

CAPTAIN DANIEL H. COST
DIRECTOR OF INSPECTIONS & COMPLIANCE (CG-5PC)
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Captain Cost assumed duties as Director of Inspections and Compliance at Coast Guard Headquarters in June 2026. In this position, he develops and maintains policy, standards, and program alignment for all prevention activities associated with recreational boating safety, foreign and domestic commercial vessel compliance, international and domestic ports and facilities safety and security, vessel documentation, and marine casualty investigation. The CG-5PC directorate also manages policy development and program oversight for the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.



Captain Cost previously served as the Commanding Officer of the Marine Safety Center (MSC), the Coast Guard's lead technical authority for commercial vessel regulations, promoting marine safety and environmental protection through the engineering review and approval of nearly 20,000 plans annually. He also served as Chief of the Office of Design and Engineering Standards (CG-ENG), where he led the development of U.S. maritime safety and security standards for commercial vessels and served as the U.S. Head of Delegation for the International Maritime Organization's Ship Design and Construction Subcommittee.

His earlier command and staff assignments include Executive Officer of the MSC (2019–2021), where he additionally led a strategic imperative for the Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy to align program direction and budget initiatives. As Commanding Officer of Marine Safety Unit Lake Charles (2016–2019), he led maritime safety and security missions across Southwest Louisiana, including federal oversight of a \$120 billion energy infrastructure expansion. Captain Cost also served as an Associate Professor of Engineering at the Coast Guard Academy, developing its Marine Safety Curriculum; Chief of Inspections at Sector New Orleans (2009–2012); and as a naval architect and Salvage Engineering Response Team member at the MSC (2005–2009). His afloat tours include Executive Officer aboard CGC SITKINAK, and First Lieutenant and Deck Watch Officer aboard CGC TAMPA.

Captain Cost is a 1999 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. In 2005, he earned dual Master of Science degrees in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering, from the University of Michigan. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Virginia.

He and his wife Laurie live in Maryland and have two daughters, Isabella and Sydney.