

E-Newsletter

MARITIME MATTERS

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT MARINE REGISTRY OF BELIZE

A NEW CHAPTER: IMMARBE WELCOMES NEW LEADERSHIP

IMMARBE entered a new chapter on June 1st, 2026, with the appointment of new leadership, marking an important milestone in the continued growth and development of the Registry.

The transition also coincided with a period of significant activity for IMMARBE. During the second quarter of 2026, the Registry remained actively engaged in developments at the International Maritime Organization, launched electronic certificates, participated in the Posidonia International Shipping Exhibition 2026, and supported national initiatives focused on youth outreach and stakeholder engagement with National Maritime partners. IMMARBE also joined the global maritime community in celebrating the International Day for Women in Maritime and the Day of the Seafarer. These activities reflect the diverse responsibilities of our Ship Registry and the importance of formidable leadership navigating an industry that is constantly evolving.

Under new leadership, IMMARBE remains committed to its role as a reliable, service-oriented flag state. Building on a strong foundation, the organization is focused on strengthening the Belize Flag and enhancing services through our network of designated offices for shipowners, operators, seafarers, and other maritime stakeholders.

Looking ahead, IMMARBE will continue building on these achievements by strengthening services, fostering stakeholder partnerships, and promoting the Belize Flag on the international stage which will ensure adaptability, responsiveness and strategic positioning for future growth and success.



“As IMMARBE enters a new chapter, our direction is clear: achieving sustainable growth, enhancing operational excellence, maintaining an unwavering commitment to maritime safety, and delivering exceptional service to our clients.

The challenge has been accepted, and the course is set. Guided by experience, driven by innovation, and anchored in integrity, we are prepared to lead IMMARBE into a new era. We will strengthen our global position, embrace emerging opportunities and technologies, and ensure that the Belize Flag remains a trusted symbol of integrity, quality, professional service, and global maritime leadership.”- Eng. Abilio Dominguez.

From Policy to Practice: Advancing the Next Generation in Belize's Maritime Sector

The International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) joined the global maritime community in commemorating the 2026 International Day for Women in Maritime, promoting greater inclusion and career opportunities for women and youth within Belize's maritime sector.

Under the theme, "From Policy to Practice: Advancing Gender Equality for Maritime Excellence," IMMARBE focused on translating awareness into action through its "Maritime in Action: Powering the Next Generation" initiative. The programme introduced students to the diverse career opportunities available across the maritime industry and provided practical exposure to maritime operations.

Through interactive activities and engagement with maritime professionals, students gained insight into the roles of key organizations and the wide range of career paths beyond traditional seafaring. Media outreach further expanded the initiative's impact by highlighting women's participation, career opportunities, and gender inclusion within the sector.



The activities underscored the value of collaboration in developing Belize's future maritime workforce. IMMARBE partnered with maritime agencies, industry stakeholders, and organizations such as the Women in Maritime Association Caribbean (WiMAC) Belize Chapter to encourage greater participation across the industry.

As Belize's maritime sector continues to evolve, IMMARBE remains committed to bridging the gap between education and industry by exposing young people to careers in vessel registration, marine engineering, environmental science, fisheries, port operations, logistics, maritime law, compliance, and seafaring.

Looking ahead, IMMARBE will continue to support initiatives that expand opportunities, strengthen inclusion, and inspire the next generation of maritime professionals. Ensuring that women and young people can contribute to the sector's future remains essential to building a stronger, more diverse, and sustainable maritime industry.

Celebrating Excellence and Partnership: IMMARBE Recognizes Top Performers

IMMARBE hosted its Partners Reception in Athens, Greece, bringing together members of the maritime community to recognize outstanding performance and celebrate the partnerships that contribute to the success of the Belize Flag.

The event honored top-performing partners whose professionalism, dedication, and service have supported the Registry's growth and international presence. It also provided an opportunity to thank all designated representatives, service providers, and maritime professionals whose collaboration helps ensure responsive and reliable service across global markets.

