



The Bahamas FLAG

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAHAMAS MARITIME AUTHORITY

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Welcome to *Allure of the Seas*

The Bahamas Maritime Authority welcomed Royal Caribbean International's latest cruise ship *Allure of the Seas* to its Register in October last year. *Allure of the Seas* joins sister ship *Oasis of the Seas*, also registered with The Bahamas, both sharing the title of the world's largest and most revolutionary cruise ship.



Built at STX Europe in Turku, Finland, *Allure of the Seas* sailed into her home port of Port Everglades in November and made her maiden voyage on 5 December. With a weight of 225,282 GRT and a length of 360 metres, the ship has 16 passenger decks and capacity for a total of 6296 guests and 2384 crew members from approximately 80 countries. Described by some as an architectural marvel at sea, *Allure*

of the Seas has seven distinct themed areas including Central Park, the Royal Promenade, the Pool and Sports Zone, and the Youth Zone. Royal Caribbean teamed up with DreamWorks Animation, and Shrek's Princess Fiona became the cruise industry's first animated 3-D Godmother at the official naming ceremony. Other guest attractions include the at-sea debut of the Broadway production of 'Chicago:

The Musical' as well as 26 different dining options, including the first ever Starbucks at sea.

Allure of the Seas alternates a Western Caribbean with an Eastern Caribbean seven-night itinerary from Port Everglades. Royal Caribbean International is a global cruise brand with 22 ships currently in service.

BMA open for business in Hong Kong



The Bahamas Maritime Authority's newest office was officially opened in Hong Kong on 25 October 2010 by Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham. The new office joins those in London, New York, Nassau and Tokyo in offering full BMA registration services worldwide and is the first commercial venture by The Bahamas in the Far East.

At a reception to mark the opening of the new office, the Prime Minister commented that when The Bahamas' first career consular office had opened some 12 years ago, he had fully expected that a maritime office would soon follow. "We knew then as now," he said,

"that Hong Kong is a significant hub for international shipping and hence an ideal location from which to attract additional world-class ships to our expanding Register. The city is a gateway for east-west trade and is a major international centre for financial services. It is home to shipping companies and related trade enterprises and also has a wide cross section of business persons and high net worth individuals whom we would like to introduce to the Islands of The Bahamas. As always, we aim to attract the top end of the market in whatever field we enter."

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Director's message

It is now some twelve months since I took over the helm at the BMA and what a year it has been! We have waived our registration fees, developed the Bahamas Yacht Code and will continue to showcase our services as a Yacht Register at the Monaco and Fort Lauderdale Boat Shows. We have opened a new office in Hong Kong and are well on the way to establishing an office in Athens, historic home of the Greek shipping industry.

Additionally, we are shortly due to have our IMO member state audit (VIMSAS) carried out, and will use the results to further improve the Bahamas' Maritime Administration.

Following the recent economic downturn, we are finally seeing some positive signs of recovery in the shipping industry through ship registrations. And as we move forward into 2011, I am pleased to confirm that the increase to our fleet is continuing.

Our 2010 detentions have been reduced by more than 50% in all MoUs and we are definitely back on track for attaining Qualship 21 status in the near future.

But we still have much to do. We shall continue to address tirelessly the concerns of our shipowners and also, on their behalf, we hope to announce a Bahamas Maritime Marriage Act very shortly.

Piracy attacks continue, however, as I am sure we are all aware. The threat of capture remains and the hazard is a very real one. The Bahamas will continue to work within the international community at IMO and the United Nations to protect vital shipping lanes and defeat the scourge of piracy.

I am sure that 2011 will present many more challenges. At the Bahamas Maritime Authority, we are all more than ready to face them.

MLC update

The BMA has been very active in making sure that everything is in place for our shipowners to be inspected and certified under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, at the earliest opportunity.

From the Authority's perspective, legislation to give effect to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 has been finalised and is with the office of the Bahamas' Attorney General for completion. In addition the Bahamas DMLC Part I has also been finalised, setting out clearly Bahamas' requirements for MLC compliance. The legislation and in particular DMLC Part I, refer extensively to BMA bulletins which have been carefully drafted to address the specific matters contained in MLC requirements.

MLC requires that consultation is carried out

with shipowners' and seafarers' representatives on many matters. Following a series of exchanges with representatives concerned, a wide range of issues have been addressed and appropriate decisions made.

