Technical & Commercial Consultant, Maritime Lawyer & Marine Technologist

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Profile / Summary

Technical & Commercial Consultant, Maritime Lawyer and Marine Technologist (MNM,

CMMar & CMarTech), **Ship Handling and Towage Consultant;** Specialist at leveraging an extensive background in consulting for international marine operations to provide innovative technical solutions, to direct cargo (and STS) operations and manage incident investigations for international shipping companies and the offshore energy industry. Key strengths include: leading ship-handling specialist, towing and anchorhandling expertise, vessel hydrodynamics, confined waterway navigation methodologies to ensure policies and processes operate at world-class standards; utilising holistic optimisation to consider and address all relevant factors in a comprehensive and interconnected way to improve systems, processes, and solutions; consistently going beyond standard expectations and requirements to continually improve difficult and potentially legal situations for clients and employers; and, developing creative solutions for complex circumstances to aid non-legal and non-maritime stakeholders to understand the full context for all situations.

Key Skills

- Extensive Expert Witness Appointments
- Navigation, Marine Safety & Port Operations
- Pilotage / Manoeuvring / Tug Ops / Mooring
- Infrastructure/ Berth / Dolphin planning
- Moorings & Cordage Consultancy
- Independent Research and Practical Testing
- Cargo Operations & Ship Management
- STS (Liquid & Bulk) Transfer Operations

- Offshore / Oil & Gas / Marine Towage Operations
- Personnel Transfer and W2W issues analysis
- Surveying, Maritime Law & Determination
- Fishing & Subsea Industry Incident Analysis
- Wet & Dry Dock Project Management.
- Port Development planning & Representation
- SOLAS / IMO / ISM Controls & Policies
- AIS, ECDIS, & VDR Analysis & Interpretation

Career Highlights

- O&G client needed North Sea rig relief with a proven capacity to manage semi-submersible drilling and exploration rigs. As Relief Marine Officer, efficiently managed all rig-moves, repair-yard and stacking operations. Exceptional competence quickly realised when Succeeded in bridging expertise and leadership gap for client. Recognised as 'Transocean's Mr Fix-It', covering entire semi-submersible fleet. Efficiently resolved all technical, stability, towing, anchoring, and operational issues, thus gaining additional towage and consulting appointments. Developed and refined novel rig-processes, taking numerous high-level appointments as Barge-master / OIM / Tow master, Stability Technician, and Marine-Systems Specialist.
- Manchester Pilot Services required close-quarters ship-handling competency and application of extreme hydrodynamic and interaction forces. As Senior Pilot, addressed significant deficit in reliable knowledge and causal explanations relating to ship-interaction forces. Undertook direct research to inform global publications; created theories that became recognised as leading subject works; and taught findings to variety of Mariners. Revised and developed multi-tug towage practices for oversized vessels in confined waterways. Succeeded in increasing personal competency to be awarded MNM for service to industry and was invited to take independent appointment as Series Editor for Lloyds Practical Shipping Guides.
- Confidential Legal company required identity of likely culprit creating damage to submarine internet cable. As Consulting Advisor, investigated all available evidence sources to provide support analysis for final determination. Reviewed offender characteristics from multiple sources; led legal outcome assessment; liaised with major submarine-cable operators for range of solutions and due diligence; and presented final determination. Succeeded in delivering robust evidence to achieve satisfactory factual outcome, then subsequently recognised and appointed as sector go-to Technical Analyst for current and future incidents; Resulted in numerous follow-on appointments, by recommendation, and developed wider experienced working and operating in multiple legal jurisdictions.



Career History / Work Experience

02/2008 to Present: Norwest Interaction Ltd: Director & Founder

- Director and Founder, reporting to Board, responsible for creating new business profile to drive reputation and growth, and for liaising with variety of legal and commercial clients.
- Responsible for developing and overseeing business marketing, operating structure, and for defining
 organisational specialisations across all areas.
- Responsible for creating, developing and managing personnel USP profiles.
- Principal Marine Hydrodynamics Researcher and Consultant.

