

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Homeland Security

2. Fiscal Year

2024

3. Committee or Subcommittee

National Merchant Marine Personnel
Advisory Committee

3b. GSA

Committee No.

688

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

11/02/2022 11/02/2024

6. Expected Renewal Date

11/02/2024

7. Expected Term Date

09/30/2029

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

§ 601 of the Frank LoBiondo
Coast Guard Authorization
Act of 2018, Pub. L. No.
115-282, 132 Stat. 4192 and
is codified in 46 U.S.C. §
15103

13.

Effective Date

12/18/2014 Continuing No

14.

Committee Type

14c.

Presidential?

15. Description of Committee

Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for
this Fiscal Year

17a.

Open

0 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

NMERPAC makes recommendations that influence the development of Coast Guard regulations and policies affecting personnel in the US Merchant Marine, including but not limited to: training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards. The Committee provides valuable advice to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and Commandant, USCG to assist the U.S. in

formulating and presenting its positions to the International Maritime Organization on maritime matters. Specifically, NMERPAC continues work in support of the Coast Guard's efforts to finalize the incorporation of amendments to the International Convention for Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW). In doing so, the Committee has continued to provide recommendations regarding methodologies for determining mariner competency which are valuable in helping formulate upcoming regulatory projects and guidance documents to support regulations. NMERPAC's predecessor developed examples of model performance standards for in excess of fifteen areas of knowledge and proficiency in the STCW Code giving priorities to those tasks best assessed aboard ship. The Committee continues work on the utilization of military sea service in obtaining STCW certificates and mariner license and document reorganization.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Committee membership is mandated by statute and consists of not more than nineteen (19) members who are appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. To assure a balanced representation, members are appointed, insofar as practicable, from the following groups and in the following numbers: a. Nine members shall represent mariners and each shall be a United States citizen holding credentials with officer endorsements (licenses) issued under 46 U.S.C. chapter 71 or rating endorsements (documents) issued under 46 U.S.C. chapter 73. And of those nine: (1) Three shall be deck officers who represent merchant marine deck officers and, of those three: (i) two shall be licensed for oceans

any gross tons; (ii) one shall be licensed for inland river route with limited or unlimited tonnage; (iii) two shall have a master's license or a master of towing vessels license; (iv) one shall have significant tanker experience; and (v) to the extent practicable, one shall represent labor and one shall represent management; (2) Three shall be engineering officers who represent merchant marine engineering officers and, of the three: (i) two shall be licensed as chief engineer any horsepower; (ii) one shall be licensed as either a limited chief engineer or a designated duty engineer; and (iii) to the extent practicable, one shall represent labor and one shall represent management; (3) Two shall be unlicensed seamen who represent merchant marine unlicensed seaman and, of the two: (i) one shall be endorsed as able-bodied seamen; and (ii) one shall represent qualified members of the engine department; and (4) One shall be a pilot who represents merchant marine pilots.; b. Six members shall represent marine educators and, of the six: (1) Three shall be marine educators who represent maritime academies and, of the three: (i) Two shall represent State maritime academies and are jointly recommended by such academies; and (ii) One shall represent either the State maritime academies or the United States Merchant Marine Academy; and (2) Three shall be marine educators who represent other maritime training institutions and, of the three, one shall represent the small vessel industry; c. Two members shall represent shipping companies employed in ship operation management; d. Two members shall represent the general public.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

NMERPAC met twice in FY23. NMERPAC is

composed of experts in their particular segment of the maritime industry, and the Committee makes recommendations that influence the development of Coast Guard regulations and policies affecting personnel in the US Merchant Marine, including but not limited to: training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards. The Committee provides valuable advice to the Commandant, USCG to assist the U.S. in formulating and presenting its positions to the International Maritime Organization on maritime matters. NMERPAC has significantly facilitated the US Coast Guard's implementation of amendments to the International Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification & Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) with harmonization of ongoing U.S. regulations. This harmonization has required an extensive revision of U.S. credentialing regulations. The US Coast Guard's effectiveness in these activities is greatly improved with direct access to the expertise and advice that is currently represented on this advisory Committee.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

This diverse Committee provides focused and well thought-out recommendations to relevant issues. It is very responsive to the US Coast Guard's need for recommendations on issues within a short period of time. The unique industry perspective provided by this Committee facilitates the US Coast Guard's efforts. This information would otherwise have to be drawn from the broad population involved in merchant vessel personnel matters. There is no other current entity which can provide the level of technical expertise and experience that is afforded by this advisory panel.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

All meetings of NMERPAC are open meetings.