Inspectors' guidelines have also been developed so that all inspectors can achieve a uniform standard of inspection.

As a result, it has been possible to authorise our Recognised Organisations to inspect and certify our ships against MLC requirements, well before the Convention comes into effect (anticipated early 2012).

First 'voluntary' MLC Compliance Audit

On 29 October 2010 an MLC 2006 Inspector from Bureau Veritas carried out an MLC Inspection and issuance of a Statement of Compliance for Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) on board *CMA CGM Bellini* in the port of Marsaxlokk in Malta.

The Bahamas' flagged container ship operated by CMA Ships (UK) Ltd is the first Bahamian registered vessel Classed by Bureau Veritas to be issued with a Statement.

The Inspection and approval of the DMLC Part II were carried out against the draft DMLC Part I issued by the BMA, and the vessel was found to be in compliance with all 14 working and living conditions of seafarers in accordance with the requirements of the MLC 2006.

CMA CGM Bellini's Captain, Cedimir Radanovic and the ship's Croatian officers and Filipino crew were all extremely co-operative and very proud to be serving on the first Bureau Veritas Classed and Bahamas' registered vessel to comply with all the chapters of a convention which relates to seafarers working and living conditions on board.

Although the ratification process is taking longer than was initially anticipated, Flag Administrations throughout the world are



working towards a common goal; a convention that will stand beside the key conventions of international maritime regulatory regimes (SOLAS, MARPOL and STCW). These standards support quality shipping and help to eliminate substandard vessels plying their trade internationally. The Bahamas Maritime Authority has been at the forefront throughout this process.

The MLC 2006 when it enters into force, will bring the system of protection contained in existing International Labour Organisation (ILO) standards closer to the seafarers concerned and will improve the applicability and enforcement of the system so that shipowners and governments interested in providing decent working and living conditions do not have to bear an unequal burden in ensuring protection of their seafarers.

Bahamas delegation at ILO meeting Geneva

At the invitation of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Bahamas' labour and maritime officials attended a preparatory committee meeting of maritime member states in Geneva, Switzerland in September 2010.



Left to right, Robin Phillips, Deputy Director, BMA, Capt Dwain Hutchinson, Deputy Director, BMA, John Pinder, President of the Bahamas National Congress of Trade Unions representing Maritime Workers, (Seafarers), Dr Cleo Doumbia Henry, Director of the Standards Committee and Senior Maritime Labour Specialist with the ILO, Capt Douglas Bell, Deputy Director, BMA and Harcourt Brown, Director of Labour and ILO Desk Officer for the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Market Based Measures for reduction of greenhouse gases Bahamas pushes for practicality

The issue of reducing greenhouse gases, specifically CO₂, has been on IMO's agenda for some time. Cuts in emissions are inevitable and necessary. The world needs them in order to combat the effects of climate change. With the Islands of The Bahamas being at particular risk, The Bahamas has taken a practical approach throughout the process.

The Bahamas proposes that the international community sets a mandatory reduction target to be met by all ships, with responsible owners then able to decide how to meet that target in the manner appropriate to their vessel and trade. To this end The Bahamas is in the process of submitting a proposal to IMO that all existing ships younger than 15 years old should, through technical and operational means, reduce their CO₂ emissions by 20%. For new ships this would increase to 25%. The reduction for existing ships would be based upon actual emission levels of that particular ship as measured at the funnel. For new ships, it would be based upon a baseline generated for existing ships.

At first glance this would appear to be a large emission reduction. However, since we are all being actively encouraged to reduce our carbon footprint, shipping, even though it is already the most environmentally friendly mode of transport, must also do its bit.

Two other major submissions to IMO have also proposed market based measures to reduce CO₂ emissions. The first proposes that IMO should set up an emissions trading scheme. Every owner would have to purchase carbon credits to cover each ton of CO₂ emitted from each ship. These credits would be bought and sold in the same way as any other commodity on the open market. The second proposal effectively creates a global tax on each ton of

bunkers. It is expected that such a tax would generate around \$20billion each year. However, that is \$20billion removed from the budgets of shipowners each year. Furthermore, these two proposals can never achieve direct reductions because they rely on a proxy market mechanism to deliver the reduction, the efficacy of which is questionable.

In The Bahamas' opinion, these alternatives would create massive bureaucratic institutions, impose a global tax as well as regional schemes and would remove approximately \$20billion from the shipping industry. By contrast, The Bahamas' proposal is a practical, proactive, progressive and technically based solution to a technical problem.