Key Projects & Achievements:

- Appointed Consultant then Expert Witness for Xin Ping Yang v. Princess Mary [2009 2012] Litigation (High Court of Singapore ADM58/2010/S).
- Became HHA's hydrodynamics Analyst and Consultant in 2010 for near miss incident.
- Instructed by HFW Shanghai re Costa Classica v Lowlands Longevity, Collision in Admiralty Court, QBD for Claim No 2011, Folio 588) litigation.
- Appointed by Chester Marine Services on behalf of PLA and City of London stakeholders as specialist Advisor for viability and Hydrodynamic Consequences study re QE2 'Return to London' project in 2012.
- Commissioned by Peel Ports Group re 'A v.'B' in 2014-15 arbitration involving collision in River Mersey.
- Consulted regarding Llys Helig v Malden DC for 2017-18 arbitration re riverbed-wreck salvage issues.
- Consulted by Mott McDonald Engineering for Port Development / Ship management in 2018 near Dakar.
 Instructed for CTT Communications Inc.y TN Travelors Ltd et al. in 2018 10 litigation in Scottich Court of
- Instructed for GTT Communications Inc v TN Trawlers Ltd et al. in 2018-19 litigation in Scottish Court of Sessions regarding trawler extensively damaging, then severing, subsea cable.
- Advisor to Peel Ports Group & Manchester Pilots in Dec 2018 relating to determination of canal-tug requirements, then consulted regarding viable options with Turkish tug construction firms.
- Aided EA in 2019-2020 with arbitration in respect of port mobile cranes purchase and use.
- Appointed to GTT Communications v Nordzee in Feb June 2020 re damaged submarine cable litigation.
- Instructed by Gilson Gray LLP in Edinburgh Scottish Court of Sessions matter, regarding fishing vessel damage to subsea internet communication cables under the Irish sea.
- Commercial and Technical Analyst supporting Crouch Harbour Authority & Port Trustees in Feb-April 2020 regarding port expansion and berth development plans.
- Instructed by DLA Piper Solicitors (Dublin) in the matter of Hibernia Express UK Ltd v Saltees (Fishing) Ireland in Nov 2020 in respect of Dublin High Court litigation relating to damaged submarine cables.
- Appointed to the matter of GTT Netherlands B.V v Visseirmaatschappij Jan Meindert BV in the Rotterdam Admiralty Court June 2021 relating to Dutch trawler damaging subsea internet cables in UK waters.
- Technical Consultant to Environment Agency v CRT in June Dec 2021 re arbitration regarding 'injurious affect' arising from flood defence works in Lincoln.
- Appointed by DWF (Ireland) LLP to Virgin Media v Willie Joe case, from Sept 2021 to May 2022, in (Dublin High Court) litigation, re lengthy dispute regarding trawler damaging subsea internet cables.
- Instructed to advise in UKEA v BAM in Aug 22 Jan 2023 re Legal Adjudication of Contractual Issues.
- EW in Eggins v Cattedown Wharves Ltd in Oct 2022 April 2023 litigation relating to personal accident and injury of dock worker during cargo operation on a ship. Instructed by Plexus Law LLP (London).
- Multiple sub-contracts [2014 Present] providing Expert Witness & Tech Support for CMR, HKA, UKEA, operating and practicing in multiple jurisdictions.
- Currently writing technical papers on personal research into Marine Hydrodynamics, including Molecular hydrodynamics, and developing into the sphere of quantum hydrodynamic effects.

01/1998 to 12/2022: Manchester Ship Canal Pilot Service: Senior Marine Pilot

 Senior Marine Pilot, reporting to MSC Pilot Service & Harbour Master's Department, responsible for moving ships in and out of port / restricted waterways, maintaining port infrastructure, marine safety and berth integrity, ensuring delivery of regulatory compliance across all port operations and activities. Key Projects & Achievements:

- Achieved superior competency levels for all ship-handling, driving the understanding and application of extreme hydrodynamic forces as experienced during close-quarters ship-encounters and movement.
- Revamped pilot training programme, instruction and mentoring for all Junior Pilots, focusing on unusual shipping incidents analysis and causal investigations.
- Provided advice and ongoing oversight during dredging infrastructure maintenance and development.
- Advised Harbour Authority on berth, mooring dolphins, and infrastructure developments, to ensure
 public safety and shipping security during severe weather and anomalous environmental conditions.
- Appointed in independent capacity to advise on tug usage, unique design specifications, and suitability for particular work projects and for and wider deployment applications.
- Identified significant deficit in reliable ship-hydrodynamics knowledge and independently researched subject to deliver satisfactory explanations for extreme (and novel) ship-interaction forces.
- Undertook independent research into phenomena, substantively developing theory and knowledge of molecular and quantum hydrodynamics, worked to ensure findings were promulgated globally.
- Researched work and theories now recognised across maritime sector as being reliable seminal works that are routinely taught to all Mariners.

