Experiences and Challenges in Maritime Safety

Simon Bennett
Secretary, International Chamber of Shipping

UN ICP
24 June 2008

_____

Introduction

- ⮕ Commitment to safety pervades all deep sea shipping operations
- ⮕ Not least through excellent co-operation with UN International Maritime Organization
- ⮕ Industry mantra: 'Global rules for a global industry'

What is ICS?

- ⮕ Principal international trade association for shipowners
- ⮕ National shipowners' associations from 40 nations (all sectors and trades, 75% of world fleet)
- ⮕ Representing the industry at international regulatory level – especially a05747(4)1.74609(I(a)1.7460

Improved safety coincides with new IMO rules in 1990s/2000s…

- ➲ Refinements to core Conventions: Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and MARPOL (pollution prevention)
- ➲ International Safety Management (ISM) Code) – licence to operate, link between company and ship, safety auditing
- ➲ STCW (seafarers' training) Convention
- ➲ Enhanced survey programme (ESP) for older ships

But industry not complacent

- ➲ IMO rules complemented by industry best practice and self regulation
- ➲ Commitment to 'continuous improvement' of industry best practice
- ➲ ICS guidance (e.g. Bridge Procedures Guide and Tanker Safety Guides) carried on almost every ship
- ➲ ISM (safety management) Code – derived from industry guidance, IMO STCW (training) revision was industry initiative…

Future safety issues

- ➲ Balance between proscriptive rules and self regulation
- ➲ Too much regulation, audits and paperwork can be counterproductive – seafarers overburdened
- ➲ Still a need to improve/inculcate genuine safety culture (failure to follow procedures)
- ➲ The goal remains zero accidents…

Flag State responsibilities

- ➲ Shipping industry has first responsibility for safety of ships and crews
- ➲ But flag states must enforce the rules (assisted by Port State Control) as required by IMO and UNCLOS
- ➲ IMO Voluntary Member State Audit Scheme crucial development, complemented by Shipping Industry Guidelines on Flag State Performance

Shipping Industry Guidelines

- ➲ Sets out what a shipowner should reasonably expect of a responsible Flag State
- ➲ Includes flag performance table updated annually
- ➲ Download free from www.marisec.org/flag-performance

Industry Flag State Table…

Includes information in public domain eg:

- ➲ Ratification of key IMO safety Conventions