

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

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD,)
Complainant,)
vs.) Docket Number: 2025-0428
AZUR PIO INGRASSIA,) MISLE Activity ID: 8208426
Respondent.)

**ORDER MEMORIALIZING PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE
AND CONSENT ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

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

Issued: December 11, 2025

On December 10, 2025, I conducted a pre-hearing conference pursuant to 33 C.F.R. § 20.501, at the request of the United States Coast Guard (Coast Guard), to discuss the parties' Settlement Agreement submitted for approval on October 3, 2025. Daniel B. Schaefer, Esq., and CWO Andrew S. Vetter appeared on behalf of the Coast Guard. Azur Pio Ingrassia (Respondent) appeared on his own behalf.

At the outset of the conference, I briefly explained my role as an impartial and independent fact finder, and informed Respondent of his right to representation at no cost to the government. *See* 33 C.F.R. §§ 20.206 and 20.301. I also disclosed my prior employment as an attorney at the Coast Guard Suspension & Revocation National Center of Expertise (S&R NCOE).

Next, I turned to my concerns regarding clarity of the sanction as set forth in the Settlement Agreement. As background, I rejected the parties' agreement twice. *See* Orders dated September 23, 2025 and November 25, 2025. My concern was that Paragraphs 2 and 6 of

the agreement did not accurately reflect the agreed-upon sanction. The second version of the Settlement Agreement still does not include the mitigated sanction in the Table at Paragraph 6. Specifically, it does not reflect any information about Respondent's probationary period.

During the conference, I heard from both parties regarding their understanding of the proposed sanction. Respondent verbally acknowledged and agreed that if he successfully completes the terms of the agreement, Respondent's sanction would be a period of two (2) months outright suspension of his Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) remitted on twelve (12) months of probation. If he fails to successfully complete the conditions of the agreement, his MMC will be suspended outright for a total of two (2) months.

Because the parties understood and agreed to the abovementioned sanction, I did not require the submission of a Third Motion for Approval of Settlement Agreement and Entry of Consent Order.

As evidenced by their respective signatures on the Settlement Agreement submitted for approval on October 3, 2025, and their representations during the pre-hearing conference, 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 submitted on October 3, 2025 and find that it is fair, reasonable, and in substantial compliance with the requirements of 33 C.F.R. § 20.502.

WHEREFORE,

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, the Settlement Agreement submitted on October 3, 2025 is **APPROVED** in full and incorporated herein by reference. This Consent Order shall constitute full, final, and complete adjudication of this proceeding.

SO ORDERED.

Done and dated December 11, 2025
New York, NY



HON. JENNIFER A. MEHAFFEY
Administrative Law Judge
United States Coast Guard