Cancun climate conference

The United Nations Climate Change Conference met in Cancun, Mexico, at the end of last year - the first major meeting to follow on from the Copenhagen meeting of 2009. This time an accord was reached in which almost every nation signed up to significant cuts in their CO₂ emissions. A global green fund was also set up for mitigating the effects of climate change.

The Bahamas Maritime Authority was represented by Captain Doug Bell who took an active part at the meeting and contributed to the maritime aspects of the debates. Captain Bell continued to make the case regarding operational and technical measures. Such arguments were well received by many other delegations.

88th session of the MSC

The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) met at the end of November and dealt with a myriad of issues. Of particular importance to the BMA was the on-going production of guidelines to ensure that on-load release lifeboat hooks remain safe to operate throughout their life. The Bahamas played a very active role in ensuring that the issue remained on the agenda and was not disposed of through the production of guidance which would not deal with many of the issues of concern. For instance, it had been proposed that a wear test would be adequate to identify hooks which required replacement. However, The Bahamas, with the backing of the entire shipping industry, argued that such a wear test would not have identified hooks which were known to have failed and to have caused fatalities. BMA's view, against stiff opposition, won through and the issue will be subject to an additional meeting where the Authority's concerns can be fully worked through. A successful

outcome will prevent further injuries and fatalities.

Another issue which did reach a successful conclusion was the revision of the guidance on enclosed spaces. The BMA played a significant role in ensuring the proper revision of these very importance guidelines. The new guidelines link the assessment of the risk posed by enclosed spaces to the Safety Management Systems (SMS) onboard the ship. This makes the procedures auditable. In addition, the training and roles of the people involved were strengthened. Through the proper implementation of these guidelines, some avoidable fatalities will be prevented. Further work on drills in enclosed space entry and separate guidance for entry into cargo tanks are in development. The BMA will be closely associated with those.

Both of these issues demonstrate how the BMA, assisted so well by the BSA, is able to positively influence the safety agenda at IMO.

Hong Kong office official opening

At the official opening of BMA's new office in Hong Kong, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said that The Bahamas was a vibrant and growing maritime centre. "It is estimated, he said, "that maritime affairs now represents a vital 20% of our economy. We believe that this city of Hong Kong is a critical location from which we can support and grow this important sector. We also believe that Hong Kong, a leading financial services centre in this region, is an important market from which we may not only grow our visitor numbers but also attract additional persons to our second home market and as investors in other segments of our economy be it tourism, financial services or light industries and manufacturing."



BMA pledges continued commitment

At last year's Bahamas Shipowners Association's AGM, held at IMO Headquarters in London, Commodore Davy F Rolle was the first Bahamian Director to deliver the Bahamas Maritime Authority's annual report to the Association's members.

"Please be assured," he said, "of my 100% commitment to quality tonnage and to the delivery of an exceptional service to you, to all of the BSA's owners and indeed to all of our clients."

The Commodore said that over the years, the Bahamas Maritime Authority had developed close links with the Bahamas Shipowners Association so that now, all interests and concerns could be openly discussed. It was after all, he continued, essential for regulators and shipowners to have a proper understanding of their respective situations. "But I am certain," he said, "that we are all on the same side when ensuring quality and safety, and many of our Owners have quality and safety management systems in place which go far beyond basic requirements."

Chairman's message

"The Quality Mariner" was the theme for the 14th BSA AGM in November 2010. The BSA adopted the theme to supplement and promote the IMO theme "The Year of the Mariner".

"Now in its 14th year, the BSA is continuously making strides to ensure that the Association's objectives are met, while giving back to the industry through our Cadet Sponsorship Programme," said BSA's Chairman, Dale Ploughman.

Looking ahead he said, "The BSA will continue to remain active in its approach to ensuring that members' interests are considered and viewpoints voiced. We hope that you, as members, will continue to support the efforts of the Association and "The Quality Mariner".



THE HON. E.A. MINISTER OF



Bahamas sets its sights on yacht sector



Following the introduction of the Bahamas Yacht Code and the waiving of registration fees in August last year, the Bahamas Maritime

Authority has begun its drive to attract quality yacht tonnage to the Register.

