**MERCHANT MARINER**

 **INCOME TAX ORGANIZER**



We are providing this income tax organizer to assist you in

 gathering the information needed by our tax specialists to

prepare your income tax return. The information requested in this organizer is based on our 13 years of experience preparing Merchant Mariner income tax returns.

**Tidewater Accounting and Bookkeeping Services, Inc.**

**609 Independence Parkway Suite 120**

**Chesapeake, VA 23320**

**757-436-3150 (phone) 757-436-8099 (fax)**

**info@tabtax.com** **(email)** [**www.tabtax.com**](http://www.tabtax.com) **(website**)

***T.A.B.S.***

***TAX – ACCOUNTING – BOOKKEEPING***

***PROFESSIONALS***

Dear Merchant Mariner,

Thank you for choosing T.A.B.S., Inc., to prepare your income tax returns. Please read the enclosed information carefully. Please complete and return the enclosed Client Information Sheet. If you do not send us all of the information requested, the preparation of your tax returns will be delayed.

A link for the IRS form 2848, Power of Attorney is on the packet home page. This form is only for income tax purposes only. It authorizes T.A.B.S., Inc., to discuss tax matters with the IRS or to sign your tax return in your absence. If you are filing a joint return, please include both names and social security numbers on line 1 of the Power of Attorney and be sure that both taxpayers sign on line 9. Please do not sign Part II. Without a signed, original Power of Attorney in our office, we will not be able to act on your behalf**. Please note, that the Power of Attorney allows us to sign your returns but we will not do so unless you request it**. Due to additional fees involved when correspondence or paperwork is sent to the IRS, we do not automatically use the Power of Attorney that is in your file. All mailing from this office to the IRS is sent certified, return receipt.

Your tax information can be sent to us via mail. We will review this information and contact you with any questions we may have. It is not necessary, but sometimes helpful, to meet with a tax return preparer. Please call our receptionist to schedule an appointment if you feel it necessary. Our office hours are listed below:

April 16 – January 15

Monday – Thursday 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. (Appointment Preferred)

January 16 – April 15

Monday – Friday 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (Appointment Only)

Saturday 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. (Appointment Only)

If you have any questions regarding the firm, please call during business hours and someone will be able to assist you.

***609 INDEPENDENCE PARKWAY – SUITE 120***

***CHESAPEAKE, VA 23320***

***757-436-3150 (phone) – 757-436-8099 (fax)***

***info@tabtax.com*** ***(email)***

[***www.tabtax.com***](http://www.tabtax.com)

**PAYMENT/FILING POLICIES**

Our Billing rates are based on time spent in preparation of your return (rather than a percentage of your refund) and may include charges for Priority Mail and long distance phone calls. Our rates are competitive with other small accounting firms.

Returns are processed in the order that they are received. If you are filing multiple years, a deposit of at least one year’s fee is required before we start processing the returns. Please be sure to include a payment when mailing in your returns to avoid delays in processing. Returns must be paid in full before T.A.B.S. can release your information either to you or to the government and other taxing authorities.

All returns will be e-filed according to IRS requirements. You will need to review your return and sign the e-file consent form prior to filing. We will notify you if there is a problem with your e-file. We will mail you copies of the completed returns.

If your tax return information has not arrived in our office by April 1st then we will send out an automatic six month extension of time to file the tax return for you. Please notify our office if you do not want us to submit the extension on your behalf. Please note this extension is not an extension of time to pay any balance due on your return. To avoid penalty and interest assessed please make certain you have paid both the IRS and your state at least 90% of the tax that was due on the previous year’s return.

If you anticipate leaving the country before your tax return has been completed, we suggest you make arrangements for payment and filing of your returns with a relative. Please let us know with whom these arrangements have been made so that we can expedite the filing process.

Payment can be made via credit card, check, money order, and cash. We reserve the right to hold your tax return for 10 business days if you pay by check. **Please be** **advised there will be a $35 charge for a returned check.** We also require the 3 or 4 digit verification number and the billing zip-code for credit card payments.

