Safe/Minimum Manning Issues
"Comments from Sea"

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ANGLO-EASTERN

Elephant in the Room

The fact that even after so many years of reflection, we are still confronted with the issue of manning and fatigue is a big elephant in the room.
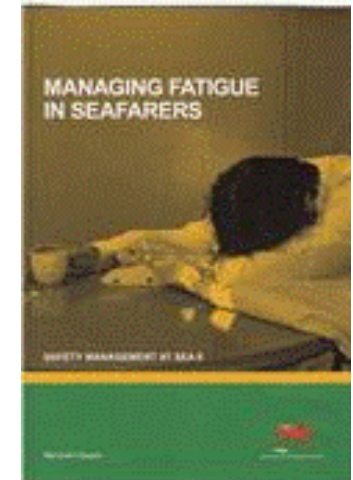
Fatigue

- The issue of reduced manning on board ships and fatigue are associated with each other in most cases.

- Reduced manning is being regarded as one of the genesis for fatigue among seafarers.

Fatigue Management

Seafarers appreciate all the available literatures on fatigue management resources available now, however they all wait impatiently to see improvement on the issue of minimum/safe manning.

Risk

The general consensus among seafarers in particular is that by reducing the manning just to manage acceptable risks, ship-owners and the shipping industry are putting the seafarers in the harm's way.

Increased Workload on board

- Faster turnarounds between ports.

- Hectic and short Port stays.

- Increased communications; all demanding immediate reply and action.

- Visits from port officials during period of port stay.

- External and Internal Inspections.

- Shipboard tasks.

- Routine planned maintenance.

- Continuous watch-keeping without any break or weekends

Right Decision

- Fostering the ability to make decisions and course correct when required is very much the need of the hour.

- It is not going to happen, unless we all think radically different.

Problem-solving that the ship and seafarers need with respect to minimum safe manning straddles the whole spectrum. Whereas problem-solving that the Owners, Ship Managers and Shipping industry as whole provide is still tailored to a world that is black and white.

As leaders, we are required to act on personal initiative, experience and assessment, therefore I will end with a hope that this conference shall bring a radical change in the issues of safe/minimum manning thus ensuring that seafarers get all the necessary assistance they need and rightly DESERVE.

Thank you