

# INTRODUCTION TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS REGISTRY

SOCP FALL MEETING  
MYSTIC SEAPORT MUSEUM  
16 OCTOBER 2019

Presented by:  
Captain John Hafner  
*Vice President, Seafarers' Manning and Training*  
*Ft. Lauderdale, Florida*

# WHO WE ARE

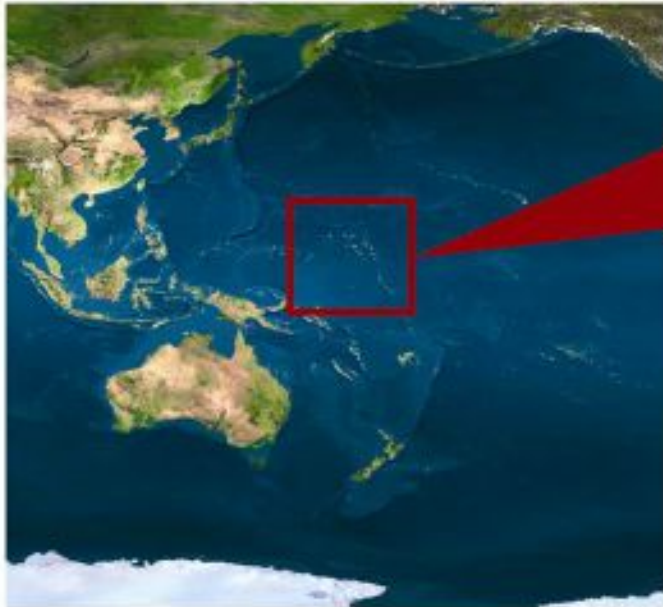
- International Registries, Inc. and its affiliates (IRI) provide administrative and technical support to the RMI Maritime and Corporate Registries.
- IRI provides a broad spectrum of services for the shipping and financial services industries.
- IRI has 28 worldwide offices that have the ability to register a vessel or yacht, including those under construction, record a mortgage or financing charter, incorporate a company, issue seafarer documentation, and service clientele.



# WORLDWIDE OFFICES



# RMI





# RMI HISTORY

## Pre-Colonial History

- 1788 – Islands named for British sea Captain John Marshall

## Pre-World War II

- 1885 – 1914 – German Possession
- 1914 – 1944 – Japanese Administered

## Post-World War II

- 1947 – Trusteeship between the United Nations (UN) and the United States (US)
- 1986 – Independent and Sovereign Nation
- 1991 – Full UN membership
- 1998 – Full International Maritime Organization (IMO) Membership
- 2007 – Full International Labour Organization (ILO) Membership and ascension to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006)



