

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD,)	
Complainant,)	
)	Docket Number: 2025-0058
vs.)	
)	Enforcement Activity Number: 8001128
JOHN SALAS,)	
Respondent.)	

CONSENT ORDER

Issued: March 13, 2025

By Order of Administrative Law Judge: Hon. Jennifer A. Mehaffey

Appearances:

For the Coast Guard

MSSD4 Jennifer Thomas
USCG Forces Micronesia / Sector Guam

For the Respondent

John Salas, *Pro se*

CONSENT ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

On February 6, 2025, the Coast Guard filed a Complaint against John Salas (Respondent) seeking revocation of his Merchant Mariner Credential.¹ On March 4, 2025, the Coast Guard filed a Motion for Approval of a Settlement Agreement and Entry of Consent Order (Motion), containing the Settlement Agreement signed on February 28, 2025, to be approved as a settlement of this case under 33 C.F.R. § 20.502.

As evidenced by their respective signature, the parties assert that settlement is in the public interest and appropriate based on Respondent's cooperation and good faith efforts towards remediation. The parties also agree the entry of a Consent Order approving this settlement without further litigation is the proper means of resolution in this matter. Accordingly, the parties have expressly waived their right to a hearing and appeal in this matter and I have not conducted a hearing on the merits of this case.

I have carefully reviewed the terms of the Settlement Agreement and find that it is fair, reasonable, and in substantial compliance with the requirements of 33 C.F.R. § 20.502. However, the first row of the table contained in paragraph 6 states upon successful completion of the conditions of the Settlement Agreement, Respondent's MMC will be "returned to Respondent". Per the terms of the agreement, revocation of Respondent's MMC is stayed to allow Respondent to complete the cure process while his MMC is on deposit with the Coast Guard. In accordance with Coast Guard binding precedent and policy, upon successful completion of the requirements of the Settlement Agreement the pending revocation order is

¹ The Coast Guard states it served the Complaint upon Respondent by electronic mail at Respondent's email address. I note, electronic mail service is not an acceptable method of service as prescribed in the regulations, Table 1 to 33 C.F.R. § 20.304(d). Further, there is nothing in the record to show Respondent explicitly agreed to electronic service of documents. However, in an email dated February 6, 2025, Respondent acknowledged receipt of the Complaint and included an image of his signature attesting he had received the Complaint. He also submitted an Answer to the Complaint on February 25, 2025. Because Respondent had notice of the Complaint and responded to it, in this instance, I will accept service as completed.

modified to reflect Respondent's MMC as being suspended outright for the time it was on deposit with the Coast Guard. See Marine Safety Manual, Volume V, "Investigations and Enforcement," at C4-57, COMDTINST M16000.10A (April 2008).

Accordingly, my approval of the Settlement Agreement and incorporation by reference in this order amends the first row of the table contained in paragraph 6 of the agreement to reflect:

If Respondent...	then Respondent's MMC will be
successfully completes these conditions to the satisfaction of the U.S. Coast Guard,	suspended outright for the period of deposit.

If either party objects to this amendment of the Settlement Agreement they have **10 days** from the date of issuance of this order to file an opposition to the approval and consent of the Settlement Agreement as amended.