

William H. D. Ostara

Incident Investigation – Risk Assessment – Expert Opinion



Summary

I am a licensed marine engineer and a consultant with cross-sector experience in the engine room and on-deck, having provided instruction of cadets and maritime professionals as well as public presentations for general audiences. Trained in incident investigation and root-cause failure analysis of shipboard equipment, I provide expert witness services for engineering failures, vessel operations, and onboard management best-practice.



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Sci Maritime, LLC

Principal Consultant & Expert Witness

2025—Present

Offering expert witness and opinion services useful for legal support, immigration status for maritime engineering and adjacent fields, and offering incident investigations and vessel risk assessments that identify systemic vulnerabilities and pathways to improved resilience. I specialise in marine propulsion, electrical, and refrigeration systems with insight into organizational psychology and shipboard culture. I help owners, operators, insurers, and legal counsel strengthen compliance, reduce liability, and reduce incident occurrence.

O'Hara Corporation

Chief Engineer

Jan. 2024—Present

Responsible for oversight of all shipboard systems, departmental management, ten engineers, personnel training, and regulatory compliance on a DNV (Det Norsk Veritas) classed, *FT Araho* (192' trawler, 4000 hp) in the head and gut (H&G) fleet. Transitioned department to digital record keeping.

Ocean Peace, Inc.

Chief Engineer

Dec. 2017—Dec. 2023

Managed department of six engineers onboard the 220' *FT Seafisher* (3000 hp) and 230' *FT Alaska Victory* (3400 hp). Implemented SINEX, preventive maintenance systems, transitioned department to digital record keeping. Acted as project manager for six separate shipyard/drydock two-month periods overseeing 50 employees and vendors daily, budgets between \$1–\$5 million US.

Prepared 10 January 2026

NOT UNDER CONTRACT

Trident Seafoods, Inc.

Chief Engineer

Oct. 2015—Nov. 2017

Fished for red king crab, Bairdi, opilio, and pacific cod. Supported deck operations (crane operations, landing and stacking pots, sorting crab, gear work) and watch standing. Also oversaw propulsion, mechanical, and RSW refrigeration systems onboard *FV Billikin* (133', 1500 hp).

Aries Marine Corporation

Assistant Engineer

Jan. 2014—Oct. 2015

Served on diesel-electric DP2 SOLAS-class offshore platform supply vessel *Betty Pfankuch* (292', 6704 hp), overseeing fluid and dry bulk transfers, managed vessel systems and preventative maintenance, trained rated members of the engine department and academy cadets.

Downeast Windjammer Cruise Lines

Fleet Engineer

June 2014—Sept. 2014 (part-time summer job)

Provided engine and mechanical services for the windjammer *SV Margaret Todd* (150' four-masted schooner, also sailed as mate/senior deckhand) as well as the ferry fleet (also captained Bar Harbor and Winter Harbor routes on *MV Fish Hawk*, 39' foot ferry, and *MV Schoodic*, 45' foot ferry).

B&N Fisheries

Chief Engineer

May 2010— Oct. 2013

Pelagic trawling for pollock, POP, sablefish, and cod in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea, basing primarily out of Kodiak, Alaska, for the *FV Cape Kiwanda* (85' trawler, 900 hp) and primarily out of Dutch Harbor for the *FV Bristol Explorer* (180' trawler, 2100 hp). Aboard for shipyard periods and scientific "Arctic EIS" polar research charter.

Star Marine, Inc.

Deckhand / Engineer

May 2009—Sept. 2009

Tug assists for the Hood Canal Bridge project with Kiewit-General, shifted pulp and cargo barges in Puget Sound on *MV Red Bluff* (100' tug, 1250 hp) and *MV Redwood City* (68' tug, 1500 hp).

Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation

Deckhand

Aug. 2008—Dec. 2008

Long-lined pots for Golden (Brown) King Crab along the Aleutian Island chain onboard the *FV Aleutian No. 1* (125' crab boat). 50-pot strings would be long-lined as a set.

Fantasy Cruises

Deckhand & Medical Officer

May 2008—Aug. 2008

Week trips on Columbia River and into Canada onboard the *MV Island Spirit* (150' motor vessel). Managed crew and maintained shipboard systems, offered medical consultation, and operated skiff. Led passengers on kayaking expeditions in the Princess Louisa Inlet.

Deep Sea Fisheries, Inc.

Processor / Deckhand (“Combi”)

Nov. 2007—Feb. 2008

Single pot Opilio snow crab between Dutch Harbor and Pribilof Islands on the *CP Alaskan Enterprise* (150’ crab catcher / processor vessel). Started as processor, promoted to “combi.”

Private Yacht, Family Owned.

Captain

Aug. 2006—Apr. 2007

Sailed 2,500 miles from Maryland to Panama (500 miles singlehanded). Oversaw all yard work, voyage planning, crew assembly, training, and operations onboard *SV Pendragon* (38’ catamaran).

Thompson Island Outward Bound

Captain & Educator

Apr. 2006—Oct. 2006

Led 11-person youth student groups on 14-day expeditions onboard motorless, sprit-rigged “pulling boats” (30’ open rowboats with sailing rigs) primarily between Boston and past Gloucester, Massachusetts. Instructed traditional seamanship, navigation, ecological awareness, diversity, conflict resolution, teamwork and leadership as transferrable skills applied in unfamiliar, challenging, and multi-element environments that included sailing, hiking, and high ropes.

