

JTSB Digests

JTSB (Japan Transport Safety Board) DIGESTS

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Digests of marine accident analysis

Safe navigation of recreational fishing vessels For prevention of accidents involving vertebral fractures of anglers

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1. Introduction

Many people enjoy boat fishing, because it offers different types of angling and entertainment that allows anglers to forget busy daily life amid the smell of ocean in a rocking ship in the waves. On the other hand, it becomes difficult to ensure safety of vessels if care is not taken to weather and sea conditions, since they float on unstable water surface despite external forces such as constant winds and waves.

The number of accidents involving casualties of anglers of recreational fishing vessels between October 2008 when the Japan Transport Safety Board was established, and February 2023 is 37 among accidents whose investigation reports have been published. A total of 46 anglers died or were injured. When we looked at those accidents involving casualties in detail, 18 out of 37 accidents (49%) were caused by pitching (the body of anglers is lifted up and then fall due to pitching of ship’s body) (See Figure 1). Moreover, 14 out of 46 persons who died or were injured (30%) experienced vertebral fracture (mainly fracture near the border between the thoracic spine and the lumbar spine), and all of them were injured by accidents due to pitching (See Figure 2).

Therefore, the JTSB (Japan Transport Safety Board) DIGESTS summarize the situations where these accidents occurred, their cases, and points for preventing accidents with the aim of preventing accidents involving vertebral fractures of anglers.

※ “Accidents involving casualties” refer to marine accidents with casualties caused not by collision, grounding, capsizing, flooding, or fire. Casualties are caused by pitching and rolling due to waves or the like or overboard, etc.

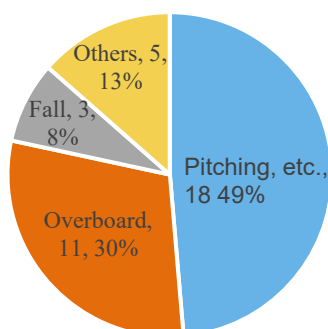


Figure 1: Cause of accidents of recreational fishing vessels involving casualties

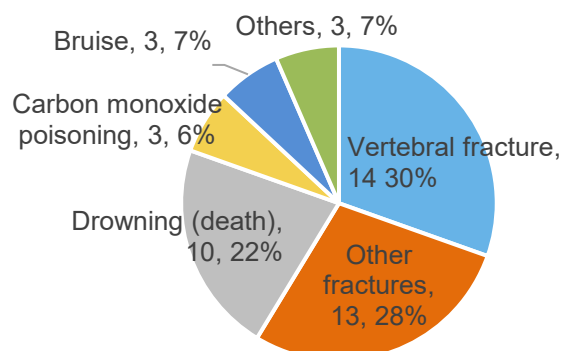


Figure 2: State of casualties in accidents involving fatality or injury