Mission / Purpose

Maritime Environmental Resources and Information Center (MERIC) was founded in 1996 in the College of Engineering, University of New Orleans to address the environmental and industrial hygiene challenges facing the maritime industry locally and globally. MERIC has the unique advantage of being in the Gulf Coast region which is dominant with a number of small, medium, and large scale boat/ship builders and repair facilities as well as off-shore oil exploration. MERIC and its researchers have the advantage of being in the company of the faculty of the School of Naval Architecture (NAME) which is a nationally well recognized program. Mission of MERIC is to:
· Develop a depository of environmental data and cleaner sustainable production technologies applicable to the maritime industry including but not limited to: shipbuilding, ship recycling, off-shore exploration, off-shore production, docks, marinas, ports, harbors, and their operations;
· Facilitate interaction among the maritime industry personnel, scientists/researchers, technology providers/developers, regulatory agencies, and engineering firms to promote sustainability (cost efficiency, environmental efficiency, and social responsibility);
· Compile and analyze information, conduct research, and facilitate promotion of overall efficiency within the maritime industry;
· Provide outreach training and educational programs for the maritime industry personnel; and
· Provide research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to engage in the real-world maritime environmental and occupational safety/hygiene topics.

Other Outcomes/Objectives, with Any Associations and Related Measures, Targets, Findings, and Action Plans

O/O 1: Maintain website
Continue to maintain MERIC’s Website and update with useful information.

O/O 2: Collaborations with professionals in industry
Collaborate/interact with local, national, and international maritime professionals to promote maritime EHS (Environment, Health, and Safety) knowledge and awareness.

O/O 3: Develop technology applications
Develop technologies, technical reports/papers, software applications.

O/O 4: Increase student research in field
Supervise/advise undergraduate/graduate students to conduct research in maritime industries (short articles as part of course work; thesis/non-thesis graduate work).