American Sail Training Association

Deckhand / Various Roles

Primarily 2002—2006

Worked on ASTA affiliated sailing ships in positions ranging from deckhand, boatswain, and second mate. Roles included sail handling, watch standing, navigation, steering, sail training, vessel maintenance (painting, rigging, carpentry, shipyard), public interaction and education, lectures, and demonstration of traditional seamanship techniques. Vessels include: *El Galeon, Lettie G. Howard, Denis Sullivan, Roseway, Clipper City, Pride of Baltimore II, Sultana, Lady Washington, Hawaiian Chieftain, USS Constellation.*

Equipment Experience

Caterpillar	3406(B/C/E), C4.4, C-18, D379, D399
Cummins	QSK50, QSK60, C-Series, KTA19, KTA38, QSL9
Detroit	6-71, 12-71, Series 60
EMD	16-745 (turbo, EFI), 20-645 (turbo), 12-645 (roots blower)
Isuzu	2XS98TC
Reduction Gears	Falk, Hundested, Lufkin
Oil Purifiers	Alfa-Laval, Westfalia
Motors	ABB, Baldor, Siemens, WEG, Toshiba, TECO-Westinghouse, GE Industrial, Marathon, and others, operation and overhauls (bearing, bake, re-varnish)

Pumps	Allweiler, Ampco, Ebara, KSB, Goulds, MP Pumps, Roper, Samson, Viking, Vaughan, and others. Includes centrifugal, gear, ring, and progressing cavity pumps, operation and overhauls (mechanical seals, wear plates, impellers)
Refrigeration	6000-8000 lbs. NH3 (ammonia) plate contact and cargo hold freezer plants 200-ton R-22 and R-507 RSW (refrigerated saltwater) chiller plants MYCOM reciprocating and screw compressors, GEA screw compressors Various domestic / commercial reach-in/walk-in CDUs (condensing units) Maintenance of plumbing, exchangers, condensers, valves, and solenoids

US Coast Guard Qualifications

- Chief Engineer Limited, 7000 Horsepower Motors
- 1st Assistant Engineer Unlimited, Motors
- Chief UFIV & Chief OSV, Unlimited Horsepower
- Dedicated Duty Engineer, Unlimited Horsepower
- All Engine Room Ratings
- 200 Ton Near Coastal Master (Captain)
- 500 Ton Near Coastal & 1600 Ton OSV Mate
- Able Bodied Seafarer – Special & Sail

International STCW Qualifications

- II/1 – Officer in Charge of a Navigational Watch (OICNW)
- II/2 – Master < 500 GT
- II/4 – Rating Forming Part of a Navigational Watch (RFPNW)
- II/5 – Able Seafarer, Deck
- III/1 – Officer in Charge of an Engineering Watch (OICEW)
- III/2 – Chief Engineer on Motor-Propelled Vessels
- III/5 – Able Seafarer, Engine
- VI/1 – Basic Training
- VI/3 – Advanced Marine Firefighting
- VI/2 – Proficiency in Survival Craft
- VI/4-1 – Medical First Aid Provider
- VI/4-2 – Person in Charge of Medical Care

Education

- PhD (in progress), Psychology, *Plymouth University, UK*
- Bachelor of Science, Liberal Arts, *Excelsior University, NY*

Certifications & Professional Training

- 2025 MicroMasters in Organizational Psychology – *edX/University of Canterbury, NZ*
- 2025 Certificate in Incident Investigation – *Lloyd's Maritime Academy*
- 2025 Introduction to Mediation & Arbitration, Module 1 – *Chartered Institute of Arbitrators*

- 2024 Shipyard Competent Person – *Sound Testing, Inc.*
- 2024 Advanced Fire Fighting Revalidation – *Compass Courses*
- 2024 Basic Training Revalidation – *Maritime Institute*
- 2020 Shipyard Competent Person – *Sound Testing, Inc.*
- 2017 USCG Qualified Instructor / Train the Trainer – *US Captain's Training*
- 2016 USCG Qualified Assessor – *Maritime Institute of Technology & Graduate Study*
- 2016 Human Element Leadership & Management – *Compass Courses*
- 2016 Engine Resource Management – *Pacific Maritime Institute*
- 2016 Management of Electrical and Electronic Control Equipment – *Pacific Maritime Institute*
- 2015 HVAC Universal Technician – *Mainstream Engineering Corporation*
- 2014 Dynamic Positioning Operator, Basic Induction – *Maritime Professional Training*
- 2014 Helicopter Underwater Egress Training – *Marine Survival Training Center*
- 2014 Swing Rope & Basket Personnel Transfer – *Aries Marine Corporation*
- 2010 30-Day Marine Engineering License Preparation Course – *Crawford Nautical*
- 2009 Basic & Advanced Marine Fire Fighting – *India Tango*
- 2009 24-Hour HAZWOPER – *Global Diving, Inc.*
- 2009 Urine Analysis Specimen Collection – *Washington Dept. of Transportation*
- 2009 Marine Radiotelephone Operator's Permit – *Federal Communications Commission*
- 2008 EMT-Basic, Wilderness EMT, & Medical Person-In-Charge – *Remote Medical International*
- 2008 Bridge Resource Management – *Crawford Nautical*
- 2008 Unlimited Radar Observer – *Crawford Nautical*
- 2008 Ratings forming Part of a Navigational Watch – *Compass Courses*
- 2008 Life Boatman – *Compass Courses*
- 2008 Basic Training & Fire Fighting – *North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owner's Assoc.*
- 2008 Certified Drill Instructor – *North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owner's Assoc.*
- 2006 Watch Officer Training & Captain's License Prep. – *Thompson Island Outward Bound*

Professional Affiliations

Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME), Full Member. *2023—Present*
 Society for Industrial & Organizational Psychology (SIOP), Affiliate Member. *2025—Present*
 Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb), Student Member. *2025—Present*