# POLITICAL STABILITY



**Population:**  
74,539

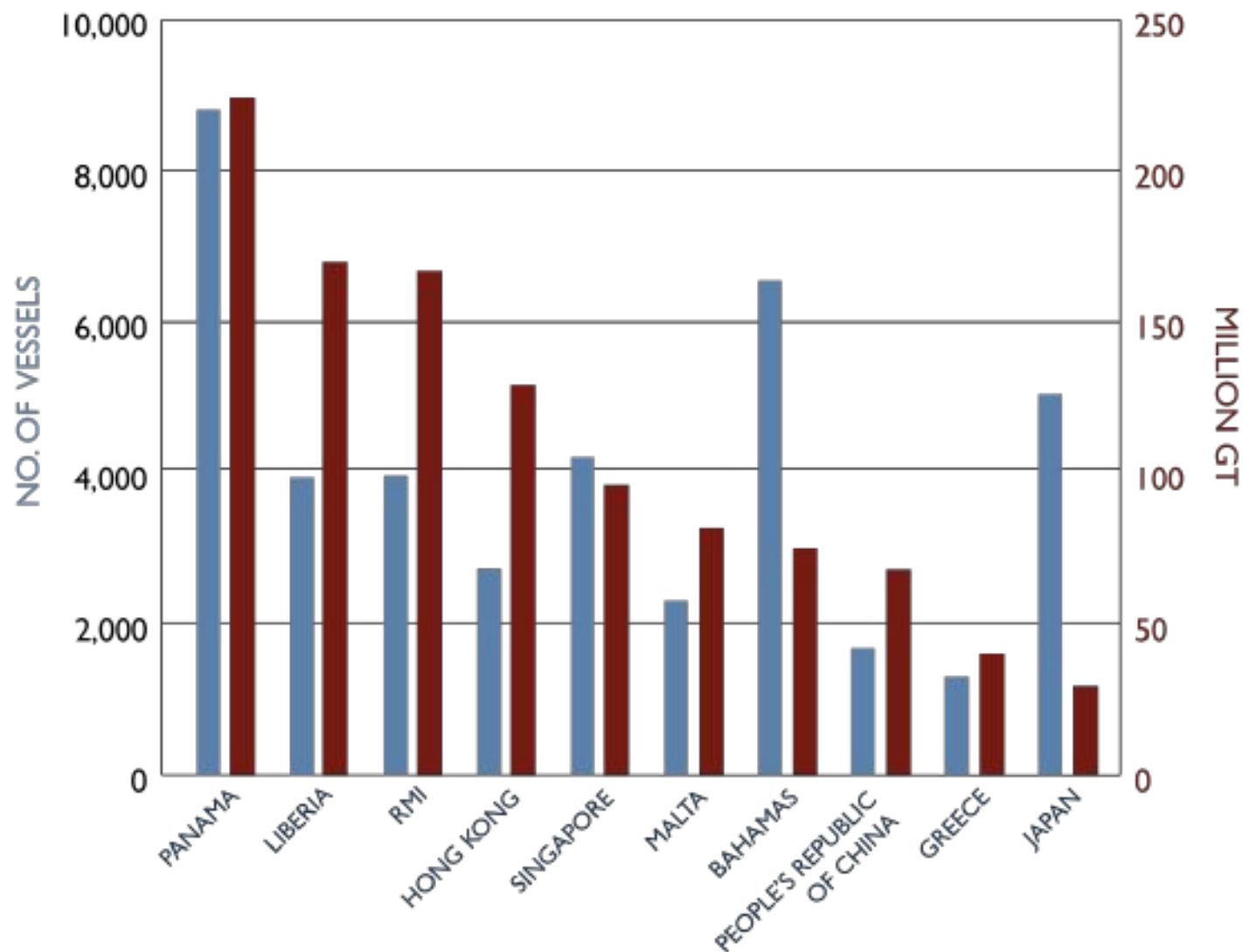
**Total Area:**  
500,000 sq. miles comprising 1,152  
islands and islets

**Government Type:**  
Sovereign nation; blend of United Kingdom  
(UK) parliamentary and US style of government

**Capital:**  
Majuro



# TOP TEN FLAG STATES



Source: Clarksons Research's World Fleet Monitor, Volume 10, No. 8 (August 2019) and Offshore Intelligence Monthly, Volume 9, No. 8 (August 2019)

