

British Columbia Branch Technical Seminar

“What Canadian NI Members Are Doing Today”

On 18 February 2019, The Nautical Institute’s British Columbia Branch held an Afternoon Technical Seminar at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney, British Columbia, Canada. The event was open to Nautical Institute Members and interested Non-Members to learn more about the variety of work and areas of expertise of Branch Members.

Following a brief welcome from Branch Vice-Chair Capt. Richard Marriott AFNI, the afternoon began with a talk from Mr. Mark Leblanc – Manager, Navigational Programs and Services, Canadian Hydrographic Services Pacific Region on his work with the Canadian Hydrographic Service to update and enhance Chart coverage on Canada’s Pacific and Arctic Coasts. Mr. Leblanc also spoke on some interesting and emerging technologies being used to support Hydrographic Survey work, and the Department’s direction forward.

After a brief round of questions for Mr. Leblanc, the Group welcomed Capt. Stan Bowles FNI, General Manager, MOL Chemical Tankers to speak on the subject of Chemical Tanker Operations on the West Coast of North America. Capt. Bowles’ information on Product trade routes and Port Operations was well-received by all.

After a brief break for refreshments and conversation, a group of Branch members, each involved in a different aspect of Canadian Arctic Operations, provided some information on their work and answered questions as a panel. Capt. David “Duke” Snider FNI, Principal Consultant at Martech Polar Consulting spoke on his involvement with the NI Ice Navigator Program, and the International adoption of that scheme; RAdm. Nigel Greenwood FNI, of Greenwood Maritime spoke on his experiences as an Ice Navigator on Commercial Cargo and Arctic Research Vessels; and Capt. Richard Marriott AFNI, Chief Officer on the Icebreaker *Sir Wilfrid Laurier* with the Canadian Coast Guard spoke on CCG Operations in the Western Arctic and the ship’s work in the search for Sir John Franklin’s *HMS Erebus* and *HMS Terror*. There was not enough time for this expert panel to answer all questions that arose, but all attendees were encouraged to consider attending NIBC’s “Arctic Shipping Challenges” Conference (22-24 May 2019; nibconference2019.com) for more a in-depth exploration of this unique field.

Finally, Mr. Philip Woodcock MNI, of Wyndward Maritime gave an enthusiastic and very informative presentation on Small Vessel Work in Major Civil Construction Projects on the BC Coast. Mr. Woodcock’s experience and expertise in this field gave a better understanding of the scale and scope of proposed developments on the BC Coast, and what changes to the management of Small Domestic Vessels will be required in order to maintain the standards of major international groups.

The Branch would like to thank Presenters, Organizers, and Attendees of this event for their time and contributions to its success, and we look forward to continuing to provide these Seminars for the benefit of Branch Members and the Western Canadian Maritime Community.

- Submitted by R. Andresen MNI, Hon. Secretary, The Nautical Institute, British Columbia Branch



Mr. Leblanc's Hydrographic Services Presentation



Capt. Bowles' Chemical Tanker Presentation



Capt. Snider's Arctic Operations Presentation



RAdm. Greenwood's Arctic Operations Presentation



Capt. Marriott's Arctic Operations Presentation



Mr. Woodcock's Small Vessel Operations in Major Civil Construction Projects Presentation