

Documentary casts doubt on ferry disaster

New documentary evidence is challenging the official explanation of how 852 people died in the 1994 sinking of the MS Estonia ferry in the Baltic Sea, one of Europe's worst peacetime maritime disasters

MS ESTONIA

Length: 155.4m

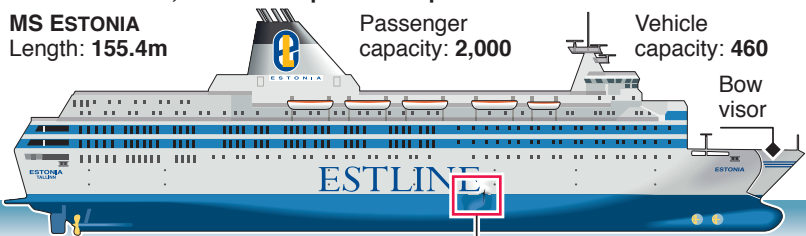
Passenger

capacity: 2,000

Vehicle

capacity: 460

Bow
visor



VIDEO EVIDENCE

New footage features in **Discovery Network** documentary. Film crew found hole in ship's hull while using remotely-controlled underwater robot to explore wreck



Damage: "Most likely cause" was collision with submarine, according to former head of Estonian government's investigative committee looking into sinking of ferry in 2005-09

MS ESTONIA TIMELINE

■ **1980:** *MS Viking Sally* ferry built in Germany

■ **1993:** Bought by Swedish-Estonian company *EstLine* and renamed MS Estonia

■ **Sep 28, 1994:** Sinks in stormy overnight crossing from Tallinn to Stockholm with 989 passengers and crew on board – 852 people die, most of them Swedish nationals

■ **1995:** Estonia, Finland and Sweden sign agreement to protect wreck as final place of rest for victims of disaster. Some 758 bodies remain entombed on ferry, which lies 80m below surface in Finnish waters

■ **1997:** Official report concludes that ferry's bow door visor failed during storm, flooding car deck and causing vessel to roll over and sink



■ **Sep 2020:** TV documentary aired to coincide with 26th anniversary of disaster includes video images from wreck site showing damage to starboard side of ferry

■ **Oct:** Estonian government agrees to submit proposal to Finland and Sweden to conduct joint investigation into ferry sinking