



## CELEBRATING THE WORLD'S SEAFARERS



Bahamas Maritime Week 2022

*Introducing a new  
generation to shipping*

We report on our first Maritime  
Week since 2019 on page 6

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taking care of Maritime's  
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# Editor's Foreword

Welcome to the 38th edition of The Flag newsletter, bringing you the latest news from The Bahamas Maritime Authority as well as contributions from other industry bodies.

This issue features many of the face-to-face meetings we have enjoyed as life has started to return to normal. Members of the team have been extremely active with visits to Miami, Greece, Monaco, Germany, Cyprus, Korea and Japan to name but a few destinations, and they have appreciated the chance to reconnect with friends and partners in person.

The technological innovations we put in place during COVID to enable us to operate remotely have been consolidated and we are in the process of adding further enhancements to BORIS, our online registration platform, to make life even easier for our clients and operators. There is also news of the launch of a new online reporting tool which will take place early next year. In fact, as you will see, digitalisation is woven into everything we do.

One of The BMA's key areas of focus is People - the human element, and we are pleased to include a number of articles concentrating on that. We have an in-depth look at our Seafarers and Manning Department, news of Bahamas Maritime Week which focused on encouraging the next generation of seafarers to opt for a career in maritime, and Capt. Kuba Szymanski, Secretary General of InterManager,

shares his thoughts on how we can keep mariners safe through prompt reporting of accidents to reduce enclosed space deaths.

One of our long-standing clients, Campbell Shipping, shares an update on the company which has built trust through excellence with an employee focused and client driven philosophy – you can find out how by reading their article.

We welcome some of the latest ships to The Bahamas register and recognise the heroic actions of crew in recent rescues at sea. Finally, The BMA's expanding services for yacht owners are also featured and there is an update on the registry's Whitelist flag status.

We do hope you enjoy reading this latest edition of The Flag and we continue to welcome your input and proposals for future editorial content.



**Charlotte Ward**  
Editor - BMA Marketing and Communications

# A message from the Managing Director and CEO Capt. Dwain Hutchinson



**Capt. Dwain Hutchinson**  
Managing Director and CEO of The BMA

Looking back at the past few months, so much has changed for us all. Living with COVID-19 is presenting different challenges depending on where you are in the world.

At the beginning of the year, I said that The BMA's focus would be on Seafarers, the Environment and Technology and I am very pleased that we have remained committed to those issues throughout 2022.

**Seafarers** remain critical to the global economy and The BMA has taken every opportunity to recognise their value. The Bahamas recognises that seafarers are key workers, and promotes their wellbeing, whether through our engagement with the IMO Seafarer Crisis Action Team to manage issues relating to crew repatriation, through recognition of seafarer well-being training approvals, through active participation in the regulatory meetings at IMO and ILO aimed at seafarer training and labour standards and, most importantly, on a day-to-day basis with The BMA team addressing and supporting the onboard compliance requirements for our seafarers.

**Environment:** The Bahamas is a staunch supporter of the IMO's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy with The BMA team actively engaged in all the IMO meetings as we continue to collaborate with our shipowners and the broader industry to achieve practical shipboard environmental requirements in line with our goal-based approach to the regulatory process.

At a regional level, we are engaging with NAMEPA, the North America Marine Environment Protection Association which preserves the marine environment by promoting sustainable maritime industry best practices. I am also pleased with our ambassadorship for Eyesea, the non-profit organisation with a mission to map global pollution and maritime hazards with the help of the world's mariners.

**Technology:** Innovation in design and processes remains key to making sure that our industry is fit for the future, and we are building on the technology we implemented during the pandemic to make it even more user, and environmentally friendly. The IMO World Maritime Theme of 'New Technologies for Greener Shipping' is an ambition that The BMA fully supports. Digitalisation is at the heart of our organisation, but it must have purpose and benefits, whether to our seafarers, our environment, or our clients.

As we approach the end of 2022, our thoughts are inevitably looking forward to next year. On behalf of The BMA team, I would like to thank you for your support and wish you all a healthy and prosperous 2023.



## Bahamas Register at a glance

**+1400**  
Bahamas Registered Vessels

More than +1400 vessels representing some +64.5 million gross tons

**White-list & Qualship 21**  
Flag Status

Our safety record is among the very best of the open registers

**World's best**  
operate our ships

Our ships are operated by the world's best known shipping companies

**New Ships**  
are a feature of our Register

Newly built ships feature significantly on our register.

**High Quality**  
Service

We pride ourselves on the quality of service to our owners.




# Welcome to The Bahamas


We welcome some of the latest ships to The Bahamas register.



**Vessel Name:** FUGRO HELMERT  
**Ship Type:** Research/Survey  
**Gross Tonnage:** 498




**Vessel Name:** OCEAN ODYSSEY  
**Ship Type:** Passenger  
**Gross Tonnage:** 8228



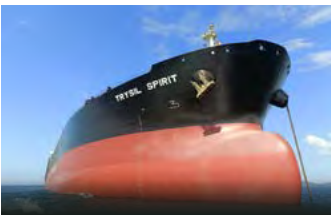
**Vessel Name:** STRYMON  
**Ship Type:** Oil Tanker  
**Gross Tonnage:** 62717



