

National Towing Safety Advisory Committee

TASK STATEMENT 24-03

“Review of the Maritime Administration’s Maritime Workforce Group Report on the Maritime Workforce”

I. TASK DESCRIPTION

Provide the Maritime Administration (MARAD) with input on the Maritime Workforce Working Group (MWWG) report in response to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24NDAA).

II. BACKGROUND

The FY24NDAA required MARAD to convene an MWWG to examine and assess the size of the pool of mariners with covered credentials necessary to support the United States flag fleet. The MWWG was directed to draft a report to inform the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives of their findings and conclusions.

The Maritime Workforce Working Group 2024 (MWWG24) was established by the MARAD in response to Section 3534 of FY24NDAA. The MWWG24 is chaired by the Maritime Administrator and consists of representatives from all aspects of industry including federal agencies, maritime training and education institutions, owners and operators of U.S. flag vessels from various industry sectors, as well as maritime labor unions. The FY24NDAA tasked the MWWG24 to examine and assess the size of the pool of mariners with covered credentials necessary to support the U.S. flag fleet. This includes several subtasks to gauge mariner supply against the demand for such mariners, including: identifying the number of U.S. credentialed mariners with various levels of credentials; evaluating potential gaps or surpluses in mariner numbers required to operate the Ready Reserve Force for various periods of time; identifying the actively operating documented vessels of at least 500 gross registered tons; assessing various aspects that contribute to mariner availability; and making recommendations improve future assessment of the mariner pool and close any identified gaps with regards to mariner recruitment, retention, and credentialing.

The MWWG24 met several times between April and July of 2024 as an entire working group to discuss approach and methodology for developing the report and to provide individual sector context and concerns affecting the industry. The MWWG24 also conducted several breakout meetings and email exchanges to gather data, conduct further analysis, and develop more detail regarding individual membership perspectives with respect to the tasking. MWWG24’s initial draft report was developed and is provided to MARAD for review.

III. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Sec. 3534(a) directs MARAD to consult with U.S. Coast Guard Federal Advisory Committees (FACA): the National Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (NMERPAC), National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee (NOSAC), and the National Towing Safety Advisory Committee (NTSAC) in completing the tasking of the MWWG.

IV. TASK

The U.S. Coast Guard, at the request of MARAD is tasking NTSAC with reviewing the draft report and providing any input, recommendations, or suggestions to MARAD through U.S. Coast Guard.

V. DUE DATE

MARAD will provide a report to Congress in January 2025. To ensure the viewpoints of the above-named U.S. Coast Guard Federal Advisory Committees are included, recommendations from each Committee should be provided by December 31, 2024, to the U.S. Coast Guard's Group Federal Officer (CG-5P-FACA). All feedback from U.S. Coast Guard committees will be provided to MARAD by the U.S. Coast Guard's Group Federal Officer (CG-5P-FACA).

VI. COAST GUARD TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Matthew Layman, matthew.d.layman@uscg.mil

VII. WORKING GROUP CHAIR(S)

Mr. Andrew Gauthier

ENCLOSURES:

Enclosure 1: Section 3534 of National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024

Enclosure 2: Maritime Workforce Working Group Report in response to FY24 National Defense Authorization Act