

## Fischer, Steven M CIV USCG D13 (USA)

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**From:** Morris, Jillian K CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 10, 2022 6:39 AM  
**To:** Fischer, Steven M CIV USCG D13 (USA)  
**Subject:** FW: MSC Online Contact Form  
**Signed By:** [REDACTED]

Mr. Fischer,

We received your below inquiry via our MSC public website. Our program office provided the following information from Mercy's ship master:

"Yes, we regularly travel up the Columbia for repair periods in Portland at Vigor shipyard. We generally go right at the Willamette River for Vigor in the downtown area.  
Our air draft would be about 130'-135' and drafts in the 28-30 ' regions."

v/r  
Jill

Jillian K. Morris  
Deputy Director  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Military Sealift Command  
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Comm: 757-443-3936; [REDACTED]

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**From:** noreply@dma.mil <noreply@dma.mil>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 26, 2022 2:37 PM  
**To:** MSC\_N02P <msc\_n02p@us.navy.mil>  
**Subject:** MSC Online Contact Form

<b>Subject</b>	Questions
<b>Name</b>	Steve Fischer
<b>Email</b>	steven.m.fischer3@uscg.mil Attn: MSC Vessel Navigators
<b>Comments</b>	The Commander, Thirteenth Coast Guard District has received a request for a Preliminary Navigation Clearance Determination (PNCD) from the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Program aka Portland to Vancouver I-5 twin bridges. See Public Notice at this link

[https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pdf/bridges/publicNotices//D13-PN02-22\\_I5TwinBridges\\_ColumbiaRiverPortlandtoVancouver.pdf](https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pdf/bridges/publicNotices//D13-PN02-22_I5TwinBridges_ColumbiaRiverPortlandtoVancouver.pdf)

If there were a natural disaster (Earthquake) in the Pacific Northwest (Portland OR Area) would the USS Mercy or USS Comfort be able to Navigate from the Pacific Ocean, up the Columbia River to Portland. What are the Mercy/Comfort navigation Clearance Requirements? draft, safe horizontal clearance, vertical air draft, air gap, (see link for Explanation). If the Mercy/Comfort are too large to navigate up the Columbia river are there other MSC ships that would/could respond to a natural disaster in the Portland Area? If so are there any vessels with a vertical clearance requirement over 116ft?

Thank you in advance

Steve Fischer  
Bridge Administrator  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Thirteenth District

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HTTP\_CMS\_CLIENT\_IP:  
HTTP\_X\_ARR\_LOG\_ID: 4d8e68f6-1c2a-4bb0-ae8e-6fcfa40a8a1  
HTTP\_ORIGIN: <https://www.msc.usff.navy.mil>  
HTTP\_TRUE\_CLIENT\_IP: 152.121.53.177