**Vessel Name:** SYLVIA EARLE  
**Ship Type:** Passenger  
**Gross Tonnage:** 8076




**Vessel Name:** THEANOULA  
**Ship Type:** Oil/Chemical Tanker  
**Gross Tonnage:** 27452



**Vessel Name:** TRYSIL SPIRIT  
**Ship Type:** Oil Tanker  
**Gross Tonnage:** 57244



**Vessel Name:** HOVDEN SPIRIT  
**Ship Type:** Oil Tanker  
**Gross Tonnage:** 57244



**Vessel Name:** LADY LITEL  
**Ship Type:** Bulk Carrier  
**Gross Tonnage:** 22888

## Oil Tanker

**Vessel Name:** NEWBURY  
**Gross Tonnage:** 60135

## Passenger

**Vessel Name:** GCS 1  
**Gross Tonnage:** 94.8

**Vessel Name:** GCS 2  
**Gross Tonnage:** 94.8

**Vessel Name:** GCS 3  
**Gross Tonnage:** 94.8

**Vessel Name:** NORWEGIAN PRIMA  
**Gross Tonnage:** 143535

**Vessel Name:** SEABOURN VENTURE  
**Gross Tonnage:** 23615

**Vessel Name:** VALIANT LADY  
**Gross Tonnage:** 108192.00

## Submersible

**Vessel Name:** 71.1  
**Gross Tonnage:** 5.59

**Vessel Name:** 71.2  
**Gross Tonnage:** 5.59

## Bulk Carrier

**Vessel Name:** UNITY LIGHT  
**Gross Tonnage:** 22683

**Vessel Name:** UNITY MOON  
**Gross Tonnage:** 22683

**Vessel Name:** AFRICAN PETREL  
**Gross Tonnage:** 25330

**Vessel Name:** AFRICAN WOODSTAR  
**Gross Tonnage:** 25330

**Vessel Name:** AFRICAN DIPPER  
**Gross Tonnage:** 24725

**Vessel Name:** AFRICAN LOGRUNNER  
**Gross Tonnage:** 24725

**Vessel Name:** AFRICAN ORIOLE  
**Gross Tonnage:** 24725

**Vessel Name:** AFRICAN ROADRUNNER  
**Gross Tonnage:** 24604

**Vessel Name:** AFRICAN STORK  
**Gross Tonnage:** 24725

**Vessel Name:** AFRICAN TEAL  
**Gross Tonnage:** 24604

**Vessel Name:** AFRICAN CONDOR  
**Gross Tonnage:** 24725

**Vessel Name:** AFRICAN NIGHTHAWK  
**Gross Tonnage:** 24725

**Vessel Name:** AFRICAN SWIFT  
**Gross Tonnage:** 24725

**Vessel Name:** AFRICAN CORMORANT  
**Gross Tonnage:** 24725

**Vessel Name:** AFRICAN GOLDENEYE  
**Gross Tonnage:** 32305

**Vessel Name:** TAWAKI  
**Gross Tonnage:** 24785

## Refridgerated Cargo

**Vessel Name:** SAVANNA BREEZE  
**Gross Tonnage:** 6300

## General Cargo Ship

**Vessel Name:** COVE PEARL  
**Gross Tonnage:** 31926

## Private Yacht

**Vessel Name:** CLARITY  
**Gross Tonnage:** 344

## LNG Carrier

**Vessel Name:** GRACE FREESIA  
**Gross Tonnage:** 117564

## The Disney Wish is on its way!

The Bahamas was present at the all-important Initial Certificate of Compliance (ICOC) inspection of the eagerly anticipated Disney Wish. The ICOC is an inspection carried out on any foreign passenger vessel which embarks passengers for the first time in the United States or makes an initial US port call while carrying US citizens as passengers.

Photographed here are the full team of eight United States Coast Guard inspectors, three Lloyds Register Surveyors, Disney Wish Officers, Shipyard personnel

and, representing The BMA, Capt. Kapila Malawwethanthri, Technical & Compliance Officer from the Inspections and Surveys Department.

The Disney Wish is the fifth cruise ship to be owned and operated by Disney Cruise and is the largest in the fleet. The ship is due to enter service this summer and will be able to welcome 4,000 guests on board. The BMA would like to wish very happy sailing to everyone who will be working onboard the Disney Wish or taking a holiday.





**Vessel Name:** DISNEY WISH  
**Ship Type:** Passenger  
**Gross Tonnage:** 144256

## A ‘Celebration’ for The Bahamas

The Bahamas is overjoyed that Carnival Cruise Lines have once again entrusted their latest liner to the Flag.

Carnival Celebration is the sixth vessel in the Carnival fleet to be registered with The BMA. She was named in celebration of the Carnival Cruise Line’s 50th anniversary and is its second Excel-class ship following Mardi Gras which is also registered with The BMA.

The vessel is LNG-fuelled, 344.5 m long, weighs in at 183,521 gt

and can accommodate up to 6,500 guests on its 19 decks.

The BMA was present with the owner of Carnival Celebration during its recent port state control visit when both The BMA team and the Coast Guard were very complimentary about the high standard level of the ship and its crew.

Currently crossing the Atlantic in preparation for its US debut, there will be great cause for celebration when the ship arrives in Nassau where it will be warmly welcomed.



**Vessel Name:** CARNIVAL CELEBRATION  
**Ship Type:** Passenger  
**Gross Tonnage:** 183521



# Bahamas Maritime Week 2022 - introducing a new generation to shipping



Hon. Jobeth Coleby-Davis – Minister of Transport and Housing, Ms. Jacqueline Simmons – BMA Chairman, Hon. Philip Davis – Prime Minister of The Bahamas, John Adams – BSA Chairman

It was with great pride that we looked back on the first Bahamas Maritime Week since COVID-19 postponed the proposed 2020 event.

The week was packed with activities including: a courtesy call with the Prime Minister, the Rt Honorable Philip Davis; a panel discussion on preparing the next generation for a sustainable career in shipping; a week long exhibition to showcase the work of the Bahamas Maritime Cadet Corps (BMCC) with success stories from former cadets; and a cocktail reception on World Maritime Day where the former Minister for Transport, Glenys Hanna Martin, was honoured for her maritime contribution including the establishment of the BMCC.

We were honoured to have The Minister of Transport and Housing, Jobeth Coleby-Davis, join The BMA Board of Directors and senior BMA executives for the call with the Prime Minister. The strength of our industry collaboration was equally evidenced as executives from the Bahamas Shipowners Association Board of Directors, who represent all the owners flagged with The Bahamas, participated in this important meeting. This was an excellent opportunity for us to engage with the government at the highest level and led to very productive discussions on a number of important and strategic maritime matters.

We were particularly pleased with the contribution of shipowners who actively participated in the week's activities and even allowed visits on their ships. We were also grateful for the support of local stakeholders in Nassau and Freeport at the many events.

The entire week recognised that the success of shipping's future rests on the shoulders of the next generation of mariners so the BMCC and LJM Maritime Academy (LJMMA) featured heavily in events, demonstrating to the young people of The Bahamas that maritime is a wide ranging and stimulating career option.

The week's events were focused on the human element of maritime sustainability with recognition of World Maritime Day, whose theme was 'New technologies for greener shipping'.

Throughout the week we were delighted to appear on a number of national radio and TV broadcasts where we were able to promote this exceptional and exciting industry that we all work in – Maritime.

We would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to everyone who participated in, attended or engaged in the Maritime Week activities. We hope you will all be back next time.



Young cadets from the Bahamas



School visit during Bahamas Maritime Week



Presentation to Minister Glenys Hanna Martin who was the honouree on World Maritime Day



Carnival Cruise Line hosts Bahamas Maritime students aboard Carnival Dream



Bahamas Maritime Cadet Corp

## World Maritime Day 2022

The IMO has always highlighted the issues that are really crucial to the future of maritime and this year's World Maritime Day theme of 'new technologies for greener shipping' was no exception. This theme aligned closely with The BMA's own principles – we are moving towards a reduction of paper through the use of technology and we are active ambassadors for Eyesea and NAMEPA – organisations working to protect the world's oceans which is in line with UN sustainability Goal 13 - Climate action and Goal 14 - life below water. We all need to safeguard our fragile environment and the use of innovative technology will help us to achieve that.

