

Maritime Information Systems

U. S. Maritime Information Systems (MIS)

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the U.S. Maritime Information System (MIS). For the first time, four major maritime databases have been made accessible in a single package. Those databases are:

U.S. Merchant Vessel Documentation

- Over 284,000+Vessels, Commercial/Yachts, including vessel particulars, managing owner, etc.

Manufacturers Identification Code (MIC)

- Over 12,000 boat builders, addresses, and I.D. codes.

Coast Guard Recreational Boating Accidents

- 15 years of reports, including location, MIC code, causes of accidents.

Manufacturer's Defect Notification (1972-2000)*

- Defect reports and recall information on vessels and machinery.

All of the data in this product is gathered from U.S. Government sources. Maritime Information Systems is not responsible for any errors or omissions, or the accuracy of the data.

*Source data lacked records for the years 1974-1976.

GETTING STARTED

System Requirements:

An IBM compatible Personal Computer with a 386SX or higher processor, 4MB of memory, Microsoft Windows 3.1 or higher and a CD-ROM drive.

You must have at least 1 megabyte of storage available on the hard drive on which your Windows directory is located.

Installation/Setup:

Place the U.S. Maritime Information System (MIS) disk in your CD-ROM drive. Start Windows. From Program Manager, select "File", Select "Run", and type the drive letter of your CD-ROM drive followed by :\setup. Example: E:\setup

Setup will install the U.S. Maritime Information System and then start the program. The Main Screen will display. You can choose to view a database, or choose to view additional information. If you select "Help", then "General Help", you can learn more about all aspects of the program. To exit the program, select "File", then select "Exit".

SEARCHING

After pointing & clicking on the "Search" button, the Search dialog window appears. You can choose which topic groups (databases) you want to limit your search to -then select Search by Word or Search by Category.

Search by Word:

A typical Search by Word is a search for a Merchant Vessel name. After clicking on the "Search" button, click on "Selected Topic Groups", then on "Merchant Vessels". To search for the name "Western Star", click in the entry area below "Search by Word", then type in "**western star**". (Quotes ensure that only the name will be retrieved. **western star** retrieves all records that contain "western" and "star".) Then press Enter or click "OK".

A "Search Results" window will appear, with a list of all vessels named "Western Star". To see the first topic in the "Search Results" list, press Enter or click on "Go To". The topic will appear on the screen, with the "Search Results" window on top of it. (The window remains on screen until you minimize it or cancel the search.) For ease of use, resize the window as small as possible, and move it down and to the side. To see other topics in the list, either double click on a topic, or

click on the topic, then click on “Go To”. Use the scroll bar to move down the list.

Search by Category:

An example of this type of search is a search in the “Boating Accident Reports” for accidents in a specific county involving boats built by a specific manufacturer. Our example will be accidents in San Diego County involving boats with the MIC “ZZZ”. Click on the “Search” button, click on “Selected Topic Groups”, click on “Boating Accident Reports”, then click on “Search by Category”. Click on the down arrow for the Category entry area. Select “MIC”. In the keyword entry area, click to get a cursor, then type ZZZ. Click on “Add Row”. The search operator will be “AND”. Click on the down arrow for Category, scroll down to select “County”. Then click in the Keyword entry area to get a cursor and type san d. The list of counties will scroll to those counties beginning with “San D”. Click on “San Diego”. (Note: Some county names are duplicated in several states, so you may need to add another row and select the appropriate state.) Click on “OK” to start the search. See above for using the “Search Results” window.

Search Operators: AND, OR, NOT, NEAR, THRU

Examples of search term and topics retrieved:

western AND star (contains both “western” and “star”)

western OR star (contains either “western” or “star”)

western NOT star (contains “western” but not “star”)

western NEAR star (contains “western” within 8 words of “star”)

west THRU western (contains words from “west” through “western”)

Limiting your search:

You can limit your next search to the list of topics previously found, from the Search Results entry area, click on “To Search”. In the Search dialog entry area, click on “Options...”. Then click on “List of Previous Topics Found”. Click on “OK”, and enter your new search term in either “Search by Word” or “Search by Category”. Click on “OK” to begin search.

INDEXES

There are 5 indexes in this title:

- MIC (Manufacturer's Identification Code)
- Vessel Managing Owner
- Manufacturer (MIC Database)
- State -- County
- HIN (Hull Identification Number)

After pointing to the "Index" button and clicking, the Index dialog window appears. You can choose which index you want to use. Click on the down arrow at "Current Index" to see the indexes available, select the Index you want, then click in the word entry area. Typing the first few letters will scroll the index words. Double-click on the desired word. If there is more than 1 topic, a "Topics Indexed" window appears. Click on "Go To" to see the first topic. The "Topics Indexed" window remains on the screen, and can be moved and resized.

Notes:

1. If there are more than 400 Topics Indexed, only the first 400 will appear on the list.
2. The list of Topics Indexed is not available to the Search limitation "List of Previous topics Found".

PRINTING AND COPYING

Topics can be printed, or copied onto the Clipboard. To print, click on the "File" button, then the "Print Topic" button. To copy, click on "Edit" button, then either the "Copy..." or "Mark..." buttons. Text and pictures copied to the Clipboard must be pasted from the Clipboard using another Windows application.

HELP

All major features of this program are covered in the “General Help” which is available when you click the “Help” button. “Overview” in the table of contents is a good place to start.

Technical Support

If you are a registered user of U.S. Maritime Information System and you have questions about MIS that cannot be answered by referring to the manuals, you can contact the Maritime Information Systems Technical Support Department. Maritime Information Systems Technical Support is open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. PST. (800) 325-8061 Calls are taken in the order they are received. Please have your serial number ready when calling. If the telephone lines are busy or if you prefer to write out your problem, send a FAX. The technical support FAX number is (619) 223-8942. Your FAX should include a detailed description of the problem and information from regarding your computer brand/model. A technical support representative will FAX you back. Please be sure to include your FAX number on the cover sheet.

You may also mail a detailed description of your problem and information to the following address. Please include your name, complete address, phone number and FAX number, as well as E-mail if applicable.

MARITIME INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Technical support

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