



The Bahamas FLAG

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAHAMAS MARITIME AUTHORITY

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Bahamas re-elected to IMO Council



In November 2013, The Bahamas was successfully re-elected to the IMO Council. The Bahamas has served on the IMO Council from 1991 to 1995 and 1999 to present. It was one of 20 Member States elected to the Council under Category "C" for the term 2014/2015.

His Excellency, Eldred Bethel, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of The Bahamas to the IMO, thanked the staff of the Bahamas High Commission, the Bahamas Maritime Authority and the Bahamas Tourist Office in London for their assistance with the re-election campaign. He also expressed his sincere appreciation for the support and efforts made by the Ministry of Transport and Aviation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration and he highlighted the role that the Bahamas Overseas Missions played in ensuring a successful outcome, with special thanks to the staff of the Bahamas Permanent Mission in New York.

High Commissioner visits IMO

IMO Secretary General is presented with The Bahamas assessed 2014 contribution of more than £1 million. L to r Commodore Davy Rolle, CEO and MD, BMA, Koji Sekimizu, IMO Secretary General, Eldred Bethel, Bahamas High Commissioner.



Prime Minister attends BSA Reception

4th from left, Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Perry Gladstone Christie, MP
5th from left, BSA Chairman, George Pateras.

Minister addresses IMO Assembly



The Hon. Glenys Hanna Martin, Minister of Transport and Aviation, addressed the 28th session of the IMO Assembly in November 2013.

Referring to the world's oceans as the "lifeblood" of planet earth and humankind, the Minister said the preservation and sustained enhancement of the marine environment was not only the key to a sustainable shipping industry but to life in general and was a responsibility shared by all at IMO. "We fully enforce International Maritime Conventions on Bahamas ships worldwide and we will continue to uphold and emphasise the importance of the guidelines on working practices at the IMO as a vital discipline to achieve our shared objectives," she said.

The Minister also pointed out the danger of regulatory fatigue. "That is why we continuously advocate for better, clearer, simpler and more efficient regulations. We are honoured to be a member of the Steering Group on the Reduction of Administrative Requirements," she said.

Finally, Minister Martin reaffirmed The Bahamas' commitment to IMO. "We are proud of our membership in this august body and we are honoured to have been entrusted to serve on the Council."

Read the latest inspiring stories from our Bahamian cadets

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Save the dates:

Connecticut Maritime Association 17-21 March

Posidonia 2-6 June



Director's message

It is now four years since I was appointed as CEO and MD of the Bahamas Maritime Authority and my feet have hardly touched the ground. During that time we have opened a new office, introduced the Bahamas Yacht Code, achieved Qualship 21, waived our registration fee, completed the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit and we are playing an integral part in the development of The Bahamas' National Maritime Policy. But we have much more work to do.

Perhaps most importantly, we have continued to attract high quality tonnage to the Register and have massively enhanced the service we provide to our owners, managers and seafarers. The software upgrade, affectionately known as BORIS, has resulted in a significant increase in the speed and efficiency with which we now process registrations, inspections, casualties, licensing, accounts and the many other issues which affect the day-to-day operation of ships.

Our thrust at the IMO has been and will continue to be simple and more efficient regulations which benefit our ships, their managers and crew. Priority however, is given to safety, security and the protection of the environment.

We are immensely proud to represent The Bahamas at the IMO and look forward to serving on the Council in this biennium.

Marketing is the key to any business and the BMA is actively pursuing newly emerging maritime sectors in South America, China and Asia as well as in growing European economies. And, as always, our approach embraces the foundations on which the Bahamas Maritime Authority has been built – quality and exceptional service.

Use Bahamas for captives

Aliya Allen, CEO, Bahamas Financial Services Board (BFSB) has encouraged shipowners to consider The Bahamas for their captive insurance needs. Speaking during a presentation at the Bahamas Shipowners Association AGM in London last year, she said that there were compelling reasons for shipowners to consider a captive for their business and The Bahamas as the location for their captive.

"We have been working closely with the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) for a number of years to promote the advantages to shipowners of utilising our financial services sector for their business needs."

The Honourable Ryan Pinder, Minister of Financial Services, Michele Fields, Superintendent of the Insurance Commission



of The Bahamas and Loraine Stack, Senior Vice-President, Marsh Captive Solutions, were part of the presentation panel which posed the question "Why The Bahamas" as its theme.



