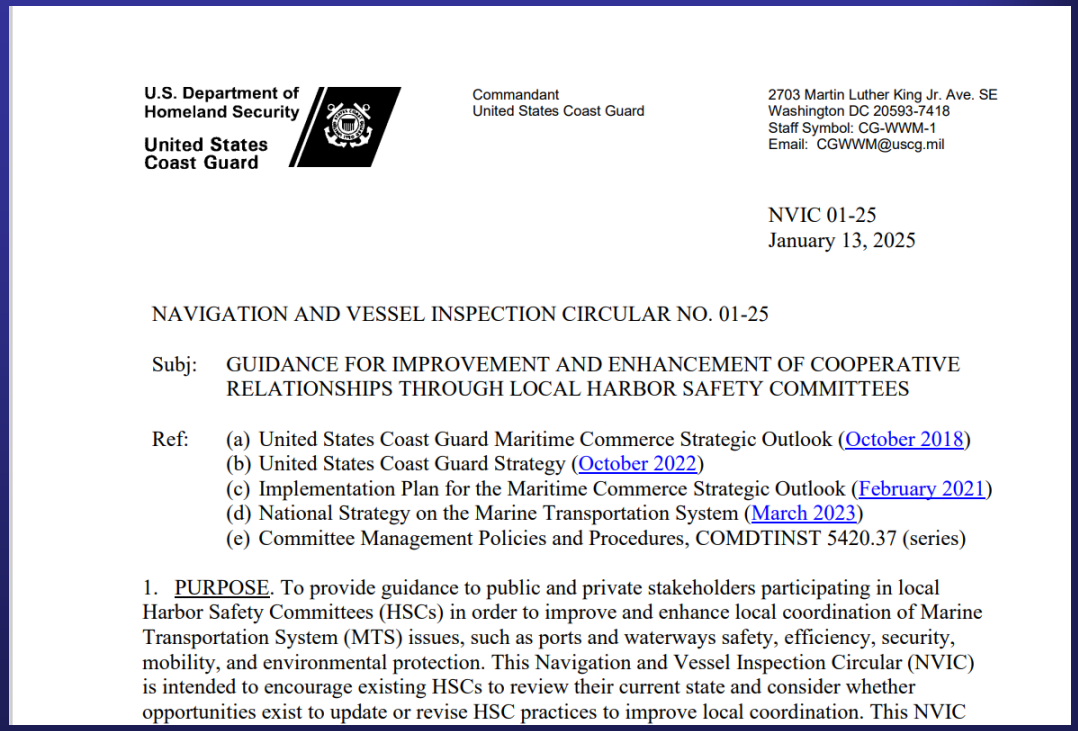
New USCG Policy

- NVIC 01-25: Guidance for Improvement and Enhancement of Cooperative Relationships Through Local Harbor Safety Committees (HSC)
  - Outlines & recommends best practices for HSCs
  - Encourages & provides guidance to establishing new HSCs



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard

Commandant
United States Coast Guard

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Washington DC 20593-7418
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NVIC 01-25
January 13, 2025

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 01-25

Subj: GUIDANCE FOR IMPROVEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH LOCAL HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEES

Ref: (a) United States Coast Guard Maritime Commerce Strategic Outlook (October 2018)
(b) United States Coast Guard Strategy (October 2022)
(c) Implementation Plan for the Maritime Commerce Strategic Outlook (February 2021)
(d) National Strategy on the Marine Transportation System (March 2023)
(e) Committee Management Policies and Procedures, COMDTINST 5420.37 (series)

1. PURPOSE. To provide guidance to public and private stakeholders participating in local Harbor Safety Committees (HSCs) in order to improve and enhance local coordination of Marine Transportation System (MTS) issues, such as ports and waterways safety, efficiency, security, mobility, and environmental protection. This Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) is intended to encourage existing HSCs to review their current state and consider whether opportunities exist to update or revise HSC practices to improve local coordination. This NVIC

NVIC 01-25 Link: https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/5ps/NVIC/2020/2025/Final-HSC-NVIC-signed-011325.pdf

STATE OF THE WATERWAY - 2024

South-East Texas Waterways Advisory Council

U. S. PORT RANKINGS 2022
(by total tonnage)

(Millions of Short Tons – 2022 ACOE data)

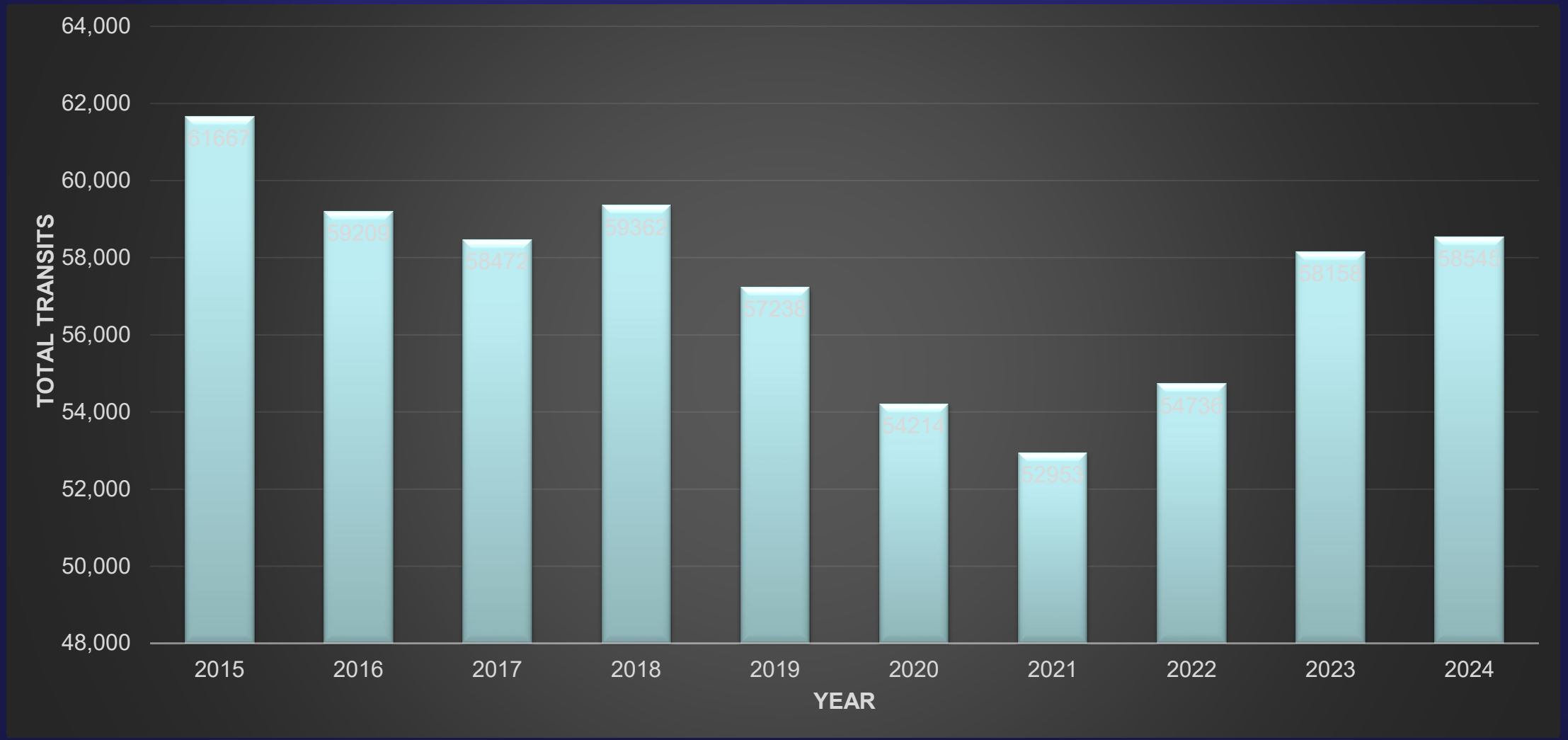
	Port	Tons	% Diff since 2021
1	Houston, TX	293.8	10.2
2	Port of S. Louisiana, LA	226.2	0.7
3	Corpus Christi, TX	174.3	6.0
4	New York, NY and NJ	141.3	-0.7
5.	Long Beach, CA	93.0	1.6
6.	New Orleans, LA	83.3	-7.0
7.	Beaumont, TX	74.3	-0.3
8.	Baton Rouge, LA	73.4	3.0
9.	Port of Virginia	69.4	7.6
10.	Lake Charles, LA	64.1	32.7
11.	Los Angeles, CA	59.8	-6.9
12.	Plaquemines, LA	55.4	5.1
13.	Savannah, GA	53.7	12.7
14.	Mobile, AL	50.5	0.5
15.	Port Arthur, TX	47.5	18.1
16.	Baltimore, MD	40.6	8.4
17.	Texas City, TX	32.9	17.5
18.	Philadelphia Regional Port	31.8	3.7
19.	Port Freeport, TX	31.6	-25.3