In September 2010, BMA's Assistant Director, Yachts, Captain Colin Sandeman, travelled to the Monaco Yacht Show to make contact with the Principality's yacht company managers, brokers, builders and insurers. Arguably one of the most prestigious shows of its kind, the Monaco Yacht Show is possibly as big to the Principality as Grand Prix week and it will definitely be a high point on the BMA's calendar from now on.

Also on BMA's yachting agenda last year was the Authority's first ever stand at the Fort Lauderdale Boat Show in October. Look out for us at next year's event.

Left to right: Katie Clarke, Registrar, Nassau; Captain Colin Sandeman, Assistant Director, Yachts and Christine Scavella, Deputy Director, New York.



Disney Dream sails to Bahamas

On 26 January 2011, BMA registered *Disney Dream* set off on her maiden voyage to The Bahamas.

The first of two new ships commissioned in 2007 and built at the Meyer Werft shipyard in Papenburg, Germany, the cruise ship is the third in Disney's cruise line and is much larger than her sister ships *Disney Magic* and *Disney Wonder*, also registered with The Bahamas. *Disney Fantasy*, the second of Disney's new cruise ships is expected to enter service later this year.

At 128,000 GT, *Disney Dream* is 1115 ft long, has 16 decks and capacity for 4000 passengers and 1500 crew. With a wealth of sports facilities on board including a nine-hole mini golf course, a walking track and a full sized basketball court, the ship also boasts the first sea-going water coaster called the 'AquaDuck' – a 765ft long winding waterslide with a four deck drop and a winding course that goes through the ship's forward funnel.

Festive Spirit

BMA's London-based staff embraced the true meaning of Christmas 2010 by supporting two charities – the Helping Hand charity which provides basic necessities for those in need, and the world famous Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children.

Left to right: Stacy Davis, Caroline Ross, Alexis Forbes, Raquel Cheney and Edward Brown





The Bahamas
Maritime Authority

It's simply
better with
The Bahamas

3rd BAHAMAS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW (BIMCATS) 2011

FREEPORT, GRAND BAHAMA, THE BAHAMAS

02 - 04 February 2011

"The Mariner: Building on the Year of the Seafarer"

Keynote speaker: **Dr. Cleopatra Dombia-Henry,**
Director of ILO's International Labour Standards Department

The Bahamas Maritime Authority would like to welcome all exhibitors, speakers and visitors to the 2011 Bahamas International Maritime Conference and Trade Show (BIMCATS). We hope it will be as big a success as last year's event.



World Maritime Day

23 September 2010, marked the 33rd celebration of World Maritime Day, the annual occasion when the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) leads the world in highlighting a key issue for the Organisation and for the shipping industry at large. The theme for last year was "2010: Year of the Seafarer".

In his World Maritime Day message, IMO's Secretary General, Efthimios Mitropoulos, took the opportunity to directly address key segments of the maritime and broader community. His message was powerful and hard-hitting. "This is what I would like to tell them," he said:

- "to members of the shipping industry – maintain high standards, enshrine best practices, embrace corporate social responsibility, provide a clean, safe and comforting workplace, recognise and reward those on whose labours your profits depend
- to politicians – work towards the ratification, entry into force and implementation of all the international measures that have a bearing on seafarers' safety and security and living and working conditions, show that you really are in touch with the people at the sharp end
- to legislators and law enforcers – aim at striking a fair balance in all of your actions concerning seafarers so that they do not become scapegoats caught up in the aftermath of accidents and incidents, treat them fairly and decently – they deserve every empathy and compassion
- to educators – tell the younger generations about seafaring, the debt we owe to shipping and the attractions of the maritime professions, it should not take too great a leap of the imagination to stir maritime ingredients into the pot of learning through history, geography, biology, environmental studies, economics, business studies and many more
- to port and immigration authorities - treat seafarers with the respect they deserve, welcome them as visitors and guests to your countries as professionals that are also serving the interests and development of your nations and fellow citizens
- to those in a position to shape and influence public opinion, particularly newspaper and TV journalists - take the time and trouble to seek out both sides of the story next time you report on an accident involving a ship, place the accident in its proper context, that of millions upon millions of miles to all four corners of the earth by a talented, highly trained, highly specialised and highly dedicated workforce
- and finally – to the 1.5 million seafarers of the world, the entire maritime community appreciates you and your indispensable services, is aware of the conditions under which you operate, shows compassion for the sacrifices you make, does care for you and works to ensure your safety and security, praying that you always have calm seas, fair winds and a safe return home – which it wishes you wholeheartedly."