BMA workshops

More than 200 top level shipping managers and executives attended a series of workshops held by the BMA last year in Rio de Janeiro, Bergen and Athens.

The aim was not only to promote the benefits of registration with The Bahamas but also to outline and reinforce the full range of the Flag State's requirements and guidelines to ensure that ships and seafarers continue to comply with international and national regulations.

As well as an overview of The Bahamas and the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA), the workshops covered all the core regulatory and operational aspects relating to ship registration, inspections, surveys/audits, manning and training, casualty reporting and MLC 2006 as well as general shipping and maritime issues.

The contributions from local and Bahamas Recognised Classification Societies, Bahamas Nautical Inspectors and BMA technical and registration personnel added a significant depth of experience and knowledge to the workshops.

Further regional and industry specific events are planned involving consultation with shipowners and other key stakeholders.



Bergen, Norway



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



Athens, Greece

An extremely busy 2013 came to a close with the 28th session of the IMO Assembly accompanied by the customary extensive list of Resolutions. While many of these are relevant to the operation of IMO itself there are some which will be of interest to shipowners, managers, masters and other industry players.

Perhaps of greatest interest is A.1088(28) "Application of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004" which was formulated in response to growing concern over the practical implications of the fixed implementation dates which were written into the Convention when it was first drafted. The Technical Committee of the

Assembly decided to adopt the draft approved by the 65th Marine Environment Protection Committee which means that when the Convention enters into force, the dates for compliance are linked to the first International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate (IOPPC) renewal survey.

The BMA is actively involved in the 2014 IMO programme of meetings which started with the first session of a new sub-committee on Ship Design and Construction (SDC) which, along with the sub-committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE) takes over work formerly handled by the Design and Equipment (DE), Fire Protection (FP) and Stability, Loadlines and Fishing vessels (SLF) sub-committees. This rationalisation of the sub-committee structure is one component of the Secretary-General's "Review and Reform" process which is designed to deliver an IMO which is efficient and effective.

Manning and training in focus in 2014!

With the end of the "phase-in period" for Maritime Labour Convention 2006 and the 2010 STCW amendments, coupled with the revisions to the Guidelines on Minimum Safe Manning (IMO Resolution A. 1047(27)) and the Training of Personnel on Mobile Offshore Units (IMO Resolution A. 1079(28)), 2014 may see an increased focus on manning and training.

Companies will be aware of the national and international requirements for their ships to be sufficiently and efficiently manned with persons who are trained for their assigned duties. The Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) has issued guidance to ensure continued compliance. This guidance includes:

- a requirement for the issuance of a revised Minimum Safe Manning Document (MSMD) is based on the company assessment of various onboard factors
- a need for re-assessment where there is a change of company and a new MSMD to reflect the new company's operation.

The "old" approach, that a manning level was based solely on watchkeeping arrangements for a voyage from point A to point B may not be deemed sufficient. Allowance now has to be made for other factors such as managing emergency situations, handling cargo operations, onboard maintenance and security duties. The BMA does not specify manning levels but rather takes into consideration the international guidelines when reviewing manning levels proposed by a company.

Documentary evidence of training is a responsibility shared by the company, Master and seafarer, based on assigned shipboard duties. The BMA only provides guidance on the training requirements but flag state/port

state/MLC inspectors and ISM auditors will request documentary evidence of training based on the seafarer assigned shipboard duties. Inspectors and Auditors can rightly request documentary evidence of training for the Waiter who is assigned to assist with security searches or the Shop Assistant who is a Stairway Guide in an emergency.

MLC 2006 and 2010 STCW amendments harmonised the hours of rest requirements. Accurate recordkeeping is therefore critical to demonstrate compliance – a seafarer's hours of rest record should match his/her overtime records. Inconsistencies may be considered as the falsifying of records, resulting in delays, non-conformities or even detention of the ship. Frequent exceptions to the hours of rest may be evidence of insufficient manning levels.

A unified interpretation of seafarer and the finalisation of national medical certification are amongst some on-going manning issues. Meanwhile, international port state inspection guidelines have been developed by IMO and ILO. The BMA believes that 2014 will be the year that port state authorities increase their level of inspection of manning and training areas.

BMA's expertise is always available to assist owners and seafarers to avoid any undue delays to ships. Contentious issues that could be a focus for Inspectors/Auditors should be identified through regular company assessments and audits of onboard manning and assigned duties.