The reception reflected a core principle of IMMARBE: strong partnerships are essential to long-term success. As the maritime industry continues to evolve, collaboration remains critical in addressing regulatory developments, digital transformation, environmental requirements, and changing market conditions.

The event also provided a valuable forum for networking, dialogue, and relationship-building among stakeholders who work closely with the Registry.

For IMMARBE, recognizing excellence goes beyond celebrating results. It is about acknowledging the people and organizations behind those achievements and reinforcing a culture of service, collaboration, and continuous improvement.

Looking ahead, IMMARBE will continue to strengthen its partnerships. The Registry extends its appreciation to all designated offices for their continued confidence, collaboration, and contribution, and congratulates those recognized for their outstanding performance.



Mr. Erik De Koning
Designated Office: Rotterdam



Mr. Theo Axiotis
BHSFU Stakeholder



Mr. Dimitris Dimitropoulos
RO: Bureau Veritas



Mr. Diego Corrado
Designated Office: Singapore

Honoring our Seafarers who keep Global trade moving on International Day of the Seafarer

Each year on June 25, the international maritime community comes together to recognize the invaluable contribution of seafarers to global shipping international trade and the world economy.

This year, IMMARBEL joined in commemorating Day of the Seafarer by raising awareness of the essential role seafarers play and highlighting the diverse opportunities available to those interested in pursuing careers at sea.

For Belize, Day of the Seafarer provides an important opportunity to increase national awareness of maritime careers and encourage young Belizeans to consider the possibilities offered by the industry.

As part of its 2026 activities, IMMARBEL representatives participated in media engagements on National morning talk shows aimed at educating the public about the role of seafarers, the functions of IMMARBEL, Belize flag registration and activities being held to commemorate the occasion.



Beyond recognition, Day of the Seafarer serves as an important reminder of the need to continue supporting the welfare, safety and professional development of the men and women who work at sea.



The maritime industry continues to evolve as new technologies, environmental requirements and international regulations transform ship operations. Preparing the next generation will therefore require continuous investment in maritime education, training and awareness.

For young Belizeans, the maritime industry offers opportunities to develop skills that can open doors to careers both locally and internationally. Increasing awareness of these pathways is an important part of developing Belize's maritime human resources and strengthening the country's connection to the global shipping industry.

IMMARBEL remains committed to promoting greater understanding of the maritime sector and supporting initiatives that recognize the people who make international shipping possible.

On Day of the Seafarer 2026, IMMARBEL proudly joins the international maritime community in saying thank you to seafarers everywhere.

Their dedication keeps vessels moving, economies connected and global trade flowing and their contribution remains fundamental to the future of shipping.

Belize on the Global Stage: IMMARBE Showcases the Belize Flag at Posidonia 2026

The International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) proudly represented as part of the Belize Delegation at Posidonia International Shipping Exhibition 2026, one of the leading exhibitions held in Athens, Greece, from June 1-5, 2026.

Operating from the Belize Pavilion, IMMARBE's delegation engaged with existing partners and prospective clients while highlighting Belize's continued commitment to providing responsive and efficient ship registration services supported by a strong focus on regulatory compliance.

Throughout the week, the delegation participated in meetings and discussions across the maritime sector. These engagements provided opportunities to strengthen existing relationships, explore new areas of collaboration and gain valuable insights into the evolving needs and priorities of the international shipping community.

IMMARBE's participation forms part of a broader strategy to strengthen visibility of the Belize Flag in the international market.



As IMMARBE looks ahead, the relationships strengthened and conversations initiated during Posidonia supports continued efforts to position the Belize jurisdiction as the preferred country within the global shipping industry.

IMMARBE along with Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit, Belize Companies & Corporate Affairs Registry and Finance Belize are committed to moving forward with a focus on service, compliance, innovation and strategic international engagement while proudly representing Belize on the global maritime stage.

