

Survey Recruitment Letter

Dear Seafarers,

You are invited to participate in a survey to explore perceptions of occupational noise exposures and self-reported noise-induced auditory and non-auditory health problems. This survey will help to assess noise-induced health problems and perceived benefits of reducing noise and protecting hearing among seafarers in Canada. The study is led by Mrs. Fatima Hodroj (Principal Investigator) under supervision of Dr. Desai Shan and Dr. Atanu Sarkar of the Division of Community Health and Humanities, Faculty of Medicine, and Dr. Lorenzo Moro of the Department of Ocean and Naval Architectural Engineering at Memorial University of Newfoundland. This study is a part of the master's thesis of Mrs. Hodroj.

We are looking for seafarers volunteers to complete an online survey that will remain open until June 30, 2023. Please note that this survey is not a requirement of any employer/organization/or union distributing it on our behalf. The survey should not take you more than 30 minutes. This survey includes detailed health and medical questions about the impacts of noise exposure on your health and that you will be asked to answer them. It is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 includes questions related to sociodemographic details, perceptions of occupational noise exposure, and noise-induced auditory health. Part 2 consists of questions related to noise-induced non-auditory health problems.

Compensation for your participation: participants who complete the surveys will be invited to enter their email into a draw for a chance to win one of three e-gift cards of Amazon valued at \$100. The odds of winning are relative to the number of participants who choose to enter. Winners will be selected after the completion of the survey and will be notified by email.

Follow-up interview: We invite up to 40 participants for an online interview conducted on Zoom/Skype or over the phone. The first forty participants will be selected for the interview on a first come, first-served. As a token of our gratitude for participating in the interview, we would like to offer you an e-gift card of Amazon valued at \$50.

Participants need to provide their email address. After completion of the survey, participants will be directed to a separate link, which will prevent your contact information (email address) from being associated with your survey responses.

The principal investigator will contact the three lucky draw winners from the survey and the first 40 interview participants individually via email to arrange for the Amazon e-gift card delivery.

If you need more information about this interview, please read the interview information sheet found here: <https://1drv.ms/b/s!Ajs2E4BZmkTMdHjC0AJhmYuANYw?e=hfkBk9>

The proposal for this research has been reviewed by the Interdisciplinary Committee on Ethics in Human Research (ICEHR) and found to comply with Memorial University's ethics policy. If you have ethical concerns about the research, such as how you have been treated or your rights as a participant, you may contact the Chairperson of the ICEHR at icehr@mun.ca or by telephone at 709-864-2861.

If you need more information about this research, please read the survey information sheet found here: <https://1drv.ms/b/s!Ajs2E4BZmkTMchWvMUstDjiwW2M?e=tng0ww>

If you are interested in participating, the online survey can be accessed at the following link: https://mun.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0ul7GHmZwx2sy46

Sincerely,

Fatima Hodroj (Master's Student)

Principal Investigator,

Memorial University of Newfoundland

Join Our Research Study: Seafarers' Perceptions and Attitudes towards Occupational Noise Exposure and Its Health Impacts in Canada: A Mixed-Methods Study

Invitation to Participate in an Online Survey and/or Interview

What is the study about?

An online survey and/or interview to explore seafarers' perceptions and attitudes towards occupational noise exposure and noise-induced auditory and non-auditory health problems.

Who can participate?

- a seafarer who works on a Canadian board
- between 18-65 years of age/actively working as a seafarer for one year or more in Canada's fleet
- with no previous history of working in a noisy environment other than as a seafarer on board for one year or more
- with no pre-existing diagnosed hearing problem/s or noise-induced non-auditory health problem/s before joining the board as a seafarer



How to participate?

- Please click on the above anonymous survey link and/ or the interview link to participate in this study
- For more information please contact the principal investigator Mrs. Fatima Hodroj at fhhodroj@mun.ca

Compensation:

- If you choose to participate in the **survey**, you will have a chance to win one of three e-gift cards of Amazon valued at **\$100**.
- If you choose to participate in the **interview**, the first forty participants will be selected on first come first served. As a token of our gratitude for participating in the interview, we would like to offer you an e-gift card of Amazon valued at **\$50**.



The proposal for this research has been reviewed by the Interdisciplinary Committee on Ethics in

Human Research and found to be in compliance with Memorial University's ethics policy.

This is an independent academic study undertaken by researchers from Memorial University and funded by Ocean Frontier Institute (OFI).

