

# MEMBER ALERT



Shipowners Claims Bureau, Inc., Manager  
One Battery Park Plaza 31<sup>st</sup> Fl., New York, NY 10004 USA  
Tel: +1 212 847 4500  
Fax: +1 212 847 4599

<https://www.american-club.com>

JULY 09, 2025

## GOOD CATCH UPDATE: *AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS) ASSISTED INCIDENT*

The Automatic Identification System (AIS) is only as good as the data entered. When vessel information is inaccurate, it leaves no room for safe decisions and can cause costly damages, or major traffic delays. Make a Good Catch by verifying the AIS details are updated and communicated every time, especially when your tow configuration changes.

In this context, the Managers are pleased to present the latest instalment of the Club's *Good Catch* initiative:

- [\*Automatic Identification System \(AIS\) Assisted Incident\*](#) available in English.

The infographic is divided into two main sections. The left section, titled 'GOOD CATCH from The American Club Automatic Identification System (AIS) Assisted Incident', contains a 'Description' of the incident, 'Actual Damage' (three barges damaged, \$145,000 in cargo damage), and 'Potential Damages' (collision could have been a mess, \$1 million in potential costs). The right section, titled 'What Went Wrong?', lists three bullet points: 1. The downbound towing vessel failed to update its voyage-specific dimensions in AIS to include the length of the barges it was pushing. 2. The captain on the upbound towing vessel assumed that the AIS information for the downbound tow was correct and did not try to verify it, even though they would pass in the bend. 3. Neither vessel attempted to communicate on the radio to make passing arrangements, especially when it was likely that the tows would pass on a sharp bend. Below this, it says 'When you identify a hazard before something goes wrong... it's a Good Catch. When you stop an operation before something bad happens... it's a Good Catch. When all bridge and navigation tools, including AIS, are properly used... that's a Good Catch, too!'. At the bottom, it lists contact information for The American Club, American Steamship Owners Mutual Protection & Indemnity Association, Inc., and Shipowners Claims Bureau (Philippines), Inc.

As a reminder, all *Good Catch* alerts and animations are posted at the Club's website at:

[https://www.american-club.com/page/good\\_catch](https://www.american-club.com/page/good_catch)