



# The Bahamas FLAG

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAHAMAS MARITIME AUTHORITY

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## Bahamas launches Yacht Registry

The Bahamas Maritime Authority begins the new decade with an exciting new development – the launch of the Bahamas Yacht Registry.

The continued growth of the world's yachting industry, despite the global economic downturn, has prompted the Bahamas Maritime Authority to launch its own Yacht Registry. Although fully independent from the existing Bahamas Ship Registry, the new Registry will offer the same level of expertise and dedication to safety, with technical teams accessible round-the-clock to deal with any and all problems that yacht owners may experience.

Unlike other yacht registers, the new Bahamas flag, with the full support of the Bahamas Government, offers a complete and unique package – world beating tourist facilities, an unrivalled wealth management industry of many years standing, excellent port and marine services and an exceptionally advantageous tax regime.



*Lady Moura*

Welcoming the new Yacht Registry, Director, Commodore Davy Rolle stated that given the Authority's position in the passenger ship sector, the development of a Yacht Registry was a natural extension. "With The Bahamas' links to the financial, wealth management and tourism sectors, the Yacht Registry completes the Bahamas brand, allowing The Bahamas to offer a total suite of services," he said. "To ensure the success and to offer the highest possible level of customer service to yacht owners, we have created a special section within the Authority dedicated to yachts."

## New Director appointed

The Board of the BMA is pleased to announce the appointment of the first Bahamian, Commodore Davy F Rolle, to the post of Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Bahamas Maritime Authority.

Commodore Rolle took up his post on 11 January 2010. Further details on page 3.

## *Oasis of the Seas* flies Bahamas flag

The BMA is delighted to announce that the world's largest and most technically advanced cruise ship, Royal Caribbean International's *Oasis of the Seas* is flying the Bahamas flag. The ship left STX Europe's yard in Turku, Finland on 30 October last year en route for her home port of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The full story is on page 6.



# Chairman's message

As we look to the next decade, 2010, I want to both reflect a little on the past, but principally look to the future.



*Ian Fair, BMA Chairman*

The Bahamas Maritime Authority holds its position today entirely due to the commitment, dedication, support and hard work of all of its stakeholders, especially our management team and staff who really "stepped up to the plate" in 2009, - in every respect a most challenging year. We are so fortunate to have our group of owners, so ably guided by our strong Shipowners Association. We are also fortunate to have a Government which provides the appropriate level of support, when needed. I wish to thank each and every stakeholder most sincerely.

One of the highpoints of 2009 was The Bahamas' re-election to the IMO Council. This provides us with a greater opportunity to represent the interests of our shipowners and to be involved in decision making at a key focal point for our industry.

I am delighted to announce the appointment of the first Bahamian Managing Director of the BMA. Commodore Davy Rolle brings with him much experience and an extensive background in maritime affairs and we greatly look forward to introducing him to you. As we pass the baton of executive responsibility to Commodore Rolle, I would like to reflect upon the challenges and opportunities that are before us.

The following challenges are the most critical, although there are certainly others:

- Climate Change and Green House Gas Issues. It is clear from the recent meeting in Copenhagen that there is much to do and the maritime industry needs to be vigilant in ensuring that its interests are properly represented.

- Piracy. Many nations of the world and the IMO are to be highly commended in their active involvement in this most vexing and critical issue. Without better governance in a number of parts of the world this problem will not be alleviated soon.
- The world economic downturn and the impact that it has had on the maritime industry. There are promising signs, but by most experts' estimation there will be no quick bounce back, but more of a slow steady recovery as the world resolves the excesses which were allowed to develop.
- Maritime Labour Convention/ILO issues, which have a significant impact upon many of our stakeholders.

Turning to our opportunities, we are excited about the future and the following are some of the initiatives that we are currently focusing upon:

- The Yacht Registry, to round out our offering to our stakeholders.
- The Bahamas Arbitration Act, which is the preferred form of dispute resolution for the maritime industry. This initiative is strongly supported by our shipowners and the ambition is for The Bahamas to become a leading centre for arbitration in the region. The BMA has been active in

assisting with the introduction of this legislation.

- The Maritime Institute in Freeport, Grand Bahama. This initiative is being led by a group of our shipowners and The College of The Bahamas.
- New offices are being planned in Europe and the Far East to better serve our owners.
- The development of a maritime cluster, following upon the successful introduction of a similar concept in other countries. Like others, we have many facets to our maritime industry in The Bahamas and believe that by linking them together, the sum of the whole will be greater than the individual parts. The maritime industry is the third largest contributor to the GDP of The Bahamas. We have the ambition to contribute an even greater amount to the development of our country.
- The second Bahamas International Maritime Conference to be held in Freeport, Grand Bahama between 10th and 12th February, 2010.

