

JOHN SIMPSON
PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT, MASTER MARINER

CoC Master Unlimited (STCW II/2)
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EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2012 to Present Solis Marine, UK
Principal Consultant, Master Mariner

Co-founder of Solis Marine and since establishing the company has provided expert advice and reports for High Court and Arbitration Tribunals in London, Ireland, USA, Singapore, Indonesia, Australia, Bahamas and Hong Kong on pilotage of all types of vessels and other ship handling, navigation and manoeuvring issues, criminal prosecutions, loss of life and injury, collisions, groundings, unsafe ports/berths, tugs/towage and cargo issues.

Expert oral evidence given in Courts in England, Scotland and London Arbitration. In other jurisdictions; High Court in Dublin, Ireland, the High Court and District Courts of Hong Kong, High Court of Singapore and District Courts of Kalianda and Balikpapan, Indonesia and arbitration in Mumbai, India.

Has attended on site at all stages for salvage and wreck removal operations as the representative of insured interests. Also prepared invitations to tender (ITT's), evaluated contractor's bids and undertaken selection of preferred contractors on behalf of H&M and P&I insurers. He was a member of the Lloyd's Panel of Special Casualty Representatives (SCR) until September 2026.

2003 to 2012

London Offshore Consultants Ltd (LOC)

Director in Hong Kong and London, Consultant in London

Acted as a nautical assessor to the High Court of Hong Kong and has given expert evidence in the District Court of Hong Kong also Haifa, Israel and the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, Canada. Prepared expert reports for Court and Arbitration Tribunals in London, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Provided expert advice and reports with respect to pilotage of all types of vessels and other ship handling and manoeuvring issues. Instructions included unsafe port and berth claims, collisions and groundings, seaworthiness issues, criminal prosecutions, under keel clearance, and tug/towage operations.

Also prepared expert reports on claims involving personal injury and death, cargo securing, navigation and stability issues including loss of cargo, bulk cargo shift, general cargo and project cargo damage, hull failure, stability problems and anchor damage to subsea pipelines.

Carried out the pilotage and berthing/unberthing of very large crude oil tankers (300,000 + tonnes Dwt) at FPSO and SBM offshore installations.

Acted as SCR and was involved with the bid process for contracting services and later attended on site as a representative of Owners and P&I for the pollutant and cargo discharge and storage, salvage and/or wreck removal of a number of vessels in Europe, the Azores, China, Philippines, Indonesia, Brazil and Canada.

Carried out vessel suitability surveys for project cargo and towage on behalf of Underwriters and attended for investigation of oil pollution incidents and claims.

2002 to 2003

Seabulk Offshore (Switzerland)

Master – Fire fighting, offshore maintenance, AHTS, anti-pollution and dive support vessel

Master of multi-role support vessel based at Mare Harbour; the Falkland Islands Military Port for the UK Ministry of Defence. Responsible for firefighting response, pollution control and mooring assistance within the harbour and at the oil transfer Single Point Mooring (SPM). Provided dive and surface maintenance for the oil delivery/loading SPM and other buoy moorings in the Falkland Islands and the sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia.

Supported oil tankers mooring at the SPM and provided pipeline and valve monitoring during loading/discharging operations and fire fighting standby. Marine advice provided to senior military personnel for operations and military exercises within the port area and seas around the Falkland Islands and South Georgia.

Provided wreck location, dive support and marking of sunken warships to facilitate military dive teams monitoring vessel deterioration.

1991 to 2002

River Humber, UK

Marine Pilot – All vessel types to 200,000 tonnes

Authorised pilot for the Humber pilotage district extending over 60 miles and containing the ports and berths of Grimsby, Immingham, Killingholme, Salt End, Hull, New Holland, Hessle Haven, Barrow Haven, Goole and wharves on the River Trent.

Following an initial training period of six months and four more years of experience and training, was appointed a First class Pilot in 1995. Responsibilities included the berthing, unberthing and transit of vessels on a tidal estuary and rivers with currents exceeding 8 knots at times, using minimum calculated under-keel clearance when necessary.

Ship handling experience gained on all vessel types including tankers and bulk carriers up to 200,000 tonnes also transiting narrow channels and manoeuvring in restricted areas with and without tugs.

During this period, acts of pilotage included the manoeuvring of vessels, into and out of enclosed docks and river havens as well as exposed jetties at all stages of the tide both day and night. Experience also gained in the pilotage control tower at the entrance to the estuary, monitoring arriving and departing traffic and the allocation of pilots to vessels.

Preparation and use of port/pilotage passage plans, mooring plans and tug requirement calculations for large vessels using bollard pull, exposed and underwater hull data together with under-keel considerations when using restricted channels for manoeuvring.

1988 to 1991

Ocean Inchcape (OIL Ltd)

Master - AHTS vessels

As master, operating in the North Sea onboard high horsepower/bollard pull anchor handling tugs. In West Africa, carrying out the shift of semi-submersible rigs, jack-up rigs, heavy lift and cargo barges as well as laying deepwater moorings and undertaking all types of anchor handling and associated offshore operations including heavy lift work in tandem with barges.

Carried out the contract salvage of vessels in the North Sea and West Africa, including the river Congo. Also, the deep-sea and coastal towage of rigs, ships, barges and floating structures for offshore oil fields.

1987 to 1988

Dredgework Services Ltd

Contracts Manager - maintenance dredgers

Responsible for carrying out pre and post dredge hydrographic surveys for UK maintenance dredging projects in Plymouth Royal Dockyard, at South Shields,

Sunderland harbour and river Humber berths. Production of hydrographic charts of dredged areas and dredge quantity calculations.

1972 to 1987

Cadet to 2nd Officer onboard reefer, container and general cargo vessels trading world-wide carrying refrigerated cargo, reefer containers, break-bulk and bulk cargoes.

Chief Officer, and master from 1984, of rapid intervention/fire-fighting vessel for the southern offshore sector of the North Sea and anchor handling, dive support vessels in the northern, southern and continental sectors of the North Sea.