	Port	Tons	% Diff since 2021
20	Duluth-Superior, MN and WI	29.6	-8.7
21	Tampa, FL	28.0	-6.8
22	Southern Indiana District, IN	27.7	14.6
23	Charleston, SC	27.7	-2.4
24	Port Everglades, FL	25.6	7.6
25	Northern Indiana District, IN	25.4	-15.9
26	Valdez, AK	25.1	-1.7
27	Port of Pascagoula, MS	24.1	1.3
28	Richmond, CA	23.6	13.0
29	Portland, OR	22.9	-6.5
30	South Jersey Port District	20.1	-0.4
31	Tacoma, WA	19.9	-14.8
32	Seattle, WA	18.5	-19.2
33	Oakland, CA	18.0	-4.6
34	Jacksonville, FL	17.7	1.7
35	Pittsburgh, PA Port of	17.4	6.2
36	Port of Kalama, WA	15.9	-13.5
37	Honolulu, O'ahu, HI	14.4	-2.3
38	Galveston, TX	13.5	12.6
83	Orange, TX	4.1	75.7

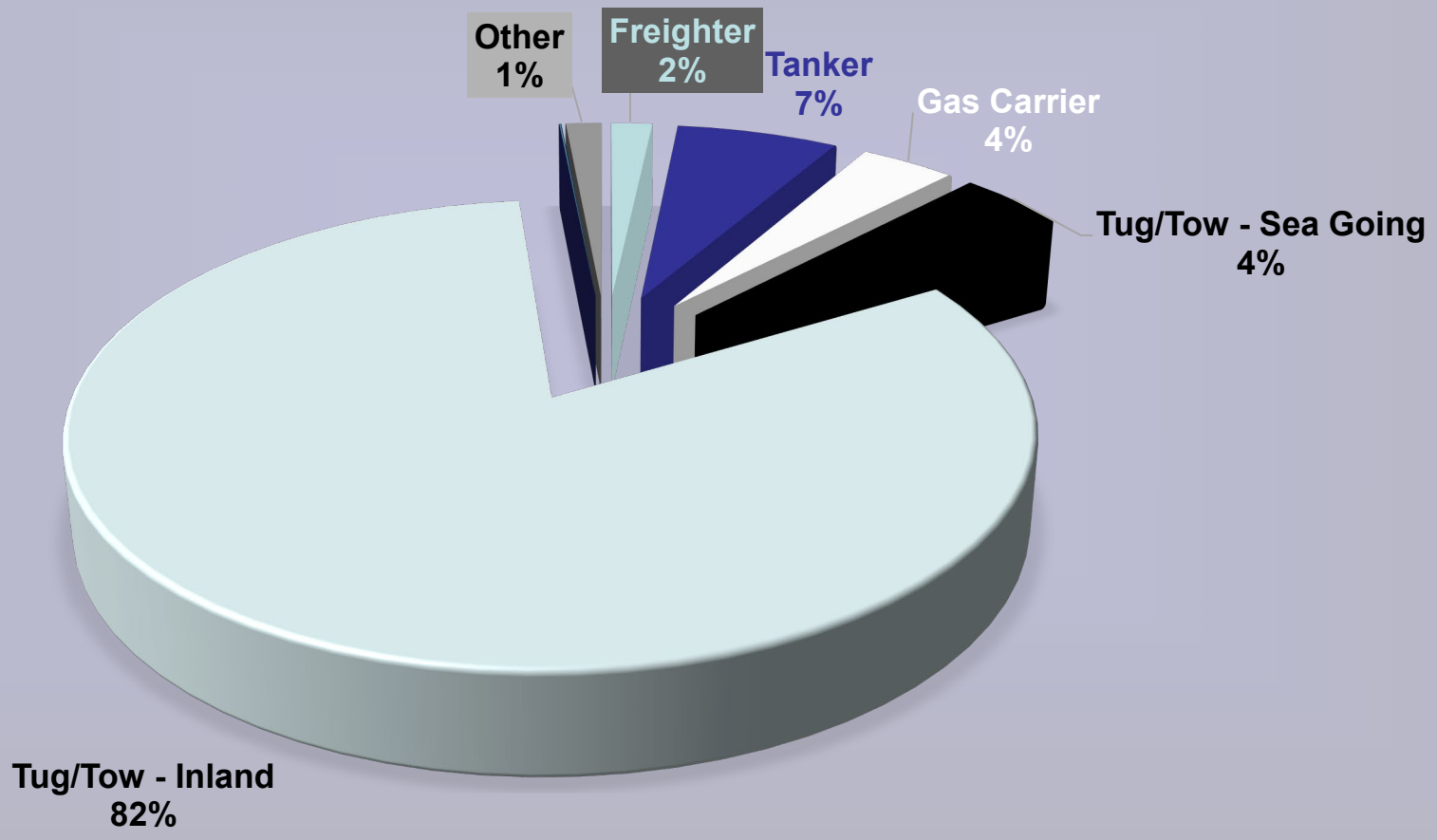
VTS Total Transits – 2024

	2023	2024	% Change
Freighter	959	986	+ 2.8%
Tanker	4004	3884	- 2.9 %
Gas	2106	2271	+7.8 %
Tug	2367	2493	+ 5.3 %
Inland Tow	48,035	48,011	- 0.5 %
Other	687	900	+ 31.0 %
Total	58,158	58,545	+ 0.6%