There is much to do and many challenges before us, but let me assure you of our continued support in assisting in the development of your individual businesses and our overall maritime industry.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> International Maritime Conference and Trade Show in Freeport

The Bahamas International Maritime Conference and Trade Show (BIMCATS) 2010 (9–12 February) is the product of a collaboration between the Ministry of the Environment, the BMA and public and private sector partners. Under the theme 'The Maritime Sector and the Environment', the Conference' aims are threefold:

- to highlight the importance of sustainable maritime policy development and technological advances to offset environmental degradation
- to stimulate interest in the many world class maritime services offered in The Bahamas
- to encourage leading shipping companies to register their vessels with the Bahamas Flag

BIMCATS 2010 promises to be filled with opportunities for dialogue, debate and meaningful interaction among all who participate. The plenary agenda will showcase world-class speakers and will conclude with an address from IMO's Secretary General, Efthimios Mitropoulos. But the agenda is not all work – many opportunities will be afforded for networking in a social environment.

## Bahamas Shipowners Association AGM

Last year's BSA AGM was held on 12 November at the IMO's headquarters in London and was officially opened by Paul Farquharson, Bahamas High Commissioner.

BSA's Chairman, Dale Ploughman explained that the meeting's theme - "The human element: managing risk and reputation" – was important to everyone involved in the shipping industry. "We each have a duty to ensure that our reputation is not put at risk due to any default of character or administration," he said.



## First Bahamian Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer appointed to head the Bahamas Maritime Authority



Commodore Davy F Rolle

The Minister for the Environment, Minister Earl D Deveaux, the Chairman, Mr Ian Fair, and Board of Directors of the Bahamas Maritime Authority are pleased to announce the appointment of Commodore Davy F Rolle, former Commander of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, as the first Bahamian Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA).

The BMA, which administers the third largest ship register in the world, has offices in London, New York and Nassau, and agencies in Japan, Germany and Greece.

Commodore Rolle, comes to the Bahamas Maritime Authority with extensive experience in the maritime sector through his military career, which spanned some 30 years, during ten of which he held the post of Commander of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force. He has been commended for his dedicated, exemplary service, both within The Bahamas and the Caribbean Region.

As Managing Director, Commodore Rolle will have full responsibility for the day to day management of the Authority and will work closely with the Board to ensure that the Bahamas Maritime Authority continues to meet the needs of its shipowners, fulfil its obligations to relevant international

organisations, (e.g IMO and ILO), and remain the "flag of choice" within the industry.

Commodore Rolle holds an engineering degree from the Royal Naval Engineering College in Devon, England, and currently serves as the Bahamas' Ambassador to Haiti and non-resident Ambassador to the Dominican Republic. He is married to Stephanie Rolle, and they have two children and a granddaughter.

Commenting on his appointment, Commodore Rolle said, " I would like to thank the Board of the Bahamas Maritime Authority for giving me this opportunity to work for one of the most highly respected and influential organisations in the maritime industry and I look forward to working with the BMA's highly professional and dedicated staff."

## BMA attends 2009 World Maritime Day Parallel Event

Last year's event was hosted by the US Coast Guard in New York on 16 October and was based on the World Maritime Day theme "Climate Change: A Challenge for IMO too".

One of the day's activities was a Green Ship Exhibition in which the Bahamas Maritime Authority participated as a "Commandant Sponsor". The Authority took the opportunity to showcase its Registry services. It was very gratifying that many visitors were aware of the BMA's active involvement on many issues at IMO and Captain Douglas Bell was particularly mentioned.

The main forum of the day was a Delegate Conference where leading authorities in the maritime industry debated and discussed the many aspects of climate change and how the maritime community is responding to the changing environment. Speakers included, among many others, Admiral Thad Allen, Commandant of the US Coast Guard, Efthimios Mitropoulos, IMO's Secretary General and Dr John Holdren, Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology who delivered the keynote speech. The three panel discussions of the day dealt with emerging technologies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, best practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and greenhouse gas regulatory schemes.

Another exciting part of the day's activities was a Student Science Fair where awards for the best science projects relating to climate change were presented at the evening Reception. Attendees were also given the opportunity to tour several ships designed or equipped with green technology.

## Bahamas re-elected to IMO Council



From left to right: Ian Fair, Chairman of the Bahamas Maritime Authority; Earl D. Deveaux, Minister for the Environment; Peter Goulandris, Deputy Chairman of the Bahamas Maritime Authority; Efthimios Mitropoulos, Secretary General of the IMO; Davy F. Rolle, Managing Director of the Bahamas Maritime Authority; Paul H. Farquharson, Bahamas High Commissioner and Capt. Douglas Bell, Deputy Director, the Bahamas Maritime Authority.

