

Dear _____ :

The Maritime Administration (MARAD) is asking you to participate in a survey of U.S. merchant cargo vessel operators to determine if there is a current or projected shortage of mariners and the possible impact of such a shortage. We are also asking you to suggest possible solutions to any perceived shortage. If the survey reveals the existence or expectation of a shortage, we plan to undertake a more extensive follow-up survey to assess the magnitude of the problem in greater detail together with causes and potential long-term remedies. We are grateful for your help. Your answers will assist us in focusing on critical employment issues facing the nation's maritime industry.

The survey is enclosed. Your company's responses and detailed comments will be kept confidential. The aggregated responses for all companies will be published in a report and we will send you a copy. Thank you for taking the time in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Sean T. Connaughton
Maritime Administrator

**MARAD Maritime Operator Survey
Concerning Mariner Availability**

A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a current valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Control Number for this information collection is 2133-0537. Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to be approximately 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, completing and reviewing the collection of information. All responses to this collection of information are voluntary. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Information Collection Clearance Officer, Maritime Administration, MAR-390, Room W26-310, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590.

Name of Individual Respondent _____

Company Affiliation _____

Respondent Telephone Number _____

Respondent Fax Number _____

Respondent E-mail Address _____

Date _____

Type of Vessel Service (Put an X for what is applicable)

- Ocean or Coastal Tanker _____
- Ocean or Coastal Tank Barge _____
- Inland Tank Barge _____
- Ocean Container _____
- Dry Bulk _____
- Ocean or Coastal Dry Cargo Barge _____
- Inland Dry Cargo Barge _____
- Offshore Service _____
- Great Lakes Dry Bulk _____
- Ferry _____
- Other (Please describe) _____

Instructions:

For the purposes of this survey we define a mariner as a person actively engaged in the operating and/or crewing of commercial vessels.

Please complete the survey form and return it in the enclosed envelope. We would appreciate receiving your response by [TWO WEEKS FROM MAIL DATE].

1. Did you hire mariners in 2007 other than in the ordinary course of replacement of existing mariners?

Yes _____ Please indicate department(s) below

	<u>Licensed Officers</u>	<u>Unlicensed Mariners</u>
Deck	_____	_____
Engine	_____	_____
Steward	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____

No _____

Don't know _____

2. Do you plan to hire mariners in the period 2008-2009 other than in the ordinary course of replacement of existing mariners?

Yes _____ Please indicate department(s) below

	<u>Licensed Officers</u>	<u>Unlicensed Mariners</u>
Deck	_____	_____
Engine	_____	_____
Steward	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____

No _____

Don't know _____

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3. Do you plan to hire mariners in the period 2010-2011 other than in the ordinary course of replacement of existing mariners?

Yes _____ Please indicate department(s) below

	<u>Licensed Officers</u>	<u>Unlicensed Mariners</u>
Deck	_____	_____
Engine	_____	_____
Steward	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____

No _____

Don't know _____

4. Within the past year or currently, have you had difficulty hiring mariners?

Have not attempted to hire _____

No _____

Minor difficulty _____

Major difficulty _____

5. If the answer to Question 4 is "No" or "Have not attempted to hire" please proceed to Question 6. If you have had difficulty hiring mariners, in what department(s)?

	<u>Licensed Officers</u>	<u>Unlicensed Mariners</u>
Deck	_____	_____
Engine	_____	_____
Steward	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____

6. Within the past year or currently, have you had difficulty in retaining mariners?

No _____

Minor difficulty _____

Major difficulty _____

7. If the answer to Question 6 is No, please proceed to Question 10. If you have had difficulty in retaining mariners, in what department(s)?

	<u>Licensed Officers</u>	<u>Unlicensed Mariners</u>
Deck	_____	_____
Engine	_____	_____
Steward	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____

8. How long do you expect the difficulty in hiring and/or retaining mariners to last?

One year or less _____

Up to three years _____

Up to five years or more _____

9. Has the difficulty you have experienced or expect to experience in hiring and/or retaining mariners impacted your business operations and plans or do you think that it will in the future?

No _____

To a minor extent _____

To a major extent _____

Please comment on the impact, if any. (REMINDER: We will keep all comments confidential.)

10. If you believe that there are current problems in hiring and/or retaining mariners, or that these problems will exist in the future, can you suggest any potential solutions?

Thank you for your time and cooperation.