



Crewtoo Seafarers Happiness Index Reveals Mariners Dread Port Calls

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Leading Seafarer Social Media Site Crewtoo(TM) Publishes Its Second Quarterly Report Detailing Job Satisfaction at Sea

MIDDLETOWN, R.I. and LIVERPOOL, U.K., Aug. 26, 2015 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Crewtoo, the online social network for seafarers and a part of KVH Industries, Inc., (Nasdaq:KVHI), has published the results of its second Crewtoo Seafarers Happiness Index report.

Designed to monitor and benchmark seafarer satisfaction levels via 10 key questions, this second quarterly report shows a seafarer satisfaction level of 6.44 on a scale of 1 to 10, up 0.02 from the inaugural survey published in May this year.

One surprising issue detailed in the second report is that seafarers sometimes dread port calls because of the increase in workload caused by the many audits and inspections when a ship is in dock. This increase in workload at port also caused a drop in satisfaction levels towards shore leave, as the amount of work often eats into the time available for relaxation. One respondent stated: "I am happy at sea but when our vessel enters port, it is a very hard time." In addition, a number of seafarers noted that getting ashore costs them at least \$100USD, which presents a major barrier to taking shore leave. Increased stress during port visits and either reduced or non-existent shore leave gives seafarers very few opportunities to relax and unwind away from their vessels.



This second report of the Crewtoo Seafarers Happiness Index shows several areas where satisfaction improved versus the first report. For example, there was an improvement in crew satisfaction with salary levels and an improvement in their feelings about the standard of food available onboard. The availability of exercising onboard was also viewed more positively, as was the satisfaction derived from crew interaction and team building, which increased from 6.96 to 7.16 and became the highest score in the survey.

The intent of the Crewtoo Seafarers Happiness Index is to give seafarers a collective voice, and thereby enable the maritime industry to review and address the issues that are raised. "The Happiness Index is an important barometer of seafarer satisfaction with life at sea," says Anneley Pickles, head of Crewtoo business development. "Happy people are loyal, motivated, and embrace challenges. If the industry really acts on the responses to these regularly updated surveys, it will not only reap the rewards with a more motivated, loyal, and hardworking workforce, but it will attract new talent to the industry, something which is sadly lacking at the moment."

Answers to the survey are received from across all ranks and nationalities including seafarers from the Philippines, U.K., Poland, Croatia, Germany, U.S., Canada, India, and Turkey, as well as a number of African nations. The age of survey respondents ranged from 16 to the late 60s. Masters made up the largest proportion of responses by rank; some 11% of respondents stated that they were currently serving in the role of captain. The majority of responses were from seafarers working on bulk carriers and container vessels.

For a copy of the latest [Crewtoo Seafarers Happiness Index report](http://survey.crewtoo.com/happiness), please visit <http://survey.crewtoo.com/happiness>.

Note to Editors: For more information about [Crewtoo](http://www.crewtoo.com), please visit www.crewtoo.com.

About Crewtoo

Crewtoo is the world's largest online network of the seafaring community, with more than 110,000 members. Crewtoo was launched in 2011 by KVH Media Group, a leading provider of commercially licensed news, music, TV, and movie entertainment content for a wide range of industries including maritime, retail, and hotels. KVH Media Group brands include NEWSlink™, MOVIElink™, SPORTSlink™, TVlink™, and MUSIClink™. KVH Media Group's parent company, KVH Industries, Inc., is a leading provider of in-motion satellite TV and communications systems, having designed, manufactured, and sold more than 175,000 mobile satellite antennas for applications on vessels, vehicles, and aircraft. KVH is based in Middletown, RI, with research, development, and manufacturing operations in Middletown, RI, and Tinley Park, IL. The company's global presence includes offices in Belgium, Brazil, Cyprus, Denmark, Hong Kong, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, and the United Kingdom.

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