



Coast Guard Marine Board of Investigation: Titan Submersible Incident Fact Sheet

Background: On June 18, 2023, the Titan submersible lost communication with its support vessel, the Polar Prince, 1 hour and 45 minutes into its dive to the Titanic wreck site. An extensive search and rescue operation was launched, but the submersible's wreckage was found June 22, 2023, at approximately 500 meters from the bow of the Titanic. All five occupants onboard were confirmed deceased following the discovery of the wreckage.

The Coast Guard convened a Marine Board of Investigation (MBI) to determine the causes of the Titan submersible's loss, identify contributing factors, and develop safety recommendations to prevent similar incidents. The MBI operates under the authority of 46 United States Code Chapter 63 and is the highest level of investigation conducted by the Coast Guard for significant maritime casualties. The investigation involves gathering evidence, conducting witness interviews, and holding public hearings, with the Board having the authority to administer oaths, issue subpoenas, and summon witnesses.

The public hearing for the investigation is scheduled to begin on Monday, Sept. 16, 2024, at the Charleston County Council Building. The hearing is expected to last approximately two weeks and will be open to the public and the media. The hearing will review testimony from technical experts, crew members, and other relevant parties, and will examine evidence related to the submersible's design, operation, and safety protocols.

As part of the investigation, the wreckage of the Titan was recovered and transported to a secure facility for detailed analysis. Human remains recovered from the wreckage were also transported to the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System for identification.

Following completion of the evidence gathering phase of the investigation, including the public hearings, the Board will carefully evaluate all evidence to determine, as closely as possible:

- The cause of the incident;
- Whether there is evidence that any failure of material (either physical or design) was involved or contributed to the incident, so that proper recommendations for the prevention of the recurrence of similar incidents may be made;
- Whether there is evidence that any act of misconduct, inattention to duty, negligence or willful violation of the law on the part of any licensed or certificated person contributed to the incident so that appropriate proceedings against the license or certificate of such person may be recommended and taken under 46 U.S.C. 6301; or
- Whether there is evidence that any Coast Guard personnel or any representative or employee of any other government agency, or any other person, caused or contributed to the cause of the incident.

Following the hearings, the Board will evaluate all evidence and testimony to prepare a final report. This report will include findings of fact, conclusions, and safety recommendations aimed at enhancing safety protocols and preventing future tragedies. The report will be released to the public once it is reviewed and approved by the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

For more details on the investigation, exhibits, or hearing schedules, visit the Titan Submersible Marine Board of Investigation webpage at <https://www.news.uscg.mil/News-by-Region/Headquarters/Titan-Submersible/> Media should contact Chief Warrant Officer Melissa Leake at mediarelations@uscg.mil for more information.

Public inquiries should be directed to Titan@USCG.mil. This email is not for the media.