



January 30, 2023

Open Letter Re: USCG Report on *EVER FORWARD* Grounding, March 13, 2022

The US Coast Guard has issued a marine casualty report of the Investigation into the *EVER FORWARD* Grounding in the Craighill Channel of Chesapeake Bay. This report has been released to the public, and a redacted version is available online at:

[Report of the Investigation into the *EVER FORWARD* \(O.N. 9850551\) Grounding in the vicinity of Craighill Channel on March 13, 2022.](#)

The incident involved improper use of a cell phone during navigation and includes two Findings of Concern.

The first Finding of Concern recommends *"that vessel owners and marine operators develop and implement effective policies outlining when the use of cell phones and other portable electric devices is appropriate or prohibited... this new Finding of Concern reiterates the original warnings [in Marine Safety Advisory 01-10] and emphasizes the additional dangers associated with fixation on electronic devices as well as over reliance on a singular piece of equipment while navigating or performing safety sensitive functions."*

The second Finding of Concern recommends that *"vessel owners and operators ensure and promote crew awareness of policies regarding the duties and obligations of officers on watch for the safety of the ship, even when a pilot is embarked."*

The report also notes that *"International Maritime Organization (IMO) Resolution A.960(23) highlights that efficient pilotage largely depends upon the effectiveness of communications and information exchange between the pilot, master, and bridge personnel regarding navigational procedures, local conditions, and ship's characteristics. The IMO advises that this information exchange should be a continuous process that is generally ongoing for the duration of the pilotage. The IMO further emphasizes that Masters and bridge officers have a duty to support the pilot and ensure that his or her actions are monitored at all times."*

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