



MCG Research on the UK Seafarers Demographic Profile - Nov 2023.

Introduction

The Maritime Charities Group (MCG) is commissioning a study of the estimated size and demographic profile of the UK's Merchant Navy and fishing fleet personnel (seafarers) and their dependants, from 2019-2040. This includes both working and former seafarers. The deadline for completion of this project is 30th Sept 2024.

A comparable project is being carried out by Greenwich Hospital (GH), the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC), and the RAF Benevolent Fund (RAFBF) on the UK's RAF and RNRM populations. You may wish to liaise with the research team on that piece of work (details available via the MCG Manager – see contact details below).

This new research will consider a 2015 [MCG report](#) covering the period 1945 to 2050 that evaluated the huge drop in naval personnel following the end of World War II, and the anticipated decline in the number of veterans from that era in the coming years. Three datasets were produced, available [here](#). The 2015 report drew on earlier research, available [here](#).

Purpose and objectives

This information is required by MCG member organisations and their partners. They will use this data to better understand the welfare needs, locations, challenges and changes facing seafarers and their dependants since the pandemic.

Charities will use the data in various ways, for example: communicating the welfare needs of seafarers, their dependants and the challenges they face to decision makers and funders in local and central government; developing and evaluating strategy and the impact of services; assessing future funding needs; developing partnerships; planning and efficiency; grant-making, etc. MCG may also require this dataset to be periodically updated, which would be a separate commission.

This research has four key objectives:

1. Obtain a best estimate of the size and key demographics of the UK's seafarers.
2. Provide a projected best estimate of these demographics to 2040.
3. Provide a profile of the current support needs of seafarers, and how you anticipate these changing to 2040. Where possible, we would like this to include specific reference to the impact of the pandemic.
4. Identify recommendations for the provision of future support for seafarers.

Please refer to the 2015 datasets for further detail.

Issues and scope

This research should cover working and former seafarers, their partners and their dependants. It should include all UK seafarers, except those being covered by the separate GH/RNRMC/RAFBF project.

Timescale and deadlines

The report will be launched at the MCG 2024 conference, scheduled for 15/11/24.

MCG need this piece of work to be completed within a maximum of 6 months from the date of commissioning.

MCG will follow a two-phase commissioning process:

1. **Phase 1** - Interested research teams are invited to submit a short outline proposal (maximum 2-4 sides of A4) to the MCG. MCG will shortlist proposals, inviting those selected to an online interview.
2. **Phase 2** - MCG will then shortlist researchers, who will be invited to provide a fully costed and detailed proposal and attend an additional online interview. MCG will then make a final decision on commissioning.

Key dates:

- **Phase 1** – submission deadline for short outline proposals is **1730 hrs on Monday 27th Nov 2023**.
- **Phase 1** – interviews with shortlisted researchers via Teams, **Fri 8th Dec 2023** (exact times TBC). Successful candidates will be notified by **Fri 15th Dec 2023** and invited to submit a phase 2 fully costed and detailed proposal.
- **Phase 2** – submission deadline for fully costed and detailed proposals is **1730 hrs on Weds 31st Jan 2024**.
- **Phase 2** - interviews with shortlisted researchers via Teams, **Mon 12th Feb 2024** (exact times TBC). Candidates will be notified of the outcome by **19th Feb 2024**.
- **The project will then commence as near as possible to 1st March 2024.**

Size of project

MCG anticipate a maximum cost of £60,000 for this project. Periodic updates, as yet uncoded, are likely to be sought three to five years after delivery, as separate commissions.

Selection, performance and quality

All stages of this project will be assessed by MCG members and Chair.

Research teams should demonstrate to MCG their ability to carry out this research to the highest quality and standards, by means they see as appropriate. This could include e.g., testimonials and/or references from previous/existing clients; publications and CVs; institutional governance and ethics arrangements; Research Excellence Framework data; impact case studies etc.

Outputs required

- **Report:** MCG require a mid-project report summarising progress, and an end of project report summarising key findings. Both reports should include a two-page executive summary, plus a “full version” of length to be agreed. Researchers are encouraged to consider ways to make the key findings accessible, engaging and easy to understand, e.g., via a combination of text-based conclusions and summaries, infographics/visualisations etc.
- **Dataset:** MCG are open and flexible to proposals for how this dataset might be delivered. Researchers are encouraged to use modern and novel methods of making this data accessible, searchable and usable by the intended audience. Full methods should be available in an appendix/separate write-up, and researchers must explore registering data with UK data service (<https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/>)
- **Presentations:** researchers will be expected to briefly update MCG members verbally at quarterly MCG meetings during the project, and to participate/present the report when launched at the MCG 2024 conference, on 15/11/24 in London.

Project management

A named lead researcher and a day-to-day project manager will also need to be identified by the successful research team. They will liaise with the MCG Manager who will report to the MCG Chair and MCG members where appropriate.

Scope, content and format of proposals

MCG is flexible about this. We are open to researchers’ proposals on how to achieve and improve the purpose of this research (including methods). If there are better or different questions we could be asking for the benefit of seafarers and their dependants, we would like to hear them.

Further details about the scope, content and format of proposals will emerge as a result of researchers’ discussions with MCG. Researchers should use the following headings in their outline proposals:

- Proposed research methodology
- Input and advice needed from MCG and its members, including sources of data to consult
- Costs, including e.g., staff time and day rate, travel, databases or other subscriptions, design of outputs etc
- Research team (see skills needed, below)

- Proposed outputs and anticipated impact

Skills needed

Research teams will need to demonstrate an excellent track record of conducting research in partnership with (or for the benefit of) voluntary and community service organisations, public sector organisations, vulnerable people and similar. Expert knowledge of the UK maritime welfare sector and issues affecting seafarers and their dependants is essential.

References

Researchers should provide (initially) links to websites, previously published work and any other relevant material.

Contact details

Informal queries can be sent directly to Ben Gibbons, MCG Manager on info@maritimecharitiesgroup.org