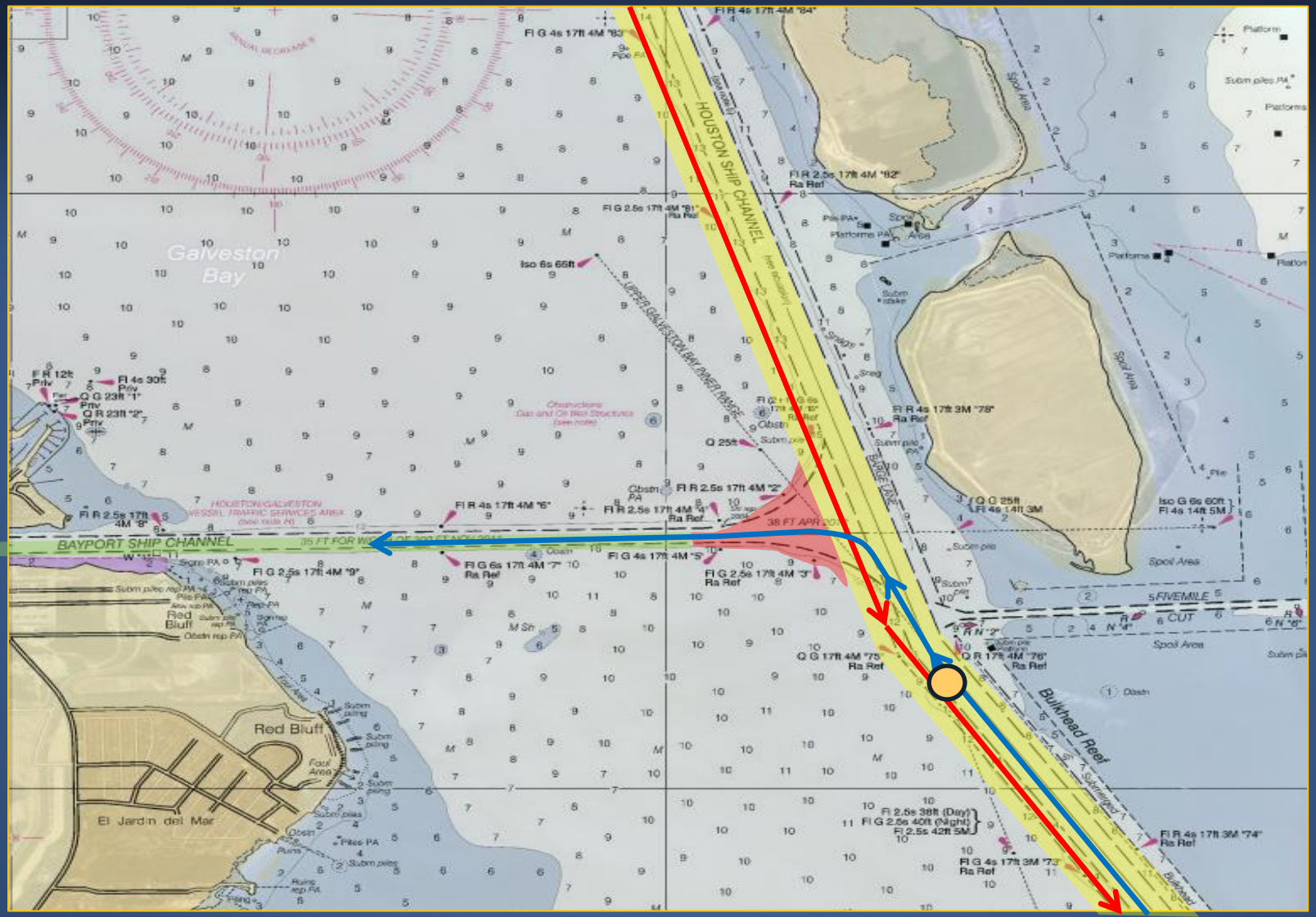
Intended Vessel Tracks



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Elka Apollon Damage

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MSC Nederland Damage

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Safety Issues

- Pilot challenges in the Houston Ship Channel
- Vessel separation in precautionary areas
- Lack of identification of precautionary areas

NTSB Staff

- Brian Curtis
- Rob Jones
- Eric Stolzenberg
- Mike Karr
- Barry Strauch
- Carol Jaka
- Dennis Crider
- Chris Babcock
- Alice Park
- Christy Spangler

Investigation Parties

- U.S. Coast Guard
- Houston Pilots Association
- European Product Carriers
- Mediterranean Shipping Company
- Cheryl K

Presentations

- Accident Overview.....Brian Curtis
- Vessel, Pilot, and Waterway Factors.....Rob Jones
- VTS and Waterway Precautionary Areas.....Mike Karr

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