

2008 Tanker Loss of Power Casualties

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Abstract

This note reviews the 2008 tanker Loss of Power Casualties in the CTX CDB. The data is consistent with CTX's earlier estimates that the current large (over 10,000 deadweight) tanker fleet is experiencing at least ten full losses of power or steering per day. Young ships do not appear to be performing much better than old in this regard.

Keywords

Tanker; Twin Screw; Redundancy; Maneuverability;

1 Summary

As of 2009-12-05, the CTX Casualty Data Base contains 66 total Loss of Power casualties for tankers over 10,000 dwt tons in 2008.¹

40 of these casualties are from the USCG CGMIX database, which basically covers only tankers under US pilotage. This is nearly the same as last time we looked at this number in 2005, using the CGMIX data for 2003. The 2003 data had 42 LOP casualties for tankers over 10,000 tons. There is nothing in the 2008 numbers which would change our 2005 estimate (see The Case for Twin Screw) that the 5,300 strong, large tanker fleet as a whole is suffering at least 10 loss of power casualties per day.

Six of our 2008 LOP casualties are for ships transiting the Bosphorus or Dardanelles. It appears that the reporting in the Turkish Straits has improved in the last few years. Unfortunately, CTX has not been able to find a breakdown of the traffic in the straits by ship size. We do know that a little less

than 400 tankers of all sizes transit the Bosphorus per month each way. The Bosphorus is about 17 miles long and the Dardanelles is about 38. So ships are in the straits proper something less than 8 hours. Let's call it a half-day. Over a year, tankers of all sizes are in the straits about 13 ship years. We know of two 2008 LOP's in the Turkish Straits of tankers of 5,000 to 10,000 tons. If we incorrectly assume that all the tankers transiting the Straits are 5000 tons or larger, then we are seeing about 1 LOP per every 2 ship-years. This is very roughly in agreement with the CGMIX data (about 1 LOP per ship-year), especially since we can sure a substantial number of the tankers transiting the straits are less than 5000 dwt.

There is no strong age dependence in the data. The average age of the LOP ship was 12.5, not much more than the average age of the tanker fleet. Three of the ships were less than a year old.

While our 2008 tanker LOP's resulted in 6 groundings, two minor collisions, and 2 near-groundings, there is no report on any injuries or pollution associated with these casualties.² Despite the improvement in reporting in the Turkish Strait, over all we are still catching less than 1 percent of all tanker LOP's. It is remarkable that in the entire eastern hemisphere we have only one tanker LOP in 2008, the fully loaded Pacific Alliance which drifted aground and stranded for 10 days near Singapore.

The bottom line is that there is nothing in the 2008 data to change our estimate that the current fleet of 5,300 tankers over 10,000 dwt, are experiencing something over 5000 total Loss of Power casualties per year. All but a handful of these ships are single screw. Practically all of these total LOP's would have been avoided if the ship were properly designed, twin screw tankers.

¹ The CTX includes steering failures in Loss of Power casualties.

² However, we have two 2008 bulk carrier LOP's (Full City and Fedra) both of which resulted in spills.

