





## **WMU Studies in Maritime Affairs**

## Volume 4

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## Shipping Operations Management



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## **Foreword**

As the President of the World Maritime University (WMU), I am pleased to introduce the fourth volume of the WMU Studies in Maritime Affairs book series published by Springer, titled *Shipping Operations Management*. The series was launched in 2013 to encourage academics and practitioners from all areas of specialisation across the field of maritime affairs to contribute to the expansion of knowledge through publications of the highest quality and market relevance. Previous books in the series include Farthing on International Shipping (2013), Piracy at Sea (2013) and Maritime Women: Global Leadership (2015). With this book series, the WMU aims to further develop expertise in maritime education and training, maritime energy management, maritime law and policy, maritime safety and environmental administration, ocean sustainability governance and management, port management, and shipping management and logistics.

WMU is a postgraduate maritime university established by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a specialised agency of the United Nations, which aims to further enhance the objectives and goals of IMO and IMO member States around the world through education, research and capacity building to ensure safe, secure and efficient shipping on clean oceans. WMU's mission is to provide the best possible education and research facilities for postgraduate studies, professional training and capacity building for a sustainable maritime industry and related oceans fields. We facilitate harmonisation, uniform interpretations and effective implementation of maritime conventions and related instruments.

Shipping Operations Management comes as a response to the market needs to provide a comprehensive coverage of all functions of the modern management of shipping operations. It aspires to become a one-stop read for all interested parties from both the maritime business sector and academia. The chapters are written by world-renowned academics and practitioners, all experts in their subject area. The book covers areas such as fundamentals of shipping management; organisation behavior in shipping; commercial, crew and technical operations management; the MLC 2006 from the perspective of legal jurisdiction and port state control; managing financial resources in shipping; maritime energy management; safety and

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security in shipping operations; nationality of ships and marine insurance; and ocean governance and sustainability.

I invite you to read this book, and I am sure that you will find it relevant and responsive to your needs. At WMU, we have a very strong commitment to research at the highest level of academic and professional standards.

Malmö, Sweden

Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry

## **Preface**

The management of shipping operations is a fundamental activity for shipowning, ship operating and third party ship management companies and represents an area where companies constantly seek and assign relevant responsibilities to qualified and knowledgeable personnel. It is an area that requires integrative knowledge that spans across disciplines and needs varied experiences. It requires shipping operations personnel to be well versed with aspects of management, economics, engineering, technology and law, including information and communication systems. It requires the ability to identify and neutralise threats and to manage risks and to make decisions that will optimise costs and contribute to performance improvements. Despite the above obvious needs, there is no book or edited volume that has attempted to reconcile and compile a comprehensive body of knowledge in a coherent, structured and systematic approach on the subject matter. This edited volume aims to address this fundamental gap in the extant literature and can be used as a reference point for maritime companies and organisations, and also serve as a teaching and reference textbook in both undergraduate and postgraduate maritimerelated programmes of study.

Chapter 1 by Panayides provides a high-level overview of the fundamental principles of ship management, which entails the various activities and operations necessary to manage a ship, as well as a description of company organisation and structures, a review of ship management services and reference to contractual arrangements between ship managers and owners. Key topics in this context include ship registration and flagging, the regulatory environment and issues of environmental performance management, energy efficiency and slow steaming, as well as managing and measuring ship management performance through the use of key performance indicators.

In Chap. 2, Pastra, Gkliatis and Koufopoulos introduce concepts of organisational behavior in shipping, focusing on issues of organisational structure and placing particular emphasis on the top management and governance of maritime organisations. In the contemporary globalised and turbulent maritime industry environment, overseeing the operations and decision-making of top leaders of

shipping companies is critical, especially with the current and prolonged global financial crisis in place. It is therefore important to have a thorough understanding of organisational processes and routines that should be continuously reviewed, redesigned and improved. In this context, the discussion describes the challenges and complexities that company executives have to face when dealing with processes and routines. The basic processes and routines that can be found in a shipping company are presented in addition to how these processes can lead to organisational change. The chapter also advocates the need for shipping companies to change and transform over time, as a means of ensuring longevity and sustainability.