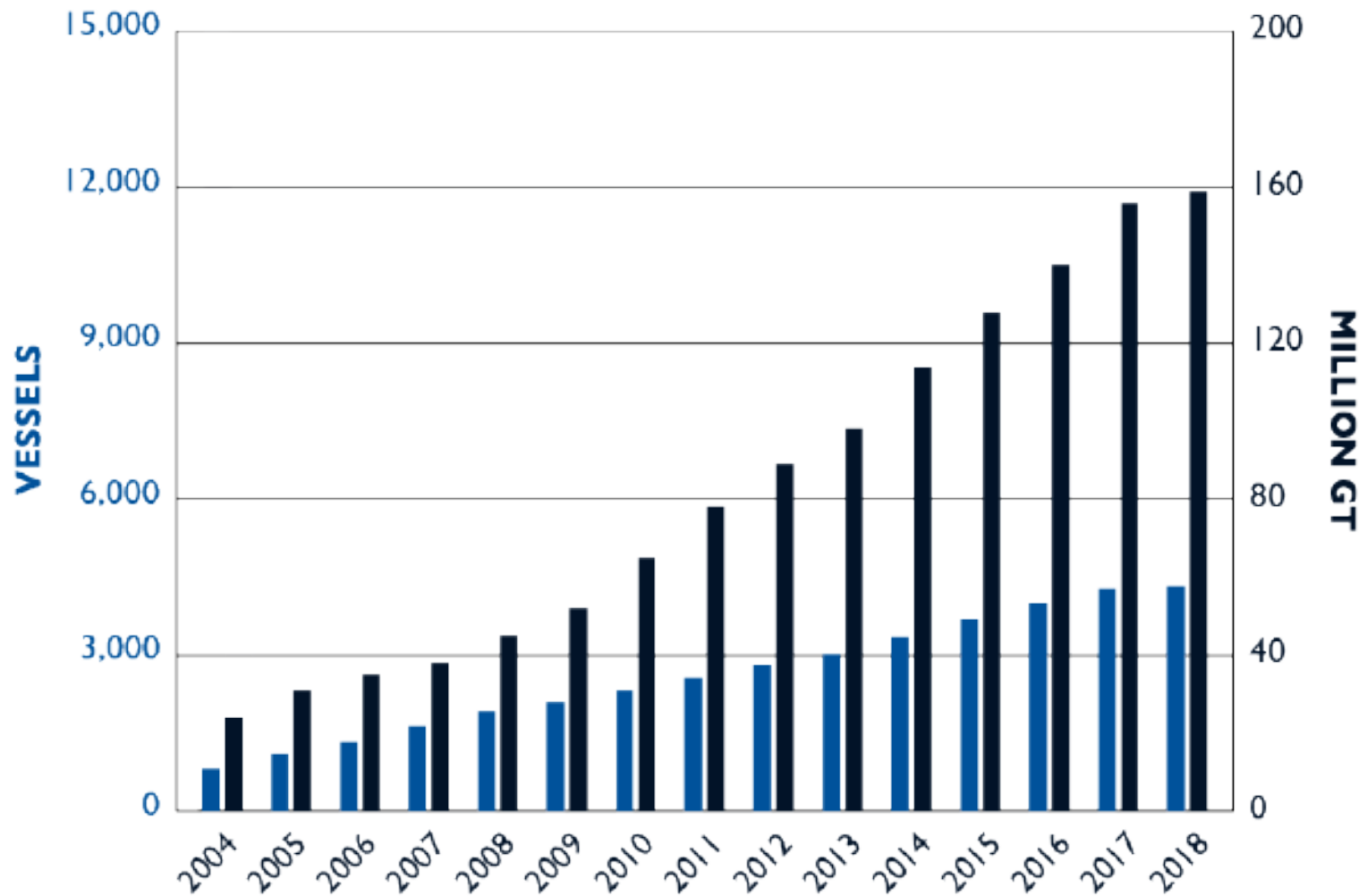
# RMI FLEET TYPES

VESSEL TYPE	NO. of VESSELS	% of FLEET	GROSS TONS	% of FLEET GROSS TONS
BULK CARRIER	1,576	34%	66,520,440	39%
CONTAINER	344	7%	18,816,207	11%
GAS CARRIER	196	4%	13,708,437	8%
GENERAL CARGO	171	4%	5,134,943	3%
MISCELLANEOUS	75	2%	425,060	0.25%
MOU	173	4%	7,280,564	4%
OSV	258	6%	500,565	0.30%
PASSENGER	16	0.35%	479,306	0.28%
TANKER	1,208	26%	55,664,788	33%
YACHT	590	13%	181,247	0.11%
<b>TOTAL FLEET</b>	<b>4,607</b>		<b>168,711,557</b>	

As of 31 August 2019



# FLEET GROWTH



As of 31 January 2018



# TYPES OF REGISTRIES / FLAG STATES

- **Traditional (National) Registries:**

United States (US), United Kingdom (UK), Belgium, Germany, Japan

- **Open Registries:**

RMI, Panama, Liberia, Bahamas, Cyprus, Malta

- **Hybrid Registries:**

Hong Kong, Singapore, Norwegian International Ship (NIS) Register

An aerial photograph of a vast ocean filled with numerous ships of various sizes, including cargo ships, tankers, and smaller vessels, scattered across the horizon. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is a lighter blue.

