

**Steven J. Cunningham, MSc, Master Mariner, AFNI**

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**Professional Résumé**

**Principal Surveyor - Regional Manager (Gulf) of Independent Maritime Consulting LLC (IMC)**

IMC acts as Commercial Correspondents for several major Hull and Machinery (H&M) and Protection & Indemnity (P&I) underwriters, which includes providing claims handling assistance to their assured, performing surveys and investigating casualties of all kinds, mitigating and evaluating damages, assisting in coordinating repairs and providing technical advice. In addition, IMC provides surveys, technical consulting and expert witness services to maritime law firms, vessel Owners, Charterers and their liability underwriters in connection with major casualties, personal injury and cargo claims.

**Qualifications and Associations**

Class 1 Master Mariner (Unlimited Tonnage)  
MSc (Merit) PP, Marine Accident Investigation  
HND (Distinction), Nautical Science  
Diploma (Distinction), Port Management  
Marine Vessel Operations, NVQ Level 3  
Certified Arbitrator, Houston Maritime  
Arbitrators' Association  
Associate Fellow, Nautical Institute  
Member of Houston Mariners' Club  
OCIMF OVID Accredited Surveyor  
British / U.S. Citizen

**Areas of Expertise**

Marine Consultancy and Surveying  
Claims, Disputes & Litigation Support  
Marine Accident Investigation  
Expert Witness  
Navigation and Port Studies  
Vessel Surveys, Inspections & Audits  
Vessel Simulation & Modelling  
Mooring and Surge Analysis  
Harbor, Docking Pilot & VTS Operator  
Marine Operations  
Marine Warranty Survey

**Recent Experience and Work History**

Over two decades' experience and extensive knowledge of marine/vessel operations on a variety of vessel and cargo types. Attends and oversees maritime incidents, claims and high-risk operations internationally and has a keen understanding of the marine insurance industry, having established relationships with major underwriters, H&M / P&I Clubs, and maritime law firms. Steve's development of investigative techniques and vessel simulation studies helped to earn a Master's Degree in Marine Accident Investigation. He has served as an expert witness in several U.S. federal court districts and accepted as a marine accident reconstruction, vessel navigation, Safety Management Systems, and pilotage expert.

Regularly appointed by P&I clubs, brokers, underwriters, owners/operators and maritime law firms to undertake a variety of assignments. Some recent examples are listed below:

#### Claims, Disputes & Litigation:

- Navigation expert and review of tug and pilotage services – Caribbean.
- Unsafe port investigations and consultancy – USA, Central America.
- Investigation and expert for collisions and oil pollution involving deep-draft bulk carriers and inland tug and barges.
- Electronic navigation data review, simulations and accident reconstruction for U.S. federal court – Houston Ship Channel, Mississippi River, Sabine Neches Channel, Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Hudson River.
- Various surges case studies, including mooring and passing force analysis – Houston Ship Channel, Port Arthur, Beaumont, New Jersey, Mexico.
- Electronic navigation data expert for vessel arrest whilst in international waters – Caribbean Sea.
- Investigation and expert witness on navigation in heavy weather.
- Investigation into high value steel cargo damages due to heavy weather and shift in stow.
- Investigation and expert witness on dropped cargo, lifting and cargo handling.
- Investigation and expert witness on general marine safety and personal injury matters involving ship pilots, crew, longshoremen, fishing vessels and other small craft.
- Navigation/consulting expert and reconstruction specialist (VDR & AIS) for numerous port incidents including vessel collisions, allisions, groundings and surges incidents:
  - Narrow channel collision between deep-draft vessel and tug and barge – Baltimore;
  - Narrow channel collisions – Houston Ship Channel, Sabine Neches;
  - Major dock allisions and vessel collisions – Mississippi River;
  - Towing vessel groundings and allisions – Mississippi River;
  - Multiple tow vessel collisions – Matagorda Bay;
  - Towing vessel and barge collision – New York;
  - Dock allision – Puerto Rico;
  - Unsafe port, vessel grounding and salvage – Central America;
  - Unsafe port and vessel grounding – New Jersey.

#### Marine Casualty:

- Initial response, attendance, and investigation into containers lost during heavy weather – Panama.
- On-site attendance and investigation into girting of a tug during port operations – Central America.
- On-site attendance and investigation into passenger vessel grounding that resulted in extensive hull and machinery damage and salvage operation – Central America.
- Initial response, on-site attendance, and investigation into two-vessel, narrow channel, restricted visibility, collision with large oil spill and salvage operation – Houston Ship Channel.
- Initial response, attendance, and investigation during a fire to wood pellets in bulk – Texas.
- Initial response and investigation following a cargo hold explosion post fumigation – Texas.
- Initial response and on-site attendance following vessel breakaway and capsize during Hurricane.

A full list of expert witness designations and live testimony experience is available upon request.