21. Remarks

Under 46 U.S.C. § 15109(m), the Committee is authorized to continue until September 30, 2029.

Designated Federal Officer

Mayte Medina Chief, Merchant Marine

Credentialing

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Brown, Christopher	08/16/2021	12/31/2024	Maritime Pilot	Representative Member
Duschenchuk, Kevin	08/16/2021	12/31/2024	Deck Officers	Representative Member
Edenfield, George	08/16/2021	08/16/2024	Marine Educator - Academy	Representative Member
Eriksson, Berit	08/16/2021	12/31/2024	Ratings as Able Bodied Seamen	Representative Member
Fink, George	08/16/2021	12/31/2024	Marine Educator - Academy	Representative Member
Fontenot, John	08/16/2021	12/31/2024	Shipping Company	Representative Member
Frommelt, Gary	08/16/2021	12/31/2024	Engineering Officers	Representative Member
Gill, Laura	08/16/2021	12/31/2024	Marine Educator - Non Academy	Representative Member
Hirsch, Sarah	04/26/2023	12/31/2026	General Public	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Lucas, Timothy	04/26/2023	12/31/2026	Deck Officers	Representative Member
Mackay, Rosemary	08/16/2021	12/31/2024	Engineering Officers	Representative Member
Morley, Theodore	08/16/2021	12/31/2024	Marine Educator - Non Academy	Representative Member
Oubre, Sinclair	08/16/2021	12/31/2024	General Public	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Pannell, Gerard	08/16/2021	12/31/2024	Marine Educator - Non Academy	Representative Member

Price, Lindsay	08/16/2021	12/31/2024	Deck Officers	Representative Member
Robles, Cody	08/16/2021	12/31/2024	Shipping Company	Representative Member
Roth, Augusta	08/16/2021	12/31/2024	Marine Educator - Academy	Representative Member
Umphress, Deyne	02/17/2022	12/31/2025	Ratings as Qualified Member of the Engine Department	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 18

Narrative Description

The National Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (NMERPAC) makes recommendations to the Commandant of the US Coast Guard which influence the development of Coast Guard regulations and policy guidance affecting personnel in the US Merchant Marine, including but not limited to: training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards. The Committee provides valuable advice to the Commandant of the US Coast Guard to assist the U.S. in formulating and presenting its positions to the International Maritime Organization on maritime matters. Specifically, NMERPAC continues work in support of the US Coast Guard's efforts in implementing international instruments into United States standards, specifically the International Convention for Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW), as amended. In doing so, the Committee has provided recommendations regarding methodologies for determining mariner competency which are valuable in helping formulate upcoming regulatory projects and guidance documents.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if
Applies

Improvements to health or safety
Trust in government
Major policy changes



Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

Develop U.S. positions to be presented at International Maritime Organization meetings.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

368

Number of Recommendations Comments

NMERPAC made 368 recommendations on 16 tasks and subtasks.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

38%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Many recommendations are expected to be implemented in future rulemaking and policy making projects.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

7%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

The remaining 55% of recommendations will be considered for future projects. While much of NMERPAC's output is used to improve regulatory and policy promulgation, some recommendations are not enforceable or are outside the scope of the regulatory or policy development. What is not used is retained in the event that the information can assist in informing a future regulatory or policy initiative.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

We report back to the Committee on the resolution of their recommendations on a bi-annual basis. All recommendations are included in the meeting minutes. The agency response to recommendations will be reported at the next meeting in the Spring of 2023.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

Develop U.S. positions to be presented at International Maritime Organization meetings.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

N/A