

B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods

1. Describe potential respondent universe and any sampling selection method to be used. Respondent Selection

The survey universe is U.S. commercial cargo/passenger vessel operators. The potential respondent sample for the survey will consist of the approximately 830 operators that comprise the universe. The respondents can be grouped into 10 market segments:

- Ocean (Coastal) Tanker
- Ocean (Coastal) Tank Barge
- Inland Tank Barge
- Ocean Container
- Dry Bulk
- Ocean (Coastal) Dry Cargo Barge
- Inland Dry Cargo Barge
- Offshore Service
- Great Lakes Dry Bulk
- Ferry

2. Describe procedures for collecting information, including statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection, estimation procedures, degree of accuracy needed, and less than annual periodic data cycles.

MARAD will mail a letter to each company's Human Resources Department forwarding the survey and explaining its importance, with a courtesy copy (cc) to the company's CEO. Responses will be requested within two weeks.

3. Describe methods to maximize response rate.

If responses are not received within two weeks, MARAD will follow up with mailed reminders.

4. Describe tests of procedures or methods.

MARAD plans no formal testing of the questionnaire.

5. Provide name and telephone number of individuals who were consulted on Contacts for Statistical Aspects of the information collection and who will actually collect and/or analyze the information. and Data Collection

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