Total Transits
2015 – 2024



TRANSIT SUMMARY by Percentage – 2024



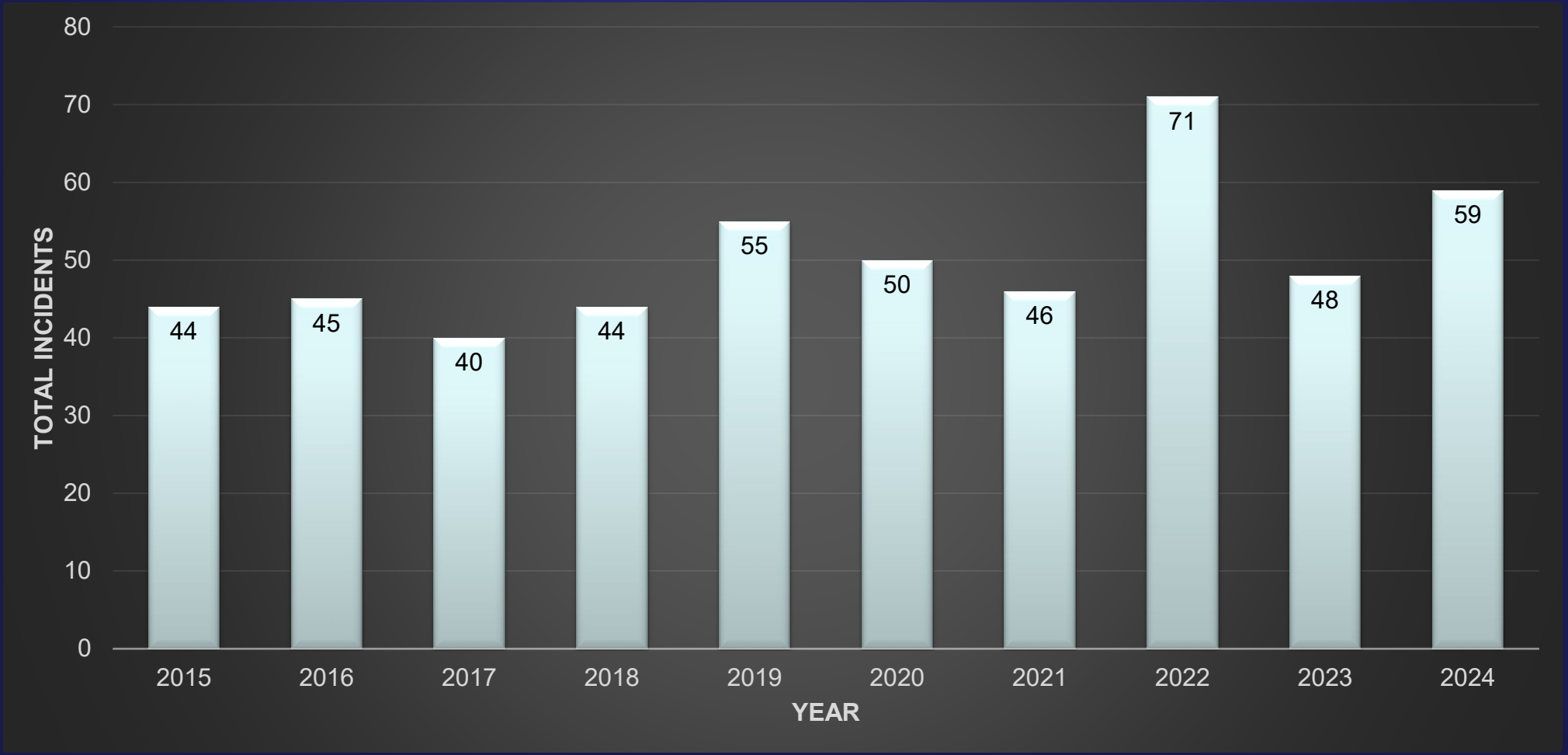
2024 TYPICAL DAY IN THE VTSA

	2023	2024
TANKER TRANSITS	11.0	10.6
FREIGHTER TRANSITS	2.6	2.7
GAS CARRIER TRANSITS	5.8	6.2
TUG (Sea-Going)	6.5	6.8
TOW TRANSITS	131.6	131.5
OSV / OTHER TRANSITS	1.9	2.5

