The US maritime industry is being targeted by cyber-criminals, but it’s not prepared for future cyberattacks, according to a new study by law firm Jones Walker.

The law firm surveyed 122 senior executives, chief information and technology officers, non-executive security and compliance leaders, and key managers from US maritime companies. Among the survey’s key findings:

- The maritime industry is being targeted: Nearly 80% of large US maritime companies and 36% of survey respondents reported that they’ve been the target of cyberattacks within the past year. Ten percent (10%) of respondents reported that the attack was successful.

- There is a false sense of security in the industry: 68% of respondents said they were confident in the industry’s overall cybersecurity preparedness – but 64% said that their own companies were not prepared to handle the consequences of a data breach.

- Small and mid-sized vessels were far less prepared to deal with a cyberattack than large companies. 100% of large companies said they were prepared to prevent a data breach, only 6% of small company respondents and 18% of mid-sized company respondents said they were prepared.

- Small and mid-sized vessels lack even the most fundamental cyber protections: 12% of small company respondents and 89% of small-sized company respondents said they had no cyber-insurance, while 87% of large company respondents had coverage.

- The US maritime industry is sailing too close to the wind compared to other industry sectors that are unprepared for what’s coming at them. "While industry stakeholders are educated and aware of the severe implications of a data breach, only 6% of small company respondents and 9% of large company respondents said they had cyber-insurance, while 87% of large company respondents covered."

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