

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT MARINE REGISTRY OF BELIZE



ANNUAL



REPORT

The Friendly Flag of Quality

2023



immarbe@immarbe.com
www.immarbe.com

Contents



01

Introduction

02

Executive Summary

03

Departments' Overview

04

Deputy Registrar
Performance

05

Conclusion



Introduction

A Message from the Registry

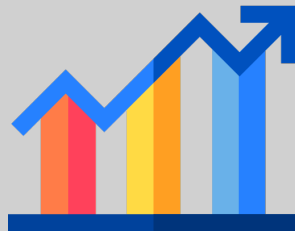
Welcome to the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize's 2023 Annual Report.

This document reflects a year of significant achievement and strategic progress. Within these pages, you will find a comprehensive overview of our performance, detailing how we successfully balanced ambitious fleet growth with an uncompromising commitment to safety and quality.

We invite you to explore the milestones reached by our dedicated teams across all departments and to learn about our focused plans for the year ahead as we continue our journey toward maritime excellence.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2023: A year of growth, innovation and unwavering commitment to maritime excellence



Fleet Growth

- 269 vessels registered
- 29% tonnage growth
- 42% increase in special registrations



Quality Standards

- 64% increase in vessel rejections
- 0 external audit findings
- STCW Convention domesticated



Operational Excellence

- 3,858 endorsements issued
- 96% of staff trained
- 84% customer satisfaction

Department Overview

Our Teams at Work

The ship registry is composed of several key departments. Each department plays a vital role in maintaining operational excellence`



1

The **Registration Department** handles all vessel registration and documentation. They ensure compliance with international regulations.

2

The **Technical Department** ensures ships meet rigorous safety standards. This guarantees vessel integrity and environmental protection.

3

The **Seafarer Department** manages the certification and welfare of all seafarer. They ensure crew competency complies with international training and convention standards

4

The **Quality Assurance Department** maintains our ISO certified management system. They conduct audits and analyse feedback to drive continuous improvement across all departments.

5

The **Administration Department** provides the foundational support for all IMMARBEE operations. They manage human resource, global event coordination and internal communications.

REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Introduction

The Registration Department plays a crucial role in the maritime industry, serving as the authoritative body for vessel registration under the Belize flag. In 2023, the department focused on enhancing the registration process, ensuring compliance with international maritime laws and promoting safety, security and environmental protection.



VESNA (IMO:9233349)

Crude Oil Tanker

Conclusion

The Registry has experienced a positive trajectory in ship registration. This growth is a significant achievement, and we are optimistic about maintaining and enhancing these vessels throughout 2024.



Ship Registrations: Registered 269 ships, a 10.25% increase from previous year



Tonnage Growth: Achieved a 29% rise in total overall tonnage



Special Registrations saw a 42% increase in registrations, indicating a growing niche market for this type of service

ENHANCED DUE DILIGENCE AND FLEET QUALITY

Our commitment to registering only the safest and most compliant vessels intensified in 2023. This led to the rejection of 97 ships, a significant 64% increase from the previous year. A direct result of strategic improvement.

1

Advanced Intelligence: leveraging improved maritime online intelligence

2

Stricter Scrutiny: Sharpening our focus on identifying vessels with poor safety records.

3

Sanctions Enforcement: Successfully identifying and rejecting vessels linked to beneficial owners on OFAC and UN sanction lists.

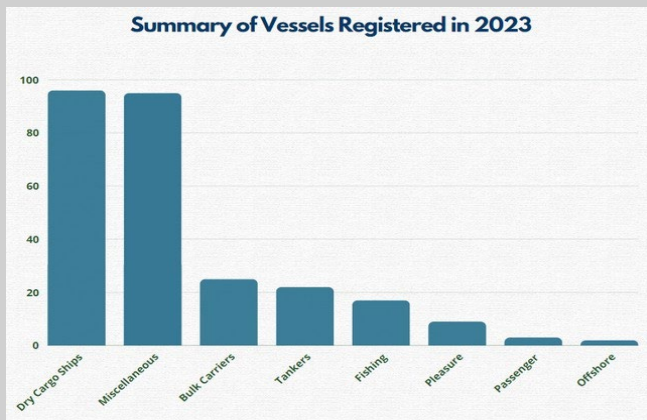
The proactive filtering ensured the long-term integrity and reputation of the Belize flag