INCIDENTS BY TYPE – 2024

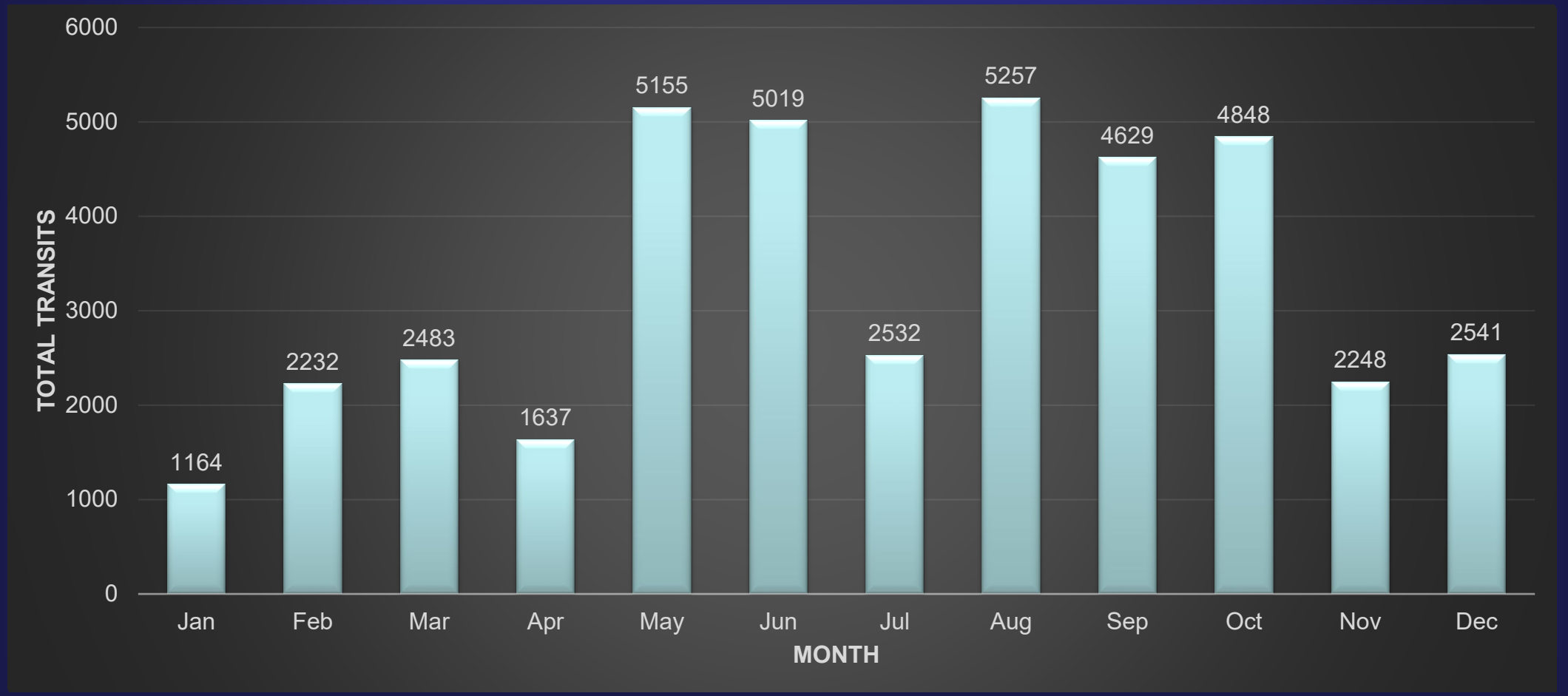
	2023	2024
COLLISIONS	3	1
• Inland / Inland	1	1
• Ship / Inland	1	0
• Inland / Dredge	1	0
ALLISIONS	8	12
• Reported ATON Knockdowns	2	4
• Bridge allisions (air draft)	3	5
• While maneuvering close	2	3
• West Jetty Base	1	0
GROUNDINGS	4	1
• 2 Inland / 1 F/V / 1 Tug (2023)		
• 1 Inland Tow (2024)		
MECHANICAL FAILURE *	20	36
MISCELLANEOUS	13	9
• Wake Damage	2	6
• Breakaway (3 barges)	3	0
• Near Miss	3	2
• Other	5	1
	48	**59**

Total Incidents 2015-2024



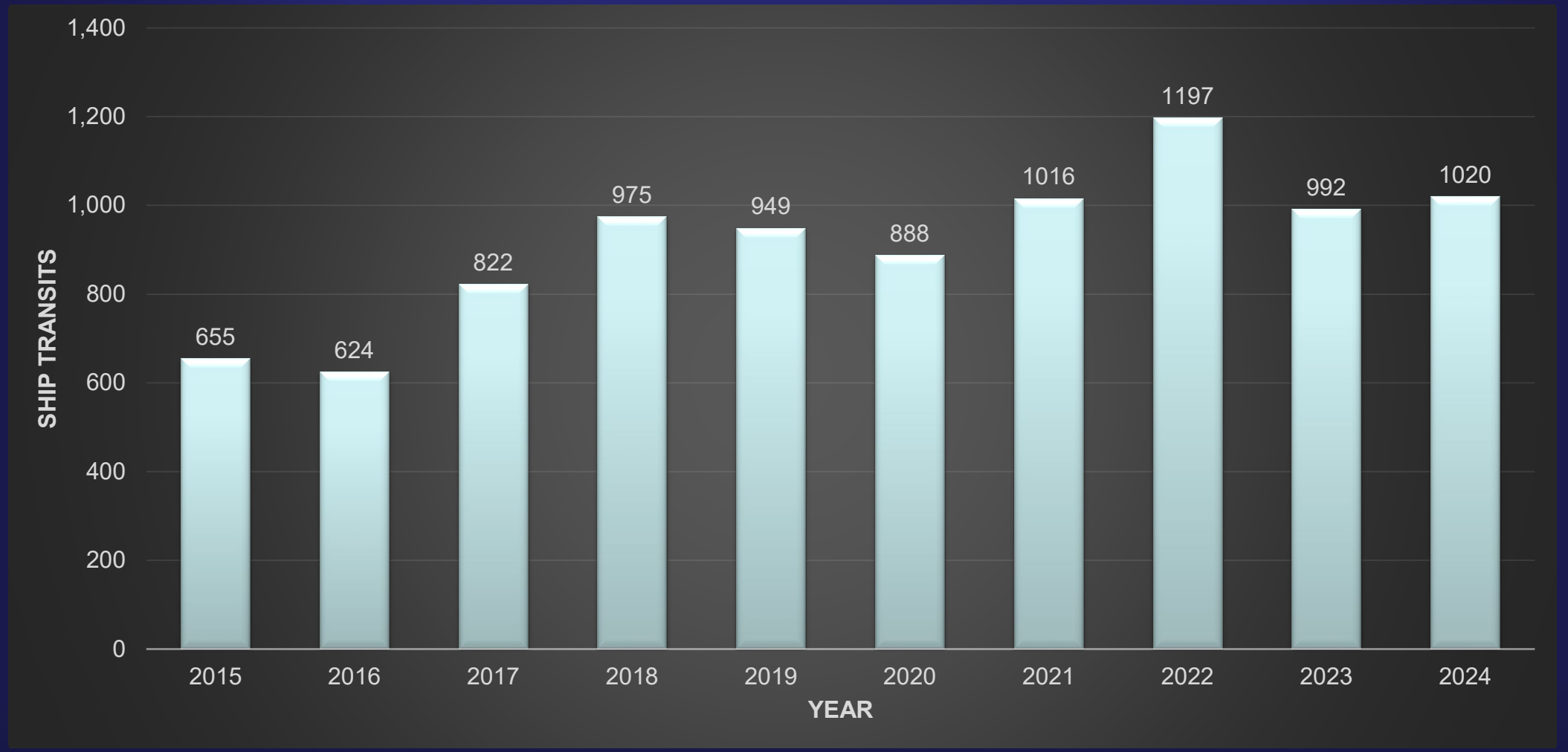
Transits per Navigation Incident by Month 2024

(Allisions, Collisions, Groundings and Wake Damages only)



