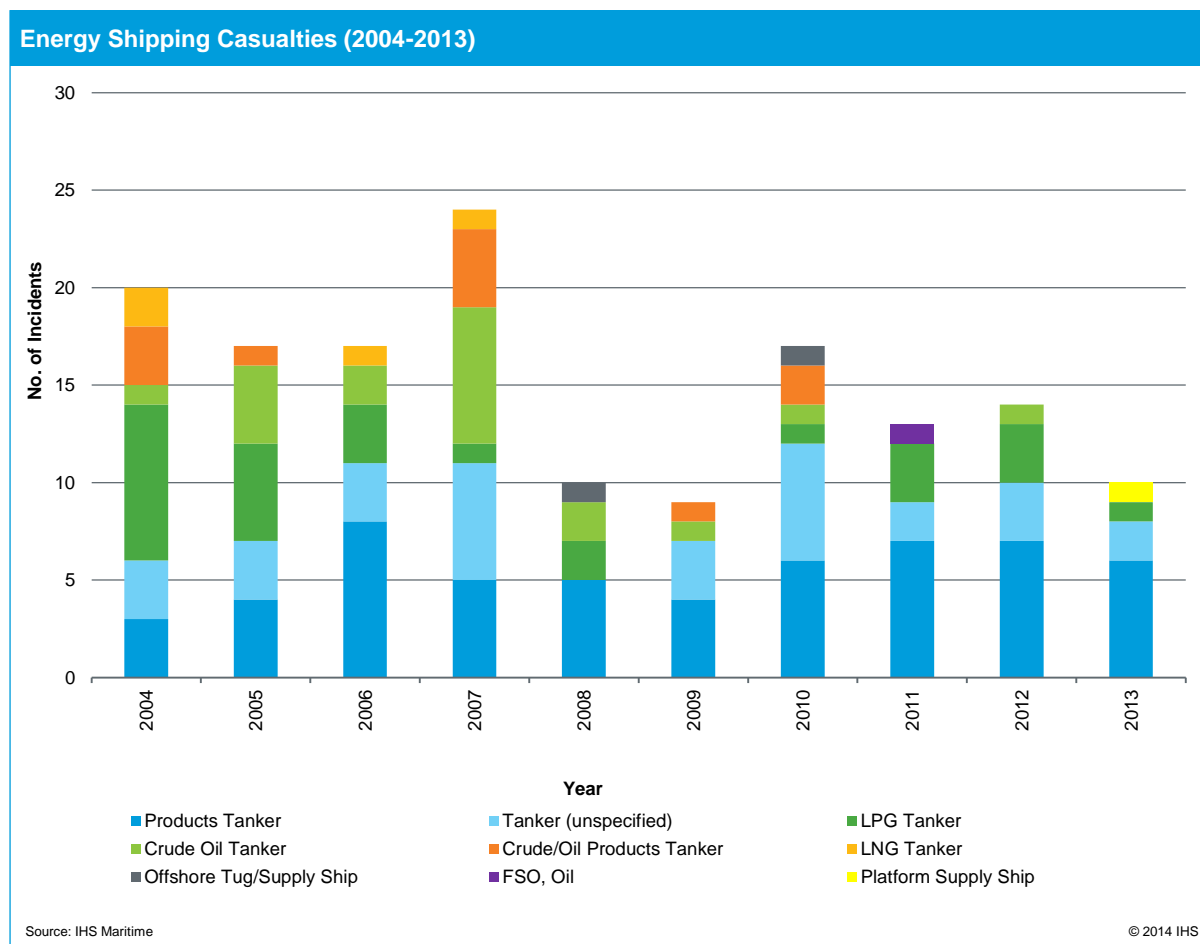


Shoko Maru: Looking Back at Asian Energy Safety

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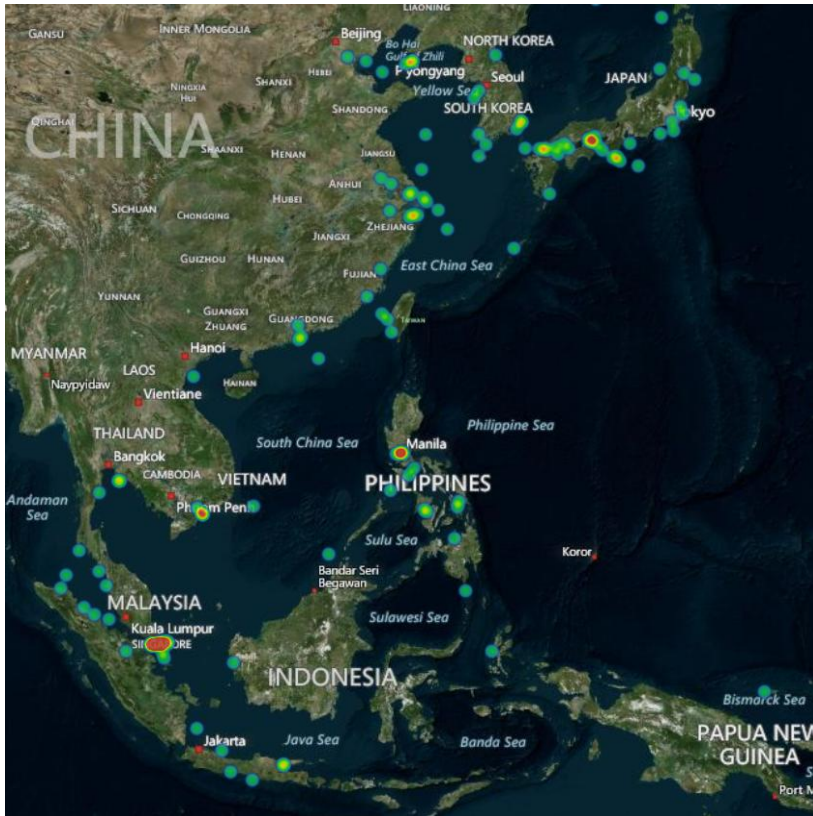
The explosion on board the *Shoko Maru* on the 29th May was one of the worst accidents in energy shipping in the past decade. The 19 year