-- EDITORIAL --

35 Years of Maritime Excellence – Honoring Our Legacy, Inspiring Our Future

A Commemorative Message from Felicia Vargas, Director of Registration Services



As IMMARBE celebrates its 35th Anniversary, I am filled with a profound sense of pride, gratitude, and accomplishment. This milestone represents far more than the passage of time, it reflects years of dedication, resilience, growth, and an unwavering commitment to serving the global maritime community under the Belize flag.

Having devoted over two decades of my professional career to IMMARBE, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the remarkable evolution of our Registry. I have seen the organization overcome challenges, embrace change, adapt to industry developments, and continuously strengthen its reputation as a respected and internationally recognized flag state. Reflecting on this journey, it is truly inspiring to see how far we have come and all that we have accomplished together.

The theme of this anniversary, “35 Years of Maritime Excellence: Honoring our Legacy, Inspiring our Future” perfectly embodies the spirit of IMMARBE. Throughout our history, the maritime industry has faced economic shifts, regulatory changes, technological advancements, and global challenges that have tested administrations worldwide. Yet, through every challenge, IMMARBE has remained steadfast—focused, resilient, and committed to delivering quality service to our clients and stakeholders.

IMMARBE’s success has never been the achievement of any one individual. It has been built through the collective efforts of dedicated professionals who believed in the vision of the Belize Registry and worked tirelessly to make it a success. It is our stakeholders around the world whose confidence and trust have enabled IMMARBE to flourish throughout these years. Your support has been instrumental in our continued growth and success.

A special tribute is owed to our Deputy Registrars around the world. Their loyalty, professionalism, and unwavering commitment have long been among the most vital pillars of IMMARBE's success. Many have stood alongside us for decades, faithfully representing the Belize flag in key maritime centres across the globe. Their dedication has been instrumental in sustaining our international presence and driving the continued growth of the Registry. We remain deeply grateful for their enduring partnership and steadfast support.

I would also like to recognize our exceptional staff, both past and present, whose dedication and perseverance have guided IMMARBE through periods of growth, change, and transformation. Throughout my years with the Registry, I have had the privilege of working with outstanding professionals whose commitment to excellence has strengthened our organization and upheld the high standards for which IMMARBE is known today. While their contributions often go unseen, they remain at the core of our success.

Equally deserving of recognition are the leaders who have guided IMMARBE throughout its history. Each Head of the Registry has brought unique leadership, vision, and perspective, leaving a lasting impact on the organization. Every administration has contributed meaningful milestones, shaping IMMARBE into the respected maritime administration it is today. Their collective

Editorial: IMMARBE at 35, cont.

stewardship has nurtured innovation, growth, and continuous improvement, always staying true to the Registry's core values.

On a personal note, my journey with IMMARBE has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my professional life. When I joined over twenty-two years ago, I could not have anticipated the opportunities and achievements that would follow. I have had the privilege of witnessing the Registry's evolution from multiple perspectives, contributing to key developments, and collaborating with dedicated colleagues to strengthen our standing within the international maritime community. IMMARBE has shaped my career and taught me invaluable lessons in leadership, resilience, and service, for which I remain deeply grateful.

As we celebrate this achievement, we do so with confidence and optimism for the future. The maritime industry continues to evolve, presenting new opportunities through digital transformation, sustainability initiatives, and enhanced safety standards. IMMARBE is well positioned to embrace these opportunities and to continue building upon its proud legacy.

The next chapter of our journey will be guided by the same principles that have sustained us for the past thirty-five years: integrity, resilience, professionalism, innovation, and service. As we honour our past and celebrate our present, we look ahead to a brighter future.

To everyone who has contributed to this remarkable journey, **"THANK YOU"** for your loyalty, dedication, and belief in IMMARBE. This anniversary belongs to all of you.

Together, we celebrate 35 years of resilience. Together, we continue building a stronger future. Together, we will make IMMARBE greater than ever.

DID YOU KNOW?

Throughout IMMARBE's history, countless stories and milestones have shaped who we are today. Here are a few noteworthy facts that reflect our Registry's legacy and the lasting relationships we've built over the years.

