

## Abstract

In this thesis, a current problem, namely the tendency towards criminalisation of seafarers, is thoroughly investigated and discussed. Seafarers are increasingly confronted with criminal prosecution following a maritime incident. This thesis first elaborates on what criminalisation exactly entails. It also analyses the legislation concerning the criminal jurisdiction of states over seafarers, on a national, European and international level. Furthermore, remedial alternatives of various trade unions and NGOs for the protection of seafarers are discussed. The legislation that is supposed to safeguard the rights of seafarers is also discussed. In order to show how the problem of criminalisation in the maritime sector is steadily increasing, various examples of criminalisation of seafarers are then examined. These will also be highlighted from a legal point of view. The legal framework will be applied to them in order to find out what made criminalisation possible in each specific case. Obviously, this trend cannot continue without its negative consequences. These are briefly explained; both the consequences for seafarers themselves and the consequences for the world economy. Finally, the conclusion is that much needs to change, not only in terms of legislation, but also in terms of mentality towards seafarers in order to halt this trend towards criminalisation.