Table 1: Loss of Power Casualties, 2008, Tankers > 10,000 dwt

Based on CTX CDB Version 4.3 as of 2009-12-05T15:36:16

Date	Ship	EC	LP	L	A	Cl	Fl	?	Ar	Dwt	YOB	Synopsis
				O	C	as	ag		ea			
20080103	team anemonia	MY	Y	H		LR	CY	P	MSR	40258	1995	engine failed to start departing St Rose, Mississippi
20080109	mariella	MU	Y	R		NV	NO	P	ECH	77769	1986	turbo charger failed, anchored, dragged, tug saved grounding
20080116	black sea	MY	Y	R		AB	SG	P	WE	109483	1999	engine failure, near-grounding, towed to Sture Terminal
20080125	seabulk challen	MY	Y	H		AB	US	P	GAL	49638	1981	loss of power, Houston Ship Channel, minor collision, no spill
20080129	edeva	MY	Y	O		LR	GR	P	AEG	32456	1992	engine failure, pan-pan, but able to repair at sea
20080216	siteam aniara	MY	Y	H	B	NV	LR	P	UE	40738	1985	loss of power, outbound, Charleston, dropped and lost anchor
20080302	polar	MY	Y	O	L	NV	DM	P	RS	153741	1987	loss of power loaded Red Sea, towed to Yanbu, scrapped
20080313	maersk nucleus	MY	Y	O	L	LR	SG	P	EAF	307284	2007	loaded VLCC, 'engine problems' near Cape Town, proceeded same day
20080315	ncc jubail	MY	Y	H		NV	NO	M	ES	37449	1996	CRP prop went astern instead of fwd, allision, 500 l spill
20080317	selandia swan	MB	Y	O		GL	DK	P	BDM	17988	2008	'generator problem', anchored Istanbul, proceeded 3 days later
20080321	maersk naantali	MY	Y	H	L	NV	NO	P	BIS	16642	2005	loaded leaving Donges, loss of power, grounded, no spill
20080321	inga	MY	Y	R	B	NV	LR	P	AEG	28610	1990	'technical failures', resumed passage on same day
20080429	amba bhavanee	MY	Y	H	L	AB	IN	P	GBSUL	107081	2003	'technical failures', resumed passage on sme day
20080501	chembulk westpo	MR	Y	H		NK	PA	P	MSR	32044	2005	rept loss of steering, later denied, grounded Miss R
20080502	athina	MY	Y	H		RI	BB	P	BDM	12723	1975	'engine difficulties', Dardanelles near Canakkale Light
20080528	erviken	MY	M	R	L	NV	NO	P	BDM	152146	2004	'engine trouble', resumed passage 20 hrs later
20080608	biz	MR	Y	O	L	BV	LR	P	WA	40455	1984	lost rudder, towed to Cape Town
20080616	ellen knutsen	MY	Y	O		NV	NO	P	WE	17071	1991	'main engine problems', off Azores, towed in
20080712	aral sea	MR	Y	R	B	AB	SG	P	BDM	104884	1999	'rudder problems in Bosphorus, anchored
20080721	ganges spirit	MR	Y	R		NV	BS	P	BDM	159453	2002	'steering failure' in Bosphorus?, no details
20080723	norlake	MY	Y	H		LR	PA	P	SZC	39013	1982	'engine trouble', towed to Pt Said.
20080724	relentless	MY	Y	H		NV	MT	P	BS	47081	1992	'main engine failure', allision, no details
20080807	goldie	MY	Y	R		LR	MT	P	BDM	29998	1987	'engine problems' in Bosphorus, towed to Black Sea
20080808	zhongji	MR	Y	H		CS	HK	P	COR	45719	2008	steering failure, Willamette River, grounded, no details
20080812	british purpose	MY	Y	H	B	LR	GB	P	UW	306397	2000	main eng failed to start leaving Long Beach
20080813	agiasma	MR	Y	H		LR	LR	P	NOS	29996	1989	'steering problems' grounded near Flushing, refloated herself
20080818	silver wind	MS	Y	H		NV	LR	P	GAL	17060	1988	22 inch crack in main shaft, Houston
20080824	bow prima	MY	Y			NV	SG	P	GM	45655	1987	'engine problems' somewhere near Houston
20080903	dorset	MY	Y				PA	P	CA	269895	1975	reported not under control, later reported sailing
20080903	olmeca	MY	Y	H		NK	MH	P	GM	15472	2003	Guidance error, failed to go astern, collison with moored ship
20080904	hulder	MY	Y	H		AB	NO	P	ES	39749	1988	rudder stock broke, San Lorenzo, Argentina
20080905	georgios m	MY	Y	H	B	NV	MT	P	GAL	69933	1995	Loss of power leaving Texas City, returned to berth
20080907	moldanger	MB	Y	H	d	NV	NO	P	GAL	40845	1997	Blackout due to loss of 1 of 3 generators on line

