

**Dispute  
Resolution  
Litigation  
Consulting  
Contract  
Preparation  
Project  
Management**



*The resolution of technical, cost and schedule issues in shipbuilding and repair contract disputes has been our focus for over thirty-two years. As naval architects, marine engineers and project managers, we have the experience to bring strength and clarity of insight to bear on our clients' needs. Our goal has always been to achieve rapid resolution of contract disputes on the basis of merit, coupled with good business judgment.*

Fisher Maritime's purpose is to provide quality consulting services to the maritime industry, as well as accurate and impartial expert witness services that are consistent with our professional fields of practice. We maintain a harmonious and synergistic relationship between our consulting work and dispute resolution work.

Our experience as consultants and project managers for shipyards and shipowners provides a foundation for our expert qualifications when we help to resolve shipyard construction disputes. Conversely, our expertise in resolving construction disputes enables us to better plan, manage and control work as consultants and project managers.



The balance between these two areas helps to ensure that every client receives a distinctive work product of unparalleled quality.

# Dispute Resolution

Dispute resolution takes many forms, from helping clients with project-phase analysis and negotiation, to post-project mediation, arbitration, or litigation. We are well-known for our accurate assessments and incontrovertible analyses, whether for a shipyard, a shipowner, a third-party supplier, government agency or private concern.

## **Recent Case: A**

shipowner client was converting a barge into a dynamically-positioned offshore-pipelay vessel.

Disputes about work scope, schedule, and cost arose between the owner and the shipyard. We provided on-site project management oversight in the Gulf Coast shipyard, and follow-on expert analysis and arbitration support during dispute resolution before the pointed arbitrator.



We have assisted shipowners, shipyards, and vendors to resolve disputes through Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanisms.

- Our participation in negotiations has often been the catalyst needed to bring about a resolution.
- At other times, we have helped our clients achieve a resolution in formal mediation proceedings.
- On a number of occasions, we have provided expert services and testimony in court and arbitration proceedings.

# Litigation Consulting

Fisher Maritime has been providing technical analysis and assessment for litigation to clients for over thirty-two years. We have supported our clients—in state and federal courts, civil and criminal courts—in a variety of shipyard construction and repair disputes.

We have assisted in every stage of litigation, and our clients have been shipyards, shipowners, vendors, and government agencies.

We can also assist you to avoid litigation.



## *Arbitration and Mediation Support Services*

Expert representation is an essential ingredient in resolving disputes. The process requires the integrated participation of:

*the principals, their counsel, their technical representatives—and the experts.*

## **Litigation consulting for a national oil company:**

We provided expert analysis and litigation support for a

shipowner client in a dispute over conversion of offshore production and storage vessels.

- In our analysis, we addressed underbid, currency fluctuation, changes, delay and disruption.
- Dispute value: over \$300 million US.
- Outcome: complete court award for our client.



# Contracts

Fisher Maritime authors contracts, specifications, and complete bid packages for new construction, conversion, overhaul or repair. We also review and revise draft contracts and spec packages.



## *Recent contract work included new construction on:*

- Offshore Pipe-laying Construction Vessel
- Class of 220' Offshore Supply Vessels
- Class of Anchor Handling Tugs
- Class of Well Test Vessels

Because we author and review contracts and specifications, we are often relied upon for our expertise in contract negotiations and disputes—including mediation, arbitration, and litigation.



# Project Management

Our consultants started their careers in commercial fleet construction and repair, as well as naval repair and overhaul. We rely on these skills today.

We are often on the deck plates providing Project Management services for shipyard construction and conversion projects—enhancing our credibility in construction dispute resolution situations.

**Recent Case:** A ship-owner client was having a \$30 million conversion job done on their vessel. Disputes about schedule and cost arose between the owner and the shipyard. Fisher Maritime provided on-site project management including the removal of the unfinished vessel from the shipyard to another facility where the conversion was completed. Fisher Maritime also provided expert analysis and arbitration support.



*Photo: U.S. Coast Guard*



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