

Office of Inspector General

**Independent Auditor's Report of the
FMC's FY 2019 Financial Statements**

A20-02



November 2019

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION



FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20573

November 6, 2019

Office of Inspector General

Dear Chairman Khouri, and Commissioners Dye, Maffei, and Sola:

I am pleased to provide the attached audit report required by the Accountability for Tax Dollars Act of 2002 (ATDA), which presents an unmodified (clean) opinion on the Federal Maritime Commission's (FMC) fiscal year (FY) 2019 and 2018 financial statements. The audit results indicate that the FMC has established an internal control structure that facilitates the preparation of reliable financial and performance information. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) commends the FMC for the noteworthy accomplishment of attaining an unmodified opinion.

The OIG contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm of Dembo Jones, P.C. to: perform the audit of the FMC's financial statements for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2019 and 2018; consider internal control over financial reporting; and test the agency's compliance with certain provisions of applicable laws, regulations, and contracts that could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. The contract required that the audit be performed in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) audit guidance.

In its audit of the FMC, Dembo Jones found: the financial statements were fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles; there were no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting; and no reportable noncompliance issues with the laws and regulations tested.

In connection with the OIG's contract, the OIG reviewed Dembo Jones' report and related documentation and inquired of its representatives. Our review, as differentiated from an audit in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards, was not intended to enable the OIG to express, and we do not express, opinions on FMC's financial statements or internal control; or conclusions on compliance with laws and regulations. Dembo Jones is responsible for the attached auditors' report dated November 19, 2019 and the conclusions expressed in the report. However, our review disclosed no instances where Dembo Jones did not comply, in all material respects, with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards.

The OIG would like to thank FMC staff; especially the Office of Budget and Finance, for their assistance in helping Dembo Jones and the OIG meet the audit objectives.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Hatfield
Inspector General

Attachment

cc: Office of the Managing Director
Office of the General Counsel
Office of Budget and Finance

Independent Auditor's Report

To Chairman Khouri
Federal Maritime Commission

In our audits of the fiscal years 2019 and 2018 financial statements of Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) we found:

- a) FMC's financial statements as of and for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2019 and 2018, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles;
- b) no material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting based on the limited procedures we performed; and
- c) no reportable noncompliance for fiscal year 2019 with provisions of applicable laws, regulations and contracts we tested.

The following sections discuss in more detail (1) our report on the financial statements, which includes required supplementary information (RSI), such as "Management's Discussion and Analysis"; (2) our report on internal control over financial reporting; (3) our report on compliance with laws, regulations and contracts; and (4) agency comments.

Report on the Financial Statements

In accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Bulletin No. 19-03, *Audit Requirements for Federal Financial Statements*, we have audited FMC's financial statements. FMC's financial statements comprise the balance sheets as of September 30, 2019, and 2018; the related statements of net cost, changes in net position, budgetary resources and custodial activity for the fiscal years then ended; and the related notes to the financial statements.

We conducted our audits in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards. We believe that the audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

FMC's management is responsible for (1) the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; (2) preparing, measuring, and presenting the RSI in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; (3) preparing and presenting other information included in documents containing the audited financial statements and auditor's report, and ensuring the consistency of that information with the audited financial statements and the RSI; and (4) maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, including the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. We are also responsible for applying certain limited procedures to RSI and other information included with the financial statements.

An audit of financial statements involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the auditor's assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit of financial statements also involves evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

Opinion on Financial Statements

In our opinion, FMC's financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, FMC's financial position as of September 30, 2019 and 2018, and its net costs of operations, changes in net position, budgetary resources and custodial activity for the fiscal years then ended in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

U.S. generally accepted accounting principles issued by the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) require that the RSI be presented to supplement the financial statements. Although the RSI is not a part of the financial statements, FASAB considers this information to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the financial statements in appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied

certain limited procedures to the RSI in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the RSI and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to the auditor's inquiries, the financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during the audit of the financial statements, in order to report omissions or material departures from FASAB guidelines, if any, identified by these limited procedures. We did not audit and we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI because the limited procedures we applied do not provide sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

FMC's other information contains a wide range of information, some of which is not directly related to the financial statements. This information is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements or the RSI. We read the other information included with the financial statements in order to identify material inconsistencies, if any, with the audited financial statements. Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on FMC's financial statements. We did not audit and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the other information.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In connection with our audits of the FMC's financial statements, we considered the FMC's internal control over financial reporting, consistent with our auditor's responsibility discussed below. We performed our procedures related to the FMC's internal control over financial reporting in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards.

Management's Responsibility

FMC management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, including the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

In planning and performing our audit of FMC's financial statements as of and for the year ended September 30, 2019, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards, we considered the FMC's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the FMC's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the FMC's internal control over financial reporting. We are required to report all deficiencies that are considered significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not consider all internal controls relevant to operating objectives, such as those controls relevant to preparing performance information and ensuring efficient operations.

Definition and Inherent Limitations of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

An entity's internal control over financial reporting is a process effected by those charged with governance, management, and other personnel, the objectives of which are to provide reasonable assurance that (1) transactions are properly recorded, processed, and summarized to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition, and (2) transactions are executed in accordance with provisions of applicable laws, including those governing the use of budget authority, regulations and contracts, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements due to fraud or error.

Results of Our Consideration of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described above, and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses and significant deficiencies or to express an opinion on the effectiveness of the FMC's internal control over financial reporting. Given these limitations, during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Intended Purpose of Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our consideration of the FMC's internal control over financial reporting and the results of our procedures, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the FMC's internal control over financial reporting. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards in considering internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, this report on internal control over financial reporting is not suitable for any other purpose.

Report on Compliance with Laws, Regulations and Contracts

In connection with our audits of FMC's financial statements, we tested compliance with selected provisions of applicable laws, regulations and contracts, consistent with our auditor's responsibility discussed below. We caution that noncompliance may occur and not be detected by these tests. We performed our tests of compliance in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards.

Management's Responsibility

FMC management is responsible for complying with laws, regulations and contracts applicable to FMC.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to test compliance with selected provisions of applicable laws, regulations and contracts applicable to FMC that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in FMC's financial statements, and perform certain other limited procedures. Accordingly, we did not test compliance with all laws, regulations and contracts applicable to FMC.

Results of Our Tests for Compliance with Laws, Regulations and Contracts

Our tests for compliance with selected provisions of applicable laws, regulations and contracts disclosed no instances of noncompliance for fiscal year 2019 that would be reportable under U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards. However, the objective of our tests was not to provide an opinion on compliance with laws, regulations and contracts applicable to FMC. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Intended Purpose of Report on Compliance with Laws, Regulations and Contracts

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of compliance with selected provisions of applicable laws, regulations and contracts, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards in considering compliance. Accordingly, this report on compliance with laws, regulations and contracts is not suitable for any other purpose.



*Rockville, Maryland
November 19, 2019*