

CAPTAIN JENNIFER R. DOHERTY
COMMANDING OFFICER
U.S. COAST GUARD MARINE SAFETY CENTER

Captain Doherty serves as the Coast Guard's lead technical authority for commercial vessel regulation and promotes marine safety and environmental protection through engineering review and approval of nearly 20,000 plans annually for the design, construction and alteration of U.S. and foreign vessels, equipment, and offshore energy facilities.

Captain Doherty previously served as the Chief of the Office of Design and Engineering Standards for the Coast Guard's Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy. Her responsibilities include the development of U.S. national maritime safety and security standards for the commercial shipping industry. In this role, she also serves as the U.S. Head of Delegation for the International Maritime Organization's Ship Design and Construction Subcommittee, overseeing U.S. initiatives in the development of international standards.



A 2003 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy, she spent her first assignment aboard the Coast Guard Cutter SENECA (WMEC 906), where she served as student engineer and Damage Control Assistant. From 2005 until 2008, she was assigned to Naval Engineering Support Unit Alameda, where she served as a Port Engineer providing engineering support to 378' High Endurance Cutters, a 225' Buoy Tender, and 110' and 87' Patrol Boats.

In 2008, Captain Doherty was assigned to Sector New Orleans as a Marine Inspector where she earned several qualifications. During this assignment she responded to a chemical tanker and barge collision that spilled approximately 280,000 gallons of heavy No. 6 fuel oil in the Mississippi River, closing the river and affecting over 100 miles of the river. Her efforts were critical to the reconstitution of the Marine Transportation System through validating, prioritizing and ensuring the decontamination of vessels.

In 2017, she was assigned as the Chief of the Inspections Division at Sector Delaware Bay and promoted to Chief of Prevention in 2019 where she oversaw commercial vessel inspections, investigations, waterways management, and aids to navigation in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. She ensured the safety and security of the Marine Transportation System through support of offshore energy exploration, the new construction oversight of some of the largest container ships built in the United States and as lead for multiple environmental crimes investigations.

Captain Doherty holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from the Coast Guard Academy and earned a Master of Science in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from the University of New Orleans in 2014. She is the recipient of the Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medal, Coast Guard Commendation Medal, Coast Guard Achievement Medal, and numerous other personal, unit, and service awards.

Captain Doherty is a native of Melbourne, Florida. She is married to Jason Doherty of Toms River, New Jersey and they live in Virginia with their two children, Alex and TJ.