Other Resolutions of interest

A.1069(28)

Prevention and Suppression of Piracy, Armed Robbery against Ships and Illicit Maritime Activity in the Gulf of Guinea

A.1072(28)

Revised Guidelines for a Structure of an Integrated System of Contingency Planning for Shipboard Emergencies

A.1075(28)

Guidelines to assist Investigators in the implementation of the Casualty Investigation Code (resolution msc.255(84))

A.1079(28)

Recommendations for the Training and Certification of Personnel on Mobile Offshore Units (MOUs)

A.1080(28)

Recommendation on the use of adequately qualified deep-sea Pilots in the North Sea, English Channel and Skagerrak

A.1081(28)

Recommendation on the use of adequately qualified deep-sea Pilots in the Baltic Sea

A.1090(28)

Fair treatment of crew members in respect of shore leave and access to shore-side facilities

A.1091(28)

Guidelines on the preservation and collection of evidence following an allegation of a serious crime having taken place on board a ship or following a report of a missing person from a ship, and pastoral and medical care of persons affected.

Philippines typhoon



Many of the people left devastated by Typhoon Haiyan which hit the Philippines in November last year, were seafarers or family and friends of seafarers. The BSA board donated \$50,000 to the Sailor's Society to help the survivors in any way possible.

BMA's international profile

IMO



Monaco



Poland



Croatia



Staff Ship visits



Minister's Visit



BSA AGM & Reception



Bahamas Maritime Cadet Corps (BMCC)



The BMCC is a Bahamas Maritime Authority initiative designed to sensitise high school students of grades 10 through 12 to employment opportunities in the domestic and international shipping industry. The program is conducted in conjunction with the Ministry of National Security and the Ministry of Education on the islands of New Providence, Grand Bahama, Abaco and Inagua.

The curriculum consists of basic navigation, ship husbandry, seamanship, rules

of the road, firefighting and ship types. Emphasis is placed on discipline and character development as it is very important to work as a team when employed at sea. Expansion of the program to other Islands of The Bahamas is constantly given consideration and the

BMCC has done extensive investigations and studies for Bimini, Long Island and Eleuthera and one of these islands will be included come September 2014.

Students who are seriously interested in joining the industry are encouraged to seek advance qualifications by attending Maritime Universities, Colleges or Maritime Technical Institutions. A number of cadets have successfully qualified as officers and ratings for the international industry. BMCC's present enrollment is 410 students.

State University of New York (SUNY) Maritime College Cadets

In this issue we highlight four recipients of Bahamas Maritime Authority Scholarships and they tell us, in their own words, about the lure of the sea and the thrills and challenges of a career in the maritime industry.

Brittany Storr 4/C Cadet

As a freshman, I am currently studying Marine Transportation at SUNY Maritime College with the hope that in four years' time, I will have graduated with not only an unlimited tonnage third mate's license but the knowledge and discipline that will make me an outstanding employee and one day, a leader in the maritime industry. The industry was non-existent to me just a few years ago but through the knowledge and experience gained from the Bahamas Maritime Cadet Corp, it has become a world unto its own.

Now, I have the unique experience of walking from my dorm onto a 565ft training ship where I am able to do, rather than be told. I am being taught by the best in the business while constantly aiming to exceed the high standards set by dedicated Bahamian cadets before me.



Laquey Smith

Growing up with the ocean as your front yard, it is only natural to have a longing desire for it and love the vessels that sail upon it.

In 2008, I graduated Salutatorian from Tabernacle Baptist Christian Academy, in Freeport, Grand Bahama, The Bahamas. In 2012, I was awarded a scholarship from the Bahamas Maritime Authority, to pursue my dreams of becoming a Captain.

I am currently studying Marine Transportation with Deck License, at the SUNY Maritime College. I am blessed to be a part of this great learning environment, one that has granted me the opportunity to exercise my leadership skills, as a Platoon Commander.



Tyrol L Strachan

My name is Tyrol L Strachan. After graduating in 2007, I went to Holland College Marine Training Centre where I received an Engine Room Rating and Watch Keeping Certification. I sailed on my credentials as a cadet, oilier, and duty watch stander for about two years.

