

U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, DC 20530

OMB NO. 1124-0002; Expires February 28, 2014

**Supplemental Statement**  
**Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended**

For Six Month Period Ending 4/30/2011  
(Insert date)

**I - REGISTRANT**

1. (a) Name of Registrant: *Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs* (b) Registration No. *4860*  
(c) Business Address(es) of Registrant:

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following?

(a) If an individual:

- (1) Residence address(es) Yes  No
- (2) Citizenship Yes  No
- (3) Occupation Yes  No

(b) If an organization:

- (1) Name Yes  No
- (2) Ownership or control Yes  No
- (3) Branch offices Yes  No

(c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in Items (a) and (b) above:

**IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4, AND 5(a).**

3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C<sup>1</sup>, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.

Yes  No

If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes  No

If no, please attach the required amendment.

<sup>1</sup> The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes  No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position	Date Connection Ended
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(b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes  No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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5. (a) Has any person named in Item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal?

Yes  No

If yes, identify each such person and describe the service rendered.

(b) During this six month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes  No

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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(c) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes  No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or Connection	Date Terminated
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(d) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their connection with any foreign principal during this 6 month reporting period? Yes  No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or Connection	Foreign Principal	Date Terminated
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6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(b) of the supplemental statement?

Yes  No

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

**II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL**

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period? Yes  No
- If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal

Date of Termination

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal(s)<sup>2</sup> during this 6 month reporting period? Yes  No
- If yes, furnish the following information:

Name and Address of Foreign Principal(s)

Date Acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principal(s)<sup>2</sup> whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

The Republic of Vanuatu

10. (a) Have you filed exhibits for the newly acquired foreign principal(s), if any, listed in Item 8?

Exhibit A<sup>3</sup> Yes  No Exhibit B<sup>4</sup> Yes  No 

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

- (b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during this six month period? Yes  No

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes  No 

If no, please attach the required amendment.

<sup>2</sup> The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9)). A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

<sup>3</sup> The Exhibit A, which is filed on Form NSD-3 (Formerly CRM-157) sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

<sup>4</sup> The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form NSD-4 (Formerly CRM-155) sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes  No

If yes, identify each foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

The office of deputy Commissioner, c/c Vanuatu Maritime Services LTD., is responsible for the promotion of the registration of vessels under the Flag of Vanuatu. Part of our services is to contact individuals among the ship industry by letter, fax, phone, e-mail, or visits to inform them of Vanuatu ship registry.

We prepare officials documents on behalf of the Vanuatu Government for ship owners and financial institutions.

12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity<sup>5</sup> as defined below? Yes  No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates, places of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits your foreign principal(s)? Yes  No

If yes, describe fully.

<sup>5</sup> The term "political activity" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

**IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**14. (a) RECEIPTS-MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes  No

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies.<sup>6</sup>

Date	From Whom	Purpose	Amount
11/01/2010	Republic of Vanuatu	Contract six month stipend	\$ 390,000.00
4/30/2011			

\$ 390,000.00

Total

**(b) RECEIPTS - FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fundraising campaign<sup>7</sup>, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes  No

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D to your registration? Yes  No

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date \_\_\_\_\_

**(c) RECEIPTS-THINGS OF VALUE**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value<sup>9</sup> other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal?

Yes  No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal	Date Received	Thing of Value	Purpose
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<sup>6, 7</sup> A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, moneys, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fundraising campaign. (See Rule 201(c)).

<sup>8</sup> An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fundraising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

<sup>9</sup> Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

15. (a) **DISBURSEMENTS-MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes  No

(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes  No

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To Whom	Purpose	Amount
11/01/2010 4/30/2011	Vendors	Office expenses	\$43,789.55
11/01/2010 4/30/2011	Vendors	Travel expenses	\$6,200.36
11/01/2010 4/30/2011	Vendors	Entertainment	\$72.71
11/01/2010 4/30/2011	Vendors	Advertising	\$1,685.26
11/01/2010 4/30/2011	Vendors	Employee Expenses	\$329,746.99
	Transferred Funds		
11/01/2010 4/30/2011	Republic of Vanuatu	Fees	\$1,465,522.95

\$1,957,117.82  
Total

**(b) DISBURSEMENTS-THINGS OF VALUE**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value<sup>10</sup> other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement?

Yes  No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Recipient	Foreign Principal	Thing of Value	Purpose
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**(c) DISBURSEMENTS-POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value<sup>11</sup> in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes  No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or Thing of Value	Political Organization or Candidate	Location of Event
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<sup>10, 11</sup> Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks" and the like.