STATISTICS

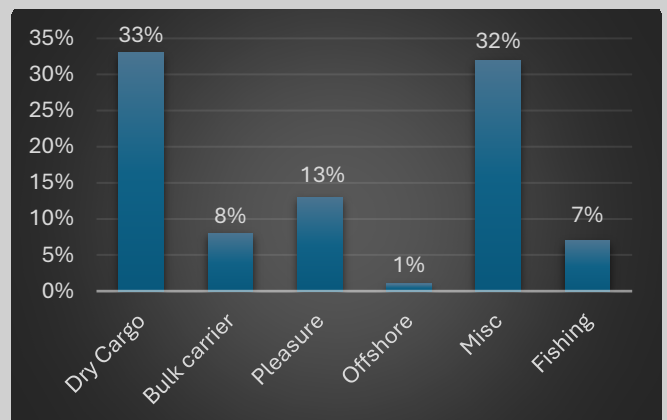
FLEET STATISTICS

The figure below highlights the types of vessels that were registered in 2023.



FLEET BY VESSEL CATEGORIES

The below figure provides a breakdown of the various categories of vessels within our fleet.



Dry Cargo Vessels represents the largest segment, accounting for **33%** of the overall fleet.

Miscellaneous Vessels accounts for **32%** of the fleet. This diverse category includes a variety of vessel types that do not fit neatly into other classifications, showcasing the versatility and breadth of our registry.

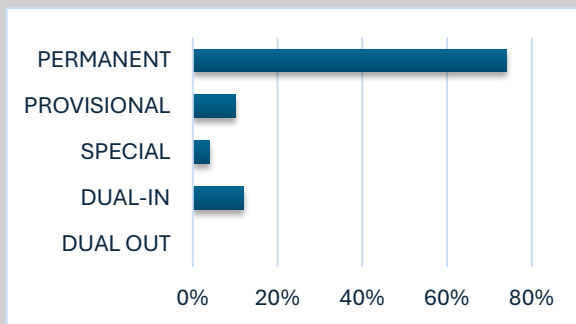
Bulk Carriers and Fishing Vessels account for 8% and 7% respectively while **Passenger and Offshore Vessels** are at the lower end of the spectrum accounting for 1% of the overall fleet.

This distribution of vessel categories not only illustrates the current trends in maritime registration but also provides insight into the operational focus areas and potential growth opportunities for the future. Understanding these dynamics is essential for strategic planning.

STATISTICS

Fleet by Registration Type

Our fleet registration status reflects the diverse operational needs of our maritime community and emphasizes the importance of both permanent and temporary registrations in ensuring fleet resilience and adaptability.



- 74% of our fleet is registered under permanent status.
- 16% of our fleet is registered as temporary. This includes vessels under dual, special and provisional status. Temporary registrations often indicate vessels in transition, those awaiting full regulatory compliance or undergoing modifications. They also provide flexibility for ship owners exploring different operational strategies or awaiting long-term commitments.

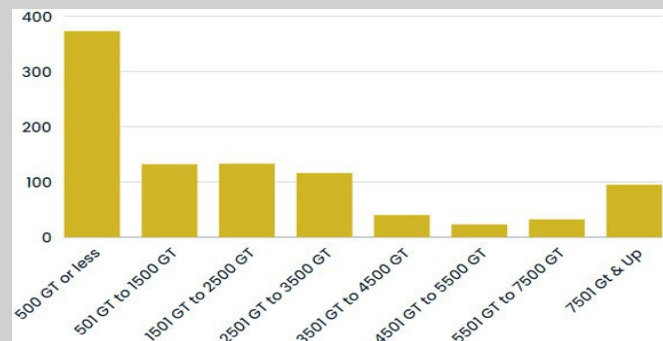
Fleet Age Distribution

The largest segment of our fleet consists of vessels aged 15-19 years. This represents a significant shift from the previous year, when most vessels were in the 10-14 years age bracket.

Although the age bracket has increased, it is important to note that these vessels are still not considered old in the maritime industry, where the average life span of a vessel can extend well beyond 20 years.

Fleet Size Distribution

The most significant portion of our fleet is comprised of vessels classified as 500 GT or less. This category reflects a robust demand for smaller vessels, which are often utilized for various purposes, including coastal trade, fishing and specialized services.



The least represented category in our fleet is vessels ranging from 4501-5500 GT, indicating a niche market with limited registrations. This gap represents potential opportunity for further exploration to attract more vessels within this category.

The prevalence of smaller vessels in our registry underscores the diverse operational needs within the maritime industry.



Designated Office Overview

The performance of our global network of designated offices is integral to the success of the Registry. These offices play a key role in increasing our Registry's vessel count and ensuring efficiency and effectiveness of registration processes, compliance and stakeholder engagement.

