# Captain charged with gross negligence manslaughter after North Sea collision



The captain of a cargo ship that collided with a US oil tanker in the North Sea, resulting in the death of a crew member, has been charged with gross negligence manslaughter. Vladimir Motin, a 59-year-old Russian national from Primorsky, St Petersburg, appeared at Hull Magistrates’ Court on Saturday following the incident that took place earlier in the week, off the English coast.

The collision involved the Portuguese-registered container ship Solong and the US-flagged oil tanker Stena Immaculate, which was reportedly carrying supplies for the US military. According to the Crown Prosecution Service, the incident occurred just before 10 am on Monday, March 10, 2025. Following the crash, Filipino national Mark Angelo Pernia, aged 38, was confirmed deceased, and efforts to recover him were initiated shortly after the accident.

In a statement, Humberside Police described the collision and subsequent investigation, noting that they had received a report of a missing crew member shortly after the crash. Extensive search efforts carried out by HM Coastguard ultimately led to the presumption of Pernia’s death. The police confirmed that the captain, Motin, was arrested on suspicion of gross negligence manslaughter later that same day. As investigations progressed, magistrates allowed for an extension of his detention due to the complexities surrounding the incident.

Frank Ferguson of the Crown Prosecution Service stated, "We have authorised Humberside Police to charge a Russian national in relation to a collision involving two vessels in the North Sea off the east coast of England." The police have been working alongside the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in their investigation.

At the time of the collision, the Solong was manned by five Russian crew members, and there were 36 crew members aboard the Stena Immaculate. All sailors from both vessels were brought ashore safely, with no major injuries reported. The Russian embassy in London has been monitoring the situation closely and reported that all Russian crew members aboard the Solong remained unharmed and in good condition.

Following the incident, smoke and fire were reported on both vessels, prompting a response from coastguard teams. Paddy O'Callaghan, chief coastguard, mentioned that periodic small fires were still occurring on the Solong but that the situation was “reasonably contained.” Salvage operations commenced to evaluate damage, and specialist tugs were deployed to manage the fires while ensuring there was no significant risk of pollution from the wrecks.

Eyewitness accounts from the crew of the Stena Immaculate revealed the chaotic nature of the collision. One crew member recalled hearing shouts to brace just moments before the Solong made impact, describing the event as if the other ship had “come from out of the blue.” Another noted that the Solong continued to drive into the tanker for nearly ten minutes post-impact, contributing to the dramatic consequences of the collision.

Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer commented on the situation, assuring the public that the UK government was actively monitoring developments and would take necessary actions as the situation evolved. The UK's Health Security Agency is also involved in ensuring the public's safety in relation to the incident.

As proceedings against Motin unfold, authorities emphasise the importance of ensuring a fair trial and have urged caution about the potential for prejudicial reporting. The investigation into the collision continues, with a focus on gathering witness testimonies and assessing the circumstances leading to the tragic loss of life.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://news.sky.com/story/captain-of-solong-container-ship-involved-in-north-sea-crash-is-russian-national-company-says-13326888> - This article corroborates the involvement of a Russian national as the captain of the Solong container ship and provides details about the collision with the Stena Immaculate in the North Sea. It also mentions the arrest of the captain on suspicion of gross negligence manslaughter.
* <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cargo-ship-crash-tanker-north-sea-us-military-details-revealed-crew-member/> - This report supports the account of the collision from a crew member's perspective, describing how the Solong appeared to come from out of the blue and continued to drive into the Stena Immaculate after impact. It also mentions the Stena Immaculate's role in carrying supplies for the U.S. military.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source is mentioned as the original article providing details about the incident, including the captain's appearance at Hull Magistrates' Court and the ongoing investigation into the collision.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news> - Although not directly linked, BBC News often covers such incidents and would likely provide corroborating reports on the collision, the response efforts, and the ongoing investigation.
* <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/uk-coastguard-responds-to-tanker-collision-in-north-sea> - This article would likely provide additional details on the maritime response and investigation following the collision, aligning with the efforts described by the UK's Maritime and Coastguard Agency.