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. (a) During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials?<sup>12</sup>  
Yes  No

If Yes, go to Item 17.

(b) If you answered No to Item 16(a), do you disseminate any material in connection with your registration?

Yes  No

If Yes, please forward the materials disseminated during the six month period to the Registration Unit for review.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

The Republic of Vanuatu

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes  No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- Radio or TV broadcasts
- Magazine or newspaper
- Motion picture films
- Letters or telegrams
- Advertising campaigns
- Press releases
- Pamphlets or other publications
- Lectures or speeches
- Other (specify) a quarterly update

Electronic Communications

- Email
- Website URL(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- Social media websites URL(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- Public officials
- Newspapers
- Libraries
- Legislators
- Editors
- Educational institutions
- Government agencies
- Civic groups or associations
- Nationality groups
- Other (specify) current and potential ship owners

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

- English
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes  No

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act?

Yes  No

<sup>12</sup> The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

**VI- EXECUTION**

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

(Print or type name under each signature or provide electronic signature<sup>13</sup>)

May 18, 2011

/s/ ARTHUR C BJORKNER

eSigned

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>13</sup> This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

SHORT-FORM REGISTRATION INFORMATION SHEET

The Department records list active short-form registration statements for the following persons filed on the date indicated by each name. If a person is not currently functioning in the same capacity directly on behalf of the foreign principal, please indicate the date of termination in Item 5 of the supplemental statement.

**Short Form List for Registrant: Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs**

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Registration Date</u>
Sheetz	Donald J.	10/12/1993
Rescigno	Dorothy A.	01/04/2008
Bjorkner	Arthur C.	01/04/2008

	NOV-10	DEC-10	JAN-11	FEB-11	MARCH-11	APRIL-11	Totals
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>							
Rent - 39 Broadway	23,905.73	0.00	13,962.69	24,388.77	0.00	12,082.72	\$74,339.91
Offsite Storage-Rent	292.30	150.36	150.36	431.53	434.34	147.12	\$1,606.01
R.E.Taxes-42 BROADWAY	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
FARA Reg fees	\$305.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$305.00
Insurance -Allied Risk Consult	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Insurance -Building & Contents	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Insurance - Liability	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Insurance - Workmen's Comp	888.31	401.20	0.00	716.48	401.20	0.00	\$2,407.19
Computer Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Computer Software	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Computer Maintenance	600.00	600.00	600.00	1,229.00	636.00	636.00	\$4,301.00
Computer Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Copier - Rental	443.14	443.14	443.14	443.14	443.14	443.14	\$2,658.84
Postage Meter - Rental	231.90	0.00	0.00	231.90	0.00	231.90	\$695.70
US Postal Service-Reset Meter	100.00	100.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	215.00	\$615.00
Fax - Rental	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Telephone System	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Prof.Fees - Accounting	\$305.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$305.00
LICENSES AND PERMITS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
PAYROLL SERVICE	\$514.75	\$501.75	\$535.88	\$719.60	\$400.95	\$629.35	\$3,302.28
Repairs & Maintenance	435.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$435.50
Depreciation Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subscriptions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$925.00	\$925.00
Dues - Annual	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Off.Sup.	\$10,042.27	\$2,209.46	\$6,245.77	\$2,610.57	\$156.76	\$2,358.85	\$23,623.68
Long Distance Phone	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Phone Charges	\$538.75	\$490.28	\$0.00	\$975.94	\$685.07	\$807.95	\$3,497.99
Courier Charges - General Office	\$4,217.32	\$5,066.36	\$2,687.18	\$2,875.03	\$4,736.74	\$4,257.83	\$23,840.46
Messenger Service - General Off	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Postage	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$59.99	\$0.00	\$59.99
Outside services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Special Printing	\$871.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$871.00
Vanuatu Sales Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Corp.Income Tax Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPEN</b>	<b>\$43,690.97</b>	<b>\$9,962.55</b>	<b>\$24,625.02</b>	<b>\$34,821.96</b>	<b>\$7,954.19</b>	<b>\$22,734.86</b>	<b>\$143,789.55</b>
<b>TRAVEL EXPENSES</b>							
Travel expenses	\$56.34	\$326.52	\$1,466.84	\$544.50	\$1,296.94	\$1,170.49	\$4,861.63
Lodging	\$0.00	\$955.36	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,814.55	\$821.58	\$3,591.49
Food & beverage	\$145.36	\$574.27	\$64.58	\$1,035.30	\$41.28	\$327.26	\$2,188.05
Attendance Fees	\$424.19	\$175.00	\$3,060.00	\$900.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,559.19
<b>TOTAL TRAVEL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$625.89</b>	<b>\$2,031.15</b>	<b>\$4,591.42</b>	<b>\$2,479.80</b>	<b>\$4,152.77</b>	<b>\$2,319.33</b>	<b>\$16,200.36</b>
<b>ENTERTAINMENT</b>							
Entertainment expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tips & Gratuities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$154.03	\$0.00	\$18.68	\$172.71
<b>TOTAL ENTERTAINMENT F</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$154.03</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$18.68</b>	<b>\$172.71</b>
<b>ADVERTISING</b>							
Advertising	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Maritime Bulletins	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
News Letter	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$740.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$740.35
Brochure	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fact Files	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Give Aways	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$921.02	\$23.89	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$944.91
Exhibit -Transport	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL ADVERTISING EXPEN</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$921.02</b>	<b>\$764.24</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,685.26</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPEN</b>	<b>\$44,316.86</b>	<b>\$11,993.70</b>	<b>\$30,137.46</b>	<b>\$38,220.03</b>	<b>\$12,106.96</b>	<b>\$25,072.87</b>	<b>\$161,847.88</b>
<b>EMPLOYEE EXPENSES</b>							
Insurance	\$6,183.15	\$415.07	\$14,369.39	\$893.96	\$10,738.96	\$16,866.62	\$49,467.15
Payroll Expenses	514.75	501.75	535.88	719.60	400.95	629.35	\$3,302.28
Salary Expense	\$40,324.21	\$65,331.66	\$41,813.58	\$41,813.58	\$41,813.58	\$41,813.58	\$272,910.19
Employer 401k Contribution	\$662.80	\$662.80	\$690.16	\$671.29	\$690.16	\$690.16	\$4,067.37
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEE EXPEN</b>	<b>47,684.91</b>	<b>66,911.28</b>	<b>57,409.01</b>	<b>44,098.43</b>	<b>53,643.65</b>	<b>59,999.71</b>	<b>\$329,746.99</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$47,684.91</b>	<b>\$66,911.28</b>	<b>\$57,409.01</b>	<b>172,005.20</b>	<b>\$53,643.65</b>	<b>\$59,999.71</b>	<b>\$491,594.87</b>
<b>TRANSFERS TO GOVERNMENT</b>							
MARINE INVESTIGATION	\$8,700.00	\$725.00	\$347,683.50	\$14,500.00	\$85,550.00	\$19,550.00	\$476,708.50
MARINE PARTICIPATION	\$2,688.48	\$264.75	\$51,580.07	\$1,860.42	\$4,462.22	\$2,665.76	\$63,521.70
RESIDUAL ANZ BANK	\$44,212.06	\$28,478.17	\$595,384.76	\$50,118.85	\$137,654.22	\$69,444.69	\$925,292.75
<b>TOTAL SENT TO GOVT.</b>	<b>\$55,600.54</b>	<b>\$29,467.92</b>	<b>\$994,648.33</b>	<b>\$66,479.27</b>	<b>\$227,666.44</b>	<b>\$91,660.45</b>	<b>\$1,465,522.95</b>