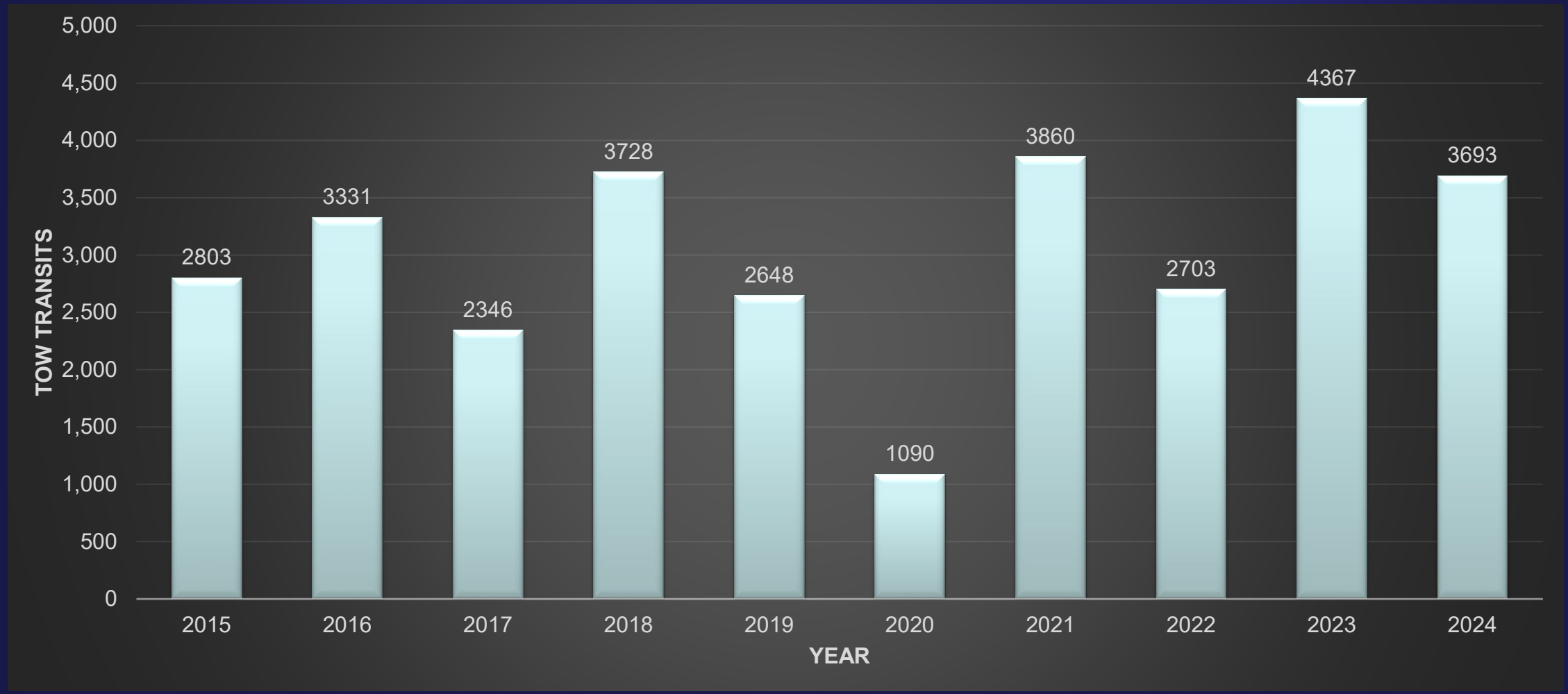
Ship Transits per Incident
2015-2024

(Allisions, Collisions, Groundings and Wake Damages only)



Tow Transits per Incident
2015-2024

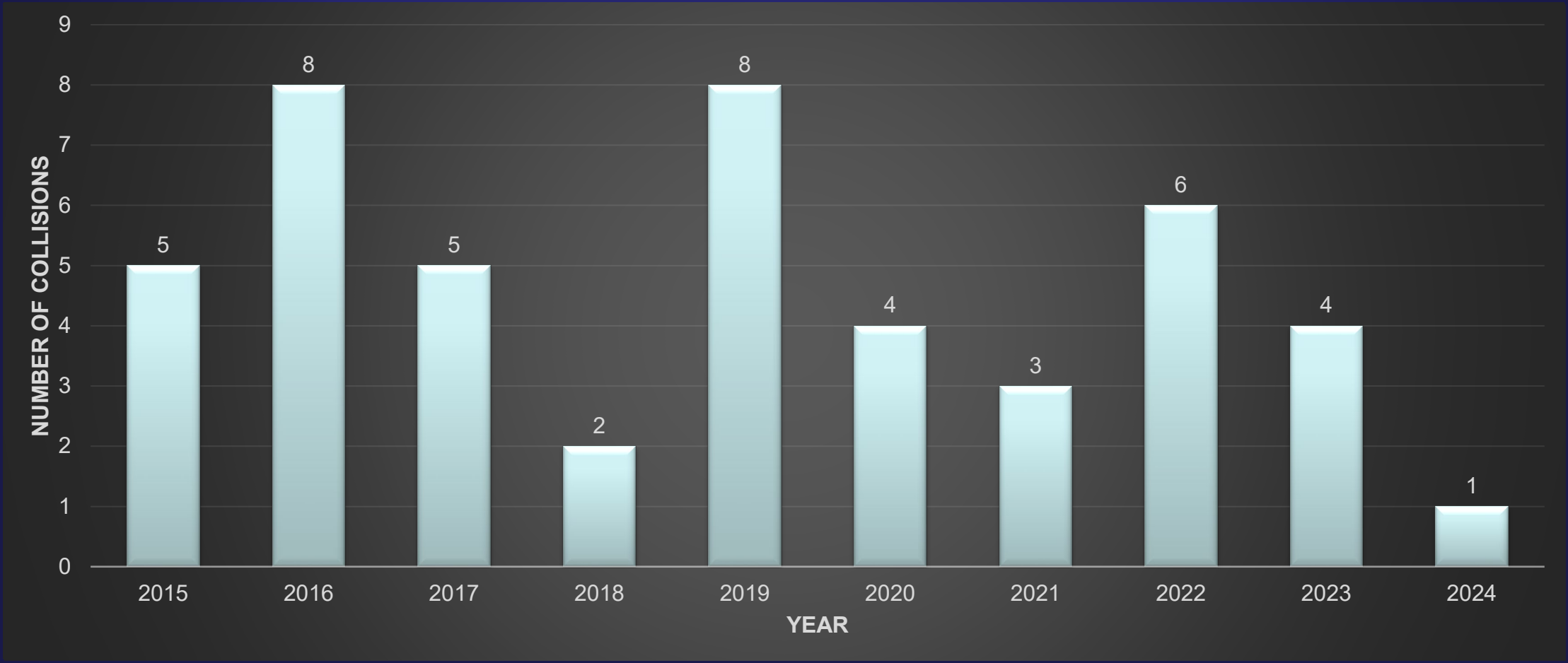
(Allisions, Collisions, Groundings and Wake Damages only)