Part of the day's proceedings for The BMA team was attendance at the World Maritime Day reception hosted at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) where Capt. Ghulam Hussain and Christos Chrysosvitsanos offered greetings from The Bahamas to the Secretary General, Kitack Lim.

During his speech, Mr Lim took the opportunity to explain how the IMO is guiding maritime to face the triple challenges of climate change, marine litter and the preservation of biodiversity while helping to implement the United Nations 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

The BMA is a strong advocate of the IMO's commitment to greener shipping and the team was pleased to hear how shipping can achieve that.

Shipping remains a vital industry to the global economy and we were pleased to join the worldwide community in celebrating World Maritime Day.

# The Bahamas GOES BLUE

World Maritime Day | 29th September 2022



# Seafarers and Manning – taking care of Maritime’s greatest resource

In each edition of The Flag we are taking the opportunity to introduce readers to one of our departments, giving more information about the work they undertake and shining some light on their achievements.



**Óli Olsen**  
Deputy Director  
Seafarers and Manning  
Department

This time it is the turn of Seafarers and Manning, led by Deputy Director Óli Olsen who has been with The BMA since 2013.

As the name suggests, the Seafarers and Manning department looks after all aspects of the Bahamas Flag that involve crew and personnel - so that encompasses everything related to training, certification and endorsements and also deals with the maritime regulatory bodies including the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC).

In fact a large part of the department’s role is to look after seafarer welfare, ensuring that contracts have been issued which stipulate hours to be worked, paid vacation that is allowed, precise work and rest hours and also the length of the contract itself.

## Representatives around the world

The BMA’s global Seafarers and Manning department, ensures that contracts are fair and that they comply with the rules and regulations surrounding employment of mariners. For example a mariner can be asked on occasion to work for 14 hours in a 24-hour period but, at the same time, they must have 77 hours of rest in any seven-day period. Regulatory work and rest hours are

specified in MLC and in STCW and must be adhered to by all Bahamas flagged ships.

## The impact of COVID

Of course the COVID pandemic put a strain on the world’s seafarers that no one could have anticipated. For those at sea it very rapidly became close to an impossibility to get home and, similarly, for those yet to embark, getting on board their vessel was equally difficult. As the situation worsened it fell on Flag authorities worldwide to do what they could to help in repatriation efforts and also to ensure that seafarers were treated as well as possible in the circumstances. The BMA was instrumental in facilitating and helping seafarers who were stranded on ships that took refuge in their Caribbean waters and the Seafarers and Manning team dealt with the large number of manning issues that arose.

One of the more challenging issues was the bankruptcy of a company which left more than 1,600 seafarers with no means of returning home. Óli and his team dealt with the insurers and other institutions on the seafarers’ behalf and succeeded in getting the insurers to not only repatriate the seafarers but also pay their outstanding salaries.

## Sick passengers

Other challenges arose when seafarers were diagnosed with or exposed to COVID. The stringent rules being applied by some countries around the world meant that decisions were frequently being made where none of the options were particularly good. And in the case of cruise liners, in the early days guests were on board when the virus broke out, leaving many trapped at sea without the medical facilities needed to keep them safe. The difficulty was in persuading ports to accept the passengers and give them the treatment they needed.

## Certification and endorsements

While looking after the welfare of mariners is a key part of the team’s role, so is ensuring that vessels are safe and that the mariners working on them are qualified to operate the ships safely. The Seafarers and Manning department ensures that all seafarers have the required qualifications to obtain a Bahamas Certificate of Competency (CoC) or Certificate of Equivalent Competency (CEC) to carry out their duties. These documents are now all available electronically so that seafarers can obtain them wherever they are working in the world. It also represents another important step towards a paperless office for The BMA and is in line with its sustainability goals.

## Training current and future generations of mariners

Training plays a crucial role in the preparation of seafarers for their duties at sea and is a requirement of the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) that sets the minimum standards for masters, officers and watch keeping personnel on all seagoing merchant ships and large yachts. The Seafarers and Manning department is responsible for deciding which training providers offer courses of sufficient quality to train personnel on Bahamas flagged ships.

The BMA has a stringent approval process to ensure that quality remains at the highest level for all mariners operating on its ships who have been issued with Bahamas certificates. Recently the department has approved a number of suppliers offering courses online. These virtual courses have been found to maintain the high standards expected but enable seafarers to sit the course at a time and place of their choosing, crucially at sea if that is what they prefer. This means that both time and money can be saved whilst ensuring that ships are not short of staff due to lack of training options. The BMA has also for the first time endorsed a Mental Health Awareness and Wellbeing course in

recognition of the vital role played by good mental health in the operation of a ship. This fits in very well with our role in a joint ILO working group looking into mental health.

## It needs a common-sense approach

According to Óli, “The international Conventions make the legal framework for operation and the key to success is to take a common-sense approach to every situation while ensuring that every decision remains inside that framework. As a team we are always working to build great relationships. We are all ‘people’ people. We have to work at the micro level with individuals and then again at the macro level with organisations (which are nevertheless made up of individuals).

“We participate in working groups for many of the industry bodies and that means that we can have our say when regulations and new ways of working are developed. Having a team who have developed specialisms but are still happy to share the load with everyone else is something I am particularly proud of. I think for all of us the key to our success is that we like nothing better than to take on an issue that is having a profound impact on someone and resolve it with them.”



# Trust through excellence with Campbell Shipping

Employee-focused and client-driven - that’s the philosophy that drives Campbell Shipping forward.

Campbell Shipping, headquartered in The Bahamas, offers not just shipping services but shipping solutions. The company was established in the first half of the 20th century by George T. R. Campbell, a Scottish naval architect, who is regarded by many as the mastermind who “singlehandedly revolutionised” the shipbuilding industry by the development of a distinctively innovative line of dry-cargo vessels.

These vessels, which were uniquely suited for volume demand and series production, propelled him to success, firmly establishing him as a legendary icon in the shipbuilding industry.

Today, his legacy lives on in the modern company that continues to bear his name, and manages a modern fleet of high-quality dry-bulk carriers, maintained to the highest industry standards, and trading globally under major charterers.

## In robust shape

The Campbell fleet of handymax self-loading bulk carriers, with an average age of 4.7 years, are high-spec vessels. They are equipped with cranes designed to handle the efficient loading and discharging of a wide range of dry bulk cargoes such as iron ore, grain, steel, coal and fertilizers. Because of their unique design, the company's fleet is able to trade to some of the most remote ports.