After encouragement from friends and family I applied for and was awarded the Bahamas Maritime Scholarship. I am now a senior in SUNY Maritime College, and finishing my Bachelor's Degree in Marine Operations which entails an upgraded engineering license and a Business Degree. So, in a nutshell, I am Tyrol Strachan, an ordinary man destined for a great future.



Raymond Bowe

I am from Freeport, Grand Bahama, and am currently a junior at SUNY Maritime College studying the Bachelor Degree of Marine Transportation, accompanied with a Deck License programme. When I have completed my undergraduate studies, I will be awarded a US Coast Guard approved Third Mate's (3/M) Licence.

Prior to my time at the Maritime College, I completed a four-month course at Holland College in Prince Edward Island, Canada where I obtained the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) skill requirements to become an Ordinary Seaman (O/S) aboard an international ocean going vessel. With this knowledge and credentials, I was granted employment with Campbell Shipping which enabled me to experience three months at sea onboard the *CS Manatee*, a Bahamian registered Bulk Carrier.

I believe that, with knowledge, the sky is the limit. I hope to pursue a career as a Merchant Captain through formal education, supported by ocean-going experience.



Two young Bahamians have been awarded BMA Scholarships to attend SUNY in the fall term 2014.

"Footprints on the sands of time are not made by sitting down." – Unknown.

BSA AGM

BMA Chairman's Remarks

"It has been said on numerous occasions that we do not want to be the biggest registry in the world but we do want to be the best. This is an aim which I thoroughly support and will encourage everyone in the BMA to work towards," said BMA's Chairman, Anthony Kikivarakis, in his address to the BSA AGM.

"An important part of our work towards ever better quality is to provide excellent service to our shipowners. One of my priorities as Chairman is to listen to your concerns and aspirations and do what I can to address them and help you to achieve even greater success. We need your input and opinions on any aspect of our service which you think can be improved so that we can serve you better in every way."

Left to right, Peter John Goulandris, Deputy Chairman, BMA, Anthony Kikivarakis, Chairman, BMA, Hon. Glenys Hanna Martin, Minister of Transport and Aviation, George Pateras, Chairman, BSA, Commodore Davy Rolle, CEO and MD, BMA



Minister's address

The Honourable Glenys Hanna-Martin addressed the BSA's AGM in London in November last year.

"I am honoured to be here at a time when global conditions continue to prove challenging," she said. "But you have shown that you are made of the stuff that holds you in the most difficult of times. In the words of Edmund Gibbon, 'The wind and the waves are always on the side of the ablest navigator.'"

The Minister acknowledged the contribution that BSA members make to the growth and development of world trade by sea. "What you do is vitally important to the nature of things or to life as we know it," she said. She also thanked the BSA for their vital involvement in the Maritime Cadet Programme. It had, she said, fostered discipline, stimulated diversity and opened doors for many young Bahamians and she

hoped there would be even more future investment in the Programme.

Successful rescues by BMA ships

Royal Caribbean



On 29 September 2013, *Jewel of the Seas*, a Bahamas flagged cruise ship operated by Royal Caribbean, was en route to Sint Maarten from San Juan on the first night of a week-long Caribbean cruise when a couple woke at 4 a.m., opened their balcony and heard the sounds of men in obvious distress.

The Captain alerted, the alarm signal for "man overboard" was raised and the area was searched with floodlights. After about an hour, a partially submerged boat wreck with three men sitting on the keel was found. The rescued men had been in the water for about ten hours after their 26-foot speedboat encountered an engine pipe leak and started to take in water.

Once on board they received food, water and medical treatment before being dropped off at Sint Maarten the next day where they were reunited with their families.

"We are just glad that we were at the right place at the right time to help them", a statement from Royal Caribbean said.

Chartworld Shipping Corporation



On 11 October 2013, *Atlantic Acanthus*, a Bahamas refrigerated cargo vessel operated by Chartworld Shipping Corporation, rendered assistance to a rubber boat, reported to have about 50 persons on board, about 65nm off Tripoli, Libya. 118 persons were rescued. The vessel then proceeded to Port Empedocle in Sicily where the refugees were disembarked to the care of the Italian authorities.

The Bahamas Maritime Authority expresses its sincere thanks and appreciation to **Captain Thore Thorolvssen** and the crew of *Jewel of the Seas*, **Captain Vicic** and the crew of *Atlantic Acanthus* and **Captain Modak** and the crew of *Dole Costa Rica* for their actions and commendable seamanship in these rescues. Their actions undoubtedly saved many lives.

