



The Marshall Islands Registry

## **Recent Meetings Held by the Marshall Islands Registry**

*Piraeus, 30 April 2013*

More than 190 delegates from the greater Piraeus shipping community joined representatives of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Registry for a seminar to hear and discuss further guidance on the provisions of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006), Ballast Water Management requirements of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the United States (US), the US revisions to the Vessel General Permit and lastly, an update on piracy. Theo Xenakoudis, Worldwide Business Operations Officer, International Registries, Inc. (IRI) moderated the panel of speakers which included Simon Bonnett (Safety & Technical Manager, London), Liz Bouchard (Marine Policy Advisor, Reston), Rear Admiral Robert North (USCG, Ret.), John Ramage (Chief Operating Officer, London) and Thanos Theocharis (Regulatory Affairs, European Liaison, Piraeus). Following the presentation, a detailed and interesting discussion took place among the speakers and delegates. The seminar was developed to provide the shipping community with up-to-date information on topical issues and provide a forum by which to discuss these issues. “Maintaining an active dialogue with the Greek shipping community is important to the Registry and to Greek owners since they are the largest shipowning group in the RMI Registry. The recent report from the Greek Shipping Cooperation Committee also notes that the RMI flag remains one of the fastest growing flags in Greece,” said Theo Xenakoudis.

Following the seminar in Piraeus, several Registry representatives traveled to London for the Marshall Islands Quality Council (MIQC) meeting. The MIQC is an independent consultative body consisting of more than 40 members who provide advice and guidance to the RMI Registry. “The MIQC assists the Registry in continuously improving the safety, security and environmental performance of vessels flying the RMI flag and the services provided to vessel owners,” said Bill Gallagher, IRI President. The meeting agenda included a review of Registry statistics, an overview of the Registry’s Technical Department and how it is organized to respond to owner/operator requests on a 24-hour basis, an update on Regulatory issues including MARPOL Annexes V and VI and MLC, 2006. Also during the meeting, Takis Koutris, Managing Director of Roxana Shipping SA and Kristen Marine S.A., was announced as the Chairperson for the RMI Blue Water Vessel (BWV) Advisory Group. “The objectives of the BWV Advisory Group are similar to those of the MIQC however the forum will solely concentrate on issues related to and affecting blue water vessels,” continued Mr. Gallagher. “Mr. Koutris has been highly involved in the working groups at Intertanko, Intercargo and Martecma, and is actively engaged in issues impacting blue water vessels. We are delighted that an individual of Mr. Koutris’ caliber will lead this group,” continued Mr. Gallagher.

Following the MIQC meeting, guest speaker Dirk Steffen, Director of Consultancy for Copenhagen-based Risk Intelligence gave a presentation on Piracy in West Africa – Practical Aspects of Security in the Gulf of Guinea to MIQC members and other industry stakeholders in the greater London area. “Dirk’s presentation reiterated the importance of staying aware of recommended strategies to combat piracy and to stay on top of daily guidance provided to owners/operators when transiting in this area as things are changing rapidly,” said John Ramage, Chief Operating Officer.

“These types of meetings, where we have an open dialogue and feedback from owners, operators and other industry stakeholders, are in furtherance of the Registry’s strategic vision and goals. It is these types of interactions and the commitment from the Registry’s stakeholders that ensure quality tonnage in the Registry prevails,” concluded Bill Gallagher.