



*Office of the
Maritime Administrator*

**Republic of the Marshall Islands Maritime Administrator Releases the
DEEPWATER HORIZON Marine Casualty Investigation Report**

August 17, 2011 – Reston, Virginia

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator has today released the DEEPWATER HORIZON Marine Casualty Investigation Report (RMI Report). In accordance with national and international requirements, the RMI Report has been provided to the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The Maritime Administrator has also provided a copy of the RMI Report to the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE). The RMI Report may be downloaded in its entirety via: www.register-iri.com/mireports.

The RMI Report contains findings of fact, conclusions, and recommendations, focusing on the marine operations of the DEEPWATER HORIZON, which are the purview of the flag State. Although not regulated by the flag State, the industrial operations of the mobile offshore drilling unit (MODU) are discussed, in so far as they are necessary to provide a complete picture of the casualty or where they may have impacted the overall safety of the MODU. To assist the RMI Maritime Administrator in its understanding and analysis of engineering and technical aspects, consultants were retained with expertise in drilling, engineering, and fire science.

Based on the Maritime Administrator's assessment of the evidence in the investigative record and the consultants' reports, it was concluded that the proximate cause of the casualty was a loss of well control resulting from a deviation from standards of well control engineering, a deviation from the well abandonment plans submitted to and approved by the Minerals Management Service, and a failure to react to multiple indications that a well control event was in progress. These factors contributed to the substantial release of liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons, which culminated in explosions, fire, the loss of 11 lives, the eventual sinking and total loss of the DEEPWATER HORIZON, and the release of hydrocarbons into the Gulf of Mexico. Other non-causal factor conclusions are identified in the RMI Report followed by recommendations which address the lessons learned from the DEEPWATER HORIZON casualty and opportunities for improvement.

“We continue to remember and reflect on the lives of the 11 individuals who perished during this casualty,” said Bill Gallagher, RMI Senior Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs. “The recommendations being brought forward in the RMI Report are in the spirit of the promotion of safety of life at sea, the protection of the marine environment and the prevention of such casualties in the future,” concluded Mr. Gallagher.