

Standard Bulletin: Offshore Special Edition

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The Standard



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Welcome to the eighth Offshore Special Edition of the Standard Bulletin, which coincides with another year of growth for the Club's offshore business and offshore team.

During the course of the last 12 months we have seen Sharmini Murugason relocated to Singapore to become the Regional Offshore Claims Director; Leanne O'Loughlin relocated to New York as a Claims Executive and Roger Johnson promoted to Syndicate Claims Director of the Atlantic syndicate. Meanwhile we are pleased to welcome into the Offshore syndicate Sarah Wallace and Claire Boddy, both qualified lawyers, as Claims Executives.

The Offshore Forum, in Paris on 5 November 2013, will consider the offshore industry's increased activity set against more onerous regulation and accountability. The key driver of regulatory change has been the Macondo well blow out in the Gulf of Mexico. Therefore, we begin our bulletin by tracking the fall-out of the Deepwater Horizon casualty.

The first article tackles one of the most startling consequences: the use of fines by governments to target oil companies. Fines are not new, but the level which they are now reaching presents significant challenges for oil companies and their contractors: Leigh Williams, of Clyde & Co, will plot these hazards. Secondly, significant oil pollution risks are at the forefront of planners' minds when reviewing oil prospects in the Arctic: Leanne O'Loughlin will identify what operators need to take into account. Thirdly, criminalisation of seafarers and shore personnel is an increasing risk in the US: Joe Walsh and Marc Greenberg, of Keesal Young and Logan, tackle this troubling development. Then, Ursula O'Donnell, Offshore Claims Director, looks at who has access to the contractors' insurance cover. This is an issue rarely addressed by courts and the Deepwater

Horizon litigation offers interesting lessons for all offshore industry participants.

In Singapore, Sharmini Murugason takes a look at the booming local offshore market. Ian Offland, the Fleet Operations Director at Swire Pacific Offshore, reviews their solution to one of the most important offshore challenges, the training and retention of quality crew.

Chris Brown of CT Energy leads us through some of the operational risks associated with the flourishing Floating Liquefied Natural Gas market, which we will look at in greater detail at the forum.

Finally we look at some of the legal changes coming over the horizon. The first, a direct consequence of the Deep Water Horizon, is the new EU Directive on safety of offshore oil and gas operations. The details of the new WINDTIME form which was recently adopted by BIMCO are reviewed. Another legislative change is the Nairobi Convention which will, if it comes in to force, increase the risk of removal of wreck claims. Finally, the Maritime Labour Convention poses challenges to all ship operators and these are explored from an offshore perspective by Rupert Banks, Offshore Claims Executive.

Thank you to the authors for their contributions. We value feedback from all who read this bulletin and we are always interested in hearing your suggestions for content of the bulletin and the offshore forum.

We look forward to welcoming you in Paris at our Offshore Forum on the 5 November 2013.