In addition to its traditional sector, Campbell has recently ventured into a new line of business – crew and technical management for cruise liners, as well as yacht management and survey/inspection of pleasure craft, utilising its highly competent teams based out of Mumbai, India, and Nassau in The Bahamas.

The company CEO, Capt. Rajesh Dhadwal, acknowledges that post pandemic, Campbell Shipping is ready to accommodate new market requirements, with a team of resilient and dedicated staff.

"The last two years have been one of the most difficult times not only in the history of Campbell but of all shipping companies worldwide. The time has been particularly challenging for the seafarers who could not be released and relieved of their duties and connected with their families, but also for those ashore providing them with support. The credit goes to our people for their resilience and their commitment and accountability towards keeping the business going during that difficult period."

## One Team Campbell

Campbell Shipping prides itself for always putting people first. The commitment to its employees has been the foundation for the company's “ONE TEAM CAMPBELL” environment, and the pandemic has reinforced this focus on employees even more.

Capt. Dhadwal explains that a new position was created of Chief Culture Officer (CCO) for which Mr Homi Bharda has assumed responsibility – a trained, certified life coach and psychologist who has developed soft skills training programmes for the mental wellbeing of seafarers and their families.

"Campbell Shipping has brought in a fundamental shift to the approach of developing and supporting seafarers’ welfare. The key is to create an environment of well-being for the seafarers at sea rather than focusing on individual issues and solving situations in a tactical manner," he says, pointing out that crew welfare is as important as safety on-board, the two being directly related.

Campbell support to seafarers is provided face-to-face, on board the ships. "No part of the training is digitised as we believe in personal touch to the seafarers and this is what is yielding greater response and results," adds Capt. Dhadwal.

These efforts have not gone unnoticed. For considering crew welfare as important as safety onboard, in April 2022 the company was nominated for the Crew Welfare Award by Safety4Sea,

the world's leading source of insight on safer, smarter and greener shipping. In addition, Mr Bharda himself was recognised and awarded by MissionToSeafarers, a Christian welfare charity serving merchant crews around the world, for his work in the category of shore-based efforts towards seafarers.

## Environmental responsibility

Respect and support for its staff have driven Campbell Shipping’s growth over the years. But so have solid business relations. “We have flourished in terms of our key joint venture partnerships, jointly owning and operating ships, as well as in terms of partnerships with our suppliers,” says Capt. Dhadwal.

In this context he highlights the cooperation with Aderco, a specialist in fuel treatment solutions that improve efficiency, maximise uptime and reduce emissions, a company with over 30 years of experience in the marine industry and focused on helping companies in their transition to a more environmentally- friendly operation, a key task within the industry. “Working towards the de-carbonisation and environmental performance of our ships is one of our priorities, and we have been ensuring compliance with the IMO requirements well ahead of the time,” notes

Capt. Dhadwal, adding that like every company in the marine sector, Campbell is closely monitoring fuel technology developments.

"New fuels would bring a truly tectonic paradigm shift, similar to when the industry shifted from sails to oil. However, as yet nobody can predict what the fuels of the future will be. They will certainly have to be ecological but also commercially viable and globally available. In our sectors, where relatively small vessels with small fuel capacity move on a variety of routes to the most remote destinations, this is yet to be achieved."

## Technology driven

Capt. Dhadwal points out that while people have been and always will be the core asset of any business, the future will be increasingly technology-driven. To this end, the company has invested in a state-of-the-art ERP system, and has migrated to MARIAPPS, an award-winning IT solution to form a backbone to all its ship management functions, for the greater satisfaction of its clients.

"We are committed to excellence in the delivery of services to our customers. This is accomplished through understanding the needs our customers, adhering to high ethical standards along with a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the risks associated with the environment that we operate in."

Reflecting on the months ahead, he says: "Growth will definitely be on our minds. We are looking to expand services to new clients as well as to expand our fleet. The last two years have been purely about keeping the existing business going. Now that we have come out of the pandemic, it is about forging key partnerships and looking at business expansion."

<https://issuu.com/ceomedia/docs/bfm-issue-i100?fr=sNThiMDQzNzQzOTk>

[ccship.com](http://ccship.com)







# The BMA expands services to yacht owners

The Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) is pleased to announce that it has expanded its services to yacht owners through the appointment of a number of companies as Yacht Survey Organisations (YSOs) and Aviation Inspection Bodies (AIBs).

The new YSOs, who are authorised to undertake statutory certification and services for yachts of less than 500 gross tonnage in accordance with the applicable requirements of the Bahamas Yacht Codes, are International Yacht Bureau (IYB), Bahamas Central Ltd (BCL), Nautx Ltd (Nautx), Libero Hellenic Register (LHR) and International naval Surveys Bureau-Classification Society (INSB).

The introduction of these additional YSOs demonstrates The BMA's commitment to the yachting community. It is the only flag with a dedicated code for small charter yachts.

The BMA has long been an innovator in registry services and recognises that yacht design and technology has evolved significantly in recent years. To meet these

changes it has developed specific technical and surveys requirements, tailored to small (12 to 24 metres), large (over 24 metres) and passenger yachts in charter (commercial) or private (non-commercial) use and for private yachts in restricted charter use.

Numbers of superyachts with aviation capabilities are increasing every year and, to ensure the safety and efficiency of these heliports, The BMA has appointed five new AIBs. Bahamas' flagged yachts are required to operate regulatory compliant heliports in accordance with The BMA's Yacht Code so access to the new AIBs for inspections will be a major benefit for its clients. The AIBs are authorised to undertake inspections and issue certification. The AIBs appointed by The BMA are Helideck Certification Agency, Maritime AviationSafeguard,

Helidecks, HeliOperations and Green Deck Operations.

Stephen Keenan, The BMA's Deputy Director and Head of Inspections & Surveys, said: "We are delighted to have appointed these companies as YSOs and AIBs. We are known for our quality of both service and fleet and each of these companies demonstrates a similar dedication to excellence.