The success of a shipowning organisation depends on the ability of the business to identify, negotiate and execute successful chartering options. The effective hiring of the ship or space on the ship represents the main revenue-earning stream for the shipping company, and the successful negotiation of the hire terms and efficient performance of the fixture will lead to profitability and competitiveness. In Chap. 3, Assimenos discusses in practical terms and in detail the management of commercial operations, including the types of chartering arrangements that can be effected, the chartering negotiation process, issues of payment of freight and hire, laytime, demurrage and despatch, as well as voyage estimation for dry cargo and tanker ships. The chapter also addresses cargo and charter party claims, as well as bunkering operations rendering a comprehensive treatment of the main aspects pertaining to the profit and costs of ships.

Crew management is central to shipping operations, and in Chap. 4 Anastasiou provides a comprehensive and thorough review of crew management operations. The analysis identifies the intricacies and multidimensional nature of crew management operations, referring also to the interface with shipping operations. The chapter achieves the comprehensive understanding of crew management operations and at the same time provides a valuable review of best practices. Specific topics include the identification and recruitment of seagoing labour in the context of economic issues such as the achievement of economies of scale and the all-important issues of training and management of crew performance. In addition, the author provides a comprehensive discussion of the role of marine academies and their relationship with shipping companies.

Technical operations management is one of the most demanding and complex areas of ship management. These characteristics arise from the necessity to integrate ship, shore and other, external to the company, bodies and organisations while operating in the context of strict national and international laws and regulations. Furnival and Crispe in Chap. 5 provide a discussion of the organisational and managerial aspects of technical operations management. The topics include the organisational structure of the team needed to manage the fleet, the relationships with other departments within the organisation and the main areas of concern related to the actual management of the ships, including client relationships, running the ships, emergency response, maintenance and managing expenditure. The chapter concludes with some of the challenges expected to play a role within technical operations management in future years.

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In Chap. 6, Doumbia-Henry examines the manner in which the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC 2006) addresses the legal jurisdiction of the State for foreign ships entering its ports (port State) or legal venue with respect to seafarers' rights. The MLC 2006 is currently ratified by 82 member States of the ILO, representing 91% of the world gross tonnage of ships. The MLC 2006 came about from the consolidation of almost all maritime labour Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the ILO, provides shipowners and governments with a level-playing field and is regarded to be the fourth pillar of the international maritime regulatory regime. The MLC 2006 also further developed the concept of flag State inspection with a certification system to support labour compliance and significantly strengthened port State control procedures for compliance with working and living conditions. It is now an important instrument for international labour law that can ensure that seafarers' rights are protected and that they can enjoy the decent work benefits provided for under the Convention. Still the author believes that the implementation of the Convention and its envisaged provisions need to be closely observed and monitored, and its effectiveness in ensuring the rights of seafarers still needs to be assessed taking into account the stance of judicial decisions.

The cyclical nature of the shipping industry and the volatility of freight rates due to the underlying market characteristics of the demand for commodities and the supply of ships have a direct effect on the asset value of ships. The purchase of ships requires very high capital investments, which also require considerable funding for management and operations. As a result of the industry's cyclical and capital-intensive nature, it is fundamental for the industry's participants and capital providers to determine if the timing is appropriate for investments in shipping. In Chap. 7, Kavussanos, Visvikis and Alexopoulos explain and analyse the different sources of shipping finance in the context of the challenges in the sector. They also explain the techniques and strategies that can be employed to manage business risks in shipping.

Maritime energy management is a multidimensional concept with several key stakeholders, be it shipowners and cargo traders, governments and regulators, as well as the general public. The management of ship-related energy consumption is of vital importance to shipping companies from several perspectives, not least as a means of reducing the cost of ship operation itself but also to comply with the increasingly stringent and varied international regulations set by the IMO and other bodies responsible for setting for national and international energy-related regulations. In Chap. 8, Ölçer, Baumler, Ballini and Kitada address a number of issues with respect to energy management, including key international regulations and their main requirements such as MARPOL and relevant regulations for sea and air emissions. In addition, the chapter addresses issues of energy-efficient ship operations highlighting examples of corporate policies, as well as port energy management, by discussing relevant plans.