02/2017 to Present: The UK Environment Agency: Navigation & Port Safety Consultant

- Navigation and Port Safety Consultant, reporting to Project Manager and Regional Director of Environment Agency, working on the Boston flood defence construction project.
- Responsible for providing independent technical advice & guidance relating to Navigation Management Plans (NMP), Port Traffic Navigational Safety, berth construction and safe shipping / cargo operations.
- Supporting delivery of flood defence barrier project outputs, wet dock commercial traffic operations.
- Advisor on managing shipping programmes and navigational safety, also tug and towage operations.
- Responsible for weather and environmental monitoring and vessel movement tolerance determination.
- Consultant regarding cargo-handling equipment acquisition, deployment and functionality, and for dredging and local bathymetry-modelling, included delivering seasonal-hydrology variation analyses.

Key Projects & Achievements:

- Delivered independent analysis during port asset development, resolving port marine safety code compliance issues and, focussed on resolving pilotage and ship-handling and traffic throughput issues, advising on port (NAABSA) berth maintenance and infrastructure sustainability.
- Incorporated and deployed monitoring and analysis, and provided advice regarding merchant and leisure traffic practices and patterns, sea-bed bathymetry surveys, dredging programme monitoring.
- Consulted on multiple mooring issues and towage operations, and vessel salvage operations.
- Provided seasonal and environmental advice relating to fluvial impediments and supported development of merchant traffic and leisure-craft navigational management plans / NMPs.
- Provided support and technical assistance for Environment Agency's City-of-Lincoln Fossdyke flood protection upgrade scheme, and for the Hebden Bridge, in Yorkshire, flood-relief project.

02/2016 to Present: Cameron Maritime Resources: Marine Consultant & Technical Advisor

- Marine Consultant and Technical Advisor, reporting to MD, responsible for analysing client problem areas, rationalising facts, advising on case merits, and for preparing case documentation for court.
- Produce preliminary proposals and PIDs, field situational analyses, deliver legal and technical advisory guidelines, and cost effective commercial solutions, to meet time-critical client deadlines.

Key Projects & Achievements:

- Representative Advisor and Marine Consultant for UK Environment Agency in Denver-Sluice and Norfolk Fenlands area, analysing and reporting on environmental hydrology, channel-movement and tidal-river hydrography, silting and scouring patterns, dredging and clearance solutions, commercial and leisure traffic navigational safety, and legal, civil, commercial & insurance liability mitigations.
- Advanced by Principal to become multi-discipline Expert Witness and Technical support for Mott McDonald (Civil Engineers) during the 2017, City-of-Boston (UK) Flood-Defence Scheme public inquiry.
- Expert Witness for Sibley v RNLI in 2018-19 at litigation re vessel grounding and personal injury case.
- Expert Witness for EA Denver, Norfolk & Peterborough in 2018 2020 for arbitration preparation.

- Lead Consultant and Technical / Safety Analyst for UKEA (Norfolk & Fenlands) in respect of safety manning and waterway-maintenance on estuarial waterways and the Fenland(s) canal system(s).
- Instructed to opine on the 2019 matter of Carrotta v Clipper Ventures in respect of safety practices and personal injuries sustained during Round-the-World Yacht race incident.
- Led m/v Agios Fanourios 2019 case re CP mooring issue, sub-appointment (Stevenson Harwood LLP).
- Delivered Suez Canal Authority (SCA) Improvement Study Guidelines in Oct 2023 and scoping document with project specifications for revised SCA traffic management improvement and efficiency scheme.
- Instructed on GTCS Trading DMCC v Quanton Commodities Ltd GAFTA Arbitration in Jan 2024. Analysis
 of 'suspect' STS transfer activities to identify 0.3M tonnes of allegedly stolen (looted) Ukranian grain.
- Expert Witness instruction (Quinn Emanual (Paris)) re Telford DMCC v BSL, Concurrent SCMA Arbitration, on W2W gangway damage involving AWB [Support Ship] & newly commissioned FPSO.