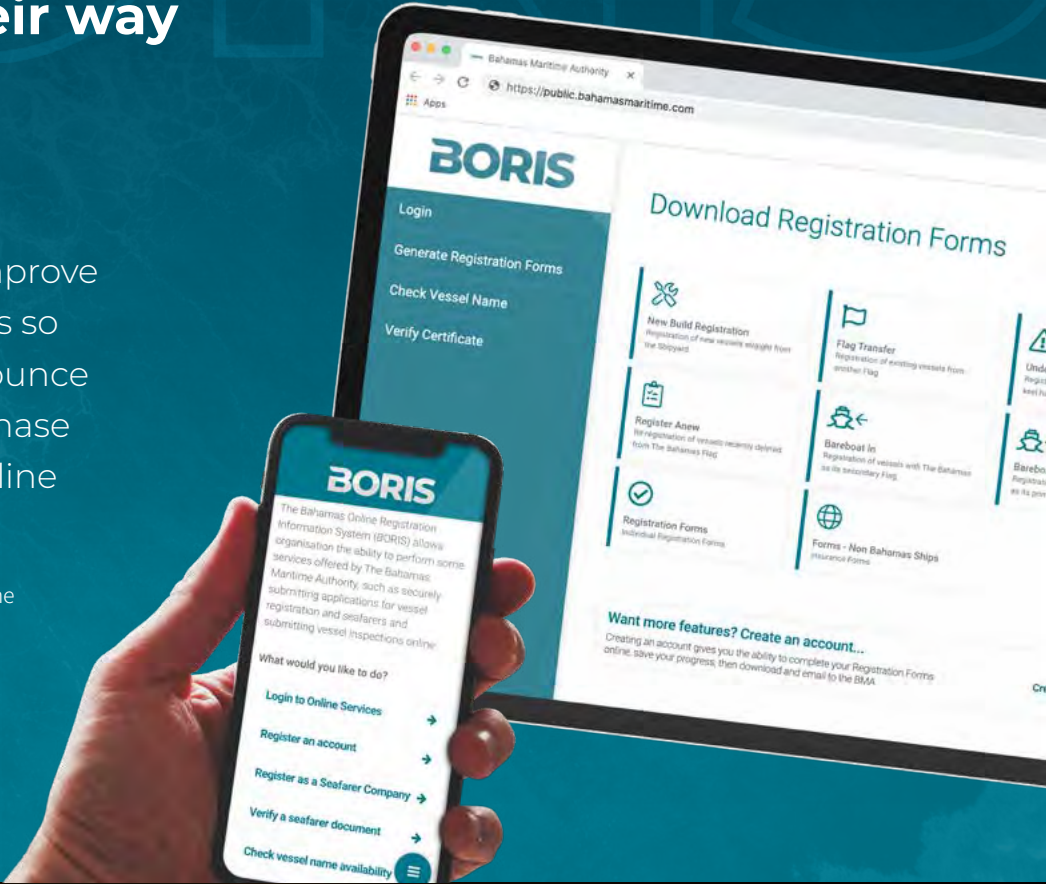
"This is a significant expansion of yacht services. We understand the complexities of yacht ownership and management and are continuously looking for ways to improve the experience of our owners. By appointing these new YSOs and AIBs we are ensuring that our clients have easy access to the services they require when they need them."



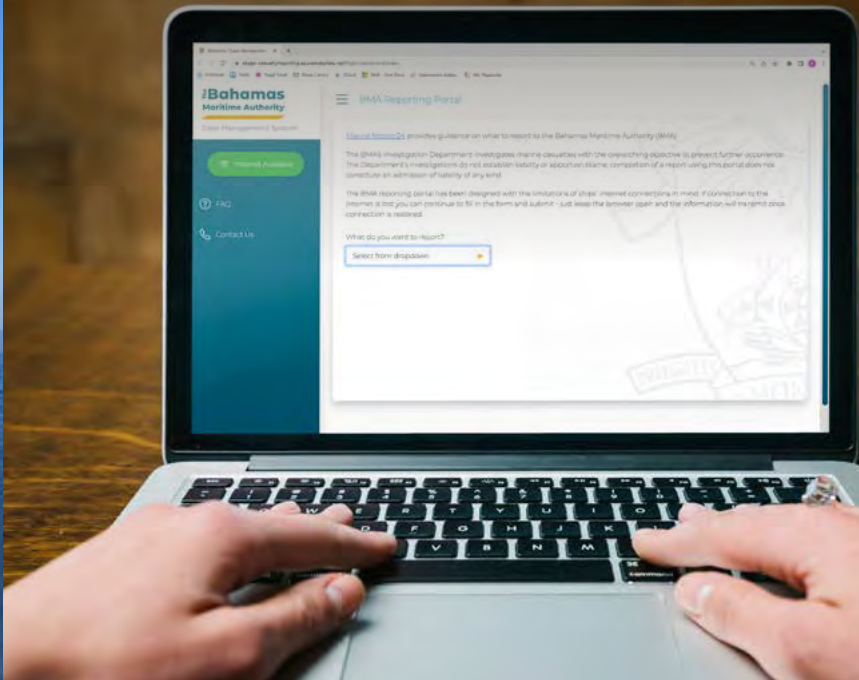
## New enhancements to BORIS are on their way

The BMA is continuously researching new ways to improve the experience of our clients so we are very pleased to announce that we are in the testing phase of enhancements to our online registration system, BORIS.

We would like to thank everyone taking part in the trial for both their time and their feedback. We are looking forward to introducing the changes in the coming months.



## The BMA to launch comprehensive online reporting tool



In line with The Bahamas Maritime Authority's (BMA) commitment to consistently high standards and exceptional service, it is pleased to announce that it is developing a comprehensive online reporting portal for use by managers and owners.

The BMA's online reporting portal will be the first of its type to be employed in the maritime sector and is being developed to simplify the process for its clients, acting as a one-stop shop. Expect new announcements on this in the New Year.