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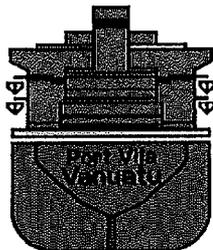
**VANUATU MARITIME SERVICES LTD.**

**UPDATE**

1/11

Jan-Mar 2011

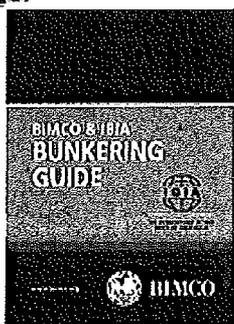
*This Update is intended to keep our friends informed about what's new at VMSL, in Vanuatu, and elsewhere.*



**Vanuatu exhibiting at International Workboat Show, New Orleans Dec. 2010**



**World Maritime Day Piracy: Orchestrating the response**



Download booklet at: <http://tinyurl.com//22jlsy4>



**US COAST GUARD TO BAN REPEAT OFFENDERS**

A new policy notice outlines procedures for denying entry of non-compliant vessels due to a history of operating in US waters in a substandard condition, as when a vessel has been detained three times within 12 months. Owners and operators should review this new policy and their Safety Management System (SMS) to ensure it is being effectively implemented, and take actions to ensure compliance with requirements.

**ISM CODE & GUIDELINES, 2010 EDITION AVAILABLE**

This version replaces the 2002 edition. The ISM is mandatory under SOLAS for passenger ships (including high-speed craft), oil tankers, chemical tankers, gas carriers, bulk carriers and cargo high-speed craft of 500 GT and upwards and for cargo ships and mobile offshore drilling units of 500GT and upwards. The updated edition includes a number of new amendments relating to: development of plans for shipboard operations; emergency preparedness; reports and analysis of non-conformities, accidents and hazard occurrences; and certification and verification. The addition contains a number of IMO circulars as well as a new form: Safety Management Certificate.

