

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee

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1. Department or Agency	2. Fiscal Year
Department of Homeland Security	2025
3. Committee or Subcommittee	3b. GSA Committee No.
National Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee	688

4. Is this New Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	11/02/2022	11/02/2024	09/30/2029

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
No		

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?
Continue	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
§ 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	12/18/2014	Continuing	No

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15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open 1 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 1

Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
USCG provided responses to NMERPAC recommendations made in NMERPAC Meetings 5 & 7.	12/11/2024	12/11/2024

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	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. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$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 recognition of military sea service for obtaining national and STCW endorsements on Merchant Mariner Credentials.

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 three times in FY24: twice in-person and once virtually for an update on recommendations. 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 Mariner

Credentialing

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Bancroft, Bryant	03/01/2024	01/20/2025	Deck Officers	Representative Member
Berault, David	03/01/2024	01/20/2025	Ship Pilot	Representative Member
Brown, Christopher	08/16/2021	01/20/2025	Maritime Pilot	Representative Member
Eriksson, Berit	08/16/2021	01/20/2025	Ratings as Able Bodied Seamen	Representative Member
Fink, Ernest	08/16/2021	01/20/2025	Marine Educator - Academy	Representative Member
Fontenot, John	08/16/2021	01/20/2025	Shipping Company	Representative Member
Frommelt, Gary	08/16/2021	01/20/2025	Engineering Officers	Representative Member
Gill, Laura	08/16/2021	01/20/2025	Marine Educator - Non Academy	Representative Member
Hasson, Kevin	03/01/2024	01/20/2025	Director of Marine Transportation Department	Representative Member
Lucas, Timothy	04/26/2023	01/20/2025	Deck Officers	Representative Member
Lund, Sonja	03/01/2024	01/20/2025	Chief Engineer	Representative Member
Mackay, Rosemary	08/16/2021	01/20/2025	Engineering Officers	Representative Member

Morley, Theodore	08/16/2021	01/20/2025	Marine Educator - Non Academy	Representative Member
Oubre, Sinclair	08/16/2021	01/20/2025	General Public	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Pannell, Gerard	08/16/2021	01/20/2025	Marine Educator - Non Academy	Representative Member
Price, Lindsay	08/16/2021	01/20/2025	Deck Officers	Representative Member
Robles, Cody	08/16/2021	01/20/2025	Shipping Company	Representative Member
Roth, Augusta	08/16/2021	01/20/2025	Marine Educator - Academy	Representative Member
Umphress, Deyne	02/17/2022	01/20/2025	Ratings as Qualified Member of the Engine Department	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 19

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?

545

Number of Recommendations Comments

NMERPAC has made 545 recommendations on 21 tasks and subtasks since its 2020 establishment.

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

16%

% 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?

3%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Only 9% of the recommendations recieved cannot be implemented. The remaining 72% 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 Winter of 2024.

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