At the World Maritime Day 2010 Parallel Event on 8 October 2010 in Buenos Aires, the Secretary General unveiled a Plaque in honour of the seafarer.

New Appointments in Hong Kong



Juanita Butler

Formerly Registration Officer and Registrar in the New York office, Juanita has been appointed as Registrar in the new Hong Kong office. She took up her position on Monday, January 17, 2011. A veteran employee with the BMA for the past 14 years, Juanita brings a wealth of experience to the post and will be responsible for ship registrations, processing of Seaman's Record Books and STCW Endorsements. Juanita holds a BA degree in languages from the School of Commerce and Languages in Switzerland and is fluent in three languages. We are happy and proud of her appointment and feel that she will represent The Bahamas and the BMA well in Hong Kong. We wish her every success in her new appointment.

Malcolm Keast

Malcolm Keast, Assistant Registrar, Hong Kong office, began his maritime career at the age of 16 when he joined the British Merchant Navy. After reaching the rank of Chief Officer he came ashore to study for a degree in nautical studies. He then worked for eight years on container terminals in the UK before joining a Japanese shipping line in London. In 1998 Malcolm returned to a container terminal as the operations manager for Hutchison Port Holding's facility in Freeport, Bahamas. Malcolm remained in Freeport for five years before transferring to the business development unit of HPH spending varying amounts of time in the UK, Egypt, Dubai and Hong Kong before joining the BMA's Hong Kong office last year.



Emily Wan

Emily gained a Diploma in corporate administration and then embarked upon a secretarial career. Since graduation, Emily has worked in a wide range of companies, gaining experience across a broad spectrum of business activities in Hong Kong. Emily's experience in the marine field comes from working for the business development department of Hutchison Port Holdings. Emily speaks and reads Cantonese (Mother tongue), Mandarin and English.

Retirement

William E Bardelmeier



After many years' dedicated service with the Bahamas Ship Register, both before and after the establishment of the Bahamas Maritime Authority in 1995, William E Bardelmeier has retired from the Board of Directors.

Mr Bardelmeier was very instrumental in the early days of the Register as a member of The Bahamas' official delegation to the Far East in 1983

and 1985, and as one of the first members of the BMA Board of Directors, where he served until 2009.

He is highly respected by his peers for his integrity and faithfulness and for his invaluable contribution to the growth and development of the BMA and the maritime sector of The Bahamas. We wish him well.

EVENTS CALENDAR 2011

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION (IMO) SUB-COMMITTEE ON STABILITY AND LOAD LINES AND FISHING VESSELS SAFETY (SLF) -53RD SESSION
10-14 January • London

2ND ANNUAL MARINE MONEY LONDON SHIP FINANCE FORUM
20 January • London, Sponsor

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION (IMO) SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING (STW) - 42ND SESSION
24-28 January • London

PASSENGER SHIP SAFETY CONFERENCE
26 - 27 January • London

MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR'S INTERNATIONAL FORUM (MAIFF)
31 January-4 February • Freeport, Grand Bahama, Bahamas

CARIBBEAN (CMOU) PORT STATE CONTROL TRAINING SEMINAR
1-3 February • Freeport, Grand Bahama, Bahamas

3RD ANNUAL BAHAMAS MARITIME CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW (BIMCATS)
2-4 February • Freeport, Grand Bahama, Bahamas

BAHAMAS SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION (BSA) EXECUTIVE MEETING
2 February • Freeport, Grand Bahama, Bahamas

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION, SUB-COMMITTEE ON BULK LIQUIDS AND GASES (BLG) -15TH SESSION
7 - 11 February • London

INTERNATIONAL SUB-COMMITTEE ON FLAG STATE IMPLEMENTATION (FSI) -19TH SESSION
21 - 25 February • London

SHIP MANAGEMENT SUMMIT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT
2- 3 March • Limassol, Cyprus

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION (IMO) SUB-COMMITTEE ON RADIO COMMUNICATION AND SEARCH AND RESCUE (COMSAR) -15TH SESSION
7 - 11 March • London

SEATRADE
14 - 17 March • Miami, Florida

CONNECTICUT MARITIME ASSOCIATION
21 - 23 March • Stamford, CT

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION (IMO) SUB-COMMITTEE ON SHIP DESIGN & EQUIPMENT (DE) - 55TH SESSION
21 - 25 March • London