## **Marine Assurance, Risk Management and MWS**

Steve has managed projects and/or acted as Marine Warranty Insurance Surveyor/Client Representative for high value/risk marine transportation on many major offshore energy projects for load-out, transportation, and installation of offshore equipment. He has attended a wide variety of offshore vessels and platforms, including DP Class 2 and DP 3 vessels, for audit, survey, function tests, annual proving trials and warranting of marine operations. He has conducted hundreds of industry standard surveys, inspections, and audits, including suitability, on/off-hire, Mission Critical Equipment, OCIMF OVID and CMID.

### **Project Involvement:**

- Appomattox (Shell) - FPU platform Sailaway and general MWS
- Bigfoot (Chevron) - TLP platform inshore/offshore Sailaway & integration
- Julia (Exxon Mobil) - DP Vessel, Loadout and Transportation Verifications
- URSA Life Extension (Shell) - Crane Replacement
- Block Island Wind Farm (Deepwater Wind) - MWS for vessel and lift boat surveys
- Juniper Equipment (BP) - DP Vessel, Loadout and Transportation Verifications
- Jack & St. Malo (Chevron) - DP Vessel, Loadout and Transportation Verifications / Cable Lay ops
- ST301B Decom (Shell) - Third party verifications barge, grillage, super-heavy lift rigging
- Stones (Shell) - DP Vessel, Loadout and Transportation Verifications
- Big Bend and Dantzler (Noble Energy) - Loadout and Transportation Verifications
- Julia (Exxon Mobil) - Vessel, Loadout and Transportation Verifications
- Medusa (Murphy Oil) - DP Vessel, Loadout and Transportation Verifications
- Point Thomson (Exxon) - Vessel Suitability Surveys
- BC-10 (Shell) - DP Vessel, Loadout and Transportation Verifications / Pipe Lay
- Majoon (Shell) - Loadout and Seafastenings
- Etame Expansion (Vaalco Topside) - Inshore/Offshore Sailaways
- Starfish (BG) - DP Vessel Surveys
- Mars B (Shell) - DP Vessel Surveys / OCVs
- Brazos Decom (Shell) - Third party verifications barge, grillage, super-heavy lift rigging
- Dalmatian South (Murphy Oil) - DP Vessel, Loadout and Transportation Verifications

## **Employment History**

2018 to Present	Independent Maritime Consulting LLC Principal Surveyor, Regional Manager (Gulf)
2013 to 2018	London Offshore Consultants Inc., Houston, TX, USA Associate Director, Shipping Team Lead
2008 to 2013	Port of Tyne Authority, River Tyne, UK Senior Marine Pilot
1997 to 2008	Merchant Navy, Worldwide Deck Officer, Master Mariner

## **Other Marine Courses and Certifications**

- Ship Handling Simulation and Emergency Response;
- STCW Pilot Resource Management;
- Bridge Resource Management;
- STCW Electronic Chart Display Information Systems (ECDIS);
- STCW Navigation Radar and ARPA Simulator Training (Management Level);
- STCW Tanker Familiarization;
- STCW Oil Tanker Training Program;
- Kongsberg Dynamic Positioning;
- Dangerous Cargo Endorsement;
- Two-day Marine Firefighting Course;
- One-day Marine Breathing Apparatus Course;
- STCW 4-Day Advanced Fire Fighting and Fire Prevention;
- STCW Person in Charge of Medical Care;
- First Aid at Sea;
- CPR and AED training;
- STCW Certificate of Completion of GMDSS Radio Communications Course;
- STCW Signals Examination;
- 1-day Survival Course;
- STCW Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats;
- Sea Survival Instructor/Assessor Development Course;
- Basic Offshore Safety and Emergency Training (BOSIET);
- Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (HUET) and Emergency Breathing System (EBS) equipment;
- Further Offshore Emergency Training;
- Rig Pass/Safegulf;
- Water Safety for Pilot Boat Crews and Pilots;
- Ship Security Officer;
- Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) induction Course;
- Basic Training for VTS Operators;
- VTS Operator Course;
- VTS Refresher Training;
- VTS Radar Simulation;
- Security Training Level 3;
- Crisis Management and Human Behavior;
- Ballast Water Management;
- Certificate of Proficiency as Efficient Deck Hand;
- Advanced Level Two Hazardous Materials Training;
- Bilge Waste Management Training;
- Environmental Compliance Training Tier 1 and Tier 2;
- Collision Avoidance Regulations Training (COLREGS);
- Avoiding Whale Strikes Training;
- Lifeboat TOR on-load Release Gear Training;
- Introduction to Marine Insurance Course.

## **Publications and Presentations**

*“Is your ECDIS contributing to safe navigation or introducing risk?”*

Loss Prevention Paper, London P&I Club, May 2018

*Marine Accident Investigation, Vessel Interaction, Surge Incidents and Vessel Squat*

Presentation and Case Study, Wilhelmsen & Archer Daniels Midland Company, Bi-Annual Management Conference, Houston, June 2017

*Replay, Analysis and Modelling of Marine Accidents*

Presentation, UK Club (Thomas Miller Americas), Annual Members’ Seminar, New Jersey, May 2017

In 2016, Steve received the award for Outstanding Achievement (MSc Degree) by The Marine Society.