

Boots on deck and head up in the sky



Times have changed over the last 50 years in our industry. PES has had the pleasure to witness the ever improving quality, health, safety, environment (QHSE) implemented in company policies both on and offshore. Read on to find out what is happening at Glomar Offshore.

In Glomar Offshore, as an owner and operator of 20 offshore support vessels, varying from, lower end of the market: guard vessels, to standby safety and Emergency Response and Rescue (ERRV), to high specification, subsea and offshore accommodation and access units, we deploy our fleet in both the Renewables and O&G industries on approximately a 50-50 ratio.

Whilst these two sub segments, constituting the bulk of activities for the median Northern European ship owner, alongside dredging, salvage and governmental/institutional support, are

considered quite distinct, this is far from reality. As such, the experience, QHSE record, skillset and technology used are the same.

In our industry, it has to be in every company's policy to prevent incidents in all activities carried out by the shore-based and shipboard personnel. This includes external personnel, subcontractors, as well as assets from third parties employed for a specific project.

All companies should aim for a culture of commitment to safety, accountability and responsibility. Safe working practices and

safe working environments are considered to be a condition of employment and this brings a responsibility to every employee within Glomar to avoid, reduce and eliminate any possible hazard that could lead to loss of life, permanent disability, medical treatment, injuries or damage to Company assets and third party assets.

Safety awareness is the most valuable asset in an organisation. Period

In shipping, where constant fighting with the elements and unpredictability of nature is inherent to the operation of vessels of any type, safety takes a predominant and leading role in the heart of any operator. It's entrenched to the offshore culture and imposed by client-charterers and operators alike on a strict basis.

Since the establishment of the offshore industry half a century ago, we ship owners have made a quantum leap in integrating safety into our culture, especially given the fact that accidents do, and unfortunately



happen and have happened in the past. Seeing old photos, from the Oil & Gas industry, for example, one cannot fail but notice the lack of safety awareness, or the lack of using PPE.

This has now changed for the better. This integration of safety is two-fold; it is both observed on board our vessels, by educating seafarers and creating procedures to prevent accidents of happening and in our offices, where a strong and experienced QHSE department is needed to monitor our activities and promote safety.

Whilst tendering for a charter, clients in both the O&G and, more recently, the Renewables industry, will always be prudent in thoroughly asking vessel operators for a track record of their safety performance in the form of statistics, audits or demonstrations/exercises. However, in an industry that QHSE standards are unfortunately not universally regulated by any authority, client specific

requirements are applicable to any given charter. This requires agility in adjusting to such requirements.

Preparing statistics, however, is only a fraction of what the QHSE department will be tasked with...The QHSE department is there to constantly promote health, safety and environmental awareness and bringing the crew of our good vessels to a very high level. As such, The QHSE department's role is to develop high standards and to keep up the main goals of Glomar Offshore and their partners and clients.

On the more applied and practical aspects of Safety training, each vessel is on average performing more than 350 to 400 drills, safety meetings on board and handovers every year, which pile up to more than 70,000 such drills for Glomar on an annual basis. Besides this, each vessel's crew is undergoing training, and as many as 40 to 50 client, but also internal audits from our Safety officers, annually. A sound back office, software system is needed to

process such an amount of information and allow for reports and corrective actions to be generated.

In a multinational and multicultural industry such as offshore, it is of high importance that people of various backgrounds and languages are on a par with each other. Instructions and guidelines should be simplified and easily accessible to anyone. As such, following company establishment 'Golden Rules' is a good foundation point for the concrete development of a safety culture.

The 9 golden rules of safety within the Glomar organisation:

1. Compliance with all applicable local and international laws, rules, and regulations.
2. Prevention of work-related incidents through several layers of protection, such as safe design, safe working practices, safe behaviour and appropriate maintenance, engineering, operating and administrative controls.



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- 3. Experienced and skilled personnel are vital to a safe working environment. Each employee is provided with the necessary knowledge and skills to achieve this.
- 4. Commitment by all personnel to health and safety and protection of the safety of others.
- 5. Encouragement to report all potential hazards, accidents, near miss incidents and proposals for the improvement of health and safety.
- 6. Identification, assessment, control and monitoring of exposures to potential hazards.

- 7. Development and maintenance of emergency plans to deal with safety emergencies in an effective and efficient way.
- 8. Periodical review and continuous improvement of the Safety Management System in place.
- 9. Full understanding of the Safety Management System in place by every employee within the Company, including shore-based and shipboard personnel

In conclusion, highly demanding customers set a high standard regarding the Health, Safety and Environmental protocol industry

players have to adhere to. Glomar’s vessels pass every inspection and fulfil all requirements set by our customers with flying colours, making them all delighted when they sail and work on our vessels.

Our QHSE team is regularly on board our ships to improve the skills and awareness of our crews; and to inform and train them, so they are always able to respond adequately to the rapidly changing standards in the industry, and most of all keep the safety standards on board the vessels on the highest level.

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