If you refer 5 people and they become clients, you will receive a free tax return. New clients, provide this information on the Client Information Sheet. It is important that you indicate who referred you to our firm. If you have any questions regarding our Payment/ Filing Policies, please contact the office.

**GENERAL FEES**

**Bookkeeping:** $45.00 per hour. For new clients we will start you off on an hourly basis for a month or two to get a base line for you. All clients will be moved to a set fee per month. If we travel to your office we will be setting you up with a specific day per month for bookkeeping services.

**Incorporation:**  Our fee for Incorporations is $550.00. This fee does include your filing fee to the state. Our firm will obtain your state certificate, Federal ID number, S Corp. election if need be, and prepare a corporate book and stock certificates for you. Please be aware that most states also have an annual fee or franchise tax forms that may need to be filled out. Once we have incorporated you it will be your responsibility to make sure these forms are filed timely. We will be happy to offer you additional assistance if needed. Dissolutions of corporations will be billed at $200 plus state filing fees.

**Payroll**: Our firm will charge an initial set up fee of $125.00 to set up and complete all the necessary government forms for your payroll. For payrolls with five or fewer people the fee is $200.00 per quarter. The fee for payroll with six to ten employees is $ 250.00 per quarter and the fee for ten to twenty employees is $300.00 per quarter. This fee includes your payroll calculations, state and federal calculations and your payroll reports. If we need to fill out or print checks for you please add an additional $1.00 FEE PER CHECK. The W2 and 1099 forms will be billed separately at $5.00 per form. The year end summary will continue to be billed at the bookkeeping rate per hour.

**Tax returns**: Tax return rates vary per return. However, in general a basic corporate return will be a minimum of $550.00. Independent Contractor and Merchant Mariner returns run around $515.00 for federal return and state returns. This fees includes the IRS mandatory electronic filing. Personal returns for our Corporation Clients run between $175.00 and $275.00 per return. The IRS mandatory electronic filing is included in this fee. For all other returns the average fee is $275.00 for a Federal and State return. However, please remember that your fees will vary due to the differing nature of each return. We do not provide RALS.

There is no charge for initial consultations. Tax planning, additional meetings and letters will be billed at an hourly rate of $75.00 per hour.

All checks returned to our firm will incur a $35 charge.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact either Sandra Falcone or Ruth Carmody of this firm.

Incidental Expenses for Merchant Seaman

Incidental Expenses include, but are not limited to your costs for the following items; laundry, cleaning and pressing of clothing, and fees and tips for persons who provide services, such as porter and baggage carriers. Incidental expenses may also include hygiene products, bottled water and personal grooming services.

 Job related travel & business expenses calls are also deductible. These may include mileage, taxi fare, airfare, lodging, unreimbursed meals, required uniforms & safety gear, professional dues, and any other job related expenses not reimbursed by your employer. These expenses are all in addition to incidental expenses.

If you have incidental, travel, & business expenses, then you must keep records that show the details of the following elements:

 **Time** – Dates you left and returned for each trip and number of days spent on business.

 **Place** – Destination or area of your travel (name of city, town, or other designation.)

 **Amount** – Record in the handwritten Contemporaneous Log the amount of each separate expense then total in categories. For any expense incurred costing $100.00 or more you **must** provide a receipt. In lieu of the actual amount of incidental expenses, you may use the Incidental Portion of the Federal M&IE per diem, plus all other travel and business expenses. Receipts are required for all business lodging expenses.

**The Incidental Portion of the Federal M&IE per diem is $3 per day for CONUS travel and 20% of the allowable M&IE per diem for OCONUS travel.**

**M&IE**: Meals & Incidental Expenses.

**CONUS**: Continental United States

**OCONUS**: Outside the Continental United States

For incidental expenses, please circle your choice of the following options. Date and sign below.