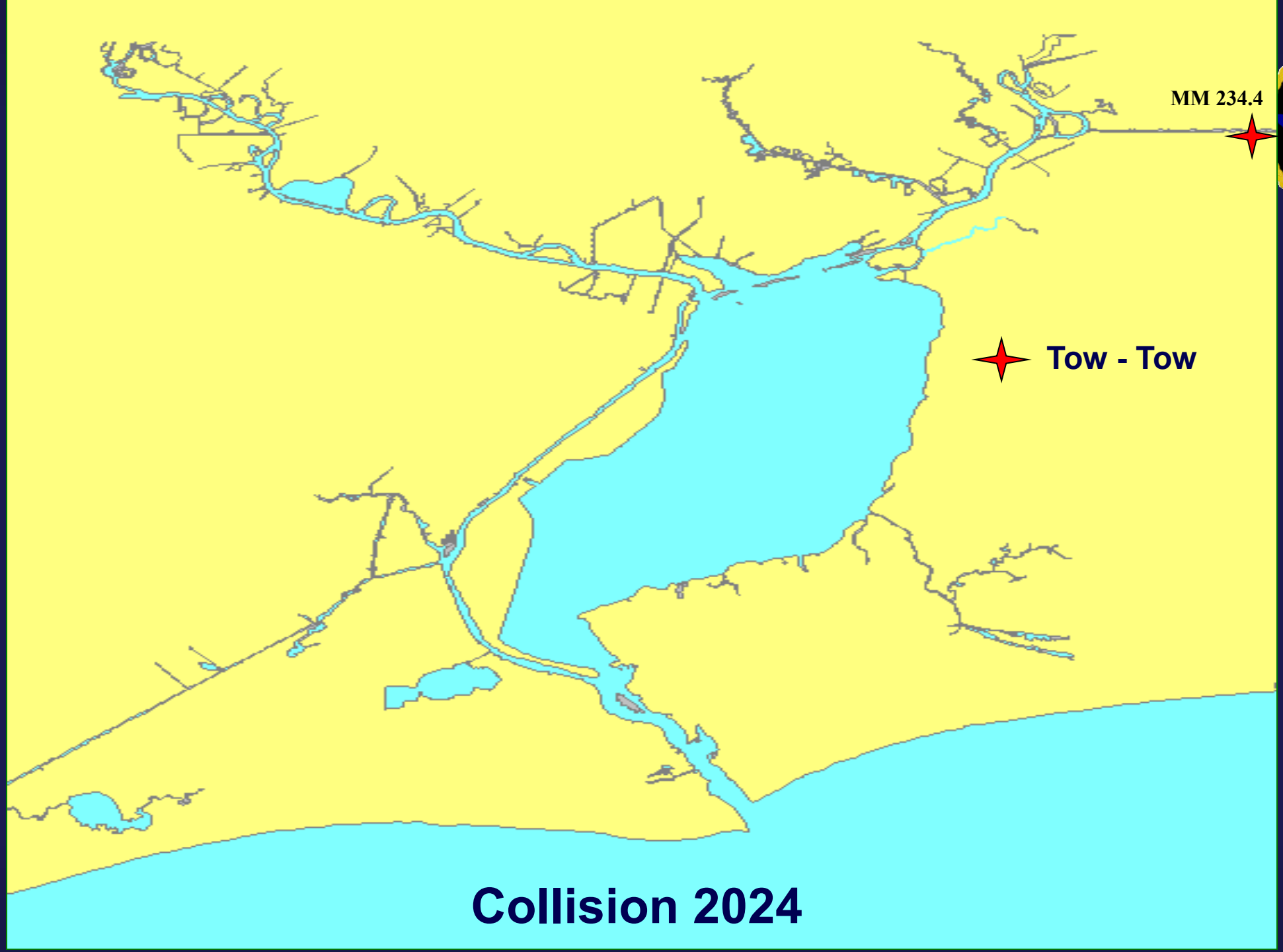


COLLISIONS 2015-2024

2024: 1 Total Collision

- **Tow - Tow**

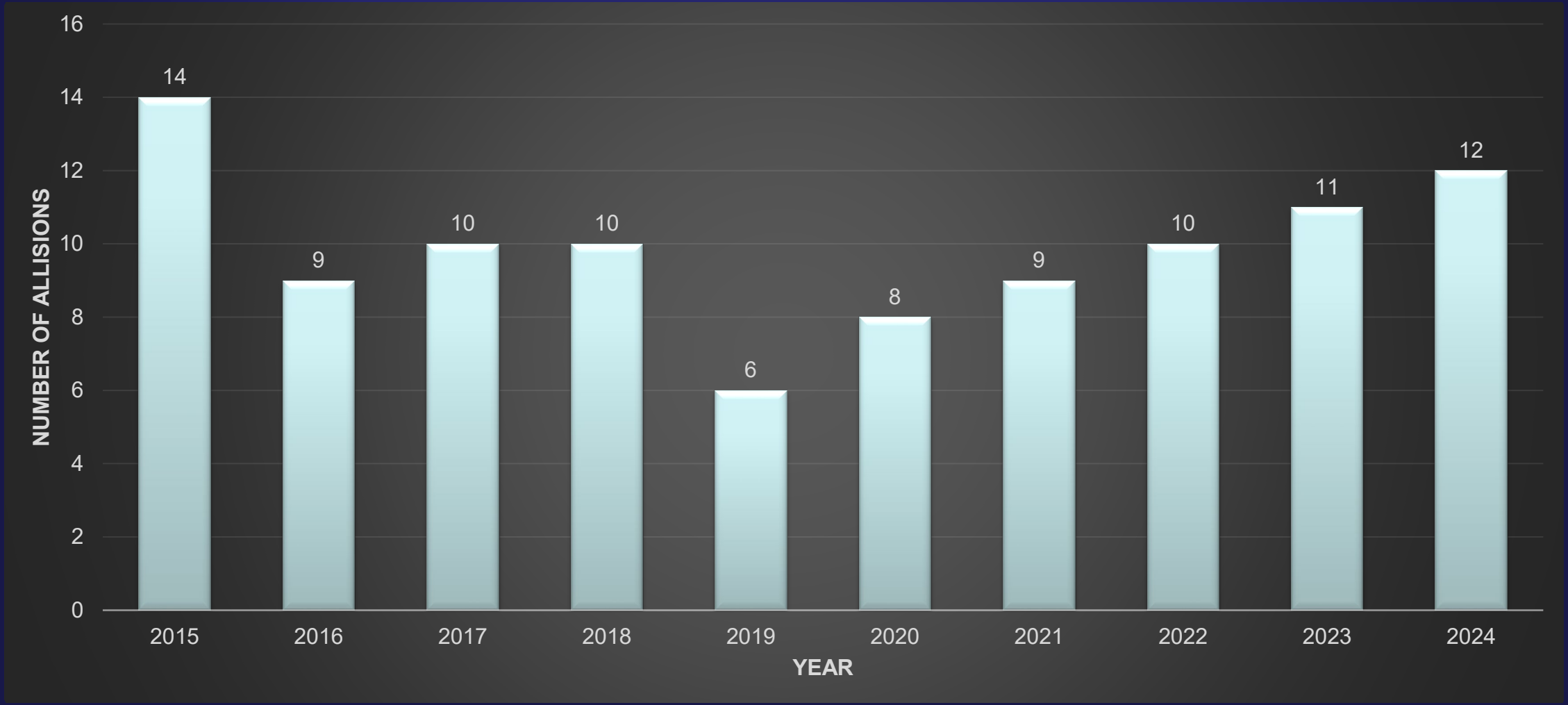



MM 234.4
Tow - Tow
Collision 2024

2024: **12 Total Allisions**

- **11 Tows / Tugs**
- **1 Ship**

