

# Survey: information overload and fatigue on the bridge

Dear seafarer,

My name is Robbe Vanherck. I am studying Nautical Sciences at the Antwerp Maritime Academy and now I am working on my thesis. This will allow me to get a master's degree in Nautical Sciences. After my degree I hope to join you guys at sea as a watchkeeping officer.

This is a short survey that would only take five minutes of your time and completing it would help me greatly. The survey is aimed at people with some watchkeeping experience onboard.

The subject of the thesis: information overload on the bridge and its correlation with fatigue. An information overload occurs when you can't process all information in your workplace. An example of information overload: during a time with a lot of communication in the area and on the bridge, you can't handle all the information and this causes you to forget other details of your situation.

All your answers are anonymous. On the next page you will see a series of questions. Please tick the box that relates best to your own situation. There are no wrong answers. In total there will be 6 questions about general information and 13 multiple choice questions. In the end you can optionally share an experience linked to the subject of this survey. I am curious to hear your stories from the field.

Thank you for filling out this questionnaire.

**\*Vereist**

## General information

### 1. Gender \*

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

Female

Male

Prefer not to say

Anders: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Age \*

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3. Nationality \*

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4. Current rank/position \*

*Vink alle toepasselijke opties aan.*

- Pilot
- Master
- Chief officer
- Second officer
- Third or lower officer
- Apprentice officer
- Chief engineer
- Second engineer or lower

Anders:  \_\_\_\_\_

5. Seatime (in years) \*

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6. Type(s) of vessel that you worked on \*

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

- container ship
- tug
- yacht
- bulk carrier
- RORO
- ferry
- cruise/passenger vessel
- oil tanker
- chemical tanker
- product tanker
- gas tanker
- general cargo
- offshore vessel
- dredger
- fishing vessel
- Anders: \_\_\_\_\_

### Question 1

7. Do you know the concept of information overload? \*

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

- Yes    *Ga naar vraag 8*
- No
- Maybe

### Information overload

Is a phenomenon where a person receives more information he can mentally process at that time. The person will miss or misinterpret information. Information sources include communication on all possible ways, information from all navigational instruments, and all other information sources you can think of on the bridge... Information overload leads to errors, mistakes, bad decisions, delayed decisions. And it could lead to other effects which we are researching with this survey.

## Question 2

8. How many times have you experienced an information overload onboard? (even the smallest mistake or hesitation by too much information, can be counted) Pick the closest one to your experience. \*

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

- 0    *Ga naar vraag 19*
- 1 time
- 2 times
- more than 2 times
- once a year
- 2 times a year
- more than 2 times a year
- once a month
- twice a month
- more than 2 times a month
- once a week
- 2 times a week
- more than 2 times a week
- daily
- Anders: \_\_\_\_\_

Information overload experience

9. Question 2: During which activities did you experience an information overload? (you can tick more than one box) \*

*Vink alle toepasselijke opties aan.*

- Watchkeeping: coastal navigation
- Watchkeeping: ocean passage
- Watchkeeping: TSS/narrow channel passage
- Watchkeeping: under pilotage
- Berthing/unberthing
- Cargo handling
- Voyage planning
- Paperwork or administrative work
- Safety drill (fire, MOB, abandonship,...)
- Port entry/exit
- Bunkering
- Safety check
- Real emergency (fire, MOB, collision, ...)

Anders:  \_\_\_\_\_

10. Question 3: What type(s) of information affected you during the information overload? (you can tick more than one box) \*

*Vink alle toepasselijke opties aan.*

- onboard communication (walkie talkie/PA system/talking/...)
- radio communication (VHF/...)
- other external work-related communication (e-mail/smartphone/...) -
- other non-watchkeeping work
- non work-related information (smarthphone/PC/book/photocamera/...)
- visible surroundings (other ships/land/buoys/... in sight)
- heavy/changing weather
- ecdis/radar information
- navigational alarms (alarms from ecdis/radar/other navigational aids)
- other types of alarms (please specify in the box below)

Anders:  \_\_\_\_\_

#### Question 4

Your condition/feeling before the information overload.

11. How did you feel before the information overload on a scale from 1 tot 5? \*

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

1	2	3	4	5		
very active/energetic	<input type="radio"/>	very tired/fatigued				

12. How did you feel before the information overload on a scale from 1 tot 5? \*

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

1	2	3	4	5		
very relaxed	<input type="radio"/>	very stressed				

13. How did you feel before the information overload on a scale from 1 tot 5? \*

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

1	2	3	4	5		
very focused	<input type="radio"/>	very distracted				

14. How did you feel before the information overload on a scale from 1 tot 5? \*

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

1	2	3	4	5		
very engaged	<input type="radio"/>	very bored				

Question  
5

Your condition/feeling after the information overload compared to before the overload.

15. How would you describe your feeling after the information overload in comparison to before the overload on a scale from 1 to 5? \*

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
a lot more active/energetic	<input type="radio"/>	a lot more tired/fatigued				

16. How would you describe your feeling after the information overload in comparison to before the overload on a scale from 1 to 5? \*

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
more relaxed	<input type="radio"/>	more stressed				

17. How would you describe your feeling after the information overload in comparison to before the overload on a scale from 1 to 5? \*

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
more focused	<input type="radio"/>	more distracted				

18. How would you describe your feeling after the information overload in comparison to before the overload on a scale from 1 to 5? \*

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
more engaged	<input type="radio"/>	more bored				

## Fatigue and information overload

19. Question 6: How often do you experience fatigue onboard? \*

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Daily

20. Question 7: Does fatigue effect your watchkeeping abilities negatively on scale from 1 to 5? \*

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
no negative effect	<input type="radio"/>	an extreme negative effect				

21. Question 8: Agree or disagree: Fatigue is a generalized problem on the bridge. \*

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- No opinion

22. Question 9: Agree or disagree: information overload is a generalized problem on the bridge. \*

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- No opinion

23. Question 10: Agree or disagree: Fatigue plays a major role in information overload. \*

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- No opinion

24. Question 11: Which other factors play a major role in information overload? (you can tick more than one box) \*

*Vink alle toepasselijke opties aan.*

- Stress
- Lack of knowledge
- Lack of experience
- Bad bridge design
- Bad instrument settings
- Bad/unnecessary Communication

Anders:  \_\_\_\_\_

25. Question 12: During which activities on the bridge do you think an information overload is possible? (you can tick more than one box) \*

*Vink alle toepasselijke opties aan.*

- Watchkeeping: coastal navigation
- Watchkeeping: ocean passage
- Watchkeeping: TSS/narrow channel passage
- Watchkeeping: under pilotage
- Berthing/unberthing
- Cargo handling
- Voyage planning
- Paperwork or administrative work
- Safety drill (fire, MOB, abandonship,...)
- Port entry/exit
- Bunkering
- Safety check
- Real emergency (fire, MOB, collision, ...)

Anders:  \_\_\_\_\_

### Possible solutions

26. In your opinion, which steps — in any form or way — could tackle the problem of information overload and/or fatigue onboard? \*

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End

Thanks for filling in the survey!  
Have a good voyage!

Any Questions about this survey or other useful information about this subject contact:  
[robbevanherck10@gmail.com](mailto:robbevanherck10@gmail.com).

Greetings Robbe Vanherck

27. If you want to share an experience about the subject you can write it down in the box below. (not compulsory)

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28. If this topic interested you, would you like to give a follow-up interview or statement? Then please leave your e-mail address below and I'll contact you.  
If yes, please enter your email below.

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