1. The first ship registered with IMMARBE was a non-propelled barge with ownership in Belize.
2. The ***Heraclitus*** has been registered with Belize for 35 years.
3. Deputy Registrars Mr. Iosif and Maxim Timchenko, honoured Belize by naming vessels in their fleet after our nation's districts. ***Belize City, Corozal, Toledo, Belmopan.***



OUR FLEET. OUR PRIDE

Honoring the vessels that carry our flag with distinction



M/V Heraclitus	
VESSEL TYPE:	Pleasure Craft (Yacht)
YEAR:	1974
GROSS TONNAGE:	118
FLAG:	Belize
IMO NUMBER:	
OWNER:	Ecotechnics Maritime Limited

We are proud to recognize the Research Vessel Heraclitus, which has remained registered with us since 1991. For more than three decades, Heraclitus has represented the spirit of exploration, scientific research, and environmental stewardship on oceans around the world. It is an honor to have this remarkable vessel as part of our registry, and we celebrate its continued service and contributions which aligns with our milestone.

HONORING OUR LEGACY
CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF MARITIME EXCELLENCE (1986-2021)

NAVIGATING OUR FUTURE

4. Bijoyer Aalo I- Registered in 1994- The World's Frist and Largest 103MW Gas Turbine Power barge.



Recent Developments in Belize's Maritime Sector

The Technical and Seafarer Departments continue to drive key initiatives that support safety, compliance, and innovation across the Belize fleet.

The Technical Department has intensified efforts to reduce vessel detention rates by strengthening audits of Recognized Organizations (ROs) and expanding its global network of Flag State Inspectors. These measures support compliance with international standards and help improve Belize's Flag State performance across major Port State Control regimes.

The department has also adopted a proactive approach to maritime security, implementing transit restrictions in high-risk regions when necessary to safeguard vessels, crew, and the integrity of the Belize Flag. In addition, technical representatives participated in the annual Riyadh MoU meeting, reinforcing Belize's commitment to safe operations and cooperation with regional maritime authorities.

To remain engaged in the development of international regulations, the Technical Department continues to participate in key International Maritime Organization (IMO) meetings, including the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) and Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) alongside Belize Port Authority.

The Seafarer Services Department has also achieved significant milestones. The department successfully completed an independent audit evaluation, demonstrating IMMARB's commitment to the effective implementation of the STCW Convention and the maintenance of high training and certification standards.

Representatives further strengthened Belize's international involvement through participation in the 12th session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW 12), helping to ensure the Registry remains aligned with evolving global standards.

A major development was the expansion of Belize's independent Certificate of Competency (CoC) program, enhancing the Registry's capacity to administer professional maritime certification. The division has also modernized its medical certification process through the Medcert platform, which incorporates QR code verification for secure, real-time validation of medical certificates.

Together, these initiatives reflect IMMARB's continued commitment to strengthening compliance, embracing digital transformation, and delivering efficient services to the maritime community.



MEET OUR STAFF

Uncover the Stories of our Dynamic Team

Ms. Delice Pinkard

ACTING DIRECTOR OF HIGH SEAS FISHERIES



My career in fisheries management began with the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) in April 2008, where I served as a Fisheries Officer for five years. This experience ignited my passion for sustainable fisheries and provided a strong foundation in international fisheries management, policy, compliance, and ocean governance.

In 2013, I joined the newly established Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit (BHSFU) as a Senior High Seas Fisheries Officer. There, I expanded my expertise in international fisheries policy and compliance through active engagement with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and other international partners.

In 2024, I was promoted to Compliance and Enforcement Manager and I'm currently Acting Director of High Seas Fisheries.

Today, I lead and mentor a dedicated team focused on maintaining a compliant Belize-flagged high seas fishing fleet through effective policies, adaptive management, and strong enforcement measures.

I am driven by a commitment to sustainable fisheries, healthy marine ecosystems, and continuous improvement. My goal is to help strengthen Belize's role in international fisheries governance while ensuring the responsible management of our ocean resources for future generations.