old 2,243 DWT tanker, operated by Shoho Kaiun KK, operated exclusively in the Far East region.



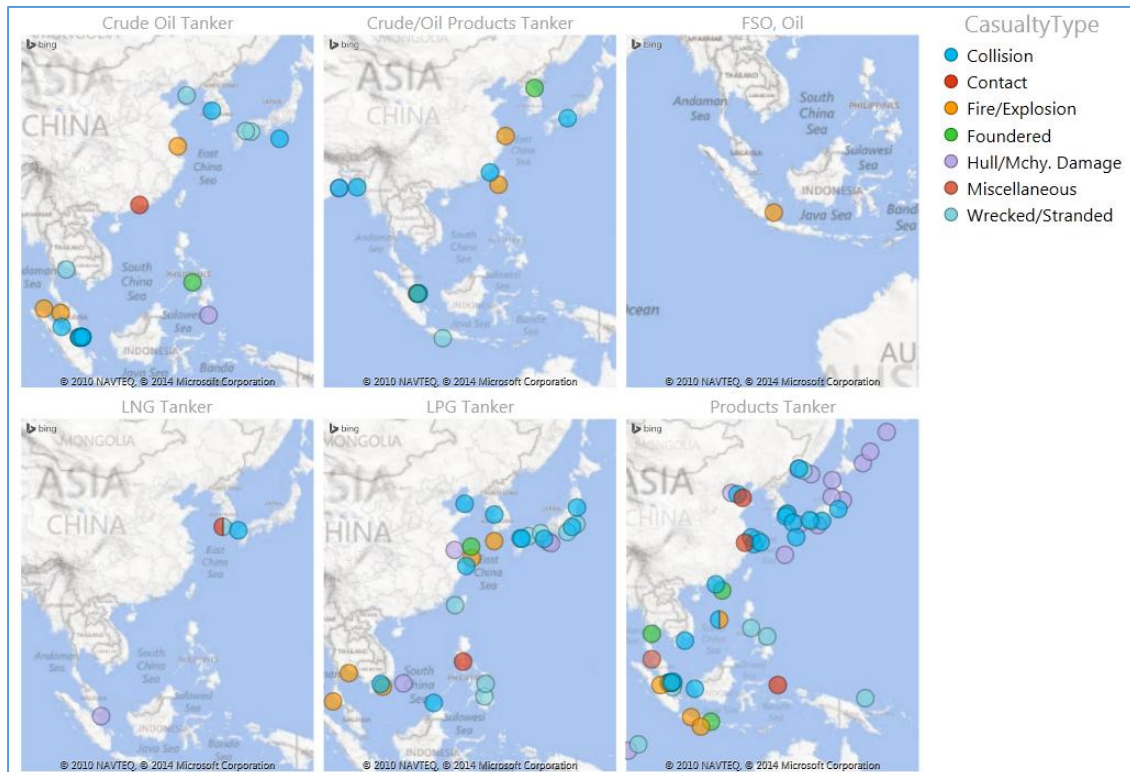
Source: IHS Maritime

IHS Maritime records show not a single casualty incident involving the *Shoko Maru* during the ship's service, nor any cases of detentions due to safety infractions.

