

REQUEST FOR RECORDS DISPOSITION AUTHORITY		JOB NUMBER <i>NI-26-98-1</i>	
To: NATIONAL ARCHIVES and RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (NIR) WASHINGTON, DC 20408		DATE RECEIVED <i>March 2, 1999</i>	
1. FROM (Agency or establishment) Department of Transportation		NOTIFICATION TO AGENCY In accordance with the provisions of 44 U.S.C. 3303a, the disposition request, including amendments, is approved except for items that may be marked "disposition not approved" or "withdrawn" in column 10.	
2. MAJOR SUBDIVISION U.S. Coast Guard			
3. MINOR SUBDIVISION			
4. NAME OF PERSON WITH WHOM TO CONFER Karen Sporn	5. TELEPHONE (202) 267-1016	DATE <i>3-10-99</i>	ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES <i>John W. Paul</i>
6. AGENCY CERTIFICATION I hereby certify that I am authorized to act for this agency in matters pertaining to the disposition of its records and that the records proposed for disposal on the attached ___ page(s) are not now needed for the business of this agency or will not be needed after the retention periods specified; and that written concurrence from the General Accounting Office, under the provisions of Title 8 of the GAO manual for Guidance of Federal Agencies, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is not required; <input type="checkbox"/> is attached; or <input type="checkbox"/> has been requested.			
DATE <i>2 Mar 99</i>	SIGNATURE OF AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE <i>Karen Sporn</i>	TITLE <i>CE Records mgr</i>	
7. Item No.	8. DESCRIPTION OF ITEM AND PROPOSED DISPOSITION	9. GRS OR SUPERSEDED JOB CITATION	10. ACTION TAKEN (NARA USE ONLY)
	<p style="text-align: center;">WNRC PROJECT Records of the United States Coast Guard (RG 26)</p> <p>This schedule provides continuing disposition authority for U.S. Coast Guard records that are located in the agency stored at WNRC, and which have been previously transferred to NARA custody by the Coast Guard.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SEE ATTACHED PAGE</p>		

*SA 5/19/99 copy to:
NWMD, NWCT, NWMW and Agency*

Record Group 26: United States Coast Guard
WNRC Project

Item #1 provides for continuing disposition authority for U.S. Coast Guard records and supersedes the previously approved authorities as noted.

#1. Chief of Staff. Office of Merchant Marine Safety. Shipping Articles.

These records are original shipping articles of voyages of U.S. merchant vessels during the post-World War II period. Shipping articles are the contracts between merchant seamen and ship operators covering the terms and conditions of a specific voyage. Shown are master, vessel operator and/or owner, destination and route, original signature of seaman, rating, pay, date and place of discharge, next of kin, and legal documentation of changes in crew.

Shipping articles along with vessel logbooks are the primary evidence of a seaman's service. The records are used to prove eligibility for veterans benefits and awards currently under consideration for merchant seamen who served during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. It is often difficult to locate the particular ship's log required for proof of service because the records are filed by port where a voyage terminated, information that is not always available to researchers. Shipping articles are arranged alphabetically by name of ship which is ideal from a reference point of view. Requests for merchant vessel shipping articles are frequent. Some are used for demographic studies, other for local histories, some for completion of histories of specific merchant vessels, and others for genealogical purposes. The information they provide is significantly more extensive than that found on crew lists or in official logbooks. Private researchers, Coast Guard and Maritime Administration officials are continually searching for sources of information about merchant marine service. Shipping articles are judged by the reference staff as among the most important and informative maritime records in the custody of NARA.

Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to FRC when three years old. Transfer to NARA when thirty years old.

Supersedes M5212.6A/427.