

I am a final year student at the Antwerp Maritime Academy. For my Master's dissertation, I am conducting research on the potential revision of the IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases (SMCP). This system of communication was instituted twenty years ago and has not undergone any revision. However, in the meantime, the maritime world has seen lots of changes. A proposal has been submitted to the IMO to revise the current SMCP. Member states and other key players have been given time to formulate suggestions.

The goal of my research is to determine what seafaring officers - as the actual users of the SMCP - think about updating them. I.e. what do they think are useful sections, which topics should be modernised and which should be dropped?

The data from the study will, I hope, prove useful as a contribution to the IMO process via my promotor, Dr Alison Noble, who has recently been appointed as Chair of International Maritime Lecturers Association (IMLA). IMLA hopes to be involved in the revision process. I would therefore like to ask you if you would be so kind as to share your thoughts on the SMCP. Completing the survey should take approximately five minutes.

Please use the following link to access the questionnaire:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScTlIZ9rrVNvD00KiKIVpYBHTxwyvdq39iigWiPoo19Up0CtQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

The information obtained will be used exclusively for scientific analysis and the surveys will remain anonymous. Personal information (such as e-mail addresses) will not be stored nor linked to answers from the survey. By continuing to the survey, you consent to the use of your data as described above.

If you should so wish, you may provide your e-mail address so as to receive an executive summary of the paper, once the research is concluded (in which case your e-mail address will be temporarily stored). Should you have any queries concerning privacy, do not hesitate to contact me at bart.suykens@student.hzs.be

Thank you very much for your input and assistance with this.

Bart Suykens