In 2023, several Deputy Registrars demonstrated exceptional performance, contributing significantly to our Registry's growth and reputation. Below, we highlight the top-performing offices and recognize the efforts of newly appointed Deputy Registrars.

Top Performing Designated Offices 2023

Office	Deputy Registrar	Ships Registered
Netherlands	Mr. Erik Dekoning	38
South Korea	Mr. Young Mo-Gu	36
China (Shanghai)	Ms. Yoyo Wang	30
China (Shanghai)	Mr. Mark Wang Guang Ning	28
China (Yantai)	Mr. Li Bingshu	19

Newly Appointed Registrars

We also acknowledge the contributions of recently appointed Deputy Registrars who have made significant impact on their respective offices:

Office	Deputy Registrar
Istanbul Turkey	Mr. Bulent Haznedar
United Kingdom	Mr. Martin Yarsley
Singapore	Ms. Ong Kim
Egypt	Ms. Gada Reda Hamed

Conclusion

The exceptional performance of our designated offices in 2023 has been instrumental in strengthening the Belize Register and enhancing our global presence. By achieving significant milestones in ship registration and maintaining high standards of compliance, these offices have collectively contributed to the growth and reputation of our fleet.

TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT



CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

To ensure the highest standards of safety and compliance for the Belizean fleet by providing expert guidance and rigorous oversight to ship owners and operators.

RO AUDITS



8 Audited
6 Closed
2 Follow-up

LRIT MONITORING



80% Compliance
60 vessels
monitored in high-risk zones

COMMUNICATION



9 MMN Issued
4 TDM Issued
4 MSA Issued

GSI INSPECTIONS



16
After relaunch of Program

RO Audit Snapshot: 2023 Outcomes

Organization	Status	Key Date
Macosnar Corp (MCO)	✓ Closed	Jan '23
Int'l Register (INTLREG)	✓ Closed	Feb '23
Singapore Bureau (SGBOS)	● Re-audit	Apr '24
Bulgarian Register (BRS)	● Follow-up	Jan '24
...and 4 others	✓ Closed	2023

On the Horizon: 2024 Audits

- **Turkish Lloyd (TL):**

Scheduled for January 2024

- **Croatian Register (CRS):**

Scheduled for February 2024

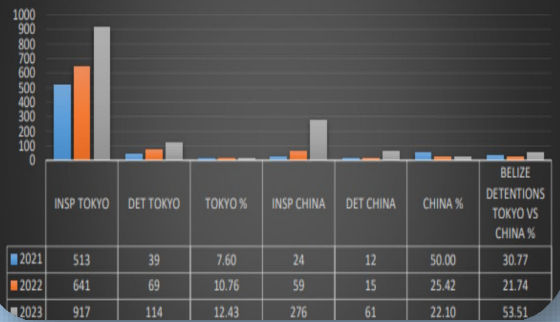


Looking Ahead: 2024 Strategic Focus

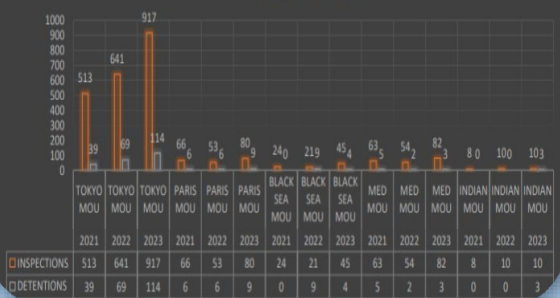
- Achieve 90% LRIT Compliance
- Fully enforce the Performance Improvement Plan (PIP)
- Proactively manage Paris MoU inspections using new Priority Matrix

MoU PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

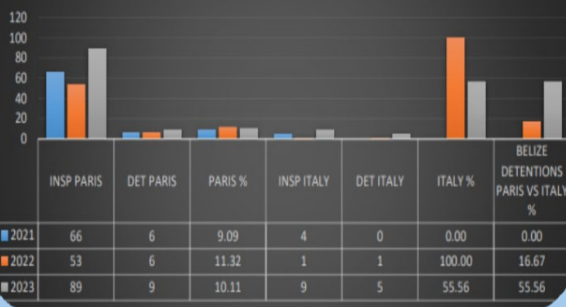
BELIZE - TOKYO MOU vs CHINA



INSPECTIONS VS DETENTIONS
2021 - 2022 - 2023



BELIZE - PARIS MOU vs ITALY



The performance of IMMARBE in relation to various Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) over the past three years is summarized below. The data reveals both challenges and improvements, particularly in the **Tokyo** and **Paris MoUs**, as well as performance trends in other regions.