# The Bahamas recognised for its consistently high-quality standards

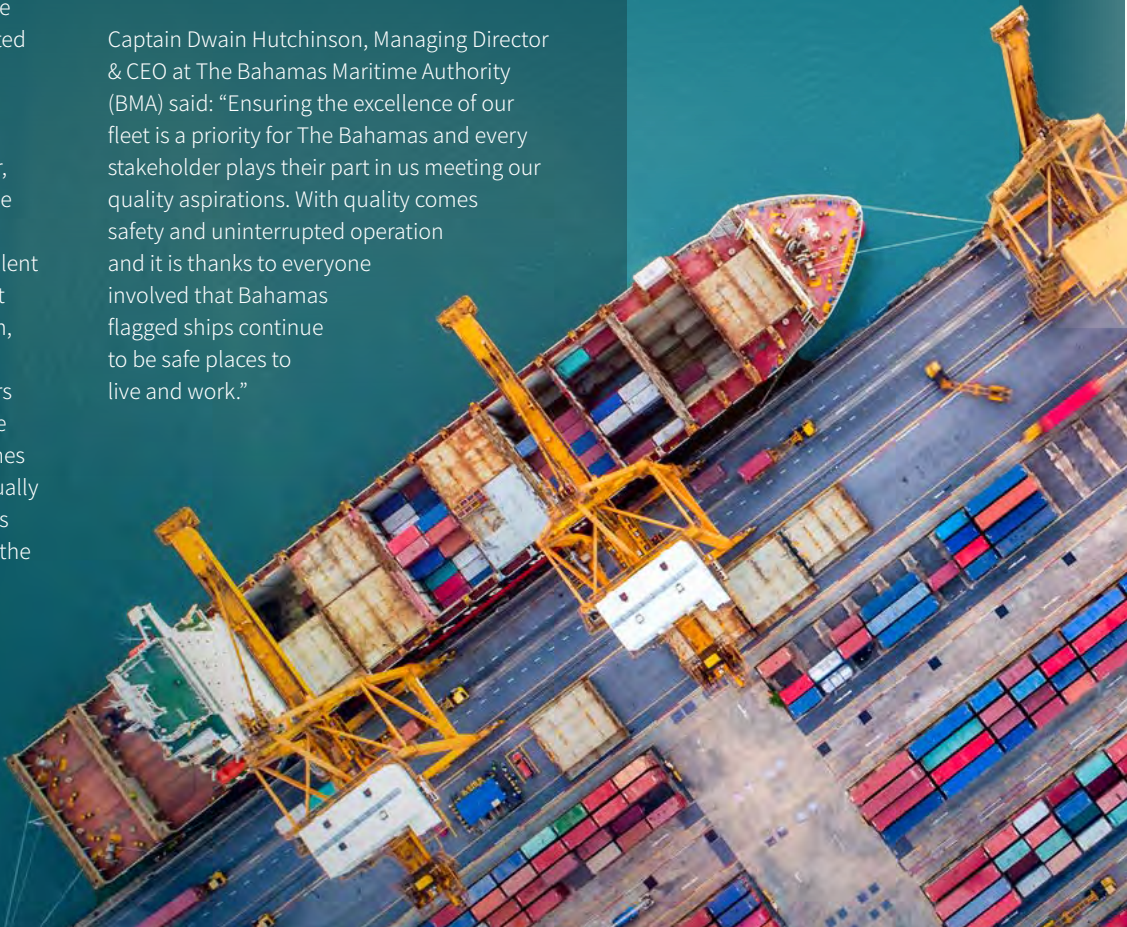
The Bahamas has been recognised by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) for the excellent quality of its fleet. The Qualship 21 initiative was first set up in 2001 by the USCG to identify high-quality ships operating in US waters. The US Qualship 21 certification serves as an industry performance indicator of quality and The Bahamas is proud to have achieved this recognition every year, with the exception of 2016, since 2012, making it one of the world’s most elite flags.

The announcement of the Qualship 21 list followed closely the publication of the Paris MoU 2021 annual report where The Bahamas was once again the highest ranking non-European Flag appearing in the top five of registries. Further evidence of The Bahamas’ quality is also highlighted through the retention of Whitelist status on the Tokyo MoU 2021 annual report.

Alessandro Lo Piccolo, Assistant Director, Inspections & Surveys Department at The Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) said: “We very much appreciate that the excellent quality of The Bahamas fleet is the result of the combined efforts of The BMA team, its Recognised Organisations, Nautical Inspectors and the owners and managers of the ships who work together to ensure that their vessels are compliant at all times with the international requirements. Equally important is the contribution of seafarers onboard our flagged ships who, despite the

challenges of COVID19, have shown great dedication and commitment to maintaining and operating the vessels to the highest possible standards with their efforts being demonstrated through these excellent results.”

Captain Dwain Hutchinson, Managing Director & CEO at The Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) said: “Ensuring the excellence of our fleet is a priority for The Bahamas and every stakeholder plays their part in us meeting our quality aspirations. With quality comes safety and uninterrupted operation and it is thanks to everyone involved that Bahamas flagged ships continue to be safe places to live and work.”



# Bahamas Shipowners Association Industry Forum



**John Adams**  
Chairman of The Bahamas Shipowners Association

The Bahamas Shipowners Association (BSA) AGM, held in October, was followed by a fascinating Industry Forum entitled ‘Crewing in Crisis ...Mk II – we’ve made progress but there is still work to be done’. With attendance in person at the office of the International Chamber of Shipping and via Teams, a range of views were shared with the audience but all with a common theme - emphasis should and must be on seafarers. In all there were 25 people attending in the room and 191 participating online which of course was a great success but not least does it show the importance of the issues at stake.

*The BSA supports a culture in shipping where equality, diversity, and inclusion prevails - as is demonstrated by this top drawer panel.”*

**John Adams**

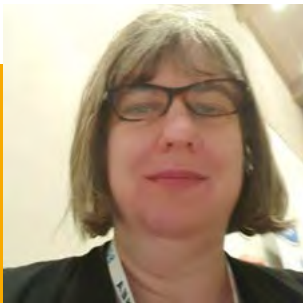
Taking part on the panel were: Karin Orsel, CEO of MF Shipping Group; Natalie Shaw MBE, Director Employment Affairs, International Chamber of Shipping; Katie Higginbottom, Head of ITF Seafarers’ Trust; and Jan Webber BEM, Director of Development, Mission to Seafarers. The discussion was moderated by John Adams, Chair of the BSA, Senior Advisor at V Group and ICS Board Member.

Although the panel were all coming from different sectors of the industry, there was

general agreement that there is a mental health crisis in shipping but that steps can be taken to improve conditions for seafarers. Only through the collaboration of Governments, shipmanagement companies, owners, welfare organisations and unions will seafarers be placed firmly at the centre of everyone’s focus and their wellbeing be the primary concern.



**Karin Orsel**  
CEO  
MF Shipping Group



**Natalie Shaw MBE**  
Director Employment Affairs  
International Chamber of Shipping



**Katie Higginbottom**  
Head of ITF Seafarers' Trust  
The ITF Seafarers'



**Jan Webber BEM**  
Director of Development  
Mission to Seafarers



# Prompt accident reporting can help to reduce enclosed space deaths

*InterManager – the international trade association for ship and crew managers*



**Capt. Kuba Szymanski**  
InterManager  
Secretary General

## Prompt reporting of accidents in enclosed spaces onboard ships is essential to enable the shipping industry to work collectively to reduce deaths on ships.

InterManager, the international trade association for third party ship and crew managers, has called for better accident reporting following a spate of deaths in enclosed spaces this year.

InterManager has been involved in monitoring enclosed space accidents for some time now. The association's comprehensive statistics extend back to 1999 and demonstrate that during that time there have been 235 fatalities involving 171 Seafarers and 64 Stevedores. There have been seven deaths so far this year, the most recent occurring in August.

Captain Kuba Szymanski, InterManager Secretary General who has been in post for more than 12 years, comments: "Every death in the workplace is tragic and we must ensure we do all we can to prevent them. Enclosed spaces are particularly high risk environments

and seafarers and shore workers need our support to literally save lives."