It has been mentioned that shipping is a risky business, and a major risk that arises is associated with the physical risk on board ships due to substandard and unsafe practices and operations and also due to security reasons emanating from

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external actions by third parties such as terrorists and pirates. In this context, Dalaklis in Chap. 9 notes that considerable strides have been made to improve safety and security on board ships, especially with the advent of technology and with the development of relevant international regulations such as the SOLAS convention. The author discusses the specific regulations and their provisions, focusing on the pivotal role of the SOLAS convention and indicating how they address the challenges in the context of the dangerous maritime environment within which ships operate. The author concludes that it is only with the continuous study and introduction of new and updated regulations that such risks will be effectively managed.

One of the great challenges of being in the shipping business that may also lead to high rewards is the inherent risk associated with operating in this business. particularly physical as well as economic risks. The manifestation of physical risk depends on many factors, like the condition, maintenance and safe navigation of the ship; the encounter of adverse weather conditions; the competency of the seafarers, as well as that of the onshore personnel; and the prevailing market conditions, which dictate the mode of operation and exploitation of the ship. Regardless of all efforts to reduce shipping-related risks, some risks will remain. The risk, which remains, can be transferred to another party, either by transferring the activity to a specialist (e.g., subcontracting) or by transferring the financial consequences. It is the last option, namely transfer of risk by insurance, that Theocharidis and Donner examine in Chap. 10 in the light of the shipowner's unfettered right to elect registry for his ship. The analysis concludes that while there are situations where the law imposes a requirement to have insurance to cover certain liabilities, the choice of registry is not a direct criterion for obtaining insurance but may be, and probably would be, a criterion for assessing the risk and setting the premium. Marine insurance is a business, where decisions to request and offer insurance cover are business oriented and based, primarily, on business criteria and, only secondarily, on reputation criteria.

In Chap. 11, Hildebrand and Bellefontaine examine an area of maritime management that is of fundamental interest to all stakeholders of shipping operations, that of sustainability of the oceans. The key question addressed is whether the existing ocean governance and management laws, policies and institutions are sufficient to face the challenge of maintaining and indeed restoring the natural ocean capital. The authors discuss in detail the issues faced in ocean governance and sustainability and conclude that after several decades of concerted and cooperative effort by the international community, much knowledge has been generated, various issues have been addressed, promising governance and management frameworks and paradigms have been put forward and a plethora of best practices have been identified and disseminated. However, it is also acknowledged that the pace at which governance and management of the ocean is proceeding does not match the pace of degradation of the marine environment and its resources. Shipping will certainly remain a prominent component of the ocean economy, but it must continue to grow in and adapt to a more crowded and competitive ocean space, a worsening ocean environment with greatly diminished capacity to support multiple Preface xi

and growing social and economic needs and a more integrated ocean governance regime with all of the legal, jurisdictional, social and ecological challenges this implies. The shipping sector needs to think beyond its sectoral focus and embrace its place in an evolving ocean space and cooperative ocean governance regime.

Finally, we would like to sincerely thank the following chapter reviewers (in alphabetical order) for their valuable support and efforts: Assoc. Prof. Michele Acciaro (Kühne Logistics University), Bill Box (Intertanko), Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Drobetz (University of Hamburg), Prof. Ronan Long (World Maritime University), Assoc. Prof. Michael Manuel (World Maritime University), Prof. Moira L McConnell (Dalhousie University), Assoc. Prof. Theodora Nikaki (Swansea University), Dr. Maria Progoulaki (University of the Aegean and The American College of Greece), Prof. Dr. Orestis Schinas (HSBA Hamburg School of Business Administration), Prof. Ernestos Tzannatos (University of Piraeus) and Dr. Malcolm Willingale (Prospect Maritime).