1. Tokyo MoU Area

Unfortunately, Belize faces the likelihood of losing its Grey List status and may be confirmed on the blacklist due to several factors.

Reasons for Decline:

Impact of the Ukraine-Russia War: In response to the Ukraine conflict, Russia intensified its Port State Control inspections in Nakhodka. This resulted in a surge of detentions for Belize-flagged vessels, which adversely affected our performance record before we could implement a ban on entries to the port.

Post COVID China Surge: Inspections in China rose to 30% in the Tokyo MoU total (from 4-10% causing Belize-flagged vessels to account for 53.5% of all our detentions).

2. Paris MoU Area

The performance in the Paris MoU region has also shown a troubling trend, placing Belize on the cusp of the Grey and Blacklist

Key Issues:

Italy Focus: 5 of 9 inspected Belize-flagged vessels were detained in Italy, accounting for 55.56% of our Paris MoU detentions – a sharp rise from just one detention in 2022.

Other MoUs

3. Other MoUs

Despite the challenges faced in the Tokyo and Paris MoUs, IMMARBE remains committed to improving its standing across all MOUs:

- **Mediterranean MoU:** Maintained strong performance with a slight improvement (↓ 3.70% to 3.66%).
- **Black Sea MoU:** Achieved a major turnaround, drastically reducing the detention ratio (↓ 42.8% to 8.89%).
- **Indian MoU:** After a 5-year clean record, 3 detentions in 2023 signal a need for renewed focus.
- **US Coast Guard (USCG):** A single detention maintains our strong standing outside the USCG Targeted List.

Proactive Response to MoU Challenges

IMMARBE is taking decisive actions to tackle these issues head-on. Through active engagement with key stakeholders and the implementation of strategic initiatives, we are focused on enhancing compliance and strengthening the reputation of the flag. Our efforts are aimed at not only addressing current challenges but also at fostering long-term improvements in our standing within these critical maritime agreements

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Challenge: Performance pressures in Tokyo and Paris MoU regions

Response: Implemented proactive measures and strategic restructuring

Port State Control (PSC) Performance

Tokyo MoU Action Plan	Paris MoU Action Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restricted vessel arrivals in high-risk ports• Enhanced pre-inspection assessment protocols• Direct engagement with regional authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed PSC Priority Matrix for vessel assessment.• Engaged Italian Coast Guard to address detention patterns.• Revived the self-inspection program to reduce detentions and enhance overall compliance

Monitoring and Oversight

These strategic actions directly support our mission: to ensure rigorous compliance and enhance the global reputation of the Belize flag.

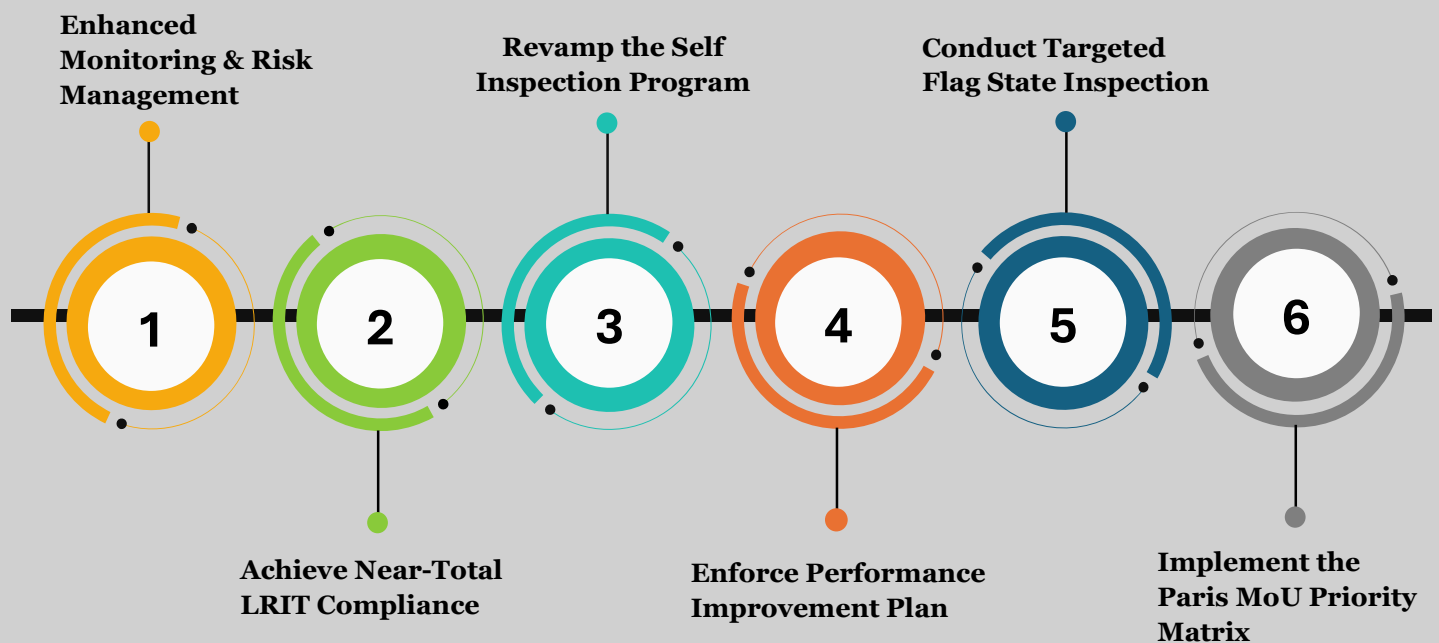
- **LRIT Compliance** - Increased from 58% to 80%, targeting 90% in 2024
- **High-Risk Area Surveillance** - Monitored 60+ vessels near sanctioned regions
- **GSI Program** - Relaunched with 12 authorized inspectors conducting 16 vessel inspections