Seafarers entering enclosed spaces can encounter oxygen-deficient, oxygen-enriched, flammable or toxic atmospheres, and multiple fatalities or injuries can occur if crewmates find a casualty in an enclosed space and panic, entering that space to effect a speedy rescue and falling victim to the same hazard themselves.

Under the SOLAS (Safety Of Life At Sea) requirements contained in International Maritime Organization (IMO) Resolution A1050, issued in 2011, ship operators are required to protect workers from the risks of entry into enclosed spaces through measures such as regular safety drills and providing atmosphere testing equipment. However, many feel the regulations need

updating to take account of lessons learned from fatal shipboard accidents.

In fact, responding to deaths within its jurisdiction, the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency this year issued its own updated safety regulations to be observed for entering enclosed spaces aboard ships. It defined these spaces as including chain lockers, cargo holds, duct keels and water tanks, as well as any area which has been left closed for any length of time without ventilation.

InterManager has been working with the IMO and industry stakeholders to identify solutions and protect crew. The association carried out a significant industry survey which asked seafarers to identify what they saw as the major contributing factors in enclosed space fatal accidents. This research clearly identified that inconsistent and confusing procedures, poor quality training, and time pressures were the biggest issues. More than 30% of respondents identified "procedures" as the most significant cause, pointing out that different regulations use different terms, such as "dangerous space" or "confined space".

Other investigations have highlighted specific safety issues which need to be addressed including 'Australian' hold ladders installed on bulk carriers. These are not required to be totally enclosed but in many cases they are, with openings at the top and bottom. When the cargo hold is full it will trap any hazardous atmosphere within the ladder and this may remain trapped as the bulk cargo is emptied until the bottom access is opened. Use of these accessways when the ship is unloading has resulted in the deaths of a number of stevedores and ships' crew.

Small spaces adjacent to cargo holds can also become hazardous if the cargo hold door seals are damaged allowing the dangerous atmosphere to migrate. Time pressures created by 'just-in-time' shipping practices and fast port turnarounds can result in unrealistic expectations and cutting corners, particularly with hold cleaning operations.

Flag States, shipping companies, and insurers all have an important role to play in helping to reduce accidents in enclosed spaces. In particular Capt. Szymanski calls for:

- **Report:** Accidents to be reported to the IMO's Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS) – presently figures show that only 58% are reported
- **Share:** Reports should be shared with industry – not something that currently happens
- **No Blame:** At the moment 100% of accident reports blame the seafarer as a main cause. Enquiries need to delve deeper to establish why the seafarer took the decisions which led to the accident and what factors contributed in this chain of events.

Capt. Szymanski said: "The shipping industry is very slow in reporting accidents in enclosed spaces. By not reporting accidents the shipping industry is not giving people the chance to properly investigate, understand and learn from them. This is potentially putting the lives of more seafarers and port workers in danger and I urge everyone to report accidents and share information so that we can learn from and prevent tragic incidents."



**InterManager**



# Norwegian Gem migrant rescue mission

The Bahamas Maritime Authority extends its congratulations and gratitude to the crew and ship owners of the Norwegian Gem. The vessel, a Norwegian Cruise Lines ship flagged with The BMA, was cruising in the Mediterranean Sea just off Greece when it received a call from the Piraeus Rescue Co-ordination Centre informing the captain that there was a migrant vessel in distress.

Seven members of the Norwegian Gem crew took a tender boat alongside MV Marianne Danica which was commanding the operation and from there they were able to help transfer the 27 Afghan women and children (of the 85 on the migrant ship). The first migrant to arrive safely on the tender was a small baby who was followed rapidly by the many women and children in need of rescuing.

Supporting the Norwegian Gem during the transfer operation were the Norwegian Jade and Norwegian Epic who were on standby to help. After what was a terrifying ordeal for the families involved, the crew were able to wrap them up in blankets and give them a hot meal before they disembarked onto a Hellenic Coast Guard ship.



## Recent rescues at sea - recognising the heroic actions of crews on Bahamas flagged ships



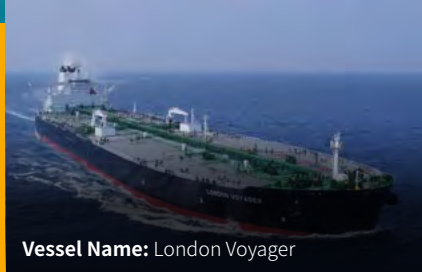
**Vessel Name:** Petrel Arrow

Petrel Arrow rescued a lone female rowing solo from Tenerife to Barbados. She had lost electrical power to AIS, Navigation systems and charging points on her boat and the weather was deteriorating.



**Vessel Name:** Sonangol Cazenga

Sonangol Cazenga rescued three sailors from a yacht whose storm sails had been damaged and boom had broken.



**Vessel Name:** London Voyager

London Voyager saw a capsized small craft with four people sitting on the hull, waving for assistance and clearly in distress. The ship rendered assistance by giving water and food.



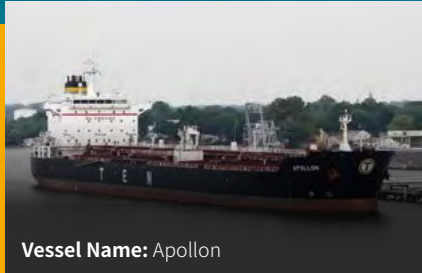
**Vessel Name:** Marnier of the Seas

Marnier of the Seas observed someone swimming on the ship's starboard side. The 25-year-old male was suffering severe dehydration and had signs of hypothermia. A second person was located and also rescued.



**Vessel Name:** Norwegian Breakaway

Norwegian Breakaway spotted people waving apparently from a raft. 31 People were rescued/brought onboard (five of them females, one of them pregnant).



**Vessel Name:** Apollon

Apollon spotted a life raft with one person requesting assistance. The crew managed to secure the life raft alongside and later to embark the seafarer safely.



**Vessel Name:** Scarlet Lady

Scarlet Lady came across a floating life raft with nine people who were looking for help, signalling with hands and flags. Nine people were recovered from the improvised raft and given medical treatment.



JUNE

The BMA team was delighted to attend Posidonia with representatives from both The Bahamas Government and The BMA Board. It was also a huge honour to host a reception at the Yacht Club for our many friends in the industry and it was a great pleasure to be able to meet so many people face-to-face after the years of lockdown.



