



NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2024

Welcome to our first Newsletter!

As part of our commitment to increased visibility and transparency, we are excited to introduce this newsletter, which will be released regularly to keep you informed and engaged.

Every issue will follow a similar structure, beginning with an introduction from the Chair, highlighting significant developments and key topics discussed in the most recent board meeting. This will be followed by a membership status update, which will feature new members and associates, categorized by region and category. Additionally, this section will include any pertinent updates from the screening committee.

The next part of the newsletter will cover various topics, including profiles of new directors, updates from the JNRC working group, articles from board members, underwriters, and brokers. Finally, we will spotlight one of our members. For this spotlight feature, we invite you to share your story. If you'd like to contribute, please tell us about your journey in this unique industry, what continues to fascinate you, and the most memorable moments of your career as a Marine Warranty Surveyor. Please ensure your content is suitable for publication, adhering to proper etiquette and confidentiality guidelines.

In addition to our newsletter, we are pleased to announce the implementation of a new email address: askthechair@somws.org. Correspondence sent to this address will come directly to me. I welcome your suggestions, concerns, observations, and ideas for improvement. While we strive to respond promptly, please bear in mind that the board members handle these responsibilities alongside their day jobs, so your patience is appreciated. If multiple members raise similar issues, I will address them in a future newsletter to ensure that everyone benefits from the discussion.

In this month's edition, our open section introduces Warren Inniss, one of our new directors. We also shine a spotlight on Doug Devoy, who received the Lifetime Achievement Award at this year's annual dinner in May in London. Speaking of the annual dinner and seminar, I want to share something with you. The morning before the seminar, I went for a run, and took this picture from London bridge:

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It shows one of the recently acquired Auxiliary fleet vessels, previously used in the offshore construction industry, alongside the HMS Belfast, a permanently moored light Cruiser, which was one of the most capable war ships of its time. I thought this unique picture illustrates the development of the maritime industry. There is obviously no operations comparison between a war ship and a construction vessel, but I was impressed by the direct comparison in size.

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with your contributions and feedback.

Best wishes,



Ekkehard Stade
Chair of the Board of Directors

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MEMBERSHIP STATUS UPDATE

Membership Base By Region

Region	Full Members	Associate Members
Africa	8	7
Asia	127	31
Australasia	8	1
Europe	139	83
Middle East	34	19
North America	40	5
South America	15	2

Membership Base By Category

Category	Number of members
Oil & Gas Projects	286 members
Rigs	116 members
Renewables	78 members
Cargo	263 members
Associate	148 members

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Navigating Challenges and Opportunities in Marine Warranty Surveying: A New Board Member's Perspective ~ Warren Inniss



Lightering from a grounded Bulk Carrier in South America

I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to join the Board of SOMWS. This role allows me to advocate for the advancement of marine warranty surveying and to further the status and standards of our industry.

My passion for Marine Warranty Surveying (MWS) is rooted in my journey, which began 20 years ago at the University of Southampton, where studying for my Masters in Ship Science I had dreams of designing yachts. However, during my student work placements with BMT, I discovered a preference for the unpredictability and constant challenges in Naval Architecture consultancy, over the consistency of design work. This career has taken me from Norway to Congo, Suriname to Singapore, and many trips to the North Sea.

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I've engaged in diverse projects, from aiding in the salvage of rigs, barges, and ships, including the infamous Costa Concordia, to conducting a broad range hydrostatic and hydrodynamic analyses for the shipping and offshore energy industries. Like many new engineers, initially, I didn't appreciate the critical role marine and offshore insurance plays in our globalised world and I certainly had never heard of a Marine Warranty Surveyor! Unfortunately, far too many in the Insurance, Shipping, and Energy industries remain unaware of the crucial work we MWS do in reducing project risks and ensuring the smooth operation of our interconnected world.

Currently, I serve as the Associate Director for MWS projects at Waves Group. Many of the projects I oversee are part of the booming offshore renewable and subsea cables markets. Like many surveyors, I began my career supporting the oil and gas sector. I soon discovered the rules and standards of the oil majors are as extensive as they are non-negotiable. So, when I first started working on offshore wind projects, I was disappointed to see lessons where not being shared and a degree of "reinventing the wheel." While the offshore construction and renewables industries still face challenges, I am pleased to see the increasing emphasis on safety and quality today.



A sunny day in a North Sea offshore wind farm

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Reflecting on my early days in offshore wind projects, I remember a project where the monopiles were supplied by a low-cost manufacturer. One day the Client Representative drove me through the marshalling harbour past the rows of monopiles, so many defects had been found and cut out, that the monopiles resembled Swiss cheese. Arriving at the quay I was surprised to see a group of men sitting in a circle drinking beer, apparently holding a “safety meeting”! Whilst no one was hurt on that day, other firsthand experience has shown me why regulations are often described as “written in blood” and the importance of a rigorous safety culture.

