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OF MARINE SURVEYORS

Shipshape

September 2026



- Marine Surveyors Symposium in 2027
- Report on AIMS biennial conference
- Marine incident annual report

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Thanks to all AIMS members and the Board for allowing us to be part of your 40th anniversary conference. We enjoyed catching up with existing clients and members.

Congratulations to all the nominees and award winners.

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Front Cover: *Global Mercy*, the world's largest purpose-built civilian hospital ship. Tymor Marine recently completed a lightweight survey and inclining test aboard the vessel. (See page 48.)

Back Cover: Marine Rescue Queensland's *Gladstone Rescue 1* at Gladstone, Queensland.



From the Bridge (Page 5.)



CEO: AMSA stakeholder forum. (Page 7.)



Marine Surveyor Symposium. (Page 11.)



Marine incidents report 2025. (Page 22.)



Cyber security risks. (Page 28.)



Incat 096 oversea-bound. (Page 38.)

ADVERTISING AVAILABLE

Advertising is now available in *Shipshape*, the official journal of the Australasian Institute of Marine Surveyors (AIMS). For all the information about advertising in our quarterly magazine, contact AIMS CEO Eric Perez at gm@aimsurveyors.com.au or on +61 492 881 737.

A student's journey: Krzysztof Bielicki

Krzysztof (Chris) Bielicki is an Associate member of the Institute and was a nominee for the Student of the Year award at the 2026 AIMS Biennial Conference. This article is Chris' review of his time as a student with AIMS.

PURSUING the Advanced Diploma of Commercial Marine Surveying with the AIMS has been a defining milestone in my professional development.

My professional career began after graduating from five years of marine navigation studies, when I started working as an officer-diver. Over time, I expanded my experience into roles as a diving supervisor, decompression chamber operator and ROV operator, giving me a broad perspective on diving operations.

What sparked my interest in marine surveying was the fact that, during dock operations and in-water surveys, I had the opportunity to work alongside classification societies' surveyors. Those experiences grew into a strong professional ambition to deepen my knowledge and formally develop this path.

With over 10 years' experience in the marine industry, I approached this program not as a starting point but as a structured pathway to expand my qualifications to an international standard.

At the same time, I was sure that my career as a diver – where I have spent thousands of hours underwater and also a diving supervisor at the same time – suggested I needed a change and further development.

Starting the main topic: one of the most valuable aspects of the AIMS program is its strong alignment with real-world surveying challenges.

What, at the beginning, looked like a standard remote learning



Krzysztof Bielicki is a highly-experienced diver but was looking for a change.

course quickly turned out to be one of my best educational experiences. Simple setting up practical tasks for students to complete each module and providing a proper evidence base, especially on his own real-life training, gives way to automatically developing planning skills, imagination and self-criticism – in the meantime focusing strongly on solving the tasks.

Every module I finished was an extra motivator and caused me to read more and more and dig deeper for marine surveying knowledge. That was going so fast until one memorable moment when I reached a milestone in my AIMS adventure: the Training Manager was warning me about starting the toughest module – ADMS610 Draft Survey. At that time, I reminded myself that I had to choose seven extra

modules and of course it was only my ambition to choose those hardest ones as a sort of “challenge-accepted” thing.

This was the hardest part of my training and caused long hours of sitting down with my books (I even dig out some books from my studies in my original Polish language to make sure I understand everything properly) and making lots of calculations and excel-programming.

Finally completing this module gave me invaluable skills and led further to a great internship opportunity organised by Sue Brown from the AIMS team. The internship was at Hunter Marine Surveyors (HMS) in Newcastle.

The placement allowed me to apply gained theoretical knowledge in a live operational environment, gaining direct exposure to local industry practices and survey procedures. Changing time zones from Europe to Australia in 40 hours was quite demanding but December in Newcastle sounds great when you would be facing a minus-25 degrees C Polish winter.

Working alongside experienced professionals, and under the guidance of my HMS mentor, Louis Koutelas, I was able to deepen my understanding of inspection processes and strengthen my confidence in marine surveying. I also gained insight into the practical value of CargoMax, a software solution that supports fast, accurate and reliable reporting for draft surveys.