01/2019 to 10/2023: HKA: Principal Marine Expert Witness

- Hired in 2019 as Principal Marine Expert Witness for HKA Global Ltd, then sub-instructed by Evershed Sutherland LLP (London) on 2-year appointment as Subject Expert for offshore industry litigation.
- Responsible for analysing complex offshore-industry prosecution evidence, then preparing preliminary
 opinion on case merits, also producing and delivering advisories on new evidence.
- Additionally accountable for drafting detailed expert evidence reports relating to Criminal Prosecution for HSE v Offshore Oil Major and Others.

Key Projects & Achievements:

- Marine lead in HSE v Offshore Majors & Others from Dec 2021 to October 2023 for litigation in UK High Court (Chelmsford) for offshore safety issues, as appointed by Evershed-Sutherland (International) LLP.
- Completed full analysis of multiple conflicting evidence strands, rationalising scenarios, extracting weaknesses in arguments for each party, and identified relative strengths to create coherent picture sufficient to inform a non-maritime / offshore-industry Judge and the Lay-person Jury.
- Produced compelling coherent and persuasive evidence sufficient that, after 2 years of legal wrangling, prosecution was persuaded to withdraw, and dropped maritime litigation action before reaching court.

02/2016 to Present: Crouch Harbour Authority, Trust Commissioners: Consultant

- Marine Technical and Legal Consultant, reporting to Burnham on Crouch Harbour Master and Chairman
 of Board of Trustees, responsible for advising upon and producing supporting documentation on Trust
 Law & Practices, commercial development risks, maritime law, and provision of marine work licences.
- Appointed to advise on technical aspects of commercial berth development with complex mooring arrangements, sunken (wreck) vessel salvage & public liability mitigations.
- Prepared and delivered port-towage and mooring-operator training for all Port Personnel and Employees.
- Invited to provide further training and certification for Port Operatives, supplementing Port and Harbour Master's team with robust 'Trust', 'Charity', Commercial, and Practical Legal guidance.
- Required to analyse & interpret ancient land documents and contextualise re modern legal expectations.
- Additionally required to deliver training & practical advice across operations, and provide guidance relating to the obligations & responsibilities of the Trust Board toward the Harbour Master's Function.

Key Projects & Achievements:

- Advise and Guide re Salvage and Towage Operations, Planned Berth / Mooring Arrangement schemes.
- Resolved multiple internal disputes for Board and supported activities / provenance of Harbour Master.
- Guided Board of Trustees regarding a range of land & property disputes with local Councils and land owners, thereby mitigating any need for matters to be devolved to the Courts.
- Retained on As Needed basis as Advisor for Harbour Master's department and Board of Trustees.

07/2012 to 10/23: The Honourable Company Of Master Mariners (HCMM): Warden

- Freeman from July 2012, Liveryman from 2015, and Warden since May 2020, reporting to Clerk and Master of Company, responsible for operation and administration of Company. Principal lead creating Chartered Master Mariner scheme. Advised on HR, financial plans, Committee & Directorship oversight.
- Accountable for stakeholder engagement, risk analysis, environmental scanning, change management, risk rationalisation, strategy planning, legal & commercial activities. Drove & Led Governance Review.

Key Projects & Achievements:

- Oversight and management of vessel safety surveys, advising on hull and infrastructure condition plans and heavily involved in developing options and alternatives for new, riverside, floating livery hall.
- Assumed voluntary positions as Business Advisor, Company Director, Project leader, Programme Coordinator, and Legal, Technical & Planning Consultant.
- Transitioned difficult culture, driving location change for Honourable Company of Master Mariners, with full governance review, and implementation of visionary plans to replace old Livery Hall in London.
- Key consultant on new ship's mooring-dolphin project.
- Principal advisor and technical consultant for vessel involvement in the London Garden Bridge project.

02/2019 to Present: The UK Supreme Court: HCMM Nominated Nautical Assessor

 HCMM nominated Nautical Assessor, reporting to Clerk of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners, confirmed as responsible for delivering specialist support to Supreme Court by addressing maritime queries and explaining subject matter customs, practice & procedures arising during Admiralty cases.