1. I would like T.A.B.S. to use the Incidental Portion of the federal M&IE to calculate my expenses. I have provided a voyage schedule or ship’s log documenting the port calls for each of the vessels upon which I worked. I have also provided additional information for other travel & business expenses.
2. I have provided T.A.B.S. with the amount of all my travel, business, & incidental expenses and I have adequate substantiation as described above.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**TAX PREPERATION CONSENT**

I hereby engage T.A.B.S., Inc. to prepare my income tax returns.

I understand that the returns will be prepared from information that I provide. I represent that I have the required substantiation for all such information.

T.A.B.S., Inc. is not engaged to audit or verify information that I provide. However, I understand that T.A.B.S., Inc. may ask for clarification of certain items.

I understand that I will be billed for services upon completion of the engagement. I agree to pay upon receipt of invoice, subject to a service charge of 1 1/2% per month on any outstanding balance including attorney’s fees of 25%.

I have read and agree to the Payment Filing Policies and The General Fees. If TABS has had no response from me regarding my returns, by the filing due date, then I authorize TABS to run the payment information I provided and file the returns on my behalf.

If I am claiming the Foreign Income Exclusion then I have read the pertinent information, including court cases, and I acknowledge that I qualify for this income exclusion per IRS rules and regulations.

I am aware that additional services, such as tax planning, estate planning, responding to IRS notices, representation before tax authorities and assistance during an audit of my return are available to me. However, the cost of these services is not included in the fee for the preparation of my income tax return.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

On \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT NOTE AS REQUIRED BY THE IRS**

TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY THE

 IRS ON ALL TAX ADVISORS WHO ADVISE CLIENTS ON FEDERAL

 TAX ISSUES, WE ARE REQUIRED TO INFORM YOU THAT ANY U.S.

 FEDERAL TAX ADVICE CONTAINED IN THIS COMMUNICATION

 (INCLUDING ANY ATTACHMENTS) IS NOT INTENDED OR WRITTEN

TO BE USED, AND CANNOT BE USED, FOR THE PURPOSE OF

(I) AVOIDING PENALTIES UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OR (II) PROMOTING, MARKETING OR RECOMMENDING TO ANOTHER PARTY ANY TRANSACTION OR MATTER ADDRESSED HEREIN. THIS ADVICE MAY NOT BE FORWARDED WITHOUT OUR EXPRESS WRITTEN CONSENT.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | TAXPAYER | SPOUSE |
| First Name & M. I. |  |  |
| Last Name & Suffix |  |  |
| Social Security Number  |  |  |
| Occupation |  |  |
| Date of Birth |  |  |
| Daytime Phone |  |  |
| Evening Phone |  |  |
| Mobile Phone |  |  |
| Email Address |  |  |
| Street Address |  |  |
| City, State, ZipCounty & School District \* |  |  |
| State of Residency |  |  |

\* IMPORTANT for **State Returns**

**Bank Information for Direct Deposit or Debit:**

Routing Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Checking Account: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Savings Account: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**FILLING STATUS:** (Please Circle One)

SINGLE - MARRIED - MARRIED FILING SEPARATE - HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD

**DEPENDENTS** (Add additional dependents as necessary)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | DEPENDENT #1 | DEPENDENT #2 |
| First Name & Initial |  |  |
| Last Name |  | . |
| Social Security Number |  |  |
| Date of Birth |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Months Lived at Home |  |  |

**INCOME**

**Salaries and Wages** – Please include a **W-2** from each of your employers

**Interest Income** –Please include all **1099-INT** forms

**Dividend Income** **–** Please include all **1099-DIV** forms

**State and Local Income Tax Refunds Received** **–** Please include all **1099-G** forms

**On last year’s return did you:** (Please Circle One)

ITEMIZED TOOK STANDARD DEDUCTION

**Unemployment** – pLEASE INCLUDE ALL **1099-G** forms RECEIVED

**RETIREMENT INCOME** – PLEASE INCLUDE ALL **1099-R** forms

**SOCIAL SECURITY RECEIVED** – pLEASE INCLUDE ALL **1099-SA** forms

**ALIMONY AMOUNT RECEIVED - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*1099 MISC IS EITHER RENTAL INCOME OR BUSINESS INCOME**