Malmö, Sweden Lemesos, Cyprus May 2017 I.D. Visvikis P.M. Panayides

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## **Contributors**

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**Julia Anastasiou** has been an active member of the shipping community for the past 20 years. She has gained experience in the ship management sector holding influential roles and partaking as a member of various shipping organizations. Being a Chartered Ship Broker by profession, today Julia holds a global position as Crew Director with the OSM Maritime Group. She effectively drives performance, manages the business and facilitates sustainable profitability and growth. She has overseen several changes since her undertaking of this role in 2014 and continues to enhance her performance through further education, innovative thinking, leadership and networking. Julia was born in Toronto, Canada and is a permanent resident of Cyprus where she resides with her husband and two children.

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Neil Bellefontaine has held the position of Vice President Academic at the World Maritime University since 2011, and previously held the Canadian Chair in Marine Environmental Management from 2006 to 2012. Prof. Bellefontaine had professional knowledge and research experience in maritime administration, fisheries, aquaculture, and coastal and oceans management fields. He has studied resource economics (B.Com Hons Economics), marine management (MMM), and executive management (EXADM). As Vice President Academic Prof. Bellefontaine maintains active collaborative relationships with governmental leaders, universities, and maritime industry and ocean stakeholders. Prior to WMU, Prof. Bellefontaine was a senior executive (Assistant Deputy Minister level) employed with the Canadian Fisheries and Oceans department for 33 years. In 1998, Prof. Bellefontaine was presented with the Outstanding Public Service Award by the Prime Minister of Canada. From 1993 to 2006, he served as the Regional Director General for the Maritimes Region of Canada, where he was responsible for the administration of science, oceans and habitat, fisheries and aquaculture, small craft harbours, corporate programs, and including the Canadian Coast Guard.

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**Dimitrios Dalaklis** joined WMU in the summer of 2014, upon completion of a 26 years distinguished career with the Hellenic Navy. His expertise revolves around the extended Maritime Education and Training (MET) domain and especially the conduct of navigation (regulatory framework, techniques-associated best practices and related equipment), as well as maritime safety and security issues. He has

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Patrick Donner received an LLM from the University of Turku and having qualified for the judiciary served on the bench for 5 years. He worked for 14 years in executive positions in shipping companies in Finland after which he had his own law and management consultancy firm for a few years. During all this time, he taught maritime law (part-time) at the Maritime Academy of Åland and also held numerous non-executive positions on boards of directors of shipping and insurance companies as well as elected public office at local level. Patrick Donner joined the World Maritime University (WMU) as Associate Professor in Shipping Management in 1995 and served as Associate Academic Dean from 2006 until February 2017. Mr. Donner also lectures in WMU's MSc programme in International Transport and Logistics at Shanghai Maritime University, is Programme Coordinator of the Postgraduate Diploma course in Marine Insurance and is a visiting Associate Professor in the Maritime MSc and MA/LLM programmes of Frederick University in Cyprus.

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# **Chapter 1 Fundamentals of Ship Management**

P.M. Panayides

#### 1.1 Introduction

Shipping entails the movement of raw materials, commodities, semi-finished products and finished goods from places of low utility to places of high utility by sea. Maritime transport must be economical (low cost), efficient, safe and must fulfil the requirements of shippers (cargo owners), which apart from the above may also require on-time delivery, service reliability, high service frequency and flexibility in the provision of other maritime transportation solutions. To achieve such objectives, the shipping industry has organised itself over the years into a structure of different specialised markets with particular objectives to deliver services that fulfil customer requirements profitably and sustainably.

On this basis of understanding, the global shipping industry is a market of markets, which may be classified into commodity and type of ship design such as dry bulk market, tanker market (both clean products and dirty crude oil), container market, chemical tanker, car carrier market, etc., albeit with a degree of cross-over between market sectors—for example between the container and the general cargo and bulk markets.