Key Projects & Achievements:

- Completed rare appointment as Pro-Bono Advisor for Briganza v BP Shipping (British Unity) decision, taking late appointment. Findings prompted rare reanalysis of evidence by Supreme Court, resulting in Braganza precedent and new employment law (Braganza) responsibilities & obligations for employers.
- Formal appointment confirmed by letter delivered to Master of the Rolls on 10th Sept 2019.

10/2013 to Present: Series Editor for Lloyds Practical Shipping Guides

- Series Editor For Lloyds Practical Shipping Guides, reporting to Taylor & Francis Group in London. Responsible for reviewing proposals, draft plans, and aiding supporting authors and specialist advisors.
- Expected to review currency of authored works / advise on relevant new subjects for addition to series.

Key Projects & Achievements:

- Shipping Performance Management, author(s) Photis M.Panayides [Oct 2023], ISBN 9781138839229.
- Break Bulk and Cargo Management, author(s) Mark Rowbotham [April 2022], ISBN 9781032188041.
- Marine Pollution Control: Legal and Managerial Frameworks, author(s) Iliana Christodoulou-Varotsi [Apr 2018], ISBN 9781138856684.
- Shipbroking and Chartering Practice, author(s) Evi Plomaritou, Anthony Papadopoulos [Dec 2017], ISBN 9781138826946.
- Corporate Manslaughter in Maritime & Aviation Industries, author(s) Simon Daniels [Aug 2016], ISBN 9781138920477.
- The ISM Code: A Practical Guide to the Legal and Insurance Implications, author(s) Phil Anderson [June 2015], ISBN 9781843118855.
- Intro to Marine Cargo Management, author(s) Mark Rowbotham [Mar 2014], ISBN 9780415732413.

Earlier Career

- 01/1998 to 12/2022: Manchester Ship Canal Pilot, Company Director, Senior Pilot & Training Officer, advising on Port, Infrastructure, and Berth / Mooring configuration development. Extensive Ship handling and Towing experience.
- 05/1992 to 12/1997: UECC Grimsby: Superintendent, Ships Master & Senior Officer
- 12/1987 to 05/1992: Wilrig UK (Agency) leading to over 4-years with Transocean Offshore Ltd as: Rig Technical Specialist, Tow Master, Barge Master/ Engineer, Marine Superintendent, & Stability Specialist
- 07/1983 to 12/1987: SGS Redwood (Saudi Arabia): Marine Surveyor, Cargo Superintendent / Port Captain, P&I Surveyor, Classification Inspector, and field Warranty Surveyor.
- 08/1982 to 07/1983: Humberside Sea & Land Ltd: Berthing Master, Ops Manager & Port Hydrographer, berth and development consultant, planning and setting mooring arrangement for large tankers.
- 01/1982 to 08/1982: Caleb Brett USA: Cargo Surveyor, Port Captain, and Marine Technical Consultant
- 03/1977 to 12/1981: F.T Everard & Sons: Senior Officer, Master, Port Captain, Dry-Dock Superintendent

Expert & Advisory / Consultancy Role (Examples)

