STRENGTHENING SIRE

Programme Quality Assessors
OCIMF is continuously improving the accuracy, reliability and integrity of input and output from its programmes. One of the ways it does this is by regularly verifying that the quality and integrity controls are working and that critical activities are being properly managed by all programme participants. The processes used to manage quality and integrity are:

- Risk and barrier bow ties that identify threats/risks to the quality and integrity of the programmes, pinpoint critical activities and use data to analyse the health of the barriers.
- A three lines of defence model which consists of:

1st line of defence

**Inspectors and vessel operators**
- Maintain awareness of programme rules and requirements.
- Apply and conform to programme expectations, rules and user guidance.
- Monitor and continuously improve their performance.

2nd line of defence

**Submitting companies**
- Apply and conform to OCIMF requirements.
- Effectively manage inspectors and third-party inspection companies.
- Validate inspection reports.

3rd line of defence

**Quality Assurance team**
- Set the foundation, standards and thought leadership for risk management.
- Provide independent assurance of activities of 1st and 2nd lines of defence.
- Implement a risk-based programme of assessments.
- Intervene where necessary and provide guidance and support to reduce risk.

**What is the role?**
As members of the Quality Assurance Team, Quality Assessors are part of the third line of defence – providing independent assurance to the activities of the first two. They play a vital role in the implementation of OCIMF policies and procedures for inspection programmes by monitoring and reporting on their effectiveness.

The assessors will work collaboratively with all programme participants globally, including submitting companies, programme recipients, inspectors, OCIMF-approved third-party vetting contractors and other third-party contractors engaged by submitting companies. They will be responsible for the day-to-day assessment of the quality of all facets of the programmes, and for identifying areas for improvement and providing guidance as necessary.

**What is the change?**
Bringing inspector assessment in house will enhance quality control and ensure consistency and objectivity. The Quality Assessors will replace the existing third-party inspection auditors starting with the SIRE auditors. This will take full effect in Q1 2023. The Quality Assessors strengthen OCIMF’s in-house resource and capability for:
- Delivering inspector training.
- Reviewing programme usage – extending this to include submitting companies and third-party contractors.
- Developing and reviewing policies, procedures and guidance.
- Providing regional support to programme participants.

**What will they do?**
- Programme participant visits.
- Quality control of reports.
- Quality assessment of inspectors.
- Supporting inspector training.
- Review and development of programme policies, procedures, and user guidance.

**Who are they?**
Quality Assessors are recruited based on their extensive seafaring experience. They provide a diverse and balanced mix of SIRE, BIRE and OVID inspectors, vetting experts, human factors and other relevant skills.