Our enhanced monitoring centre significantly improved LRIT compliance and oversight of vessels in sensitive areas in 2023, directly strengthening fleet safety and the flag's reputation.

By maintaining a robust monitoring system and effective compliance programs, we aim to:

- **Enhance maritime safety and security**
- **Ensure adherence to international regulations**
- **Support ship owners and operators with proactive compliance measures**

STRATEGIC WORKPLAN FOR 2024



SEAFARER DEPARTMENT

3858

Endorsements
Issued

3520

Officer
Endorsements
Issued

19%

Revenue
Increase

Record-Breaking Year: Efficiency Meets Compliance

The Seafarer Department achieved unprecedented operational output while making critical strides toward full international regulatory compliance.

543

Highest
Volume
Processed by
Office

Strategic Achievement

1. STCW Convention Domesticated - A pivotal step towards white list status.
2. Launched Comprehensive Workplan for full domestication of the MLC

Statistics

Endorsement Processing

The department consistently surpassed its monthly QMS target of 300 certificates, often doubling it. May 2023 was our peak month for efficiency.



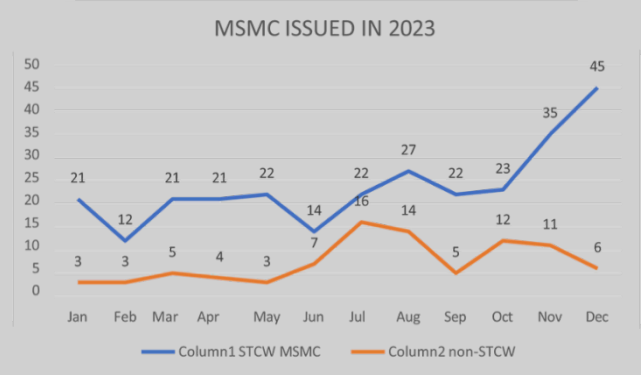
Increase in Endorsement Applications: A total of **3,858** endorsements were issued in 2023, reflecting a **21% increase** over the past six years, compared to **3,364** applications processed in 2022.

DR Performance

The **Yantai 61** office topped endorsement applications with **543 requests**, highlighting successful collaboration linked to the number of registered ships and crew activities.

Financial Impact

The surge in endorsement volume directly correlated with the **19% increase in department revenue**



Crew Management

The department processed 374 **minimum safe manning certificate applications**, with a strategic focus on minimizing dispensations to ensure full MLC compliance and timely crew changes.

Conclusion & 2024 Outlook

Our record-breaking 2023 demonstrates soaring demand and operational excellence, but our true success is measured by the high standards we uphold.

2024 Strategic Focus:

1. Secure IMO Whitelist Status by finalizing the STCW audit process.
2. Finalize MLC Domestication to enhance seafarer welfare across the fleet.
3. Launch Real-Time Crew Monitoring to strengthen oversight and compliance.

We are building a reputation for a safer, more respected Belizean registry.



QUALITY ASSURANCE DEPARTMENT

Championing Excellence and Driving Improvement

The **Quality Management Department** is the backbone of IMMARBE's commitment to reliability and continuous improvement. In 2023, our robust Quality Management System (QMS) not only ensured compliance with the highest standards but also provided the data-driven insights necessary to elevate our services and operational performance across the entire organization.