As we strive to meet net zero targets and the global energy transition, the offshore energy industry will continue to see massive investments, expansion into new locations, and substantial growth in the supply chain. This growth will inevitably present challenges in maintaining safety and quality. I hope to contribute to the vital work that SOMWS does, supporting MWS in upholding standards, and developing and sharing knowledge within the global marine energy and construction communities.



*Warren Inniss, MEng CEng MRINA MSOMWS
Associate Director for MWS Projects, Waves Group*

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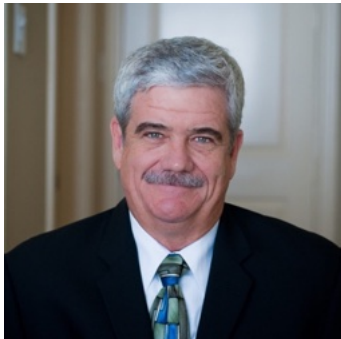
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Member Spotlight ~ Doug Devoy

Doug Devoy is a prominent figure in the offshore marine warranty survey field, with a career spanning over four decades. Currently, Doug serves as a director at the Society of Marine Warranty Surveyors and consults for Global Maritime. His dedication and contributions to the industry have been recognized with a lifetime achievement award, a testament to his impact and leadership.



Doug's journey in the offshore marine industry began in 1981 when he joined MatthewsDaniel. Over the years, he held several key positions within the company, including President of the Americas and Group Marine Director. One of his notable achievements during this period was responding to the Rig Committees request and chairing the Marine Warranty Surveyor Advisory Panel starting in 2002. This initiative aimed to unite major marine warranty survey firms to enhance standards and foster cooperation, a challenging task given the historical lack of communication and collaboration among these firms.

A graduate of Texas A&M University in Marine Engineering, Doug also pursued graduate studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He holds a Texas adjuster license and is a member of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers. Doug's innovative spirit is evident through his creation of the Program Preload and Executive Program Preload Risk Minimization programs, designed to optimize the placement of jack-up rigs on location. His expertise and thoughtful leadership have been showcased in numerous papers presented at the Offshore Technology Conference and other technical forums.

Doug's passion for marine warranty surveying is evident in his long-term commitment to advancing the field. Despite the initial limited success of the Marine Warranty Survey Advisory Panel, his persistence paid off with the establishment of the Society of Offshore Marine Warranty Surveyors in 2017. This achievement marked a significant milestone in bringing together professionals in the industry to share knowledge and improve practices.

Throughout his career at MatthewsDaniel, Doug was involved in some of the most groundbreaking offshore projects. One of the earliest was the transportation and installation of the Conoco Jolliet TLP in 1990, located in Green Canyon Block 184 at a depth of 1760 feet.

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During this MWS project, additional expertise was required relating to the transportation of the TLP on the Mighty Servant 3. Frank van Hoorn of Argonautics Marine Engineering was called in to assist with this portion, and his expertise was instrumental in understanding the complexities of the transport. Following successful completion of the project an Offshore Technology Conference paper was published on this TLP transport with Frank van Hoorn and Doug Devoy as authors. This project was the company's largest deepwater undertaking at the time, and Doug's role as MWS project manager was crucial to its success.

In 1996, Doug managed another pioneering project—the Oryx Neptune Spar in Viosca Knoll 826 at a depth of 1,930 feet. This was the first spar installed in the Gulf of Mexico and presented numerous first-of-its-kind challenges. Doug's expertise and leadership were instrumental in navigating the complexities of this project, coordinating with major offshore underwriters at Lloyd's, and addressing various technical questions related to transportation and installation.

Doug's contributions to the offshore marine warranty survey field extend beyond his project work. His efforts in improving industry standards and fostering a collaborative environment have left a lasting legacy. As a founding member and board director of the Society of Offshore Marine Warranty Surveyors, he continues to influence the industry positively.

Receiving a lifetime achievement award is a fitting recognition of Doug Devoy's dedication, innovation, and leadership in the offshore marine warranty survey field. His career is a testament to the impact that one individual can have on an industry, and his work will continue to inspire future generations of marine warranty surveyors.

In conclusion, Doug Devoy's career is characterized by his unwavering commitment to excellence, his pioneering spirit, and his significant contributions to the offshore marine industry. As he continues to share his knowledge and expertise, the industry can look forward to continued advancements and improvements, driven by the standards and practices he has helped establish.

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