For each market, ship-owning companies have also organised themselves in such a way as to manage the ships efficiently and effectively. Organisation entails the formation of different types of company structures and the formation of specialised departments and business units. While these ship-owning organisations tend to be physically located in the major maritime centres, the development of offshore locations has been utilised in order to minimise taxation. Over the years, growth and specialisation led to the formation of third-party ship management

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companies, thus fulfilling particular market needs of those ship-owning companies that chose not to manage their vessels in-house.

The aim of this chapter is to provide a high-level overview of the fundamental principles of ship management. This will include a description of company organisation and structures, as well as a review of ship management services and contractual arrangements. Particular reference will be made to the various activities required to manage a ship, including regulatory issues, environmental implications and performance management and measurement. Key topics in this respect include ship registration and flagging, the regulatory environment and issues of environmental performance management, energy efficiency and slow steaming, and managing and measuring ship management performance through the use of key performance indicators.

## 1.2 Ship Owning and Ship Management

## 1.2.1 Ship Owning

Ship ownership entails the investment by a company or individual in the purchase (or building) of the asset (ship), which will then be operated for a financial benefit (profit). This may also be referred to as 'beneficial' ownership. In contrast, a company may own a ship by virtue of 'nominal' ownership whereby the company is simply a 'brass plate' entity that has the legal ownership of the vessel for tax purposes; that company usually is residing in a flag of convenience country. In some cases, the ship-owning company may wish to confine its engagement to the financial benefit derived from ownership by way of bareboat chartering the ship to a charterer wishing to operate the vessel. This arrangement involves transfer of the operating risk to the charterer.

There is a wide variety of ship-owning entities. Some owners operate a single ship while others larger fleets. Some concentrate on ships of a particular type (fleet specialisation), while others operate a varied collection of vessels (fleet diversification). The type of vessel's employment depends upon the market's circumstances, the shipowner's intentions and expectations, as well as the regulatory and geopolitical forces internationally. While in bulk shipping single-vessel ship-owning companies form the international rule of ship-owning, in liner shipping the need to offer extensive network services of high frequency has led to co-operation among operators, often resulting in pooling of shipping resources typically in alliances, which replaced the now outlawed liner conferences, and, in some cases, common ownership or management of vessels.

## 1.2.2 Ship Management

Ship management is defined by Willingale (1998) as the professional supply of a single or range of services by a management company separate from the vessel's ownership. Professional supply means that the ship manager (supplier) provides service(s) to the shipowner (user) according to contracted terms and in return for a management fee. Panayides (2001) defines ship management as the rendering of services in an outsourcing arrangement related to the economic and operational organisation of a ship as a revenue-earning entity. Outsourcing provides the opportunities to ship-owning companies to focus on those functions that will maximise earnings (e.g., chartering or buying/selling a ship), leaving ship managers to deal with cost control and operational tasks. Ship managers ensure that the ship complies with international rules and regulations, that it is seaworthy and always fit to carry cargo with operational reliability, safely and cost-efficiently. A key requirement from shipowners is that the asset (ship) is well preserved.

Third-party ship management involves the separation of ship ownership from the crewing, technical and, in some cases, commercial management of the vessel. A shipowner may manage his entire fleet or subcontract some parts such as crewing, technical or commercial management operations to professional ship managers.

Ship management is undertaken by companies separate from the vessel's ownership and involves tasks such as manning, training and appointment of both ship and shore-based personnel, sourcing of ship's supplies, giving advice on the available options for the ship's registration, trading, ship maintenance, etc. (Branch and Robarts 2014). According to Bjuggren and Palmeberg (2009), third-party ship management denominates the complete separation of ownership and control in maritime transport and illustrates that labour in shipping (the crew) is not tied to the asset (the vessel) to the same extent as in other industries. The merits of outsourcing and ship management have been researched and expounded primarily in the studies by Panayides (2001), Panayides and Cullinane (2002), Mitroussi (2004a) and Cariou and Wolff (2011a, b).