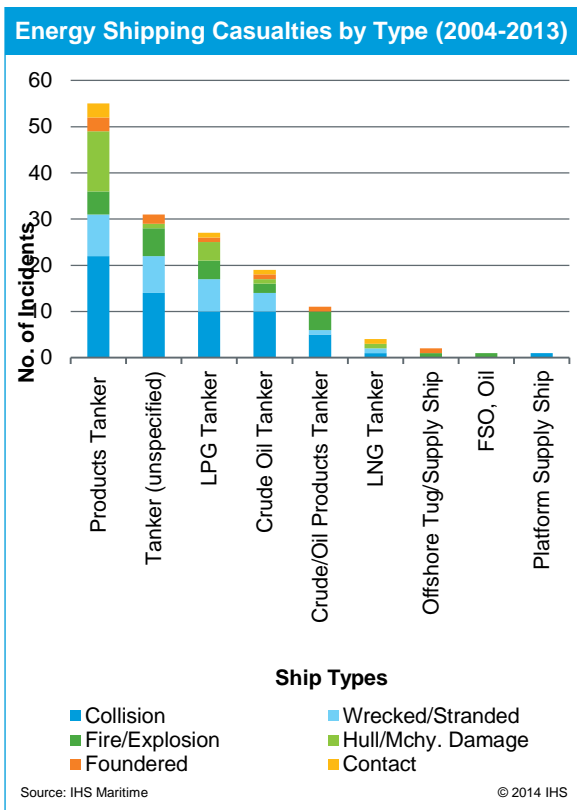
The safety record of energy shipping in Asian waters is by and large quite good, with only 154 recorded casualty incidents out of more than 1,600 recorded for NE and SE Asia in total. The worst accident hotspots are in the Straits of Malacca, Eastern China, Japan, and the Philippines. This is largely due to the sheer traffic volumes at these locations.



Source: IHS Maritime - Asian Energy Shipping Casualty Hot Spots (2004-2013)

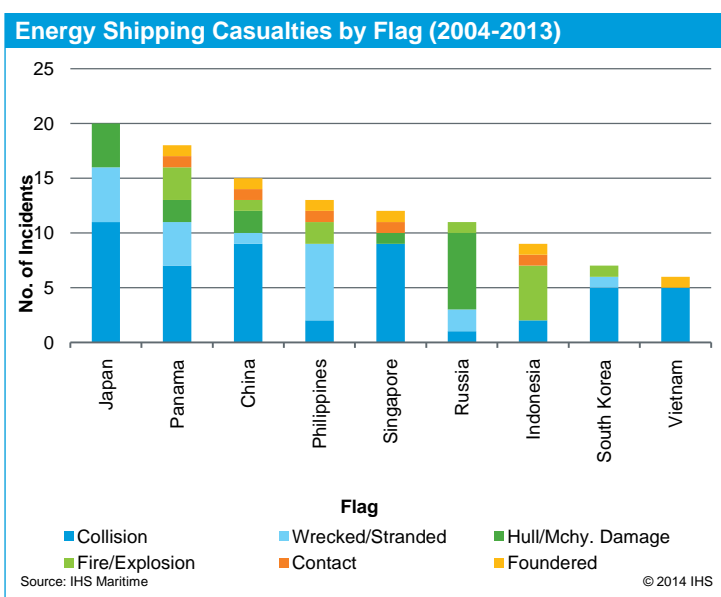


Source: IHS Maritime - Location of incidents by ship and incident type (2004-2013)



Source: IHS Maritime

In terms of ship types, product tankers were the most accident prone over the past decade, accounting for 55 of the recorded incidents, this is closely followed by LPG tankers at 27 incidents. However crude tankers such as the Shoko Maru only accounted for 19 incidents, overall a good safety record. These have largely been collisions, followed by stranding, with very few incidents of fires or explosions, likely due to the low flammability of crude.



Source: IHS Maritime

However, in terms of flags, Japan has the worst record for energy shipping safety in Asia, with 20 incidents over the past decade, some 12% of the total. This is closely followed by

Panama and China. Over half of the Japanese flagged vessels suffered collisions, likely to be caused by the highly congested waters off the coast of southern Japan. Nevertheless Japanese ships didn't suffer a single explosion during this same period, which makes the *Shoko Maru* case highly unusual.