Mr. Elias Gonzalez

SEAFARER SUPERVISOR



For the past 13 years, I have built a rewarding career in the maritime industry through dedication, perseverance, and a passion for supporting seafarers. Today, I proudly serve as **Seafarers Supervisor**, a role that reflects my professional growth and commitment to excellence.

Starting in an entry-level position, I embraced every opportunity to learn and develop my skills. Over the years, I gained valuable experience in seafarer certification, regulatory compliance, maritime administration, and customer service, which helped me advance through the ranks.

What I enjoy most is assisting seafarers in achieving their professional goals. I take pride in providing guidance, resolving certification and regulatory matters, and ensuring they receive the support needed to meet international maritime standards.

Becoming **Seafarers Supervisor** is one of my proudest achievements. It represents years of hard work, continuous learning, and dedication to serving the maritime community.

As I continue my journey, I remain committed to supporting seafarers, improving processes, and contributing to the growth and development of the maritime industry.

"Success is not about where you start; it is about the dedication, resilience, and passion that carry you forward." – Elias Gonzalez

Ms. Janelle Requena
SEAFARER OFFICER



Growth within an organization is often fuelled by opportunity, mentorship, and the willingness to embrace new challenges. Recently, I had the privilege of transitioning from the role of Administrative Assistant to Seafarer Officer in the Technical & Seafarers Department at IMMARBE.

This transition has been both exciting and rewarding, allowing me to expand my professional knowledge and contribute more directly to the maritime sector. Stepping into a new role came with a learning curve, and while there may be moments when others doubt my abilities or underestimate your potential, I am truly grateful to have awesome leaders who are firmly in my corner, encouraging my growth and believing in my capabilities. The constant encouragement, guidance, and confidence placed in me by my HOD and Supervisor, made the adjustment both motivating and fulfilling.

This experience has reminded me of the importance of believing in my own potential, embracing challenges with confidence, and remaining open to growth and learning. Transitioning into this new role has motivated me to push beyond my comfort zone, strengthen my professional capabilities, and continue striving to become the best version of myself both personally and professionally.

Being part of a department that plays such a vital role in supporting seafarers worldwide has further strengthened my appreciation for the maritime industry and the meaningful work carried out at IMMARBE. I look forward to continuing to learn, grow, and contribute positively to the organization in this new capacity.

Guardians of the Ocean: IMMARBE-BHSFU Partners on the High Seas

Within IMMARBE's broader mission of maintaining a respected and compliant maritime registry lies a specialized unit dedicated entirely to the fishing sector, the **Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit (BHSFU)**.

As a dedicated unit within the corporate structure of IMMARBE, BHSFU serves as the primary authority responsible for the regulation and control of Belize-flagged vessels engaged in fishing and related activities on the high seas. While IMMARBE oversees the broader registration and compliance framework for all Belize-flagged vessels, BHSFU brings specialized, sector-specific expertise to meet the unique regulatory demands of high seas fishing operations.

BHSFU works within IMMARBE's registration framework to ensure fishing vessels flying the Belize flag meet all applicable requirements, applying specialized knowledge of international fisheries regulations alongside IMMARBE's core registry standards. It also ensures these vessels adhere to international obligations, including those set by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and global conservation frameworks, reinforcing IMMARBE's broader commitment to responsible and sustainable maritime operations.

With a focused enforcement mandate, BHSFU strengthens IMMARBE's ability to monitor and address non-compliance within the fishing fleet, helping deter illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities, a shared priority across the entire registry.

By housing this specialized function within IMMARBE, the Registry ensures that fishing vessels flying the Belize flag receive the same rigorous oversight as the rest of its fleet, backed by dedicated expertise where it matters most. BHSFU stands as a testament to IMMARBE's commitment to sector-specific excellence, reinforcing the integrity of the Belize flag across every corner of the maritime industry.