 **PLEASE SEE THE LINKS TO ADDRESS THIS INCOME\*\*\*\*\*\***

**capital gains & losses** – please include all **1099-b** forms and cost basis

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| descripton | purchase date | purchase price  | sale date | proceeds |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**ira & pension distributions –** please attach **1099-r** forms

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| source | distribution amount | taxable amount  | rollover amount |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**income from pass-through entities –** please attach **schedule k-1** forms

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| source | active or passive  | amount  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**adjustments to income**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | TAXPAYER | SPOUSE |
| educator expenses |  |  |
| health savings account contributions  |  |  |
| moving expenses |  |  |
| self-employed retirement plans contributions  |  |  |
| self-employed health insurance paid |  |  |
| early withdrawal frm savings penalty |  |  |
| traditional ira contributions  |  |  |
| roth ira contributions |  |  |
| student loan interest  |  |  |
| amount of alimony paid |  |  |
| social security number of recipient of alimony |  |  |
| tuition and fees please include all **1099 t** forms  |  |  |

**itemized deductions**

**medical EXPENSES -** Please note - to be deductible the total amount of the medical expenses must be 7.5% of Your AGI (line 38)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | TAXPAYER | SPOUSE |
| medical insurance premiums |  |  |
| prescriptions |  |  |
| doctor, dentists, nurses |  |  |
| hospital, lab charges  |  |  |
| medical miles  |  |  |

**taxes paid**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | TAXPAYER | SPOUSE |
| state income taxes not including w-2 |  |  |
| **state sales tax\*\*** |  |  |
| real estate taxes |  |  |
| personal property taxes |  |  |
| state intanginle taxlist state: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  |  |  |
| other including auto registration |  |  |

 **\*\*we will calculate this tax – please let us know if you purchase**

 **car or a boat during the tax year\*\***

**interest paid –** please attach all **1098** forms

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | TAXPAYER | SPOUSE |
| first mortgage |  |  |
| second mortgage |  |  |
| equity line |  |  |
| personal property taxes |  |  |
| points paid in purchasing new home |  |  |
| investment interest expense |  |  |

**charitable contributions –** PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LETTER

FOR GIFTS GREATER THAN $500)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | TAXPAYER | SPOUSE |
| CASH OR CHECK CONTRIBUTIONS  |  |  |
| NON-CASH CONTRIBUTIONS |  |  |
| CHARITABLE MILEAGE |  |  |

PLEASE INCLUDE THE NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION, CITY STATE AND DESCRIPTION FOR ALL

CONTRIBUTIONS

**MERCHANT MARINER JOB EXPENSES**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TAX YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL UNION DUES $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**other dues (vacation dues, working dues) $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**uniforms (used only in employment) $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**uniform cleaning while at sea $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**merchant mariner publications $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**safety equipment, tools, etc. $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**required unreimbursed medical exams $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**required license renewal fees $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**required Passports & visas $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**computer used for work (explain how used) $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**software used for work (list on back) $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Hardware used for Work (list on back) $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**cell phone needed for assignment calls $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**phone cards/calls when away from home $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**taxi, bus fare, rental car (FROM BASE) $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**jOB SEARCH EXPENSES:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CITY AND STATE | DAYS | MEALS | HOTELS  | BUS/TAXI/AIR | RENTAL CAR | MILEAGE\*\*\*  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

 **\*\*\*MILEAGE IS ONLY IF YOU USED YOUR PERSONAL CAR. NOT FOR RENTAL CARS. \*\*\*\***

**TRAVELING TO MEET SHIPS:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CITY AND STATE | DAYS | MEALS | HOTELS  | BUS/TAXI/AIR | RENTAL CAR | MILEAGE\*\*\*  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