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Date	Ship	EC	LP	L	A	Cl	Fl	?	Ar	Dwt	YOB	Synopsis
				O	C	as	ag		ea			
20080919	overseas integr	MS	Y	R	L	NV	LR	P	DEL	44911	1984	'mechanical problem' off Cape Henelopen, anchored
20080921	cape bradley	MY	Y	H		GL	MH	P	MSR	35159	2004	3 min lost of power leaving Cargill, MM 103, Miss.
20080922	kornati	MY	Y	O	L	BV	MT	P	WM	103368	1999	'engine failure', maybe two, over two days, off Algeria
20080923	overseas eliane	MR	Y	H		AB	MH	P	GM	94813	1994	lost steering, Calcasieu entrance, grounded
20080925	overseas texas	MY	Y	O		AB	US	P	UE	46817	2008	ER CO2 system somehow fired off, black out, no one killed
20080925	pink sands	MY	Y	H	L	BV	MT	P	MSR	93891	1993	Engine failed to go astern, mooring Miss R
20081009	jo cedar	MY	Y	H		NV	NL	P	GAL	36733	1994	Cylinder head failure near Galveston
20081010	mar patricia	MY	Y	R		LR	LR	P	NOS	17787	1998	'engine difficulties' near Flushing
20081016	chemstar moon	MY	Y	H		NK	PA	P	SNR	19949	2002	Loss of power outbound Sabine R, anchored
20081018	pananm celeste	MY	Y	H			SG	P	GM	10226	1999	Liner ? failure transiting Corpus Christi Ship Channel
20081022	torm gertrud	MY	Y	H		NV	DK	P	UE	46350	2002	Failure within air start system, nil info
20081023	chemtrans sky	MY	Y	H		AB	LR	P	DEL	63381	2000	Cooling system problems, anchored Delaware Bay
20081030	eurochampion 20	MY	Y	H	B	LR	GR	P	PUS	164608	2005	Exhaust vlave failure leaving terminal
20081031	pacific allianc	MY	Y	R	L	NK		P	CS	105941	2004	engine failure, stranded east coast of Malaysia, no spill
20081031	siteam adventur	MY	Y	H		LR	SG	P	NYH	46200	2007	lost bridge control, New York
20081101	nordpolen	MY	Y	R		LR	MH	P	DEL	29207	1993	Engine failed to start Chesapeake, bad start air valve
20081106	koa spirit	MY	Y	R	L	NV	BS	P	DEL	113334	1999	Minor Loss of Power, Delaware Bay
20081109	gulf scandic	MY	Y	H		LR	GB	P	MSR	151459	1997	Loss of power leaving Bonne Carre Anch. Mississippi
20081120	bro provider	MY	Y	H	L	NV	SE	Y	MSR	31632	2001	lost power Houston Ship Ch., unexplained FO pump trip
20081121	golden jane	MY	Y	H		NK	PA	P	GM	16476	2000	Loss of power near galveston
20081121	koa spirit	MX	Y	R	L	NV	BS	P	DEL	113334	1999	Ecomomizer leaks forced ship to anchor, Delaware Bay
20081130	atlas valor	MY	Y	H	B	BV	BS	Y	MSR	107181	1999	lost power leaving Capline Terminal, Mississippi
20081205	stena concert	MY	Y	H		NV	BM	Y	MSR	47288	2005	lost power leaving Burnside Anch, MM 166, Mississippi
20081210	pascale knutsen	MR	Y	H	L	GL	GB	P	KLC	14730	1993	steering failure, loaded Kiel Canal, grounded, no spill
20081211	cygnus voyager	MY	Y	R		AB	BS	Y	UW	156836	1993	lost propulsion, escorted to San Francisco
20081218	panagia lady	MB	Y	H		LR	LR	Y	NYH	46684	2004	black out, outbound Arthur Kill, no damage
20081223	mississippi voy	MR	Y	H	B	AB	US	Y	COR	46094	1998	hydraulic failure, Portland, OR, lost steering, anchored
20081226	algosea	MY	Y	H	L	LR	CA	Y	UE	16775	1998	engine trip inbound Elizabeth R, anchored
20081226	overseas long b	MB	Y	R		AB	US	Y	UW	46812	2007	lost gen switching fuel off California, black out
20081227	chem jasmin	MY	Y	H		LR	PA	Y	UE	29990	1986	lost power shifting berths, Baltimore?, no ahead, tugs moored
20081230	da yuan hu	MY	Y	H		CS	CN	P	GM	159149	2004	Cooling system problems, near Lake Charles
20081231	ondina	MY	Y	R		AB	GB	Y	KAT	299157	2002	lost propulsion 18 m from Frederikshavn, anchored 2 days
20081231	seabulk trader	MY	Y	H		AB	US	P	GM	49568	1981	LO pump trip, then Main engine trip, outbound Calcasieu River