Reefership Marine Services



On 17 January 2014, *Dole Costa Rica*, a Bahamas refrigerated cargo vessel operated by Reefership Marine Services, sighted persons on a wooden boat about 35 nm north east of Puerto Cortes, Honduras, frantically trying to attract the vessel's attention. The vessel reduced speed, altered course and proceeded toward the boat. The persons on the boat claimed that they had been at sea for 20 days, they had no food, water or communications, and their boat had been damaged and started taking on water during a storm three days prior. Food and water were provided to the 12 males and 2 females and the Honduras Coast Guard were contacted. They were taken to the next port, Puerto Castilla, where they were disembarked to the care of the Honduran authorities.

EVENTS CALENDAR 2014

IMO WORKSHOP ON ARCTIC OPERATIONS

24-28 February • IMO, London

BMA/BSA MEETING WITH EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY

3-7 March • Lisbon, Portugal

SUB-COMMITTEE ON SHIP SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT (SSE) 1ST SESSION

10-14 March • IMO, London

CRUISE SHIPPING MIAMI

10-14 March • Miami, Florida, USA

STAND 4

CONNECTICUT MARITIME ASSOCIATION 2014

17 – 21 March • Stamford, Connecticut, USA

CHINA MARITIME (CM)

19 – 21 March • Beijing, China

MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE (MEPC) 66TH SESSION

31 March – 4 April, • IMO

ANNUAL OFFSHORE SUPPORT VESSEL

7-9 April • Singapore

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION TRIPARTITE MEETING

7-11 April • Geneva, Switzerland

LEGAL COMMITTEE (LEG) 101ST SESSION

28 April – 2 May • IMO

IOPC FUNDS

6 – 9 May • IMO

INAMARINE 2014

13 – 15 May • Jakarta, Indonesia

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE (MSC) 93RD SESSION

14 – 23 May • IMO

STAND 2.210

POSIDONIA 2014

2-6 June • Athens, Greece

This year, at Posidonia, the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) will be joined by the Grand Bahama Shipyard, the Bahamas Financial Services Board (BFSB) and the Bahamas Shipowners Association (BSA). Join us to discover what The Bahamas has to offer your company.

SEAMEN'S INSTITUTE SILVER BELLS AWARDS DINNER

5 June • New York, USA

TECHNICAL COOPERATION COMMITTEE (TC) 64TH SESSION

11-13 June • IMO

COUNCIL 112TH SESSION

16-20 June • IMO

MARINE MONEY NEW YORK

17-19 June • New York, USA

ASIA OSV SUMMIT

19 – 20 June • Shanghai, China

SUB-COMMITTEE ON NAVIGATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND SEARCH AND RESCUE (NCSR) 1ST SESSION

30 June – 4 July • IMO

SUB-COMMITTEE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF IMO INSTRUMENTS (III), 1ST SESSION

14-18 July • IMO

New Appointments



Kimberley Moxey

Kimberley joined the BMA's London office in 2009 as the Authority's receptionist. Previously she worked in BMA's Nassau office as an Administrative Assistant.

She has now been promoted to the role of Casualty Administrator in the Maritime Affairs Department.

Kindinicia Moore

Kindinicia joined the Authority in October 2013 as an Administration Assistant in the Registration Department. She holds a BA (Hons) in International Business with Law from Kingston University. Having an interest in shipping and logistics, she joined the Authority to contribute and develop hands-on experience in the maritime industry.



AMVER Awards to Bahamas ships



U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, John Dinkelman and Lt. Commander Doug Jannusch, USCG Liaison Officer with representatives of registered companies and government ministries, including BMA Chairman, Anthony Kikivirikis and RBDF Commodore, Roderick Bowe.

In September 2013, award-winning Bahamian flagged vessels and their companies were officially recognised for their strong participation during 2012 in the US Coast Guard's (USCG) Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue (AMVER) system.

AMVER is a USCG managed search and rescue program in which merchant ships make themselves available for maritime emergency response on a

volunteer basis with the end objective that no call for help should go unanswered.

Three companies were recognised during this year's AMVER awards ceremony held at the U.S. Embassy: Bahamas Ferries Limited, Campbell Shipping Company Limited and the Clipper Group.



Your comments

If you have any comments about the Flag or need to tell us of a change of address please contact us.

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