- 2025: Ever Given (Suez blocking) Arbitration. Initial Instruction notice of reserved EW appointment
- 2025: Jacobs Int'l (Civil Engineering). Marine Consultant for Coastal Erosion project, NW England
- 2025: Appointed arbitration EW for deep-sea (FPSO) towing-damage matter commencement pending
- 2024: UKEA, Boston Port (UK) Port Op Navsims & Mooring-Swinging Dolphin Development & Placement
- 2024: Telford DMCC v BSL (India) Expert for Arbitration re W2W gangway between Ship & FPSO
- 2024: GTCS V Quanton. GAFTA Arbitration Re STS Ops And 0.3M M/T of Allegedly Stolen Ukrainian Grain
- 2024: Led on Marine elements for Port of Fujairah (UAE) 'upgrade and rebranding' project consultation.
- 2023: Delivered Suez Canal Authority (SCA) Scheme Guidelines for Improving Traffic Efficiency
- 2019 to Present: UK Environment Agency, River Navigation, Ship-Handling, & Port Safety Advisor
- 2022 to 2023: UK Environment Agency v. BAM Engineering. EW For Legal Adjudication
- 2022 to 2023: Eggins v. Cattedown Wharves, EW For Personal Injury During Cargo Operations
- 2021 to Oct 2023: HSE v. Shell & Others, Offshore (Walk to Work (W2W)) Accident & Prosecution
- 2021: UK Environment Agency v. CRT, EW Appointment Re Lincoln Flood Defence Arbitration
- 2021: GGT v. Meindert Jan UK, Subsea Internet Cable Damage in UK Waters. Admiralty Court, Rotterdam
- 2021: Ever Given (Suez Canal). Provided Preliminary Analysis re Hydrodynamics of Grounding Incident.
- 2021 to 2022: Virgin Media v. Willie Joe. Litigation in Dublin High Court re Subsea Cable Damage,
- 2020: Hibernia Ltd UK v Saltees (Fishing) Ireland. Litigation Subsea Cable Damage, Dublin High Court.
- 2019: M/V Agios Fanourios, Charter Party & On-Hire Survey, Mooring & Damage Issues
- 2018: GGT v. TN Trawlers, Instruction re Severed Sub-Sea Cable in Irish Sea, Edinburgh Court of Sessions
- 2017: UK Environment Agency, Independent Marine & Technical Consultant for Boston Barrier Project
- 2017: Llys Helig v. Malden DC, Riverbed Salvage, Independent Advisor for Harbour Authority
- 2017: Mott McDonald (Engineering), Expert Witness for Boston Flood Defence Barrier, Public Inquiry
- 2015: Braganza v. BP Shipping Ltd, Expert Technical Advisor, Resulting In Braganza Rights Precedent
- 2011: Costa Classica v. Lowlands Longevity, Separation Scheme Collision in Shanghai Approaches
- 2010: Xin Ping Yang v. Princess Mary, Collision in Malacca Straits, Singapore Court
- 2010: Costco Napoli, Near Miss in Port. Expert Analyst, Advisor, & Hydrodynamic Consultant

Education / Qualifications

- Qualified Expert Determiner (Academy of Experts): 2022
- Advanced Professional Accreditation in Expert Witness Evidence (APAEWE): 2020
- CAA Qualified UAV / UAS Drone Pilot: 2020
- Certificated Navigation Assessor: The Nautical Institute: 2019
- Civil & Commercial Mediator (SCMA): 2018
- Associate Fellow of the Royal Institute of Navigation (AFRIN): 2018
- Chartered Master Mariner (CMMar). First Recipient of Chartered Master Mariner status: 2017
- Merchant Navy Medal for Meritorious Service (MNM): 2016
- Certificated International Arbitrator (CIArb): 2015
- Chartered Marine Technologist (CMArTech): 2011
- Master's in Business Administration: The Open University: 2009
- Bachelor of Laws, Honours LLB Hons: The Open University: 2006
- Senior Marine Pilot (Class 1, Unrestricted), Manchester Ship Canal: 2002
- Master Mariner STCW II/2 (Unlimited): DFT / MCA
- Higher National Diploma Nautical Science & Engineering: South Shields College: 1995
- Ordinary National Certificate in Nautical Science: 1978

Professional Associations

- Member of the Merchant Navy Association: 2023
- Member of the Royal Yachting Association: 2022
- Member of the Academy of Experts (MAE): 2020

- Warden of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners (HCMM): 2020 2023
- Member of the Baltic (Exchange) Expert Witness Association (BEWA): 2019
- Member of the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators: 2019 to 2023
- Associate Fellow of the Royal Institute of Navigation (AFRIN) 2018
- Deputy Chair for Chartered Master Mariner Registration Authority: 2017
- Younger Brother of the Trinity House Corporation, London (YB): 2016
- London Maritime Arbitrators Association, Supporting Member (LMAA): 2016
- Member of the London Shipping Law Centre (LSLC): 2015
- Member of the National Expert Witness Association (NEWA) 2015
- Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (MCIArb): 2015
- Fellow of the Nautical Institute (FNI): 2014
- Member of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners: 2012
- Fellow of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology (FIMarEST): 2011

Personal Details

- Location: WA4, Warrington
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