# **MARITIME LABOUR CONVENTION, 2006 (MLC, 2006) GRIEVANCES – A FLAG STATE PERSPECTIVE**



# THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS (RMI) FLAG AND MLC, 2006

- The RMI Administration:
  - Was the second country to ratify the MLC, 2006 (or the “Convention”)
  - Has a dedicated Regulatory staff that regularly attends:
    - International Labour Organization (ILO)
    - International Maritime Organization (IMO)
  - Has approximately 300,000 registered seafarers with an active Seafarer Identification and Record Book under the RMI flag
- We take our responsibility to the welfare of the seafarers serving on board our vessels, and their families, seriously



# THE HANDLING OF SEAFARERS' GRIEVANCES

- MLC, 2006 has been in effect now for over six years
- Over 500 seafarer grievances have been handled by the RMI flag to date
  - All complaints are recorded
  - Trends and issues are tracked and analyzed
- All grievances received are acknowledged within 24 hours
- After an initial review, most grievances are handled directly through a local office
- There are currently 6-10 open grievances at any given time
- Discretion is paramount

# STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPs)

- Complaints (communications) have been received via:
  - E-mail (90%)
  - Inspector on scene (5%)
  - Phone call or letter (5%)
- Initial assessment of claim is done by John Hafner with assistance from:
  - Seafarers, Inspections, Investigations, Legal, and/or Regulatory Department(s), as appropriate
- If the complaint is deemed valid, an action team is put together to deal with the issue
- Subsequent investigation is done by local office / representative
- Decisions are made on a case-by-case basis; there is no set protocol

# SOPs (continued)

- Flag State / ITF interaction and cooperation
  - ITF involvement ranges from full cooperation to non-involvement
- Case is typically closed out by mutual agreement between John Hafner and the relevant local office
- Cases are recorded via the **MLC, 2006 Crew Grievance Statusboard**
  - This is the *official record* and is for general use
  - All e-mail correspondence is retained with each case
- Biannual reports are presented to senior management covering:
  - Ongoing (difficult) cases
  - Statistics
  - Trends
  - Lessons learned
  - Any Regulatory updates



The Marshall Islands Registry

## MLC Statusboard

Administration | Statusboard

Logged In As: JHAMPER on RUPROD  
Responsibility: IRL MLC System - Admin  
Home | Logout