**VMSL AT CMA SHIPPING 2011**

VMSL will be displaying at the CMA Shipping 2011 in Stamford, Connecticut, USA from 21-23 March 2011. Please stop by and say hello.

**Banner Year for Vanuatu's International Shipping Register**

The Vanuatu International Shipping Register continues to gain acceptance internationally. 2010 saw the number of vessels under the Vanuatu flag increase to a record of 683. Significant gains were made in Japan, where new fleets joined the flag, and in the USA where existing fleets added to their numbers.

**ABS WARNING**

If your vessel is classed by ABS and you trade to Iran, you are at risk to having your class cancelled by ABS.

**2011 OIL RECORD BOOK**

The 2011 Edition of Oil Record Book (ORB) supplied by VMSL is now available. The new MEPC187 (59) amendments that went into effect 1 January 2011 have been added. Previous Editions may still be used provided pen and ink corrections are made where appropriate. The new ORB may be purchased only through VMSL New York. The new code language to be used in the previous edition can be obtained upon request from VMSL New York.

[www.vanuatuships.com](http://www.vanuatuships.com) [www.vanuatuships-jp.com](http://www.vanuatuships-jp.com)

## UPDATE

### **Vanuatu and the World Trade Organisation**

The WTO is again encouraging Vanuatu to join its organisation and the government looks set to make application notwithstanding a lack of a clear advantage for the country to do so. The private sector has voiced strong doubts about joining for fear it will cut local jobs and reduce government income. Vanuatu traditionally has had no income tax and has received its revenue from import duties and VAT. Reducing import duty threatens both employment and government revenues if cheaper imports are allowed in. Why the Vanuatu government is keen to join the WTO remains a mystery.

### **New Passports**

Vanuatu has joined the digital passport world. In line with world trends, Vanuatu has launched its new digital passport. This will allow Vanuatu citizens to travel more easily internationally.

### **Vanuatu Government Reshuffle**

In November, an ambush led by the largest block of MPs, the Alliance Group, supported a motion of no confidence in the Prime Minister and elected its own President, Sato Kilman, as the country's new Prime Minister. In summary the Vanua'aku Pati, led by Prime Minister Edward Natapei, was dropped from the ruling coalition and replaced by the Vanuatu Republican Party. Within weeks, the Union of Moderate Party which had been in opposition, also joined the government, giving it a commanding majority in Parliament.

With national elections scheduled in less than 18 months, there is little chance of the current coalition being voted out. It is interesting, and reassuring, that the rule of law and acceptance of court decision has been so accepted and become ingrained in Vanuatu. Force has never been a factor nor a threatened factor.

### **Illegal Sale of Visas**

The Government has uncovered the illegal sale of visas to Chinese nationals. All existing issuing authorities have been revoked. It seems that Chinese nationals need a foreign visa to be able to depart mainland China and the first (and normally the last) stop has been Macao where they have then been able to gamble before returning home.

### **Over Fishing in the Pacific**

More reports are being released highlighting the decreasing fish stocks in the western Pacific Ocean, including Vanuatu's economic zone. Some species of tuna are already dangerously depleted and all fish stocks are being rapidly reduced by the major fishing nations. Vanuatu has recently built a high volume tuna fish processing plant but it has not commenced operations. There has been strong local objections to having the processing facility located close to the capital, Port Vila, and now economic (and lack of Environmental Impact Study) reasons may render the project as unfeasible.

### **Vanuatu Ranks No.6 in Lonely Planet's Top 10**

Lonely Planet's "Best in Travel 2011" has rated Vanuatu No.6 in the world, due to its unrivalled authentic cultural experiences. It lists Vanuatu's strong living traditions, festivals, active volcanoes, thunderous waterfalls and remote villages as the main appeals. It is quoted as saying "Vanuatu really delivers when it comes to interesting things to do". It is hoped this indorsement will attract even more tourists.

### **Amended Legislation**

Vanuatu has brought into force the below amended legislation:

- \* Insurance Regulations – reflecting greater compliance, and reporting to the Reserve Bank rather than to the Financial Services Commission, as previously.
- \* Stamps Duty Act – revising fees payable and clarifying some definitions and exemptions.
- \* Incorporated Cell Companies Act – to provide for the formation, operation and regulation of incorporated cell companies and incorporated cells. The primary, but not exclusive, application will be in the insurance industry.

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