Department Spotlight

Supporting Maritime Excellence Through Technical and Seafarer Services

Technical and Seafarer Services play a vital role in maintaining the safety, compliance, and reputation of the Belize Flag. Together, they ensure Belize-flagged vessels and their crews meet national requirements and international standards, including SOLAS, MARPOL, STCW, and the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC, 2006).

The Technical Division is responsible for overseeing the safety and operational integrity of Belize-flagged vessels. Its work includes interpreting International Maritime Organization (IMO) regulations, auditing authorized classification societies, and coordinating a global network of Flag State Inspectors. These efforts help vessels maintain compliance and minimize Port State Control (PSC) detentions.

The division also manages technical exemptions and waivers, monitors vessel security through LRIT and AIS systems, and investigates marine casualties to identify root causes and strengthen safety measures across the fleet.

The Seafarer Services Division focuses on the human element of shipping by ensuring that seafarers serving aboard Belize-flagged vessels are properly certified and protected. The department issues endorsements for Certificates of Competency and Certificates of Proficiency, as well as Continuous Discharge Books, supported by Belize's status on the IMO Whitelist.

In addition, the division enforces MLC requirements relating to seafarer welfare, including hours of rest, accommodation standards, and the resolution of crew complaints and wage claims. It also administers medical certification processes through the Medcert platform and oversees approved medical practitioners.

To improve efficiency and security, the department utilizes electronic certification and QR code verification, allowing maritime stakeholders to quickly validate documents online.

Together, the Technical and Seafarer Services Departments support a common goal: ensuring that Belize-flagged vessels are safely maintained and operated by qualified, competent crews. Through effective oversight and service delivery, they continue to strengthen the quality, compliance, and international standing of the Belize Flag.



IMMARBE Advances Digital Transformation with Launch of Electronic Certificates

IMMARBE advanced its modernization efforts with the launch of electronic certificates on May 20, 2026.

The introduction of electronic certification reflects IMMARBE's commitment to improving the efficiency, accessibility, and security of services provided to Belize-flagged vessels and maritime stakeholders worldwide.

As the maritime industry continues to embrace digital transformation, electronic certificates offer a more efficient method of accessing and verifying documentation while supporting streamlined administrative processes. The system allows stakeholders, including shipowners, operators, recognized organizations, and port State control authorities, to verify certificate authenticity and validity online.

The initiative also aligns with broader developments across the global maritime sector, where digitalization continues to drive improvements in efficiency, information sharing, and regulatory processes. At the same time, the industry must remain focused on cybersecurity, data integrity, and the protection of critical maritime information as technology becomes more integrated into shipping operations.

The launch of electronic certificates marked an important step in IMMARBE's broader strategy to enhance service delivery and modernize its approach to flag State administration. Looking ahead, IMMARBE will continue to pursue initiatives that leverage technology to improve operational efficiency and meet the evolving needs of the maritime industry.

Visit our website, [Circular IMM 133\(26\) Implementation of electronic certificates \(e-certificates\) - International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize](#), to learn more about the implementation, key features, and verification capabilities.



IMMARBE Advances Digital Transformation with Launch of Electronic Certificates

T D Y J H O I K N R R T A G K
B R N K B D G K L O V E N A E
H A O D E C K R B Z S E C L L
J O S P P G N R A K A L H L Z
B B F U O D A H B C I F O E Q
I R J I S H H O L M L S R Y C
Q A Y I Z K W L K K A D U O I
O T B U O Y U D D E I S M X M
E S D P S H E K K U E P T A B
E G A Y O V N N U Y A L R N G
V H E N R E T S T S Q I P Y M
X U N D D I C P S C N H J S T
J M R U I R D T N E N S N O L
O S Y A H T W T R D F O X Q C
K O O B G O L G F A X T X H S

Bow

Cargo

Fleet

Hull

Mariner

Sail

Tide

Buay

Compass

Galley

Keel

Mast

Starboard

Voyage

Anchor

Deck

Harbor

Logbook

Mast

Port

Stern