Administration  
Statusboard

Complaints | Notes | Documentation

Options	View	Search	Reset	Add	Edit	Save	Cancel	Details						
Complaint Number	Complaint Date	Official Number	Vessel Name	Service Group	Service Type	Operator Name	Complaint Type	Complainant	Complaint Method	Valid Issue	ITF Involved	Handler	Date Closed	
1221	5/20/2015	3881	DELTA SKY	OSV	ANCHOR HANDLING	PRIME GULF INTERNATIONAL (UK) ...	Wages	C/E Edward Zhykarev	Email to Seafarers	Yes	No	Seafarers; London		
1204	5/7/2015	96292	POLLUX	CONTAINER	CONTAINER	ALPHA SHIPMANAGEMENT GMBH & C...	Wages	ANONYMOUS-CREW	Email TO SEAFARERS	Yes	No	Seafarers; Piraeus	5/18/2015	
1203	5/6/2015	3171	PROCOMPS K	BULK CARRIER	BULK CARRIER	MPK SHIPPING INC.	Contractual Issue	ITF	Email	No	Yes	Seafarers; Roosen	5/13/2015	
1202	5/4/2015	2523	ARMADA CONDOR	MISCELLANEOUS	SPECIAL PURPOSE	BUNE ARMADA OFFSHORE CONTRA...	Termination	Edgar Abello - Piter	Email to Regulatory	No	No	Seafarers; Regulat...	5/6/2015	
1201	5/4/2015	5394	SURF SUPPORTER	OSV	MULTIPURPOSE O...	GO OFFSHORE PTY LTD	Wages	ITF-London	Email from ITF	Yes	Yes	Seafarers	5/4/2015	
1184	4/14/2015	4888	SOHAR MAX	BULK CARRIER	BULK CARRIER	OWAN SHIP MANAGEMENT COMPA...	Potable Water	ITF - London	Email from ITF	Yes	Yes	Seafarers; Dubai		
1183	4/14/2015	4664	NEWLEAD MARKE...	BULK CARRIER	BULK CARRIER	NEWLEAD BULKERS S.A.	Wages	ITF - Ukraine	Email to Seafarers	Yes	Yes	Seafarers; Piraeus		
1182	4/10/2015	4154	PORTLAND PEARL	TANKER	OIL/CHEMICAL TA...	CROWLEY ACCORD MARINE MANA...	Wages	Radhakrishnan Cande 1A/E	Email to Roosendaal	No	No	Seafarers; Roosen	4/10/2015	
1181	4/7/2015	3205	BALTIC PANTHER	BULK CARRIER	BULK CARRIER	ANGLO-EASTERN SHIP MANAGENE...	Medical Issue	Tusi Rao Kivvadi 2/M	Email to Seafarers	Yes	No	Seafarers; Mumbai		
1166	3/24/2015	5214	PNOS CREATION	BULK CARRIER	BULK CARRIER	QUANTUM SHIPPING LTD	Wages	USCG COTF - New Ha...	Email to Inspecto...	No	No	Seafarers; Inspecto...	4/7/2015	
1165	3/23/2015	3231	INFERATOR	BULK CARRIER	BULK CARRIER	EVALEND SHIPPING CO. SA	Repatriation	ITF - Cebu, Philippines	Email to Seafarers	Yes	Yes	Seafarers; Piraeus		
1164	3/23/2015	3341	EQUATOR	BULK CARRIER	BULK CARRIER	EVALEND SHIPPING CO. SA	Repatriation	ITF - Cebu Philippines	Email to Seafarers	Yes	Yes	Seafarers; Piraeus		
1144	3/17/2015	3806	SP BOSTON	TANKER	OIL TANKER	MEDALLION MARINE PRIVATE LINE...	Wages	Sakem Akhtar 2/M	Email to Seafarers	Yes	No	Seafarers	2/26/2015	
1143	3/9/2015	5581	MOPL ANGLE	OSV	OFFSHORE SERVL...	CS OFFSHORE DRILLCO	Wages	ITF-London	Email to Seafarers	Yes	Yes	Seafarers; London	4/14/2015	
1142	2/24/2015	3266	GURASE	BULK CARRIER	BULK CARRIER	BIL SHIP MANAGEMENT PTE LTD	Wages	Rasheep Singh	Email to ITF Austr...	Yes	Yes	Seafarers; Dubai	3/26/2015	
1163	2/17/2015	5794	NECTAR	TANKER	CRUDE OIL TANKER	EURONAV-SHIP MANAGEMENT (JHE...	Hours of Work or Rest	Anonymous	Email to Singapore...	No	No	Seafarers; Singapore	2/22/2015	
1162	2/17/2015	96289	VOGA	CONTAINER	CONTAINER	AHRENDSE STEARSHIP GMBH & C...	Wages	Capt. Anskar Prucek	Email to ITF	Yes	Yes	Seafarers; Roosen	2/19/2015	
1161	2/11/2015	4353	RIVERA	PASSENGER	PASSENGER LINER	PRESTIGE CRUISE SERVICES LLC	Under Treatment	Vincent Genies	Email to Seafarers	No	No	Seafarers	3/11/2015	
1141	2/6/2015	4785	ARUNA ECE	BULK CARRIER	BULK CARRIER	ARUNA DENIZCIK LTD. STL	Food And Catering	Canadian ISS via Vanc...	Email	No	No	Inspectors	2/7/2015	
1122	1/12/2015	5438	NEMO	BULK CARRIER	BULK CARRIER	A.M. NOMBOS TRANSWORLD MAR...	Wages; Vessel Conditio...	ITF	Email to Roosendaal	Yes	Yes	Seafarers; Roosen	1/19/2015	
1121	1/9/2015	73028	ENIGMA XI	YACHT	PRIVATE YACHT M...	MAY MARINE MANAGEMENT SA	Wages	Steve Loyer C/E	Email to Seafarers	No	No	Seafarers	1/9/2015	
1101	12/18/2014	4566	OCEAN TREASURE	NOV	ACCOMMODATIO...	CROWLEY ACCORD MARINE MANA...	Wages	ITF	Email to Roosendaal	Yes	Yes	Roosendaal	12/23/2014	
1100	11/24/2014	4846	E ELEPHANT	TANKER	OIL TANKER	TMT PTE LTD	Wages	Capt. Moshag Ahmed	Email to Seafarers	Yes	No	Seafarers; Singapore	1/8/2015	
1082	11/5/2014	5125	OCIM	TANKER	CHEMICAL/OIL PR...	V. SHIPS UK LTD.	Wages	Anonymous	Email to Seafarers	No	No	Seafarers	11/5/2014	
1081	11/4/2014	2405	TRANS EMBATES	BULK CARRIER	BULK CARRIER	PIONEER SHIP MANAGEMENT SERV...	Vessel Condition	Robert Santo 2A/E	Email to ITF	No	Yes	Seafarers; Dubai	11/27/2014	
1080	10/31/2014	5322	RODGEBURY ALEX.	TANKER	CHEMICAL/OIL PR...	INTEROIENT MARINE SERVICES L...	Wages	Tea Aroni	Letter to LR Inspe...	Yes	No	Seafarers; Inspecto...	10/31/2014	
1061	10/17/2014	4274	SEA EXPLORER	PASSENGER	PASSENGER LINER	FLEETPRO OCEAN INC.	Under Treatment	Alan Wilson Oliver	Email to Seafarers	No	No	Seafarers	10/17/2014	
1060	10/16/2014	5309	G. COSS SUEPME	COMMON CARGO	VEHICLE CARRI...	HAPAG-LLOYD MARITIME SERVICES C...	Overstayers	T. A.P.	Email to Seafarers	Yes	No	Seafarers	10/17/2014	

