

Consent Agenda Briefing for PWSRCAC Board of Directors – September 2022

ACTION ITEM

Sponsor: Alan Sorum and the Port Operations and Vessel Traffic System Committee

Project number and name or topic: 8520 – Miscommunication in Maritime Contexts

1. **Description of agenda item:** The Board is being asked to approve a contract with Nicole Ziegler, Ph.D. through Sky Island Language Learning Research in an amount of \$50,000 for Project 8520 – Miscommunication in Maritime Contexts.

2. **Why is this item important to PWSRCAC:** Seeking to identify and address various causes of miscommunication, this project will provide a comprehensive perspective by collecting information on the linguistic, cultural, and pragmatic needs and practices of native and non-native English-speaking mariners in Prince William Sound.

Both linguistic and pragmatic failures have frequently led to miscommunication during highly stressful, technical maneuvers, in which there is often very little time or space to correct initial misunderstandings, such as in the Cosco Busan allision with the San Francisco Bay Bridge. In these situations, confusion or misinterpretation of instructions or warnings is likely to intensify problems and difficulties, thus contributing to the occurrence of an accident. In recognition of the need for improved communication, a simplified and highly technical version of English was developed to serve as the “lingua franca” for mariners of varying linguistic backgrounds and proficiencies; however, communication problems persist.

3. **Previous actions taken by the Board on this item:**

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>
Board	1/27/22	Approval of project to begin in FY2023.

4. **Summary of policy, issues, support, or opposition:** None known.

5. **Committee Recommendation:** POVTS supports Board approval, as the sole source contract with Dr. Ziegler (executed through Sky Island Language Learning Research) was the number one POVTS prioritized project for FY2023.

6. **Relationship to LRP and Budget:** Project 8520 - Miscommunication in Maritime Context is in the approved FY2023 budget and annual workplan.

Contract Approval: Miscommunication in Maritime Contexts 3-1

8520--Miscommunication in Maritime Context As of July 31, 2022

FY-2023 Budget

Original	\$55,000.00
Modifications	
Revised Budget	<u>\$55,000.00</u>

Actual and Commitments

Actual Year-to-Date	
Commitments (Professional Services)	
Actual + Commitments	<u>0</u>
Amount Remaining	<u>\$55,000.00</u>

7. **Action Requested of the Board of Directors:** Authorize a sole source contract with Dr. Ziegler through Sky Island Language Learning Research in an amount not to exceed of \$55,000 for Project 8520 – Miscommunication in Maritime Contexts.
8. **Alternatives:** None.
9. **Attachments:** None.