 **\*\*\*MILEAGE IS ONLY IF YOU USED YOUR PERSONAL CAR. NOT FOR RENTAL CARS. \*\*\*\***

**CONTINUING EDUCATION TRAVEL EXPENSES OR REQUIRED LICENSING TRAVEL EXPENSES:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CITY AND STATE | DAYS | MEALS | HOTELS  | BUS/TAXI/AIR | RENTAL CAR | MILEAGE\*\*\*  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

 **\*\*\*MILEAGE IS ONLY IF YOU USED YOUR PERSONAL CAR. NOT FOR RENTAL CARS. \*\*\*\***

tuition $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ BOOKS/Supplies $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1099 Reimbursement $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 **please be certain to include copies of your certificates of discharge**

 **as well as copies of the ship’s schedule.**

**miscellaneous deductions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | TAXPAYER | SPOUSE |
| last years tax prep fee |  |  |
| safe deposit box |  |  |
| investment expense |  |  |
| gambling losses |  |  |

**tax credits**

**child & dependent care credit**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | dependent #1 | Dependent #2 |
| child care provider ein or ssn |  |  |
| address |  |  |
| city, state, zip |  |  |
| child care expenses |  |  |

**estimated tax payments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | federal | state |
| overpayment applied from prior year |  |  |
| first quarterdate paid: |  |  |
| second quarterdate paid: |  |  |
| third quarterdate paid: |  |  |
| fourth quarterdate paid: |  |  |

**CONSENT FOR DISCLOSURE OF**

**TAX RETURN INFORMATION**

Federal law requires this consent form be provided to you. Unless authorized by law, we cannot disclose, without your consent, your tax return information to any third party. The law does authorize disclosure for purposes of preparation and filing of the return, such as electronic filing. The law does not authorize disclosure for purposes of emailing you a copy of your income tax return. If you consent to the disclosure of your tax return information, federal law may not protect your tax return information from further use or distribution.

You are not required to complete this form. If we obtain your signature on this form by conditioning our service on your consent, your consent will be invalid. If you agree to the disclosure of your tax return information, your consent is valid for the amount of time you specify. If you do not specify the duration of your consent, your consent is only valid for one year from the date on the form.

Please complete: (To be completed by the taxpayer)

Purpose for forwarding information:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name and address to whom the information is being disclosed to:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Duration of Consent:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, authorize Tidewater Accounting & Bookkeeping Services, Inc. to disclose to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

my tax return information for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tax year.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you believe your tax return information has been disclosed or used improperly in a manner unauthorized by law or without your permission, you may contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIFTA)by telephone 1-800-366-4484 or by email at complaints@tigta.treas.gov.

**Merchant Marine Contemporaneous Log**

Tax court case 2000-115 and revenue procedure 2000-39 allow merchant marines the right to incidental deductions. Most agents are now aware of these tax court cases and the auditors are more familiar with the documentation required. A merchant mariner may claim $3.00 per day or 20% of the foreign rate if he/she does not wish to keep any sort of documentation ***OR*** a Mariner may claim actual expenses via a log book.

For your convenience, we have included a link to the contemporaneous log on our packet home page. Please feel free to download and fill in the amount you spend on any business item in the appropriate columns daily. If you have purchased an item over $100.00, please attach a copy of the receipt with an explanation as to percentage of business use and purpose to the back of the form.

It is important to have a contemporaneous log filled out. You may use our form or you may purchase a small log book from any of the dollar stores. The Internal Revenue Service has stated that it will honor any return as long as these logs are kept in a timely fashion. (You can fill them out at the end of every week.) Contemporaneous logs also lessen the possibility of IRS issues and are required for nearly all audits.

Please mail us your log with all of your other tax information each year. This will ensure that your deductions are optimized and that you receive the highest refund available. Remember it’s your money.

Sincerely,

Ruth Carmody

President