



**JOHN B. LACSON FOUNDATION MARITIME UNIVERSITY-MOLO**  
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**SEAFARING PROFESSION: BOON OR BANE?**

A Research Presented to the  
Faculty Members of the College of Engineering  
John B. Lacson Foundation Maritime University-Molo  
Iloilo City

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Degree Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering (BS Mar-E)

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*Abstract*

The study determined the perception of the seafarers of whether the seafaring profession is still in demand or not. Specifically, the study aimed to answer the following questions: 1) Do seafarers perceive the seafaring profession to be still in demand? 2) How do seafarers view seafaring in terms of advantages and disadvantages? 3) This study determined the seafarers' perception of seafaring as a profession. The respondents of the study are the 10 seafarers. They were interviewed about their experiences as seafarers and their perceptions of whether or not seafaring is still lucrative or not. The study was conducted during the second semester of school year 2012-2013. This study utilized the qualitative research design. In this study, the structured interview was used. The structured interview consists of a list of specific questions. The interviewer does not deviate from the list or inject any extra remarks into the interview process. The interviewer encourages the interviewee to clarify vague statements or to further elaborate on brief comments. Permission to conduct the study was secured from the Dean of the college where the students belong. The researchers personally interviewed the selected seafarers of who are currently during their upgrading and training courses at JBLFMU. They were given the same questions and they were also given ample time to answer the questions. The data then were transcribed, encoded, analyzed, and interpreted. The data gathered were subjected to Grounded theory method. No inferential statistics was utilized in this paper. Results showed: 1) Majority of the seafarers admit that seafaring remains to be a lucrative career. 2) The advantages of the seafaring career include "travel for free around the world," "privilege to earn big or high," chance to serve one's country through remittances," and "exposure to other cultures and places." The disadvantages are: "being away from loved ones," "homesickness," "loneliness," and "fear of life in cases like piracy, etc." The conclusions are: 1) There is still enough reason for parent to encourage their children to take up marine engineering and other related seafaring courses. 2) Advantages and disadvantages in any profession can naturally occur, what is important is that, seafarers have to make the most of what they have. It is recommended that: 1) Student leaders have all the responsibilities of educating their school mates about the benefits derived in the seafaring profession. They have to be aware of the pros and cons of the profession to be able to create a mechanism before





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they go to actual work. 2) The student-services must be apprized about the results of this study. They can be the most viable channel where awareness of the profession must emanate. They can launch programs to improve confidence and independence among the future seafarers. 3) Parallel studies have to be conducted to promote the idea that seafaring as a profession is not a bed of roses, rather a difficult profession, thus, studies related to this topic have to replicated.

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