Columns Hidden: 5

Privacy | Terms & Conditions | Returns & Refunds | Webmaster | Copyright © 2000 - 2013 International Registries, Inc.





# ANATOMY OF AN MLC, 2006 CASE

- Most grievances are received by the Administrator via e-mail:
  - Directly from the affected crewmember(s) / Master
  - From a third party (seafarer welfare organization, family member, etc.)
- **Step #1**: Determine if the grievance is valid or not:
  - Sometimes a difficult process, depending on the circumstances
- **Step #2**: Case is recorded on the MLC, 2006 Crew Grievance Statusboard:
  - All cases (valid / non-valid, ships, yachts, offshore) are recorded and tracked
  - Can be referenced internally by anyone in the organization (inspectors, investigators, legal department, etc.)
  - All communications (e-mails) are recorded

# ANATOMY OF AN MLC, 2006 CASE (continued)

- **Step #3:** Action team is put together
  - This can include any or all of the following assets:
    - Local office
    - Seafarers' Department
    - Legal Department
    - Regulatory Affairs Department
    - Senior Management
- **Step #4:** Contact is established with all concerned parties
  - Complainant
  - Owner / operator
  - Any relevant third parties (port State control (PSC), ITF, etc.)

# ANATOMY OF AN MLC, 2006 CASE (continued)

- **Step #5:** Action plan is then agreed upon
  - Administrator goals and expectations are made clear to all concerned parties
    - Complainant
    - Vessel owner / operator
    - PSC (if applicable)
    - ITF (if applicable)
  - A timeline is established and agreed upon for rectification of the MLC, 2006 violation(s) or issue(s)
- **Step #6:** Follow-up and confirmation
  - Upon rectification, the case is closed out, or
  - If necessary, possible further action or discussion may be required

An aerial photograph of a vast fleet of ships, including cargo vessels, tankers, and smaller boats, scattered across a deep blue ocean. The ships are seen from above, creating a pattern of white and grey against the blue water. The perspective is from a high altitude, looking down on the ships as they move across the sea.

# **LESSONS LEARNED AND CURRENT MLC, 2006 ISSUES AFFECTING THE REGISTRY**





# LESSONS LEARNED

- The majority of valid claims involve non-payment of wages
- In some cases it is a very difficult and time-consuming process to have the owners / operators make the crew wage payments
- Approximately 40% - 50% of claims are not valid
  - Complaints need to be thoroughly investigated
- Many seafarers are aware of MLC, 2006, but not:
  - The onboard complaint procedures
  - The existence of the DPA

# CONCLUSION

- Statistics for the past years indicate that the MLC, 2006 is having a positive effect overall on the RMI fleet.
- The RMI Maritime Administrator is dedicated to ensuring that the safety, welfare, and well-being of all seafarers working aboard RMI vessels is protected in accordance with MLC, 2006.
- The RMI Administration is an FOC – ***Flag of Compliance!***

An aerial photograph of a vast ocean filled with numerous ships of various sizes, including cargo ships, tankers, and smaller vessels. The ships are scattered across the frame, leaving white wakes behind them. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is a lighter blue. The text "QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

# QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?



# WEBSITE/E-MAIL

- For more information on the many benefits of the RMI Registry:
  - [www.register-iri.com](http://www.register-iri.com)
- For direct correspondence:
  - [seafarers@register-iri.com](mailto:seafarers@register-iri.com)
  - [jhafner@register-iri.com](mailto:jhafner@register-iri.com)





# THANK YOU



[www.register-iri.com](http://www.register-iri.com)