

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



**MARINE BOARD OF INVESTIGATION  
LOSS OF THE S.S. EL FARO WITH 33 PERSONS MISSING AND PRESUMED DEAD  
ON OCTOBER 1, 2015 NEAR CROOKED ISLAND, BAHAMAS**

**Media Release**

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Coast Guard will conduct a second round of public hearings for the Marine Board of Investigation into the loss of the United States-flagged steam ship EL FARO, and its 33 crewmembers. The second hearing will focus on shipboard operations, cargo loading, lashing and stowage operations for the accident voyage while also examining the vessel's analysis of stability and weather conditions forecasted and encountered. In addition, the regulatory oversight for the El Faro will be examined to determine and potential implications of that oversight on the accident voyage. The third hearing (date to be determined) will examine additional elements of the investigation including crew witnesses, TOTE company officials and contents of the EL FARO's Voyage Data Recorder if it can be recovered and analyzed. The National Transportation Safety Board, is conducting its own investigation, will fully participate in the Marine Board of Investigation hearings.

**What:** Marine Board of Investigation

**When:** Daily 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. ET Monday, May 16th – Friday, May 27th. There are no witness currently scheduled for Saturday or Sunday (21-22 May). However, if the MBI needs to expand the schedule we will update the media accordingly.

**Where:** Prime F. Osborn Convention Center, 1000 Water Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204

**The investigation will determine as closely as possible:**

- The factors that contributed to the accident;
- Whether there is evidence that any act of misconduct, inattention to duty, negligence or willful violation of the law on the part of any licensed or certificated person contributed to the casualty; and
- Whether there is evidence that any Coast Guard personnel or any representative or employee of any other government agency or any other person caused or contributed to the casualty.

Reporters must register to attend the hearing by emailing: [alana.l.ingram@uscg.mil](mailto:alana.l.ingram@uscg.mil). Media must register no later than 4 p.m Friday, May 13.

**Ground Rules for the EL FARO Hearing are:**

Reporters may attend open sessions of the Marine Board, as may members of the public as long as they do not detract from the decorum of the proceedings or inhibit a witness' willingness to testify. The Coast Guard's policy is to permit expanded media coverage of marine casualty investigations therefore audio and video recordings are authorized.

- Media pooling will be required
- Witnesses will not be available for interviews until the Marine Board Chairman releases them from their testimony
- Entering and exiting the hearing room shall only be conducted during designated breaks
- No extreme close-ups of documents, witnesses and/or members of the Marine Board
- Bench conferences shall not be recorded by audio or by extreme close-up video or photography
- Media members must prominently display their credentials at all times and remain within assigned area
- Confidential communications between counsel and client or co-counsel shall not be recorded by audio or by extreme close-up video or photography
- Questions regarding the proceedings shall be directed to the Coast Guard media liaison. A liaison will be present at the venue throughout the hearing

**Failure to adhere to these rules or other verbal instructions may result in removal from the hearings.**

Contacts:

Alana Ingram, Public Affairs Office, [alana.l.ingram@uscg.mil](mailto:alana.l.ingram@uscg.mil), 202-372-4632

Saving Lives and Guarding the Coast Since 1790.

The United States Coast Guard -- Proud History. Powerful Future.