

The Official Daily News

Posidonia

today

1 Monday 2 June 2008

PUBLISHED BY SEATRADE & NAFTILIAKI

TODAY'S SPONSOR

مدينة دبي للملاحة
DUBAI MARITIME CITY

Man with a mission



Angelo Mouzourpoulos (pictured), director general of the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE), is heading down to Posidonia Week with two goals in mind, he told Seatrade while passing through London late last week.

First is to launch the Registry's new Codes of Enhanced Standards for Yachts. Drawn up by a special panel of experts convened by IMMARBE, these basically complement the UK Marine & Coastguard Agency's Large Yacht Code (LY2) by separating out requirements and fees according to three different size categories: 24 metres and above and 500gt and over but less than 5,000gt (superyachts); 24 metres and above and less than 500gt (large yachts); and less than 24 metres but not less than 10 metres (small yachts). Comprehensive standards for yacht-based helicopters and submersibles are also included.

Mouzourpoulos believes that the Belize flag is particularly attractive for commercial vessels

sailing in American and Caribbean waters given the Registry's 'friendly flag' status as part of the US Coast Guard Qualship 21 programme. And for Greek owners, registering their private yacht with IMMARBE might be a 'toe in the water' towards opening an office in the maritime hub of Belize City, he says, to benefit from the country's favourable fiscal climate.



• Belize raises standard

Which leads on to the IMMARBE DG's second mission: to discuss with Greek class society Hellenic Register whether it is able to act as a Recognised Organisation for the flag in inspecting both yachts and commercial vessels.

The Belize Registry now boasts around 900 ships of 1.68m gt with a reduced average age of 19 years following the delisting of several hundred 'rogue' fishing vessels. Mouzourpoulos – a fluent Greek speaker who grew up in London and began his maritime career with Aegis Shipping under Capt. Nikolas Papalios - took over the helm in 2001 and has presided over a considerable improvement in the flag's quality since then.