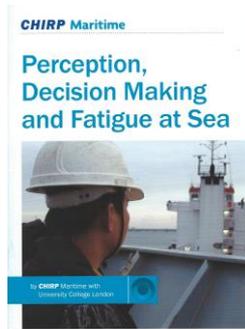# CHIRP Maritime

PRESS RELEASE

The CHIRP Charitable Trust is pleased to announce the release of a booklet and accompanying video on "Perception, Decision Making and Fatigue at Sea". This work is a summary of findings and recommendations in collaboration with the Arts & Sciences and Neuroscience Departments at University College London.

The report includes recommendations important for seafarers, managers and maritime regulators. It illustrates how the eyes work with the brain. Giving attention to "What and Where": The "What" delivers information on detail and colour. Whilst the "Where" system works better in dim light using peripheral vision, and is better adapted to transient event moments, such as moving objects. But "What and Where" use different parts of the brain – so they can't both be at peak performance at the same time!

The study considers the human element in ship design and its associated impact when writing operating procedures. It looks at the influence on our vision due to different lighting and dark adaptation; how we make decisions, keeping communication, culture, trust and group opinion constantly in mind, and the need to always be vigilant of the effects of fatigue.

As seafarers, our ability to perceive the world around us and to make decisions, both individually and as a crew, is crucial for us to carry out our jobs and to avoid or respond to emergency situations. It is in how we see and how we decide that hidden factors, or factors we may know but take for granted, may overwhelm us.

Act now! Take a moment to read the report. As you do this, think: "Eye, brain, group decision making and health".

Knowing and understanding these issues and knowing how to avoid them is the route to first class and ever-improving seamanship, helping to make our ships more efficient and keeping our seas safe.

The report and accompanying video can be downloaded from www.chirpmaritime.org