Seeing how technology can

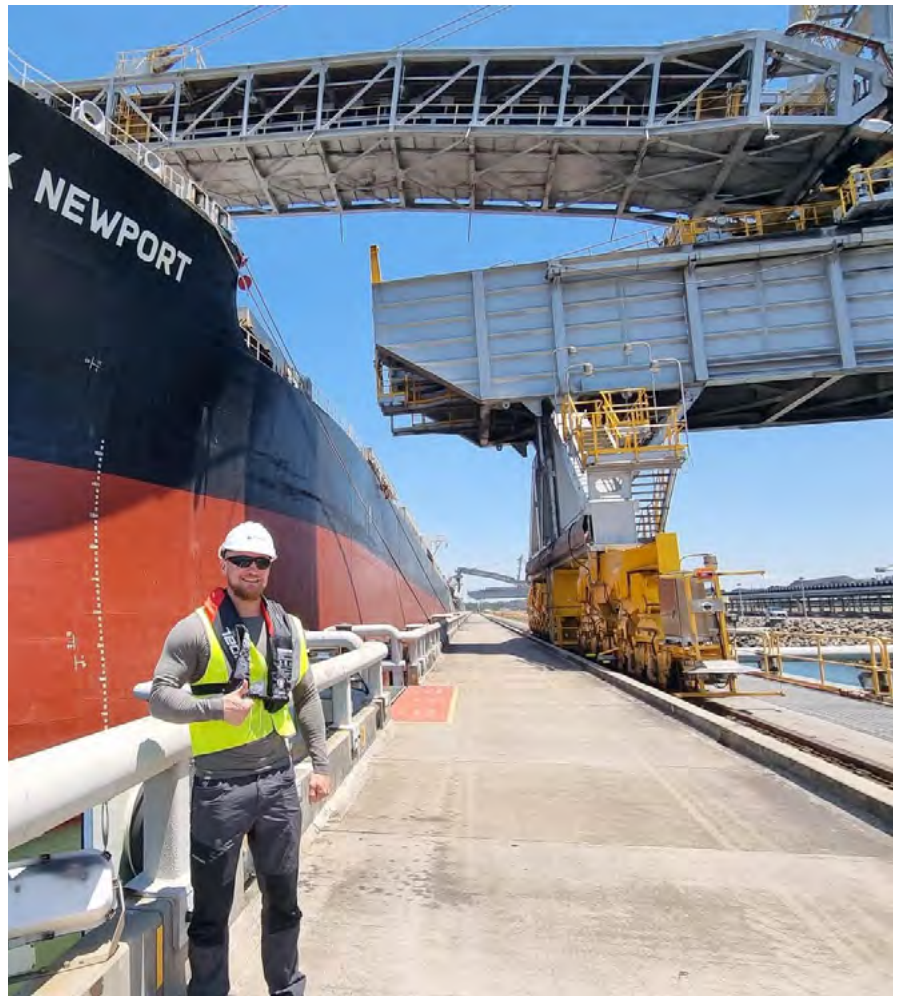
enhance survey workflow and reporting quality was especially valuable, and reinforced the importance of innovation in modern marine surveying.

Throughout the course, I particularly appreciated the emphasis on professional reporting, risk assessment and draft survey methodology. These are not only essential competencies for conducting high-quality inspections but also key skills for communicating effectively with clients, shipowners and regulatory authorities.

Another strength of AIMS is its global perspective. Engaging with a diverse community of marine professionals during the AIMS 2026 conference provided valuable insights into different operational standards, regional challenges and best practices.

This international exposure is especially relevant for me in today's interconnected maritime industry.

Balancing the program with ongoing everyday professional responsibilities of course required discipline and commitment. However, this challenge also made the achievement more rewarding. It strengthened my ability to manage complex tasks,



Krzysztof (Chris) Bielicki from Poland recently completed the Advanced Diploma of Commercial Marine Surveying with AIMS.

set priorities and maintain a high standard of performance under pressure.

For professionals considering AIMS, I would strongly recommend it as a meaningful investment in both knowledge

and credibility. It is a program that respects prior experience, while pushing you to elevate your standards and think critically about your role in the industry.

Krzysztof Bielicki
AIMS member

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