## 1.3 Company Structures

An organisational structure is the formal pattern of how a company arranges its organisational activities and functions (Gibson et al. 2006). There are numerous variations of ship-owning company structures. Some companies (or owners) may operate a single ship, whereas other companies are shipping conglomerates and may be operating in different markets via different entities and business units. Some companies have specialised fleets and focus on the operation of particular ship types in particular markets. Others may be more diverse in terms of ownership and operation (fleet diversification). The degree of specialisation or diversification depends primarily on the company's strategy, which is formulated on the basis of

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external environmental factors and economic circumstances and represents the vision and mission of the company in its attempt to gain a competitive advantage in the market domain.

Over the years, as in other service industries, there has been a gradual shift in focus towards organisational structures that are more customer focused (i.e. structures developed around customer groups) in order for companies to develop and offer coherent customer-oriented solutions. Hence, companies in the shipping industry are nowadays formed to develop and offer transportation and ship management solutions to customers and have become more specialised, more organised and flexible and more innovative in doing so. Even diversified shipping conglomerates operate with predetermined strategic business units in order to achieve the above-mentioned goals. In addition, there is a drive towards reducing the number of levels in typical hierarchical company structures to structures that are flatter and would thus facilitate delegation and decentralisation of authority and faster decision-making.

## 1.3.1 Shipping Conglomerates

The diversification of shipping companies into other shipping and transportation markets has given rise to shipping conglomerates. A diversified shipping group would be an umbrella structure with business units in various shipping sectors, e.g. dry bulk, tanker, container, etc. Diversification is often driven by a strategy to hedge exposure to cyclical risk in different market sectors (Lorange 2009), although in the shipping industry this practice is not as prevalent as in other industries. A relatively small number of companies or business units have been successful in securing a public listing where shares are owned by institutional investors.

## 1.3.2 Traditional Shipping Companies

The characteristics of a traditional shipping company are epitomised by the key departments, like operations, technical, crewing and chartering, as well as an administration/management department. The company invests in newbuilding and second-hand ships and is responsible for finding employment for the ships in the spot market and/or the time charter market. In addition, depending on company policy, it may engage in ship sale and purchase. This is typical of dry bulk shipping companies. Ships are normally registered under one-ship-owning companies as a means to achieve tax-related advantages and to limit liability of the group. Single-ship-owning companies are registered offshore that provides higher levels of business confidentiality.

## 1.3.3 Liner Shipping Companies

A liner shipping company is responsible for operating a fleet of container or other types of dry cargo vessels such as MPPs. Vessels are employed in a liner service with fixed calls for loading and discharging and following a timetable with a pre-fixed and advertised geographical rotation ('itinerary' or 'liner schedule'). Normally this is done via an extensive network of offices that are located at the ports/country of destination. The main office is subdivided into departments that deal with marketing, ship operations, personnel and claims/legal. The operations are much more complex, not least in terms of attracting cargo, designing and operating cost-effective liner shipping routes and networks (Liu et al. 2014), utilising assets and achieving reliability in port calls and satisfying and anticipating the needs of a large number of customers. Notwithstanding the size of ship operations, several people are required to staff such a company properly before it can be fully operational. A liner shipping company is focused on securing bookings of containers (which may be made up of smaller consignments of various commodities) with a view to filling vessels.

Companies in liner shipping have developed various types of alliances and collaborations in order to share resources and assets among themselves and to formulate mutually beneficial strategies and seek operational performance improvements. Liner shipping companies have adopted the hub-and-spoke approach whereby long-haul, high-capacity containerships deployed on the main east-west arterial routes call at a limited number of hub ports that are 'fed' cargo by small feeder vessels that connect with outer or spoke ports. This allows the consortia/alliances to participate in upstream and downstream activities together (Panayides and Wiedmer 2011).

## 1.3.4 Shipping Divisions

This is a division of a company whereby shipping is not its primary activity, but it has high maritime transport needs and thus has invested in ships. A good example would be the shipping division of an international oil company. International oil companies usually invest in own assets in addition to chartering ships on time and voyage charters. Hence, part of the company's oil shipments is carried in companyowned vessels, and the division is responsible for all activities associated with the acquisition and operation of these vessels. Major investment decisions must pass through the central company board, and the division's management is mainly responsible for day-to-day operations.