



Case Study

Company: EuroShip Services Investing in Navmaster's Voyage Data Recording (VDR)

EuroShip Services are a well-respected independent ship management company who manage the Cobelfret fleet of trailer and car ferries, plus deepsea car and bulk carriers for various owners. Last year EuroShip installed the Navmaster ECDIS system on 11 Cobelfret ferries. Marine Operations Manager Captain Ian Booker explains why EuroShip subsequently decided to invest in Voyage Data Recording add-on software modules for their Navmaster systems.

“After a year of successful operations with Navmaster on the Cobelfret ro-ro ferries, we decided to add a voyage data recording capability to capture live vessel data for analysis and re-play at our office. We wanted to analyse and document our masters’ actions and to use the system for training.

We have had several significant but unjustified claims against our ships that hinged on allegations of speeding and imprudent navigation. In the past we relied upon access to a friendly VTS centre’s records to refute these allegations, but we later realised we couldn’t rely on all VTS centres being friendly – Netherlands, for instance, only release on legal proceedings.

The key reasons for extending our Navmaster installations were:

- For our protection, so we can see our Masters are complying with regulations and whether they need more training or motivation. Considering the regulatory environment, it seems this will become an ever more onerous burden for employers.
- For our Masters’ protection against unfounded allegations of speeding, imprudent navigation etc.
- Our own records we can rely upon. In case of need, not having to rely upon VTS centre records.

PC Maritime developed the VDR capability to our specification, and we are very satisfied with its performance. Already in the few weeks since the VDR modules were installed, our record helped us to independently assess the actions of a master accused of imprudent navigation.

It’s early days and projected savings are difficult to assess, however just one damage claim refuted can amount to many thousands. Even if the record shows you as being liable, you have the opportunity of cutting a deal upfront, maybe getting a discount and certainly saving many thousands on lawyers fees and much of your own time and effort.”

Captain Ian Booker, Operations Manager
EuroShip Services. October 2002.