Union of Greek Shipowners



Bahamas Minister of Transport and Housing with The BMA's Regional Director Dimitri Tsiftsis



The BMA Reception



Bahamas Minister greeting the Greek Prime Minister



Minister's visit to The BMA's Greek Office

MAY

Meeting at the International Labour Organisation leads to amendments to the MLC

The Bahamas Maritime Authority Seafarers & Manning Department attended the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) fourth meeting of the Special Tripartite Committee 340th Session. The team attended the meeting, consisting of shipowners, seafarers and member states, as part of its responsibilities with the (MLC) Maritime Labour Convention (2006).



JUNE

BMA's Geoffrey Guy and Alessandro Lo Piccolo raise money for the Mission to Seafarers Global Champions Unite Campaign

The BMA is proud to report that Geoffrey Guy and Alessandro Lo Piccolo took part for the second year running in the annual 100 KM ride organised by the IMO to raise money for the Mission to Seafarers Global Champions Unite campaign on June 25th. It is a very tough ride but they were up to the challenge!



MAY

Bahamas Maritime Cadet Corp (BMCC) Graduation Ceremony 2022



JULY

BMA team attends Greek Shipping Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony & Dinner

Representatives from The BMA Greek team, along with Managing Director and CEO Capt. Dwain Hutchinson, were pleased to attend this year's Greek Shipping Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony & Dinner on Tuesday 5th July at Megaron, The Athens Concert Hall, where dynamic Greek shipping industry individuals were recognised.



OCTOBER

The BMA attends Maritime Cyprus

Joining a host of representatives from the world of shipping, The BMA's Managing Director and CEO, Capt. Dwain Hutchinson, and Regional Director, Dmitri Tsiftsis made the most of the opportunity to discuss the important issues of the day.



OCTOBER

Shipping Insight

Capt. Óli Olsen moderated a panel at SHIPPINGInsight – entitled Safety on the High Seas, it examined what can be done to keep vessels and crew safe.



OCTOBER

BSA Industry Forum and AGM at ICS



# A warm welcome for The Bahamas in Korea



The BMA was pleased to appoint Ben Line as its Korean agent at the end of 2021 but it is only recently that our Managing Director and CEO, Capt. Hutchinson, along with Regional Director Jahangir Hussain, have managed to meet D S Kim and the rest of the Ben Line team in person.

While in Korea the team had a number of meetings with clients and other maritime stakeholders, culminating in a seminar and reception where The BMA team, which also included Stephen Keenan (Head of the Inspections & Surveys Department), Juanita Butler (Registrar in Asia) and YuKi Leung of our Hong Kong Office, were able to provide

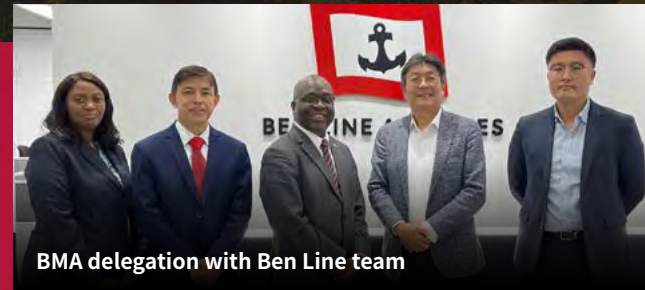
an overview of its services and areas of future collaboration. The seminar/reception was attended by over 160 people representing the broad and diverse spectrum of the Korean shipping industry including shipowners, ship managers, charterers, shipbuilders and marine financiers. The Bahamas' representation at the event was complemented by the participation

of representatives from our Recognised Organisations and Nautical Inspectors. The weeklong activities were aligned to the BMA's long-term strategy of global representation through building The Bahamas' presence in key ship owning markets.

'Around 160 members of all strands of Korean shipping community attended Grand Seminar/reception hosted by the BMA in Seoul'.



Meeting with Hyundai LNG



BMA delegation with Ben Line team



BMA delegation visit H-Line Shipping

## BMA delegation reconnects with clients in Japan

At the end of October, The BMA's Japan office was delighted to receive its first post-pandemic visit from senior members of The BMA team, Managing Director and CEO, Capt. Dwain Hutchinson, and Stephen Keenan, Head of Inspections & Surveys who were welcomed by Jahangir Hussain, Regional Director(Asia), Juanita Butler, Registrar, and Chie Funada, Secretary.

The Japan office has been doing great work bringing new clients to the Flag so the team had a very busy schedule of meetings with clients in Tokyo, but they also managed to travel to Imabari where they met representatives from companies in that city.

to consolidate relationships with our valued clients and major stakeholders in the country and also to meet potential clients to share with them the benefits of registering their ships with The Bahamas Flag.

The delegation was warmly received by both existing and potential clients in Japan and the

visit will significantly contribute to The BMA's strategic objective to enhance and strengthen cordial relationships with the Japanese shipping community. The weeklong activities were aligned to The BMA's long-term strategy of global representation through building The Bahamas' presence in key ship owning markets.



Meeting with the Class NK management team in Japan



Meeting with Daiichi Tanker Co. Ltd

## FAQ's

Here at the Bahamas we are asked numerous questions every day, although probably the most frequently asked is whether we ever go to The Bahamas? Sadly not for most of us!

Here are some of the questions that come up most frequently, of course there are countless more than we can show here but answers to many of the technical queries we receive can be found on our website [www.bahamasmaritime.com](http://www.bahamasmaritime.com). There you will also find expanded answers to some of those shown on this page.



**Do I need a new Minimum Safe Manning Document if I take the ship out of operation for a period of time?**

No, you do not need a new Minimum Safe Manning Document if the ship is not in operation, but you need to make an agreement with the local port authorities on the manning level that you plan to keep onboard or that you have no crew onboard.



**How can I have more than two conditions on a Minimum Safe Manning Document?**

We can issue several Minimum Safe Manning Documents and all will be valid until the expiry date on the certificate.



**Are the electronic certificates original?**

Electronic Certificates are the original documents. The certificate(s) are signed electronically in accordance with IMO FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2. Validation and authentication can be obtained from <https://public.bahamasmaritime.com/verifycertificate> using the QR code or Unique Tracking Number shown at the top of each certificate. Please be guided by our Marine Notice No 53 MN053-Electronic-Statutory-Certificates-v2.1-ID-359648.pdf ([bahamasmaritime.com](http://bahamasmaritime.com)).



**What types of vessels do you have in your flag? Why do you say The Bahamas is different to other open registries?**

We have all types of vessels in our fleet, e.g. Passenger ships, general cargo, bulk carriers, containers, oil tankers, gas carriers, yachts etc.

Notably, when it comes to their most expensive assets, owners trust the Bahamas. For example, cruise liners carry the most expensive and precious commodity ('human lives') and the majority consider The Bahamas to be their preferred flag. The Bahamas is also a major player in the gas and offshore sectors which have some of the most technologically advanced ships.



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