

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION
U.S. Department of Transportation

Center of Excellence (CoE) for Domestic Workforce Training and Education

Center for Professional Mariner Development – Bucksport, ME

The Secretary of Transportation designates the Center for Professional Mariner Development (CPMD) as a 2026 Center of Excellence for its hands-on simulation training, deep industry partnerships, and vital emergency response training capabilities. Operating out of Bucksport, Maine, CPMD delivers specialized U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)-compliant training for both new recruits and experienced mariners, strengthening our regional maritime workforce while keeping the national fleet ready for action.

Operational Footprint & Assets

CPMD's training delivery balances advanced technical classroom instruction with comprehensive shoreside and afloat testing environments.

- **Regulatory Training Framework:** Provides 33 Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) USCG-approved courses and 14 non-STCW vocational credentials spanning advanced radar, firefighting, and electronic navigation.
- **High-Tier Infrastructure:** Combines high-fidelity bridge and desktop engine room simulation systems with a National Fire Protection Association compliant shipboard live-fire burn complex and dedicated Helicopter Underwater Escape Training survival facilities.
- **Commercial Asset Partnerships:** Per agreement with the Port of Bucksport, CPMD conducts practical cargo and stabilization instruction on an active harbor barge.

Workforce & Regional Impact

The center helps working mariners quickly upgrade their licenses and advance their careers, directly tackling regional labor shortages.

- **Industrial Network Integration:** Preferred Vendor within Maersk Training's global network, connecting local trainees to a market of 500+ global partner organizations.
- **Coordinated Trade Frameworks:** With Milton CAT and Strategic Maintenance Solutions, delivers certified pathways in diesel generation telematics and predictive asset management.
- **Economic Talent Funnels:** Throughput has expanded consistently since FY21, tracking toward a baseline of 1,000 active students for the current fiscal year.

Strategic Outlook

Through a joint capital program, CPMD is integrating advanced safety simulators and modifying the R/V *Susan B. Clark* into a specialized offshore crew transfer training vessel. In periods of crisis, CPMD's documented ability to scale training volumes by 150–250 percent within 30 days provides the maritime industry with a highly adaptive training node capable of rapidly reinforcing the merchant marine and national sealift readiness commands.