ALLISIONS 2015-2024

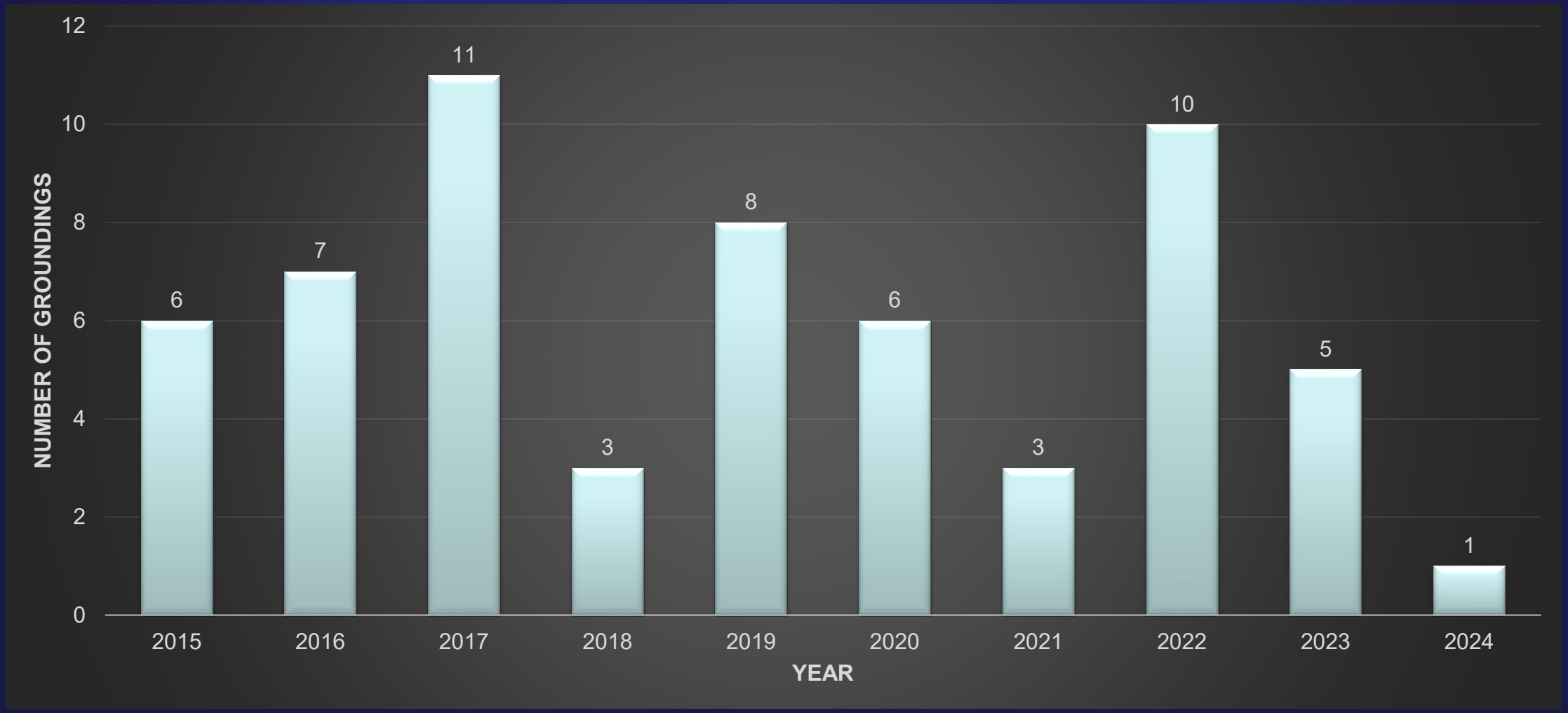


Cow Bayou
Thousand Foot Cut
Total Dock
SNC LT 74
SNC LT 66
SNC LT 65
Tows
Ship
Martin Luther King Bridge
GT Logistics
SNC LT 50
3 Allisions with West
Port Arthur Bridge
Sabine
Allisions 2024

