



Chairman's Message



Going into a new year is something many do with mixed feelings. A new year offers new opportunities. A new year also brings challenges. This year is most likely no exception.

For the BSA, the year has begun in a very positive direction. We had our first meeting with the Board in Fort Lauderdale on 13-14 March in conjunction with the SeaTrade Fair. Some of the major outcomes from that meeting are reported on in more detail in the column to the right, and as you will most likely note these are all very good news.

I am pleased to be able to say that our cooperation with the BMA is very fruitful, and I am most thankful for the perceptiveness of the BMA and the positive ways they are dealing with our suggestions and requests put to them at our Board meetings. Our close cooperation makes the Bahamian Flag stronger and more competitive.

For shipping as a whole, this year holds some great challenges indeed. By summer we will see the initial stages of the EU MRV system coming into place and in September the BWMC will come into effect. During MEPC71 we can also expect to see initial discussions on strategies for the reduction of GHG emissions.

The functionalities of the BSA Secretariat is taking shape and during spring we will, among other things, see an updated website hosting better functionalities for our members. Anders will be representing the BSA at the ICS AGM in Istanbul later this spring and you can expect a report from the meeting during late May.

John Adams
BSA Chairman

*Proactively pursuing the interests of our
Members closely collaborating with Flag State
and influencing industry.*

2017 to date

2017 has started on a very positive note for the BSA and we have achieved a number of things which we believe will strengthen our members competitiveness. In early March we had this year's first Board meeting in Fort Lauderdale and the major outcomes are very positive indeed:

- BMA has confirmed that the Bahamas will accede to MARPOL Annex IV, date to be confirmed.
- The BMA is finalising the first draft of a new Merchant Shipping Act which will be made available to the BSA for review during spring.
- The BMA has confirmed they have worked intensively on strengthening the role and capacity of the Athens office and will continue to work on this during the spring.
- The BMA is setting up a LRIT-based service in order to automatically make ship management aware of the latest information on regional PSC focus.
- The BMA has confirmed that the Bahamian Flag will again be on QualShip later this year.
- The BSA has held a first meeting with RightShip to discuss constructive ways for improving the Qi rating system.

ICS MBM Working Group

The ICS MBM Working Group has worked with developing a strategy for reducing GHG emissions from shipping. The Working Group has been chaired by the BSA Chairman John Adams.

The BSA BoD agreed during its meeting in March to endorse the discussions in the MBM Working Group. The BSA BoD also agreed to support a possible submission of a paper to the IMO MEPC.

The BSA BoD believe that it is vastly important that the shipping community is proactive in working together on this and is seen as taking responsible action to reduce the emission of GHG in light of the Paris Agreement. A similar industry approach has been taken by the aviation community, and from a public stance, shipping is being compared to aviation on this initiative.

EU MRV

The initial stages of the EU MRV regulation is coming into action during August this year. This will undoubtedly have consequences for all shipowners. As a first stage, all shipowners are required to submit a *monitoring plan* indicating the methodologies chosen to monitor and report emissions and other relevant information for each of their ships above 5,000 GT. It has been suggested by the EU that shipowners not trading on European waters also submit a monitoring plan as a precaution to simplify change of trading area and sales.

Although company specific, some very good information on the EU MRV system can be found [here](#).

Unjustified PSCs in China

During the autumn the BSA Secretariat was provided with information from members that they had experienced several unjustified PSCs in China. Following a call to members to submit further information, the BSA has been in contact with the BMA as well as the ICS on the issue.

Entering into the new year, the BSA Secretariat has, however, received no further reports on unjustified PSCs. Members are asked to report any such incidents to BSA Secretariat for further action.

RightShip – Qi System

Several members have during the winter reported on negative consequences on charters due to the implementation of the Qi System by RightShip.

The BSA Secretariat has since gathered further information on the issues identified and has also been in dialogue with Intercargo, the Union of Greek Shipowners and ICS on the matter, seeking further information.

The BSA met with RightShip on 3 April to discuss the identified deficiencies in the Qi system. The outcomes of the meeting confirmed our concerns, and the Secretariat has agreed with RightShip on continuous cooperation on this. A more extensive report on the meeting has been sent to all members as well as to the ICS for further action.

Calendar 2017

As a means to keep costs down, the BSA BoD strives to hold its meetings in conjunction with other meetings. The intention is that these meetings rotate between geographical regions.

The major events where the BSA BoD and / or the Secretariat will be represented during 2017 are the following.

- ICS AGM, Istanbul, Turkey (9 – 11 May)
- NorShipping, Oslo, Norway with the BMA (May/June)
- BSA BoD meeting, Brussels (late June) tentatively with European Commission DG MARE
- Washington DC, USA (late August)
Meetings with the USCG and EPA
- LISW, London, UK (11 – 15 September)
- BSA BoD meeting, London (11 September)
- BSA Annual General Meeting, London (11 September) onboard HMS Wellington
“Shipping in a Disruptive World”

Bahamas Shipowners Association Secretariat



John Adams
Chairman of the Board
Managing Director
Teekay Shipping (Glasgow)



Anders Brodje
Manager
abrodje@bahamasshipownersassociation.com
+44 749 775 49 23



Kendanique Ferguson
Secretary
kferguson@bahamasshipownersassociation.com
+44 2075621315