2023: A Year of Validation and Valuable Feedback

This year's activities confirmed the strength of our internal processes with highlighting clear opportunities for innovation directly from our customers.

Excellence in Audit Performance

Our audit results demonstrate a mature and effective Quality Management System

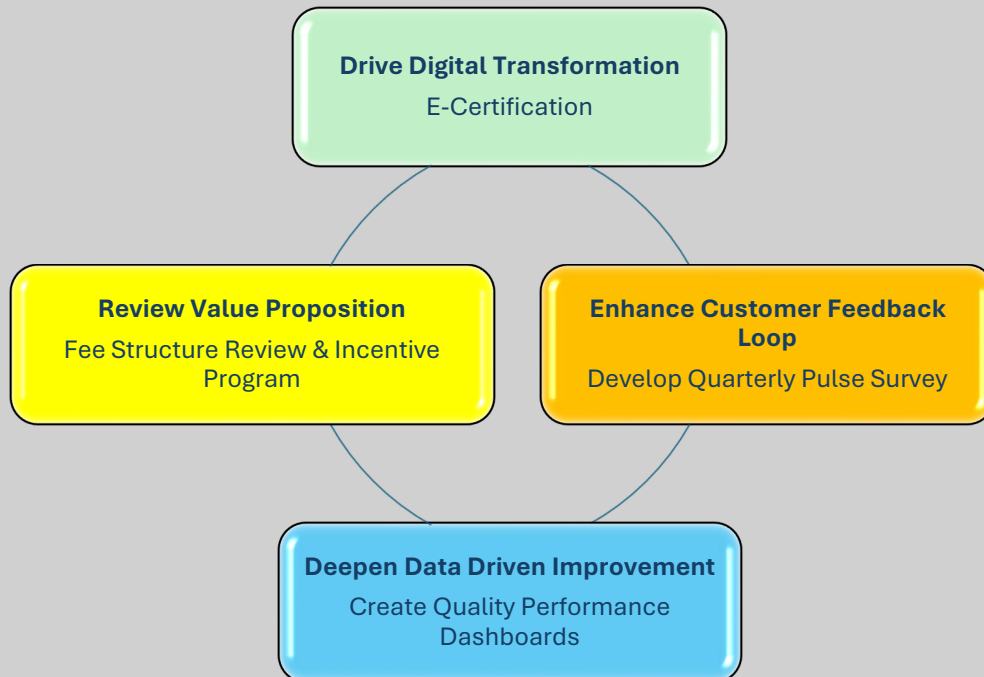
- **Flawless External Surveillance:** Achieved a zero non-conformity result in our external ISO 9001:2015 surveillance audit, a testament to the integrity of our daily operations.
- **Proactive Internal Oversight:** Successfully closed all findings from our internal audit, with follow-ups scheduled to ensure long-term effectiveness in the Registration, Seafarer, and Technical Departments.

Listening to our Customers: The 2023 Satisfaction Survey

We actively solicited feedback from our stakeholders, receiving 82 responses. The results paint a picture of a trusted registry with a clear path for modernization.



A Clear Roadmap for 2024: From Insight to Action





ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Global Engagement & Strategic Capacity Building

In 2023, we made strategic investments in our team and our global presence, transforming our

A Year of Comprehensive Upskilling

Our 96% training participation rate covered critical areas:

- **Regulatory Expertise:** STCW, ISO Lead Auditor, and MARPOL conventions.
- **Specialized Knowledge:** Flag State implementation, sanctions enforcement, and energy efficiency.
- **Professional Development:** Emotional intelligence, ethics, and leadership

Amplifying Our Voice on the World Stage

We ensured IMMARBE was an active participant in shaping the maritime industry:

- **Key Representations:** IMO Meetings in London, Sea Asia 2023, and an unexpected interaction with the IMO Deputy Director.
- **Strategic Impact:** Engaged in critical policy discussions on seafarer welfare, autonomous ships, and fraud prevention.

Our 2024 Focus:

- Leverage our highly trained team for greater operational efficiency.
- Amplify our global voice through strategic event participation.
- Embed a culture of emotional intelligence and ethics in all client interactions.

CONCLUSION The Foundation for Future Growth

The Administration Department's work in 2023 – from achieving near-total staff upskilling to ensuring our flag was prominently represented globally – has built a formidable internal foundation. By fostering a culture of excellence and engagement, we have directly contributed to the operational department's success.

