

# LEARNING FROM INCIDENTS 25-06:

## Seagoing-inland collision

### Introduction

This incident highlights the risks that can occur when inland and seagoing vessels meet in confined and busy waterways. Even with experience and awareness, hydrodynamic forces and limited room to manoeuvre can quickly create dangerous situations. By analysing what happened, we can better understand these risks and improve safe navigation practices for future operations.

### What happened?

An inland tanker departs from Coasterhaven towards Waalhaven Rotterdam. They crossed the Calandkanaal and sailed to Breeddiep, into the Nieuwe Waterweg. The post Rozenburg reports that a seagoing vessel is sailing from sea towards the city of Rotterdam and that a seagoing vessel coming from Rotterdam is sailing towards the sea.

Captain of the inland tanker states that he will keep an eye on both vessels and will take this into account. The captain sails close around the corner and keeps to the green buoy line. When the seagoing vessel has almost passed the barge, the suction force pulls the inland tanker's bow portside to the side of the seagoing vessel. The captain attempted to prevent a collision by counter-steering and starting the bow thruster to counter-steer with this too. Due to the large suction force, however, the attempt to avoid a collision failed. The inland tanker hits the seagoing vessel on its starboard side.



### How could this incident happen?

**The most significant factor in this incident was hydrodynamic suction:**

- There was uncontrolled suction because the vessel sailed too close to a large passing vessel, causing the tanker to be pulled towards the other vessel.
- The suction had an additional effect on the tanker because it remained too close to the main shipping line during the passage.
- Because insufficient safe distance was maintained from the larger vessel, the safety margins became too small.
- The captain underestimated the hydrodynamic effects in busy waters and therefore incorrectly anticipated the situation. Consequently, the captain took the risk of sailing ahead of the vessel.



### What are the lessons learned?

This incident emphasizes the importance of vigilance in narrow waters and understanding the effects of hydrodynamics. Defensive sailing is also crucial. It's better to wait for a seagoing vessel to pass than to sail ahead of it.

### Sources

This publication was produced in collaboration with a PZI member.