With a very satisfying 113 votes, The Bahamas has been re-elected to the IMO Council with its seat secure for another two years.

The election for membership of the Council is always eagerly awaited. It takes place every two years at the IMO Assembly and is preceded by intense lobbying and by numerous receptions. This year was no exception and the number of receptions in the week preceding the election was in the high thirties - a considerable strain on those who had to attend and travel between the widely dispersed venues.

Competition for seats on the Council was intense with 26 candidates fighting for 20 seats in Category C, which was where The Bahamas was hoping to have its mandate renewed. Of course, the seat is not just a status symbol. The work which Council carries out is important for the governance of IMO. The Bahamas will be working hard to ensure that the Organisation is as efficient and productive as possible. At the same time, the delegation will be conscious of the responsibility to represent the views of all members not just those of The Bahamas, which is the duty of all Council members.



# BSA AGM - a huge success

In November last year, The Bahamas Shipowners celebrated 11 years as an Association and The Bahamas marked its 32 years as a Flag Register.

The AGM held at IMO's London headquarters was, as always, well attended and provided a forum to voice opinions and engage in constructive discussions and debates. Subjects covered at the meeting included, risk, reputation and the criminalisation of seafarers, HSBC's assessment of risk and reputation, and the realities of laid up vessels.





# WISTA Reception



The BMA hosted the WISTA Reception at the House of Lords on September 17 2009.

The theme of the WISTA Conference was Diversity and Corporate Social Responsibility.





# World's largest cruise ship flagged with Bahamas

Royal Caribbean International's revolutionary 16-deck ship, *Oasis of the Seas* has named The Bahamas as its flag of choice, bringing the total of RCI's cruise ships registered with The Bahamas to 21

*Oasis of the Seas* is the largest and, at \$1.4 billion, the most expensive cruise ship ever built. At 220,000 gross tons, the ship can carry 5400 guests at double occupancy and features 2700 staterooms. It set out on its first commercial voyage on 1 December 2009.

Royal Caribbean International has been at the forefront of innovative developments in the cruise industry in recent years, with onboard attractions such as ice-skating rinks, cantilevered whirlpools, rock climbing walls and the Royal Promenade – an entertainment

boulevard that stretches almost the full length of the ship.

These innovations are carried to new heights onboard *Oasis of the Seas* with a range of new attractions and engineering marvels. Industry "firsts" include seven distinct themed neighbourhoods which give guests the opportunity to choose experiences which reflect their mood, lifestyle or personal preference. With a range of restaurants, shops, and cafes, a park-like garden with real trees and shrubs, not to mention the 750-person outdoor Aqua Theatre on the ship's stern, with stunning



acrobatic diving shows, *Oasis of the Seas* is truly a floating city extraordinaire.

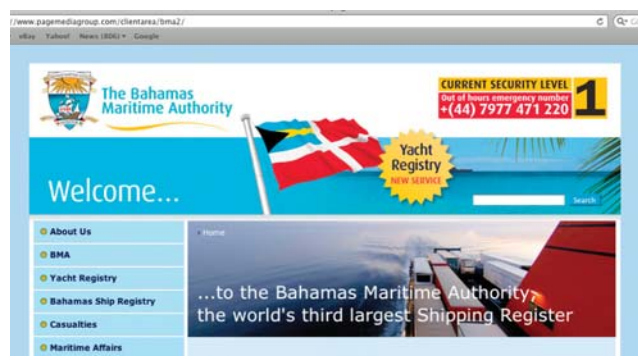


BMA Deputy Directors Dwain Hutchinson and Christine Scavella on board the *Oasis of the Seas*

## EVENTS CALENDAR 2010

EVENT	LOCATION	DATES
International Business & Finance Summit	Bimini Bay - Bahamas	Jan 29 - 31
Bahamas International Maritime Conference and Trade Show	Freeport - Bahamas	Feb 9 - 12
Seatrade Cruise Shipping Miami	Miami - USA	March 15 - 18
CMA Shipping	Connecticut - USA	Mar 22 - 24
Posidonia	Piraeus - Greece	June 7 - 11
World Expo	Shanghai - China	
Monaco Yacht Show	Monaco	Sept 22 - 25
Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show	Fort Lauderdale - USA	Oct 28 - Nov 1
CLIA Leadership Forum	Miami - USA	Nov 15 - 17

## BMA website



BMA's website has undergone a major transformation to mark the new decade. It highlights the new Yacht Registry, gives relevant information about the Bahamas Ship Register and The Bahamas, and of course provides the most up-to-date statutory and advisory information that shipowners, captains and crews need. Downloadable forms and publications are available as before and, in the coming months, the website will become even more accessible with many new features and downloads.