We are not just a support function; we are the cultivators of IMMARBE's culture and the amplifiers of its global voice.



Staffing Updates



KENISHA ALLEN

Administrator
Administration Dept



BORIS VILLARREAL

Technical Officer I
Technical Department



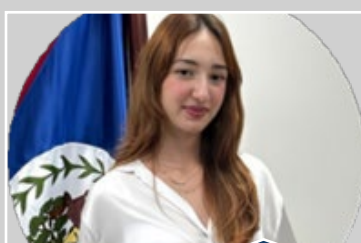
ZORAIMA REYES

Technical Support Officer II
Technical Dept



JANELLI GRAJZEL

Data Analyst
Registration Dept



JANA HIJAZI

Seafarer Officer II
Seafarer Dept.



EMELDA HERRERA

Communications &
Reception Officer
Administration Dept

In 2023 IMMARBE expanded its team by hiring six new employees. This addition included three individuals filling newly created positions, as well as three replacement staff for vacant roles due to promotions or resignations. This recruitment effort reflects IMMARBE's commitment to strengthening its workforce and ensuring continued operational effectiveness.

The 2023 IMMARBE Story


The People Behind the Flag



**Building Our
Culture,
Strengthening Our
Community**



Making Waves Inside and Out

Initiative & Icon	Our Action	The Impact
 Women in Maritime	Formed a dedicated committee to champion diversity and highlight the vital role of women in the industry.	Cultivating an inclusive workplace and inspiring future generations of maritime professionals.
 Seafarers Day	Honoured the dedication of seafarers with token-giving ceremonies aboard vessels in Belize, alongside key maritime authorities.	Strengthening bonds with our seafarers and the wider maritime community, recognizing their invaluable contribution.
 10th Anniversary	Celebrated a decade of service by recognizing the commitment and achievements of our long-term staff members.	Reinforcing a culture of loyalty, appreciation, and shared history within the IMMARBE family.
 World Maritime Day	Lit our building blue, joined a community beach clean-up, and participated in an educational expo with the Belize Port Authority.	Demonstrating environmental stewardship and engaging the public to raise awareness for the maritime sector.



CONCLUSION

The registration of ships is crucial for ensuring the safety, security, and sustainability of the global shipping industry. In Belize, IMMARBE plays a vital role in this process, contributing to the country's reputation as a reliable flag state. Despite the challenges encountered in 2023, the industry has demonstrated resilience and continued growth in ship registrations.

We would like to recognize the invaluable contributions of our designated offices and the support of the Registrar of Ships and our Ministry, as well as other maritime institutions that collaborate with IMMARBE. Their commitment and cooperation are essential in facilitating effective ship registration and enhancing maritime operations in Belize.

It is essential for IMMARBE and its partners to collaborate and innovate to effectively address both the challenges and opportunities within the sector. By working together, the maritime community in Belize can enhance operational efficiency, promote safety standards, and foster sustainable practices, ultimately benefiting the industry and supporting the nation's economic growth.

CONTACT US

CORPORATE ADDRESS



Suite 502,
Keystone Building
304 Newtown
Barracks Belize
City, Belize



WEBSITE

www.immarbe.com

TELEPHONE



+501 223-5026

+501 223-5047

+501 223-2031

EMAILS



- **General:** immarbe@immarbe.com
- **Registration:** registrationservices@immarbe.com
- **Technical:** technicalservices@immarbe.com
- **Seafarers:** seafarerservices@immarbe.com
- **Fishing:** info@bhsfu.gov.bz
- **Accounting:** accounts@immarbe.com

ANNEX 1

a. Merchant Marine Notices (MMN)

1. **Revised Version #3 of Merchant Marine Notice 19-006:** This notice focuses on the **Port State Control Analysis and Self-Inspection Program**, providing updated guidelines for ship operators to ensure compliance with international regulations.
2. **Implementation of the GSI Program:** The launch of the **Global Surveyor Initiative (GSI)** program involved expanding the network of surveyors to begin conducting **Flag State Inspections** on Belize-registered vessels. This initiative aims to enhance oversight and ensure adherence to safety standards.
3. **Merchant Marine Notice 2-001:** This notice outlines procedures for **Reporting on Port State Control Inspections and Detentions**, facilitating better communication and transparency regarding inspection outcomes.
4. **Merchant Marine Notice 23-002:** These Circular addresses the **Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on Fire Safety**, emphasizing the importance of fire safety measures aboard vessels.
5. **Merchant Marine Notice 23-003:** This notice pertains to **Reporting on Statutory Surveys and Certification Status to IMMARBE**, ensuring that all statutory requirements are met and documented.
6. **Merchant Marine Notice 23-004:** This guidance document provides information on **Arrangements to the Satisfaction of the Administration**, clarifying expectations for compliance.
7. **Merchant Marine Notice 23-005:** This notice offers guidance for the **Acceptance of Type-Approved Equipment or Systems**, outlining the criteria for equipment compliance.
8. **Merchant Marine Notice 23-006:** This document details Belize's requirements under the **Paris MoU inspection regime**, ensuring alignment with international inspection standards.
9. **Merchant Marine Notice 23-007:** This notice addresses **Maritime Treaties Relevant to Belize**, ensuring that stakeholders are aware of applicable treaties and their implications.

