



**Council of American Master Mariners Annual Meeting  
Seattle, WA – April 19-21, 2023**

**Keynote Speaker – Closing Dinner  
Friday Evening April 21  
at Daniel's Broiler Lake Union**

**Captain Patick Hilbert, USCG**



Captain Hilbert serves as the Commander, Coast Guard Sector Puget Sound. He took command in August 2020 after serving as Chief of Prevention 17<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District in Juneau, AK. He graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1995 and earned a Master Degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Colorado in 1997. His personal awards include DHS Secretary's Award of Excellence and various personal accommodations.

Captain Hilbert's previous operational tours include: Deputy Commander, Sector Juneau, Coast Guard Marine Inspector and the Assistant Port Safety and Security Branch Chief at Coast Guard Sector New York; First Lieutenant on USCGC *Reliance* where he conducted law enforcement boardings in the Coast Guard's Atlantic Area.

Staff assignments include: Chief, Hazardous Materials Division at USCG Headquarters where he served as U.S. Head of Delegation to the International Maritime Organization's Carriage of Cargoes and Containers Subcommittee; Designated Federal Official for the Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee; Chief, International Security Department at USCG Activities Europe where he led the CG's congressional mandate to assess anti-terrorism measures and monitored implementation of the International Ship & Port Facility Security Code; Program Analyst in the Office of Performance Management and Assessment at USCG Headquarters; Coast Guard Liaison Officer to the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Policy Strategic Planning Division; Staff Engineer and Salvage Engineering Response Team member at the USCG Marine Safety Center.

Captain Hilbert looks forward to enjoying the waters, the mountains and the people of Puget Sound region with his family while stationed in Seattle.

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**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE SPEAKERS**

**20 April 2023**

*Sailing the Seas in 2023*

**Captain Mark Grosshans, Sailing Master**

*Offshore wind projects and jobs for US mariners*

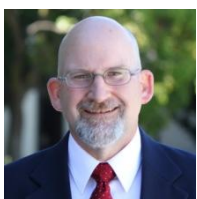


Sailing for 43 years, of which 40 have been as Master in Command. Captain Grosshans currently holds US & Australian licenses. Engaged in ocean towing he has towed all types of vessel all over the world. The tows include 1100 ft. container ships, tankers, submarines, semi-submersibles drilling platforms, dredges, and crane barges. He is currently working on a U.S. west coast offshore wind farm project.

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**Captain Steve Browne, Academic Dean of California Maritime Academy**

*The State of Maritime Education*



Captain Steve Browne is a licensed Master Mariner and a US Navy veteran with 8 years of active duty as a surface warfare officer. After transitioning to the US Merchant Marine, he worked on foreign-flagged passenger ships, becoming Master of the MV *Doulos*.

Since 2004, he has worked as a Professor of Marine Transportation at the California State University Maritime Academy (CMA) and was recently appointed as Dean of the School of Maritime Transportation, Logistics and Management at Cal Maritime. A maritime legal consultant and proud alumnus of Northwestern University, Captain Browne lives in Benicia, CA with his wife and daughter.

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## Mr. James Spear, Lecturer SUNY

*Sailing Towards a Sustainable Future: Inclusion, Energy and the Environment in Shipping.*



James Spear a lecturer in the Marine Transportation Department at the State University of New York Maritime College at Fort Schuyler (SUNY). After graduating from SUNY in 2011, he has primarily worked at the intersection of energy, shipping and the environment with Shell, ExxonMobil and Cheniere Energy. A 6<sup>th</sup> generation seafarer, James sailed in both Jones Act and international-flag vessels, including LNG, crude and clean product tankers.

Prior to joining SUNY Maritime, James' shore-side work included roles in marine assurance, commercial optimization and terminal operations. He is a recurring delegate to IMO's MEPC and the Board Secretary of the Navy League of the United States New York Council. At SUNY Maritime College, James primarily teaches courses in sustainability, marine tanker operations, commercial ship management and the newly-launched LNG courses. He also serves as the faculty lead for SUNY Maritime College's LNG Center of Excellence and as a faculty advisor to Maritime College LGBTQ+ Pride.

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## **Panel Discussion** *Plight of International Mariners*

### Mr. Jeff Engels, ITF Inspector West Coast



Jeff Engels started sailing in 1977 on a seagoing tug from Seattle to Alaska as an OS-Cook. He sailed for 20 more years before the mast on deep sea ships, ferries, and seagoing and harbor tugs. He shipped primarily with the Inlandboatmen's Union (IBU) Pacific hall, and also with the SIU and SUP.

Elected Patrolman for the IBU in 1996, Mr. Engels served as the Regional Director for the IBU until taking his current position as the West Coast Coordinator for the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF- [www.itfglobal.org](http://www.itfglobal.org)), Flag of Convenience (FOC) Campaign in 2004. The ITF represents seafarers from around the world and has a team of Inspectors on the West Coast. He hopes to retire in July of this year.

### Father Sinclair Oubre



Fr. Sinclair is a priest of the Diocese of Beaumont, and a native of Port Arthur, TX. He is currently the Diocesan Director of the Stella Maris, Permanent Diaconate Formation Program Director, and Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Orange, TX. He serves as the Executive Director and Port Chaplain of the Port Arthur International Seafarers' Center.

Fr. Sinclair is a member of the U. S. Merchant Marine. He holds a merchant marine credential as AB-Limited, and a 100 ton near coastal master's license. In the summer of 2019, 2021, and 2022, he signed on the TS *Golden Bear* and TS *Kennedy* with the cadets of the Texas A&M Maritime Academy. While sailing with the cadets, he mentored them in deck maintenance skills and sea lore.



### Captain Marian Tudoran

*Polar Navigation and Challenges in the Polar Region*

After graduating from California Maritime Academy in 2015, Captain Marian Tudoran joined the University of Alaska's research vessel R/V *Sikuliaq*. A Polar Class (PC) 5 vessel, the R/V *Sikuliaq* is one of only a few U.S. flag PC research vessels. Captain Tudoran started work aboard the *Sikulianq* as an AB and advanced to Chief Mate.

From 2015 - 2021 he made seven voyages into the ice-bound waters of the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas conducting science operations and learning polar operations from some of the world's most highly arctic-experienced personalities.

Captain Tudoran has also served on the research vessels R/V *Ka'imikai-O-Kanaloa* and R/V *Thomas G. Thompson*. In 2022 he joined Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute's R/V *Atlantis* as Chief Mate, where he completed the required sea time to be issued an Unlimited Master's License with an Advance Polar Operations certificate.

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## USCG Headquarters (via Zoom)

*What Do Mariners Need to Know about SASH? How does the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) affect mariners?*

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## Expected, Not yet confirmed

### Captain's Panel

#### **Captain Bill Westrem, Captain Mark Grosshans, MSC Captain**

*What is it Really Like at Sea in 2023*

### Pilots' Panel – Pilots (3) TBD

*Pilots' Perspectives on the Industry*

### Shoreside Panel -

*What are the most pressing problems and are there solutions?*

Captain Willie Barrere, Executive Vice President AMO -- Representative from IOMM&P  
Representative from TOTE Maritime -- Representative from MSC