

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Maritime Administration****[Docket No. MARAD–2024–0142]****Request for Comments on the Renewal of a Previously Approved Collection: Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement****AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, DOT.  
**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Maritime Administration (MARAD) invites public comments on our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to renew an information collection in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The proposed collection OMB 2133–0532 (Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA)) is used by MARAD and United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) to assess an applicant's eligibility for participation in VISA. The form is being updated to reflect changes in statute and to better align with current program operations. We are required to publish this notice in the **Federal Register** to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

David Hatcher, (202) 366–0688, Director, Office of Sealift Support, Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W–25–310, Mail Stop 1, Washington, DC 20590, [David.Hatcher1@dot.gov](mailto:David.Hatcher1@dot.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA).

*OMB Control Number:* 2133–0532.

*Type of Request:* Revision of a Currently Approved Collection.

*Abstract:* The collection supports the operation of VISA, a voluntary agreement and plan of action established under section 708 of the Defense Production Act, 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. 4558), under which participants agree to provide commercial sealift capacity and associated intermodal shipping services and systems necessary to meet national defense requirements in times of armed

conflict or national emergency. To meet national defense requirements, the Government must assure the continued availability of commercial sealift resources for logistics planning in contingencies. The information collection is needed by MARAD and the Department of Defense, including representatives from USTRANSCOM, to evaluate and assess the applicants' eligibility for participation in the VISA program.

*Respondents:* Owners and operators of qualified U.S.-Flag dry cargo vessels.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit entities.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 40.

*Estimated Number of Responses:* 1.

*Estimated Hours per Response:* 5.

*Annual Estimated Total Annual*

*Burden Hours:* 200.

*Frequency of Response:* Once annually.

A 60-day **Federal Register** Notice soliciting comments on this information collection was published on August 9, 2024 (89 FR 65486).

(Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.49.)

By Order of the Maritime Administrator,  
**T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,**  
*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2024–26003 Filed 11–7–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–81–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Maritime Administration****[Docket Number MARAD–2024–0143]****Aquaculture Support Operations Waiver Request for the Vessels Colby Perce, Ronja Carrier, Sadie Jane, Miss Mildred 1, KC Commander**

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration (MARAD), Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to a delegation of authority from the Secretary of Transportation, the Maritime Administrator is authorized to issue Aquaculture Support Operations Waivers to U.S. documented vessels with registry endorsements or foreign flag vessels in operations that treat aquaculture fish or protect aquaculture fish from disease, parasitic infestation, or other threats to their health upon a finding that suitable vessels of the United States are not available that could perform those operations.

MARAD has received an Aquaculture Support Operations waiver request and is publishing this notice to solicit comments that may assist MARAD in determining whether suitable vessels of the United States are available that could perform the proposed aquaculture support operations set forth in the request. A brief description of the proposed aquaculture support operations is in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before December 9, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket Number MARAD–2024–0143 by any of the following methods:

- *On-line via the Federal Electronic Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Search using "MARAD–2024–0143" and follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail/Hand-Delivery/Courier:* Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590. Submit comments in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing.

*Reference Materials and Docket Information:* The complete application, including the aquaculture support technical service requirements, and all public comments may be viewed on the DOT Docket on-line via <http://www.regulations.gov> using the search "MARAD–2024–0143." All comments received will be posted without change to the docket, including any personal information provided. The Docket Management Facility is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Patricia Hagerty, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W23–461, Washington, DC 20590. Email: [Patricia.Hagerty@dot.gov](mailto:Patricia.Hagerty@dot.gov). Phone: 202–366–0903.

If you have questions on viewing the Docket, call Docket Operations, telephone: (800) 647–5527.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to 46 CFR 106.115, vessel owners, operators, or charterers of U.S. documented vessels with registry endorsements or foreign flag vessels are required to provide prior notification to the United States Coast Guard (USCG) of aquaculture support operations in U.S. waters. The notification, in part, must include a copy of a MARAD-issued Aquaculture Support Operations Waiver. Pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 12102(d),

the Secretary of Transportation has the authority to issue Aquaculture Support Operations Waivers to U.S. documented vessels with registry endorsements or foreign flag vessels engaged in operations that treat aquaculture fish or protect aquaculture fish from disease, parasitic infestation, or other threats to their health after a finding that suitable vessels of the United States are not available that could perform those operations. The Secretary has delegated this authority to the Maritime Administrator.