2024: 1 Total Grounding

- Tow

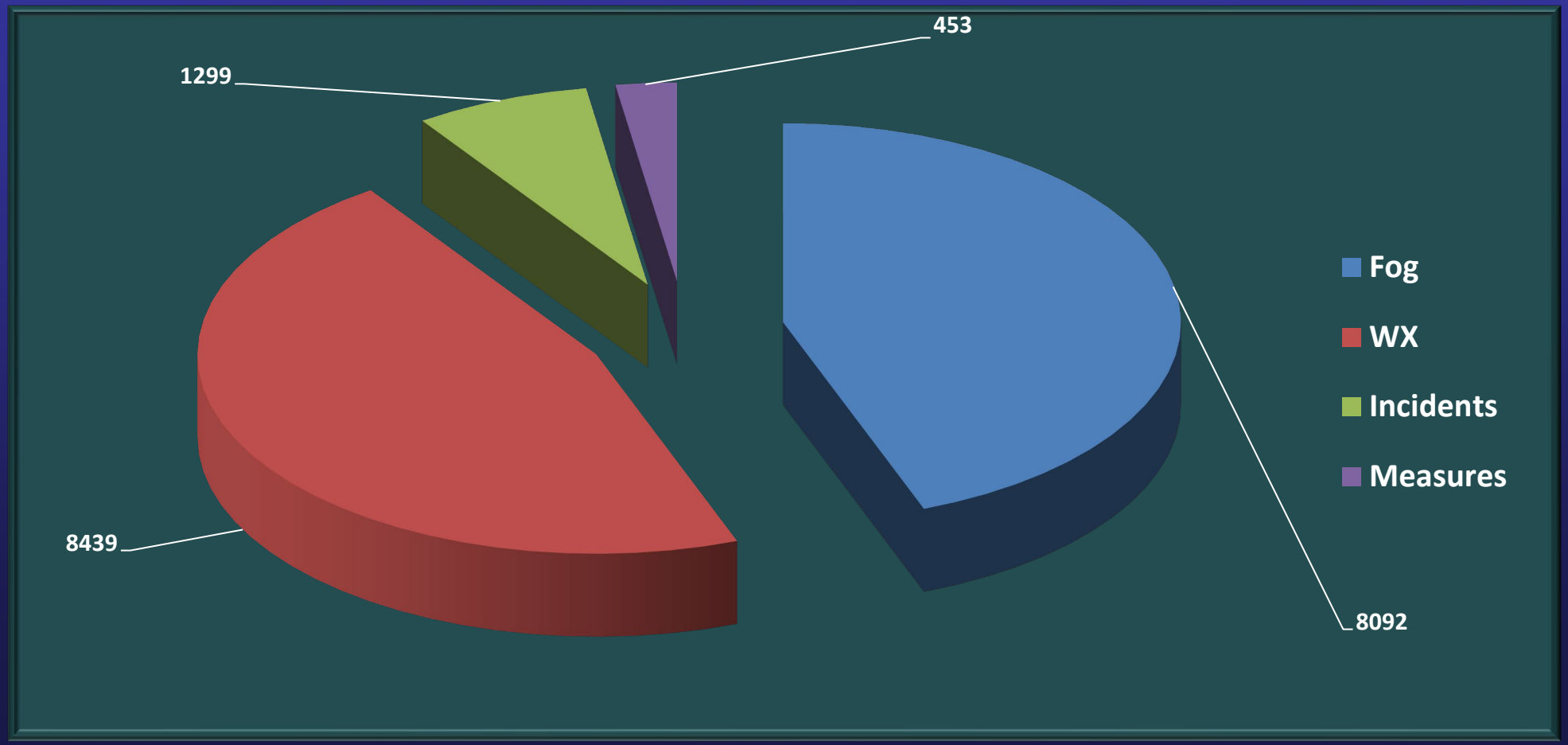
GROUNDINGS 2015-2024



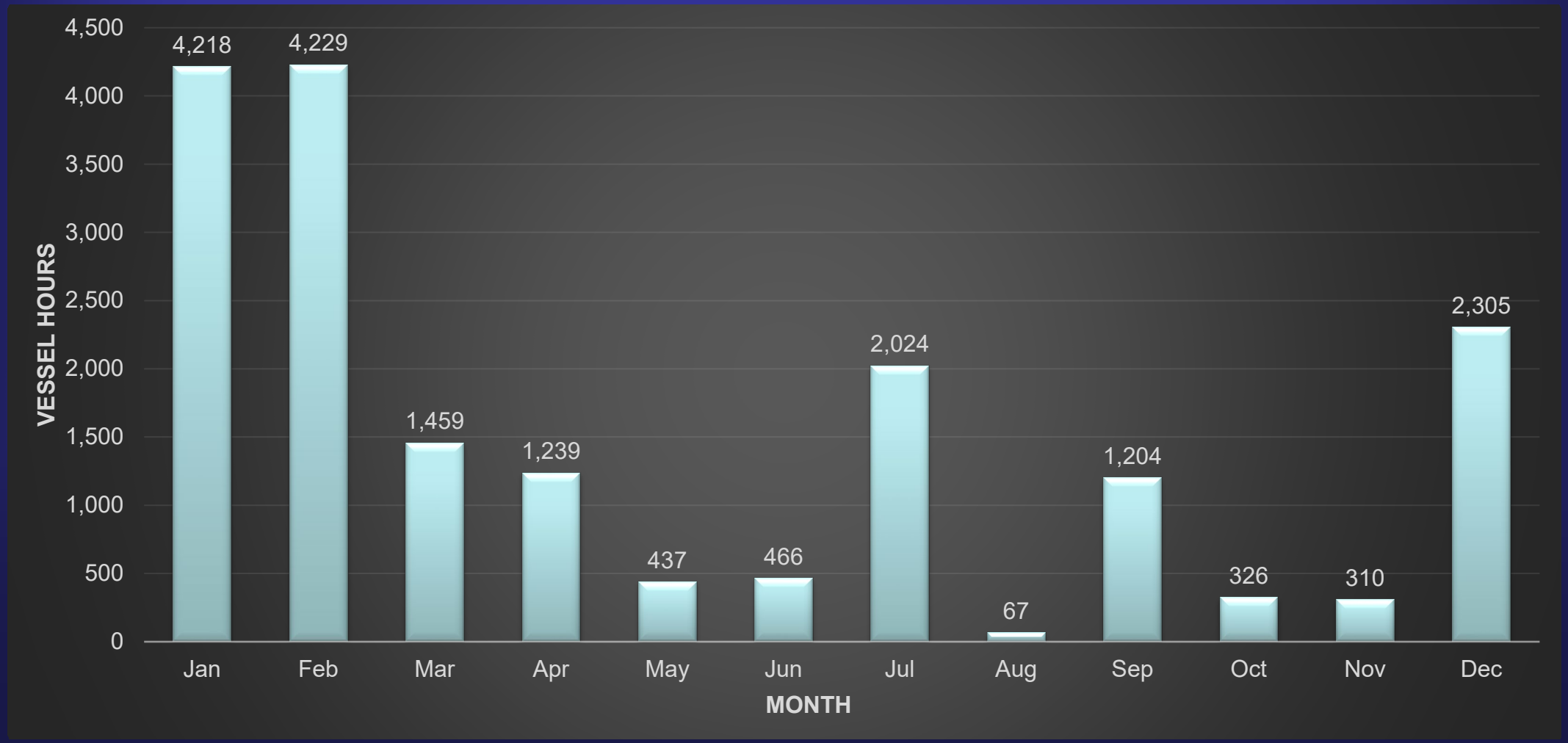
South-East Texas Waterways Advisory Council

Grounding 2024

2024 Sabine-Neches Delays (in vessel hours)



2024
Total Vessel Delays by Month (in vessel hours)



2024 INCIDENTS OF NOTE

- 6 Incidents of Wake Damage
- 4 ATON Knockdowns (Reported)
- Increase in Equipment Failures
- 2 Near Miss Situations:
  - F/V (Goat Island and JBS Packing)
- 1 Collisions:
  - 1 involving 2 inland towing vessels

2025 CHALLENGES

- **Planning for Deepening Project & Increased Facility Construction**
  - **Planned increases in ship traffic including LHG transits.**
  - **Dredging in multiple locations.**
  - **ATON – relocation, establishment.**
  - **Pipeline removal operations.**

VTS/WATERWAYS CONTACTS

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  (409) 277-1752 kimberly.m.gates@uscg.mil

- **Darin Mathis, Director, Vessel Traffic Service,**
  (409) 719-5080 darin.e.mathis@uscg.mil

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  (409) 719-5070 msuportarthur-vtssup@uscg.mil

- **VTS Webpage – https://www.atlanticarea.uscg.mil/vtsportarthur/**

- **Homeport Website – http://homeport.uscg.mil**