

# WORLD MARITIME SEAFARER PROFILES



NAME: **VERONICA BONIMY**

JOB TITLE: **THIRD JUNIOR DECK OFFICER**

**IMO's theme is seafarers at the core of shipping's future. What challenges do you see ahead?**

After being more than a year into the Covid-19 pandemic the effects of the pandemic are still being felt by seafarers. It is my belief that even after the pandemic ends the long-term psychological effects will still be present. Moreover, with the closure of the cruising industry a huge shift was created. Seafarers started seeking jobs elsewhere and have become comfortable with their land base jobs. It will be challenging to get these men and women back out to sea after they have restructured their lives. Additionally, getting seafarers to be vaccinated is also going to be a challenge.

**What do you wish the maritime community knew about cruise shipping?**

I think most of the maritime community and the world at large look at cruise shipping and instantly think "fun". What is often overlooked is exactly how hard cruise ship crew work and the magnitude of responsibility we carry. Our cargo is people, that's something that cannot be replaced. We are tasked with the responsibility of delivering the best experience possible as well as ensuring their overall safety at all times. We are challenged to perform at our best at all times with constantly changing demands in a very high stressed environment.

**How does a cruise ship deal with all the garbage and human waste?**

Garbage on board is separated according to a color-coded system which separates garbage according to type. Food waste is fed through a special system that can either reduce it into smaller particles or a liquid; which is discharged overboard outside of the territorial boundary of any country. Human waste is treated with anaerobic bacteria to dissolve the solid particles. The water is then treated via UV light and approved chemicals. When the ship is outside of the territorial boundary of a country the water is discharged overboard.

**Can you describe your ideal onboard working environment?**

Although each ship can present a different working environment within a company, my ideal working environment would be a bridge team that is extremely diverse. Consequently, extreme diversity would lead to English being frequently spoken outside of work-related situations. In doing so it would create an environment free from inferiority; everyone would feel included and comfortable allowing them to work to their full potential. Additionally, an environment that supports professional development and mentorship would be ideal for a young professional like myself.

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