

FISH TERMINOLOGIES

Manner of Loss Authority File

Report Format:	Alphabetical listing
Description:	Authority list of primary causes of the loss of a Maritime Vessel or Historic Aircraft
Date:	June 2024
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Manner Of Loss – Alphabetical

Abandoned

★ Refers to the abandonment of a vessel at sea due to its becoming unseaworthy. Do not use for vessels abandoned having run aground. For aircraft use *DITCHED*.

Back Broken

★ Use when the vessel splits in two due to stresses on her frame where she lies unsupported either amidships or at the ends, typically after stranding, although this may also happen in similar conditions on the seabed after foundering.

Beached

★ A vessel that is deliberately run or dragged up the beach to save cargo and or crew. Do not use if the vessel is refloated.

Beyond Repair

★ Use for 'constructive total loss' (CTL) or where a vessel is abandoned because she is beyond repair or has become so after abandonment, which may include acts of vandalism.

Bilged

★ Stoving in or fracturing of lowest part of vessel's hull.

Bombed

★ A vessel lost due to aerial bombardment.

Broken Up

★ A vessel which has been dismantled for the purpose of removal from the shore after stranding.

Burnt

★ Loss of a vessel or aircraft primarily due to fire.

Capsized

★ A vessel lost having overturned due to severe weather or shifting cargo.

Collision

★ Loss of a vessel or aircraft through accidental contact with another or a structure. Do not use when contact is with natural feature or rocky shore.

Condemned

★ Judged as irreparable or no longer seaworthy following a wrecking incident (from which the vessel may have been recovered) or a difficult voyage: a term with legal force indicating that the vessel is unfit for service.

Crashed

★ An aircraft which has been damaged beyond repair due to a collision with the ground or sea.

Depth Charged

★ Loss of vessel due to deployment of explosive charges set to detonate at a predetermined depth.

Dispersed

★ For use when a vessel, already lost through other causes, is dismantled or dispersed by means of explosives to render it harmless to other shipping.

Distressed

★ Damaged, usually by weather or warfare, to such an extent that the vessel is in severe or imminent danger of being lost; i.e. a pre-existing condition of the vessel which contributes to the final wrecking event.

Ditched

★ An aircraft which has been forced to land on the sea in an emergency.

Embayed

★ Lee shore, i.e. the wind blowing onto the shore

Enemy Action

★ Loss due to cumulative damage sustained during acts of warfare, capture, piracy, privateering etc. Use in instances where a more specific manner of loss (e.g. *SCUTTLED*, *GUN ACTION*) cannot be assigned.

Explosion

★ A vessel or aircraft lost due to an accidental explosion. Do not use for losses caused by deliberate action.

Foundered

★ A vessel that has sunk at sea: Double-index with background cause were known, e.g. *LEAKED*, *COLLISION*.

Grounded

★ Loss of a vessel due to running aground and subsequently refloating before final loss.

Gun Action

★ Loss of a vessel due to bombardment from ship, shore or submarine. For Aircraft use *SHOT DOWN*.

High and Dry

★ A specific form of stranding, above high water, i.e. cannot be refloated

Instrument Failure

★ Loss of a craft, especially aircraft, resulting from the malfunction of registering or measuring apparatus vital to its navigation or operation. In the case of structural or engine failure use *MECHANICAL FAILURE*.

Manner Of Loss – Alphabetical

Internal Explosion

★ Loss of a vessel or aircraft due to an explosion caused by its own armament or cargo.

Laid Up

★ A vessel withdrawn from active use and awaiting disposal or reuse. Vessel subsequently becomes derelict.

Leaked

★ Ingress of water through damage or defects in the hull. Double-index with any cause, were known, e.g. COLLISION, and consequence, were known, e.g. BEACHED, FOUNDERED.

Lightning Strike

★ A vessel which has damaged by a lightning strike and subsequently lost.

Lost

★ A vessel or aircraft lost at sea, cause unknown.

Mechanical Failure

★ The loss of a craft due to structural or engine failure. In the case of loss resulting from the malfunction of navigational or operational apparatus, use INSTRUMENT FAILURE.

Mined

★ Loss due to action of free floating or tethered explosive device set to explode on contact with or in proximity to a vessel.

Off Course

★ Vessel not on intended course e.g. along the Channel coast from French port to French port, or in the Bristol Channel rather than the English Channel; errors in longitude or mistaking a lighthouse.

Overshooting

★ Shooting past intended port, e.g. northbound to Tyne to end up on the Farne Islands

Partially Recovered

★ Use where a section of the vessel has been recovered from where she lies, either at the time or subsequently, leaving behind substantial remains (unlike RECOVERED, where the entire vessel has been removed from the site).

Ramming

★ Deliberate collision with another vessel in order to inflict damage.

Recovered

★ Use where an entire, wrecked or incapacitated, craft has been recovered or salvaged, possibly leaving debris or other evidence of its presence at the wreck or crash site. If part of the wreck remains on the seabed use PARTIALLY RECOVERED.

Scuttled

★ Deliberate sinking of a vessel, e.g. to prevent capture or to act as a blockship.

Scuttling Charges

★ A vessel which has been deliberately scuttled using explosive charges.

Shot Down

★ An aircraft lost due to offensive action. Includes air-to-air and ground-to-air combat. For Vessels use GUN ACTION.

Spontaneous Combustion

★ Ignition from within rather than through external forces; frequently associated with cargoes of organic material such as manure, owing to an internal rise in temperature of the cargo itself.

Stranded

★ A vessel which runs aground and does not get off.

Torpedoed

★ Loss due to action of self propelled submerged missile.

Used In Construction

★ Reuse of timbers or hull of a vessel in construction. For example sinking of hulks as harbour foundations or recycling of timbers in domestic contexts.

Vandalism

★ Acts of vandalism, or deliberate damage by owner or other parties, which result in the `Constructive Total Loss# (CTL) of vessel, or contributes to CTL of an abandoned vessel.

Washed Up

★ Use only for fragmentary wreckage washed up at the time of loss or subsequently: but not for complete hulls for which STRANDED or another appropriate manner of loss should be used.

Wrecked

★ A vessel which comes ashore and breaks up immediately due to severe weather.