MARAD has received an Aquaculture Support Operations Waiver request from Cooke Aquaculture USA, Inc. (Cooke) for the operations of the Canadian-flag vessels Colby Perce, Ronja Carrier, Sadie Jane, Miss Mildred 1, KC Commander. Cooke proposes, in part, “to use highly-specialized foreign-flag vessels referred to as a “wellboat” (or “live fish carrier”) to treat Cooke’s swimming inventory of farmed Atlantic salmon in the company’s salt-water grow-out pens off Maine’s North Atlantic Coast. This treatment prevents against parasitic infestation by sea lice that is highly destructive to the salmon’s health.” Cooke proposes to operate the vessels off Maine’s North Atlantic Coast during the 2025 calendar year, from January 1 to December 31, 2025. Further details of Cooke’s proposed operations may be found in the waiver request posted in the docket.

The public may submit comments providing detailed information relating to the availability of U.S.-flag vessels to perform the proposed aquaculture support operations set forth in Cooke’s waiver request. Comments should reference the docket number of this notice, the vessel names, the commenter’s interest in the application, and address whether there are suitable U.S. vessels available to conduct the proposed aquaculture support operations.

#### Privacy Act

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), MARAD solicits comments from the public to inform its decision determining the availability of suitable U.S.-flag vessels to conduct the aquaculture support operations proposed in this notice. All timely comments will be considered; however, to facilitate comment tracking, commenters should provide their name or the name of their organization. If comments contain proprietary or confidential information, commenters may contact the agency for alternate submission instructions. Anyone can search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our

dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). For information on DOT’s compliance with the Privacy Act, please visit <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>. (Authority: 49 CFR 1.93(w))

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

**T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,**

*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2024–26002 Filed 11–7–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–81–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Maritime Administration

#### U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Board of Visitors; Public Meeting

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration (MARAD) announces a meeting of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) Board of Visitors (Board). During the meeting, MARAD and USMMA leadership will provide an update on the State of the Regiment of Midshipmen, Educational Programs, Middle States Accreditation, Sea Year, Infrastructure Projects, Draft Facility Master Plan, Athletics, Admissions, Class of 2029, Midshipmen Reimbursements, Midshipmen Well-Being including Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response.

**DATES:** The USMMA BOV meeting will take place on November 25, 2024, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. EST. Request to attend the virtual meeting must be received by November 11, 2024. Written statements to be considered during the meeting must be received via email to [ExternalAffairs@usmma.edu](mailto:ExternalAffairs@usmma.edu) no later than November 18, 2024. Requests for accommodations for a disability must be received via email to [ExternalAffairs@usmma.edu](mailto:ExternalAffairs@usmma.edu) no later than November 18, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting is open to the public and will be held through a virtual forum. The USMMA Board of Visitors’ web page can be found at: <https://www.usmma.edu/about/leadership/board-visitors>. General information about the Board is available at <https://www.usmma.edu/about/leadership/board-visitors>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The Board’s Designated Federal Officer and Point of Contact, Michael O’Hagan, 516–

726–6048 or [ExternalAffairs@usmma.edu](mailto:ExternalAffairs@usmma.edu).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The Board is a Federal Advisory Committee originally established as a Congressional Board by section 51312 of title 46, United States Code “to provide independent advice and recommendations on matters relating to the United States Merchant Marine Academy.” The Board was originally chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) on October 24, 2017.

##### Agenda

The meeting agenda for the November meeting is as follows:

1. Welcome remarks and Board maintenance items.
2. Update on the state of the Regiment of Midshipmen
3. Update on the USMMA Educational Programs and Sea Year, Middle States Accreditation, Facilities and Infrastructure Projects and Draft Facility Master Plan, Admissions—Class of 2029, Athletics Programs, Midshipmen Well Being (incl. Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response), Midshipmen Reimbursements, Institutional Culture); and
4. Public comment period (not to exceed 10 minutes).

##### Public Participation

This meeting is open to the public and will be held through a virtual forum. The U.S. Department of Transportation is committed to providing equal access to this meeting for all participants. If you need alternative formats or services because of a disability, such as sign language, interpretation, or other ancillary aids, please contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

Any member of the public is permitted to file a written statement with the Board. Written statements should be sent to the Designated Federal Officer listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section no later than November 11, 2024.

Only written statements will be considered by the Board; no member of the public will be allowed to present questions or speak during the meeting unless requested to do so by a member of the Board.

(Authority: 46 U.S.C. 51312; 5 U.S.C. 552b; 5 U.S.C. Ch.10; 41 CFR parts 102–3.140 through 102–3.165)