

Marine Surveying

An Industry in Transition

Past and Present

- AB INITIO-"In the beginning" what was required was knowledge, some hand tools and a place to work.
- The profession was at first driven by the necessities of commerce and war.
- Recreational surveying is a relatively new profession. Approximately 100 years old.

Past and Present

- The guidelines of this profession were less clear in past. Opinions were taken as strongly defensible facts due to the surveyors position of long experience.
- Fast forward 1688 to a London Coffee-Lloyds. Blip again to 1911 and Lloyds first “Act”.
- The world changed. The surveyor was expected to have responsibility to multiple masters and the positions of those masters were defined.

Present

- The licensing or registration of the surveying population is eminent.
- A direct result of “Global Harmonization” of Rules and Standards.
- In the US ABYC and NMMA are doing a wonderful job at participating in International Standards Harmonization.
- There are now in place several surveyors organizations in many countries but few-very few participate or perhaps acknowledge the depth of change.

Present Environment

- If you are an established surveyor your education tasking and upgrading has become more difficult.
- If you are considering Surveying you may have the advantage no past judgments, however the scope of exposure will be more defined. Your areas will be more explicit. Your education will be more expensive and risk may be higher.
- There is a new organization ASMO seeking to clarify purpose and others assisting in educational opportunities-IIMS, Westlawn, Chapmans, etc.

Present and Future

- The future has arrived.
- The standards changing process is thankfully upon us.
- The past days of having a hammer and business cards are effectively over.
- Being able to take a position and hold it without credible back up has past.
- The legal frame work on an International scale is very present as driven by the responsibility of internet advertising and legal concerns.

What to Expect

- Some of the aspects to consider when becoming a surveyor.
- Educational requirements-it used to be you could go to work with a hammer and a sign. Currently matters are far different.
- Potential legal difficulties-it used to be you were responsible to the buyer...
- Costs-initial and ongoing-real costs.

Where to Begin

- Analyze what type of inspections you might be qualified to perform and what training and testing will be needed. UT, Cargo Thermography, Fishing Vessel, Machinery and Engines all require above average training and there are many specialty areas. Subjects such as gas removal/venting, coatings, container reinspection, etc. - I prefer Anchors and Rodes.
- Currently(10-12-08) at AMSO there were 3880 surveyors of all stripes accepted to be registered world wide in 95 countries. Not very many on the world scheme.
- The door is open but read the rules before entering.
- “The Library of Knowledge is open to all however the Hallways of Wisdom are not overfull”. Benjamin Franklin.

Organizations

- Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors.
- National Association of Marine Surveyors
- International Institute of Marine Surveyors
- Yacht Surveyors and Designers Association.
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- Thank You