Visit us today on [www.bahamasmaritime.com](http://www.bahamasmaritime.com)

# Bahamas fleet gets younger

Some 70% of all vessels newly registered with the Bahamas flag are newbuilds, demonstrating the Authority's drive to build a young fleet and its determination to discourage older and potentially less safe ships.

## Registrations

During the period 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009, the BMA welcomed 129 vessels to the Register. 68% of the vessels were new deliveries direct from the shipyard. The overall average age of the new registrations was 3.9 years. The total gross tonnage was 4,993,129 and the net tonnage was 2,494,019.

37% of the new registrations were tankers, with bulk carrier vessels representing 18% and passenger & Ro-Ro vessels representing 12%.

Of the tankers, 48% were oil tankers and 21% were oil/chemical tankers. LNG's represented 15% of the total tankers registered.

External sources (Sea-Web of Lloyd's Register Fairplay) indicate that we are currently a flag

of choice for the LNG market, with the average age being 3.7 years. Vessels currently on order/keel laid/under construction are taken into account.

19% of the vessels registered were owned by Greek shipowners, with Canadian shipowners representing 14%, closely followed by Japanese shipowners with 12%.

## Deletions

During the period, 134 vessels were deleted, including 12 Registrar deletions. Quite a number of old vessels were retired and a total of 53% of the deleted vessels were over 20 years old. The average age of the deleted vessels was 21 years!



Cygnus Passage

# IMO – the year ahead

It is sometimes said that the IMO is slow in producing results, but this has to be set against the fact that in the past two years some 342 planned outputs were dealt with. For the countries which submitted these topics for consideration every one was important, but it has to be admitted that many are in the 'nice to have' category rather than being essential to the main roles of the Organisation. A Council working group is now looking at possible ways to select the most important subjects.

'Climate Change - a challenge for IMO too' was the theme for World Maritime Day last year. It was anticipated that the outcome of the Copenhagen Conference on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) would greatly influence the work of the IMO for many years to come. In the event, there was no agreement on emissions from shipping which leaves the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol still applicable. Therefore, IMO will continue to deal with shipping. It can only be hoped that the effect of any measures placed on shipping will be proportional to its impact on the world's climate and that the industry is not chosen as an easy target for excessive action. It should be recognised that shipping is the greenest way to transport the world's goods around the globe.

The scourge of piracy continues to occupy the minds and resources of IMO member states. Despite intensive efforts by the naval forces of many states, the number of successful attacks off the coast of Somalia continues to be at a very high level. Unfortunately, the problem now seems to be spreading to West Africa. It will take some imaginative thinking to tackle this problem. At the moment, shipowners are

being advised to follow 'best industry practice' when operating in areas of potential attacks. Perhaps the next step will be to encourage measures which make boarding more difficult. To date, some ships have used coils of razor wire along the side of the ship, others have tried water spray systems. These may lead to further developments.

Among the more important items to be resolved in the coming year is a Protocol to the Convention on Hazardous and Noxious Substances. The base Convention, which is a liability Convention similar to the IOPC for oil, requires a complex bureaucracy in member states to administer its requirements and it has not attracted sufficient member states to bring it into force. The new Protocol should make it easier for states to ratify by simplifying the various submissions which states have to make regarding their imports of substances covered by the Convention. A Conference will be held in London later in the year to agree the Protocol.

The other major item for 2010 is an overhaul of the STCW Convention, which deals with seafarers' qualifications. The operation of ships and the technology which modern ships

carry has advanced at a rapid pace since the last large-scale review in 1995. The revised Convention is to make sure that training keeps pace with the changes, thus ensuring that future seafarers are properly prepared to deal with the ships on which they serve.

## A lasting solution

A subject which has caused a great deal of debate over the past few years is the launching and recovery of lifeboats. There have been many accidents during practice drills and a number of seafarers have been killed or seriously injured. Both design of the boats and, in particular, the release gear, and the training of crew responsible for handling boats is due to be discussed during meetings this year. The Bahamas will be pressing for a resolution of the problem, having been deeply involved in the discussions to date.

Many other topics will be discussed in the numerous meetings scheduled for the months ahead; The Bahamas will try very hard to ensure that priority is given to those issues which will have a real benefit for safety, security and the environment.