b. Technical Department Memos (TDM)

1. **TDM001-2023:** Introduced new staff members to the Technical Department, fostering a collaborative environment and enhancing team dynamics.
2. **TDM002-2023:** Focused on addressing **Mechanical and Electrical Failures** observed by Port State Control Officers (PSCOs) in **Qingdao and Shanghai Ports**, emphasizing proactive measures for vessel maintenance.
3. **TDM003-2023:** Issued a **Request for Technical Services**, encouraging communication and support for technical challenges faced by ship operators.
4. **TDM004-2023:** Announced the **Cancellation of Memo No. TDM002-2022**, which addressed the Tokyo MoU situation and highlighted the necessity for proper implementation of the revised MMN-19-006.

c. Marine Safety Advisories (MSA)

1. **MSA No. 01-2023:** Communicated information from the **Government of the Russian Federation to the IMO**, ensuring stakeholders are informed of developments that may affect maritime operations.
2. **MSA No. 02-2023:** Issued a warning regarding the **Israel-Gaza Conflict**, advising caution for vessels operating in affected areas.
3. **MSA No. 03-2023:** Highlighted **Security Incidents in Ukrainian Waters**, providing critical information for risk assessment and operational planning.
4. **MSA No. 04-2023:** Addressed **Security Incidents in the Red Sea**, advising vessels to remain vigilant and adhere to updated security protocols.

ANNEX 2

Summary of Audits Conducted

1. **Macosnar Corporation (MCO)**
 - **Audit Dates:** January 30-31, 2023
 - **Findings:** All non-conformities identified during the initial audit were effectively closed out.

2. **International Register of Shipping (INTLREG)**
 - **Audit Dates:** February 8-10, 2023
 - **Findings:** The auditor identified **4 minor non-conformities** and **3 observations**, with a deadline of May 9, 2023, to resolve these issues. Notably, these findings did not affect the delegation of authority, which remains intact, pending the close-out of all items.

3. **Compañía Nacional de Registro e Inspecciones de Navas (CONARINA)**
 - **Audit Dates:** February 13-15, 2023
 - **Findings:** The audit revealed **7 minor non-conformities** and **4 observations**, with a deadline of August 14, 2023, for resolution. One observation remains pending, but the delegation of authority continues, with permanent authorization to be granted upon its closure.

4. **Singapore Bureau of Shipping (SGBOS)**
 - **Audit Dates:** April 17-19, 2023
 - **Findings:** The auditor found **11 minor non-conformities** and **5 observations**. The initial deadline for resolution was extended to April 2024 due to the nature of the issues, which affected the delegation of authority. Consequently, the scope of authorization was downgraded for vessels under **500 GT** and for **Single Delivery Voyages**. A re-audit will be necessary to restore the full scope.

5. **Maritime Technical System & Services Limited (MTSS)**
 - **Audit Dates:** April 20-24, 2023
 - **Findings:** The follow-up audit identified **9 minor non-conformities** and **3 observations**, with only one observation remaining open. This observation does not affect the delegation of authority, and full-term authorization under the RO Code is retained.

6. **Alfa Register of Shipping (ARS)**
 - **Audit Dates:** July 24-26, 2023
 - **Findings:** The audit resulted in **8 minor non-conformities** and **2 observations**, with a deadline of October 26, 2023, for resolution. These findings did not impact the delegation of authority, and permanent authorization is contingent upon the closure of all items.

7. **Bulgarian Register of Shipping (BRS)**
 - **Audit Dates:** September 25-27, 2023
 - **Findings:** The audit uncovered **15 minor non-conformities** and **9 observations**, with a deadline of January 27, 2024, for resolution. While these issues do not affect the current delegation of authority, a follow-up audit will be required for permanent authorization.



The Friendly Flag of Quality

Belize

HANDICRAFTS

