

**Records of the Committee on  
Merchant Marine and Fisheries  
RG.233.88.MMF  
88th Congress**

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Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration  
700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC, 20408  
202-357-5350  
[legislative.archives@nara.gov](mailto:legislative.archives@nara.gov)

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
<b>Title</b>	Records of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1963-1965
<b>Extent</b>	Amount unknown
<b>Language</b>	English

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## Biographical/Historical note

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The Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries was established on December 21, 1887, to replace the Select Committee on American Shipbuilding and Shipowning Interests. The House Rules defined its jurisdiction as those matters concerning the Merchant Marine. This included all matters relating to transportation by water, the Coast Guard, life-saving service, lighthouses, lightships, ocean derelicts, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Panama Canal, and fisheries. Legislation referred to the committee also include matters involving seamen (their assignments, wages, treatment, and health) and officers (their titles, conduct, and licensing); the naming, measuring, licensing, and registering of vessels; navigation and related laws; pleasure yachts; collisions at sea, as well as international arrangements to prevent them; coasting districts; maritime schools; and, taxes, fines, and penalties on vessels. The committee has also regulated shipping in the Philippines and Hawaii. The Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee created subcommittees to handle portions of its jurisdiction. In 1919 the committee was given jurisdiction over wireless telegraphy (radio), and in 1932 its name was changed to the Committee on Merchant Marine, Radio, and Fisheries. After a dispute with the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, the jurisdiction over radio services was transferred to that committee in 1935 and the term "radio" was dropped from the name of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 the jurisdiction of the committee was enlarged and more fully defined.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

### Conditions Governing Access note

The records are governed by Rule VII(3)b of the House Rules:

(b) (1) A record shall immediately be made available if it was previously made available for public use by the House or a committee or a subcommittee. (2) An investigative record that contains personal data relating to a specific living person (the disclosure of which would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), an administrative record relating to personnel, or a record relating to a hearing that was closed under clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI shall be made available if it has been in existence for 50 years. (3) A record for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the House shall be made available in accordance with that order. Except as otherwise provided by order of the House, a record of a committee for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the committee (entered during the Congress in which the record is made or acquired by the committee)

shall be made available in accordance with the order of the committee. (4) A record (other than a record referred to in subparagraph (1), (2), or (3)) shall be made available if it has been in existence for 30 years.

**Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries Records**

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## **Collection Inventory**

### **Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries Records 1963-1965**

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The records of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries for most Congresses contain bill files, executive communications, transcripts of executive session hearings, copies of printed hearings, minutes, and administrative files including vouchers.

### **Committee Papers 1963-1965**

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers for each Congress of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries contain executive communications referred to the committee, minutes of committee and subcommittee meetings, copies of the legislative calendar, copies of printed hearings, and, in some cases, transcripts of executive session meetings. The executive communications include reports from various agencies such as the annual reports of the U.S. Maritime Commission, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission (88 MMF.3). Other executive communication documents include drafts of proposed legislation. Examples are: An August 1964 proposal for "A bill to improve the aids to navigation services of the Coast Guard" received from the Secretary of the Treasury; "A bill to aid in the administration of the Pribilof Islands in Alaska" proposed by the Secretary of the Interior; and "A bill to amend the Canal Zone Code to empower the Panama Canal Company and Canal Zone to make interest-bearing loans . . . on low cost homes" submitted by the Governor of the Panama Canal Zone (88A-MMF.3). The committee papers usually contain substantial minority staff records and several collections of subcommittee records.

### **Hearings 1963-1965**

## Petitions and Memorials

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### **Scope and Contents note**

The hearings of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries include transcripts of open session and executive session meetings. Many of these transcripts were never published. The records of the 88th Congress (1963-1964), for example, contain unpublished hearing transcripts before the Subcommittee on the Panama Canal, hearings on deep-sea diving capabilities before the Subcommittee on Oceanography, and full committee hearings on the 1964 Coast Guard Authorization Act.

### **Petitions and Memorials 1963-1965**

#### **Scope and Contents note**

Separate petition and memorial files exist for most of this period for the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; but during the 88th through 90th Congresses (1963-1968), petitions and memorials are filed together with executive communications. In some cases, petitions and memorials relating to specific pieces of legislation are filed in the bill file for the legislation instead of in the petition and memorial series. The documents cover a wide range of subjects. The committee received large numbers of petitions and memorials concerning the conservation, preservation, and exploitation of wildlife, and the ocean fisheries. Many of these were in the form of resolutions passed by state legislatures. The legislature of the State of California sent a memorial favoring the construction of devices to improve feeding and spawning conditions for anadromous fish. And the legislature of Alaska supported S. 627, a bill that provided for research and development projects to study the causes of the salmon failure in Bristol Bay in 1963 (88 MMF.3).