# Questions we're often asked...

## MLC Q&A

### Q What is it?

A A natural extension to the ILO Convention 147, Minimum Standards, encompassing and superseding the requirements of a raft of existing ILO Conventions.

### Q How is it different from existing ILO Conventions?

A It has teeth! There are requirements for regular inspection and certification, and also control by a port State.

### Q When do I have to comply?

A We can only estimate that there will be sufficient ratifications at the end of 2010 to allow entry into force 12 months later, at the end of 2011. It may be sooner, it may be later.

### Q Who will carry out the inspection and certification for Flag?

A Any Bahamas Recognised Organisation (RO) will be authorised to carry out these services. The RO need not be the Classification Society for the ship, nor the ISM or ISSC provider.

### Q What are the Bahamas particular requirements?

A The legislation is in final draft but there are still opportunities for latitude where necessary. We are developing our position on a variety of issues, ready for agreement after tripartite consultation. Legislation is intended to reflect MLC requirements (The Articles, The Regulations, and Part A of the Code) so that there are no surprises to the Shipowner. We regard the recommendatory advice in Part B of the Code to be useful advice to the Administration, but not mandatory to be applied by the Shipowner, unless otherwise stated in legislation.

### Q What if I don't have a crewing department in my office?

A There is a clear responsibility for the Company to ensure that crew are selected and appointed in accordance with MLC. You must demonstrate clear control over the work done by a crewing agency on your behalf.

### Q How can I prepare for MLC compliance?

A Study the MLC requirements, in particular the Regulations and Part A of the Code. It is likely that you already do a lot of what is required. Once you have identified specific procedures which need to be put into place or perhaps made more robust, you are halfway there.

### Q I have special concerns over a specific part of the MLC. What can I do?

A Don't panic. BMA is happy to discuss these issues with shipowners and welcomes the opportunity to explore a pragmatic solution to any perceived problems, while at the same time ensuring that MLC compliance is maintained.



## 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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# News in brief...

## Rebecca-Ann Darling



### Secondment to Lloyds Register

Rebecca-Ann joined the BMA in January 2008, working in the Inspections and Surveys department as Technical Assistant and then as Technical Officer. Recognising Rebecca-Ann's potential to progress within the BMA, it was identified that a graduate surveyor training course would provide a fulfilling experience and enhance her capabilities even further. She subsequently embarked upon a two year course with Lloyds Register, a Bahamas Recognised Organisation, in September 2009. We look forward to her return in 2011 when she will augment the capability of the Inspections and Surveys team once again. Her expanded range of experience will be of great benefit to BMA and shipowners alike.

## New appointments



From left to right: Marques Williams, Deidre Shepherd, Kimberley Moxey, Amanda Archer and Phillip Casement

### Marques Williams

Marques Williams has joined the BMA as the first Graduate Trainee. Over time, he will work in each of the BMA's departments. Mr Williams holds a Bachelor degree in international maritime trade and transportation and a Minor degree in inter-modal and port security from the State University of New York Maritime College. He has also served in the Royal Bahamas Defence Force as a Marine Seaman.

### Phillip Casement

Mr Casement joined the London office of the BMA as a Technical & Compliance Officer in November 2009. Previously, Phillip was employed as a seagoing Navigational Officer with P&O Steam Navigation Company and served on various types of tonnage including tankers, bulk carriers, gas carriers, reefer and container vessels. He came ashore in 1979 and took up positions as Marine Safety Superintendent and Group Health & Safety Manager with P&O Group. In 2002 Mr Casement joined P&I in the survey departments of two of the International Group of P&I Clubs monitoring the condition of entered vessels.

### Amanda Archer

A graduate from St. Thomas University, Amanda attained the Dean's List for five consecutive terms and has in her short time with the Authority become an impressive team member, supporting publication, finance and reception. Amanda always seeks to offer the best possible customer service and is happy to be a team member of the BMA.

### Deidre Shepherd

Mrs Shepherd recently joined the BMA and is a welcome addition to the STCW & Manning Department. After contributing more than ten years to the hotel and gaming industry in The Bahamas, Deidre became inspired by the BMA's position as third largest global ship register and, initially employed in the Nassau office, she is now posted to the Maritime Affairs department of our London office.

### Kimberley Moxey

Kimberley Moxey joined the BMA's London office in September 2009, as the Authority's Receptionist. Prior to her appointment, Ms Moxey worked as an Administrative Assistant at BMA's Nassau office, where she obtained a Diploma in paralegal studies. Ms Moxey holds a Bachelor of Law Degree (LLB Hons) from the University of London and is presently studying for a Masters of Law (LLM) in maritime law.