

Michael Nicholson

Qualifications

Master Class 1 (Foreign Going - Unlimited)
Qualified Lead Auditor; Health & Safety, Quality & Environment
Harbour Master Certificate. UKHMA - MCA Approved
Currently Serving and Licensed Pilot – two ports
O.P.R.C. Pollution Control Level 5 (On Scene Commander)
ISPS Port Facility Security Officer
Vessel Traffic Services Operators Certificate
Associate Fellow Nautical Institute (AFNI)
HND in Nautical Science
Younger Brother – Newcastle Trinity House
IOSH - Safety for Senior Executives

Nationality

British

Contact

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<http://www.cwa.international>
+44 (0) 20 7242 8444

Current Position at CWA

Consultant – Marine Department

Specific Expertise and Experience

A Master Mariner, Pilot and Harbour Master, I have widespread knowledge of all aspects of shipping and ports along with extensive general and people management skills. Experienced in dealing with many stakeholders.

Summary of Previous Employment

2015 to Present

Shipmove Marine Consultancy

Principal

Founder & Principal, specialising in port and harbour operation, including:

- Advising ports on practical and safety management.
- Providing advice to marine civil engineering projects (new bridge & berth studies).
- Examiner – UK Harbour Masters Association MCA Approved Certificate Scheme.
- Performing Port Marine Safety Code, Quality, Environment & Health & Safety audits.
- Dredging advice.
- Operation of passenger excursion craft.
- Licensed and working as a Pilot in both Blyth and Seaham.
- Barge Master for Wind Farm element transportation.
- Member of the management and ethics board of quality assurance company.

2003 to 2015

Port of Tyne

Harbour Master & Head of Security

Responsible for a department of 98 staff and a multi-million-pound budget, this included:

- Assessment of Risks & port Marine Safety Code Compliance.
- Incident response & investigation, including preventing recurrence and mitigation.
- Marine department, including Vessel Traffic Services, Pilotage & Conservancy.
- Fleet of 4 launches, plough dredger & debris vessel.
- Passenger & Cruise Terminal.
- PFSO and Chair of the Port Security Authority.
- First and principle contact for all shipping, agents, and berth operators.

A broad role within the port, with a significant budget, and part of the top executive team.

Page 2 of 5

CWA International Ltd

2002 to 2003

Seaham Harbour

Harbour Master and Pilot

- Responsibility for navigation, marine safety, conservancy & marine advice.
- Pilots and dock staff including the operation & maintenance, pilot boats and Tug.

1994 to 2002

Humber Pilots

Pilot

Advanced to 1st Class Pilot, piloting a large range of vessels from small coasters to VLCC's and Capesize bulkers and berths ranging from creeks to Single Buoy Moorings.

1979 to 1994

Seagoing Career

Master

Cadet through to Master working on a wide variety of worldwide and coastal vessels.

Work Achievements

Health Safety and Assurance

- Department accreditation to OHSAS 18001 (Safety), ISO 14001 (Environment), and ISPO (International Standards for Pilotage Organisations).
- Production of Port Marine Safety Code, Emergency Response Plans (both Marine & Land), Business Continuity, Waste Management & Pollution Prevention Plans.
- Successfully re-organised several departments, introduced new staff contracts where appropriate, all at zero added cost but with increased productivity.
- Started a cruise business, facilitating the trade and persuading the board of its viability. From nil to 50+ cruise calls in five years.

Projects

- Navigational and security advice to engineers on the relocation of a berth.
- PMSC (Port Marine Safety code) and ISPS (International Ship and Port facility Security) audit of ports.
- Navigational advice (location, channel width, clearances, navigation aids) to civil engineers on the construction of three separate new bridges. Conducted simulation studies to ascertain the safety of the proposed installations.
- Working with local pilots and the client (an oil major), to establish entry procedures, limits, and Tug requirements; for a new Panamax tanker facility in France.
- Acted as principal Barge Master for multiple moves of wind farm jackets in and out of port. Produced passage plans, safe entry parameters and pro-forma reports.
- Produced reports for installations to determine target vessels and required berth capabilities.
- Provided advice on all aspects of port management to a National Ports Corporation in the Mediterranean.
- Agent for Bollard Load Testing ltd.

Task-Related Experience

Incidents – General

- Response to incidents including providing information and advice to solicitors representing the Port of Tyne. This to both defend claims from and pursue claims against the vessel(s) involved.
- Investigation, both independently and also working with MAIB.

Incidents – Specific

- “King of Scandinavia” – Ferry. Organised the response after she broke adrift; <https://www.gov.uk/maib-reports/contact-between-ro-ro-passenger-vessel-king-of-scandinavia-and-submersible-oil-platform-northern-producer-in-the-port-of-tyne>
- “Grenaa Star” – Fishing Vessel. Organised the Tier two pollution response. Worked with the vessels insurers to minimise the impact and arranged the salvage. Worked with solicitors to recover the Port’s costs and the MCA to prosecute the master; <https://www.chroniclive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/recovery-operation-begin-stricken-trawler-6429456>

Hearings

- Represented the Port of Tyne in a planning enquiries for a new quay development, presenting evidence and facing questions from opposing counsel.
- Attended the planning enquiry for the proposed Great Yarmouth new bridge as a marine expert for Norfolk County Council. Presented evidence and faced questions from the inspector and counsel for the port.

Miscellaneous

- Carried forward several byelaw prosecutions, working with police, solicitors and barristers.
- Worked with the Admiralty Marshalls and marine lawyers in several cases. Including the arrest, safekeeping, ultimate sale and debt recovery of the “Donald Duckling”; <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-25926312>

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