Intercargo applauds Bulk Jupiter report

Dry bulk shipping association Intercargo has publicly praised the Bahamas Maritime Authority over its report into the loss of the Bulk Jupiter, presenting it as a model to be emulated by other flag states.



"The recent report of the Bahamas into the 'Bulk Jupiter' is an example of how a casualty investigation should be carried out," the group said in a press release issued after a meeting of its Technical and Executive Committees in Athens.

Unlike other reports, this one was issued "in a timely manner" and made "clear recommendations", the release said.

The Bahamas probe concluded liquefaction was the likely cause of the tragedy, which claimed 18 lives in January off the coast of Vietnam — a conclusion that has been challenged by the vessel's operator Winning Shipping.

Intercargo, which represents over 150 bulk carrier owners and operators, specifically singled out the Bahamas report for criticizing shippers as being "uncooperative" in providing information.

"It is only when we get the full transparency and cooperation from the shippers, with accurate shippers' declaration on the composition of bulk cargoes, that we will be able to fully identify and mitigate the risks involved for the safe carriage of cargoes and assure the protection of seafarers," the statement said.

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By Harry Papachristou in Athens

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