

## Marshall Islands

### General

Flag of Convenience	Yes
IMO Conventions Adopted	All the principal IMO Conventions have been adopted
Age Limit	20 Years
Size Restrictions	None
Ownership Requirements	Ownership must be in the name of a Marshall Islands citizen, a company, partnership, trust or a foreign maritime entity qualified in the Marshall Islands

### Registration Documents

Documents Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application for Official Number, Call Sign, and Registration of Vessel</li> <li>• Bill of Sale or Builder's Certificate</li> <li>• Power of Attorney or Secretary's Certificate of Corporate Resolution</li> <li>• Certificate of Confirmation of Class issued by Classification Society dated no earlier than 10 days prior to registration</li> <li>• Classification Society Statement or Affidavit that the vessel is "fit to proceed to sea"</li> <li>• Special Survey on vessels 15 years or older from the Classification Society</li> <li>• Application for Minimum Safe Manning Certificate</li> <li>• ISM Code Declaration of Company and Designated Person</li> <li>• Proof of Liability Insurance, including owner's repatriation obligations</li> <li>• Permission to Transfer or Cancellation Certificate issued by the registry from which the vessel is being transferred</li> <li>• Proof that vessel is free of recorded liens and encumbrances</li> <li>• Within 90 days of registration, an Application for Ship Radio Station License must be submitted</li> </ul>
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Registration	There is an initial registration fee of US\$ 2,500 per vessel.
Annual	The annual re-registration fee of US\$ 1,500 plus an Annual Tonnage Tax of US\$ 0.20 per NT with a minimum fee of US\$ 500.

### Parallel Registration

Parallel registration in or out of the Registry is permitted

### Approved Classification Societies

ABS, BV, CCS, DNV, GL, LR, NKK, PRS, RINA, RS

### Crew Nationality

No restriction on nationality

## JURISDICTION INFORMATION

### Introduction

Located nearly midway between Indonesia and Hawaii, the Marshall Islands are the easternmost island group in Micronesia. The Marshall Islands cover approximately 2 million sq km in the Central Pacific Ocean, with two 1,280 km long parallel chains of atolls and volcanic islands separated by 179 km of sea. The Islands feature sandy beaches ringed by coconut laden palm trees, and surrounded by crystal-clear lagoons teeming with tropical fish, giant turtles and colourful coral.

### Population

The Islands have a population of just over 65,859 most of who live in the capital Majuro.

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## Political Structure

The Islands were settled some 4,000 years ago. In the 16th century, the Spanish were the first in a long series of visitors. Later, Russian navigators visited the Islands more extensively. It was not until the 18th century that British naval officer John Marshall rediscovered and gave his name to the Islands.

Germany annexed the Marshall Islands in 1885. After World War I, under a League of Nations mandate, the Japanese administered the Islands.

After the Second World War, the Marshall Islands became a United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands under United States administration. The Republic of the Marshall Islands gained independence in 1986, becoming a full member of the United Nations in 1991.

The Marshall Islands Constitution, signed in 1979, is a blend of American and British models of government. Under the parliamentary system, the legislature, known as the Nitijela, elects a President from among its members. In turn, the President nominates a Cabinet of six to ten members.

The legal system is administered by courts whose judges are appointed by the Cabinet. The court system consists of local courts of first instance, a Traditional Rights Court with jurisdiction over real property matters and a High Court with maritime jurisdiction. Appeals may be brought before the Supreme Court in all cases.

## Infrastructure and Economy

The infrastructure in the Marshall Islands is more sophisticated than most other nations in the region. The two islands with most of the population, Majuro and Ebeye both have reliable power plants and public water systems. There are two international airports and 26 airstrips scattered throughout the larger islands. There are also 12 deep-water docks for large ocean going ships.

Excellent international communications on Majuro and Ebeye are provided by satellite links for telephone, fax and telex. Presently, there are two banks, both on Majuro, and one of which is FDIC insured.

An important industry is large-scale commercial fishing. Japanese fishermen, who are licensed to fish Marshallese waters, haul in roughly 42 million pounds of tuna and billfish each year. The export of coconuts (copra) is another important economic factor.

The Marshall Islands Registry has grown quite rapidly, to the point where it is now the fifth largest open registry in the world with gross tonnage of approximately 35 million. Vessel types include oil tankers, bulk carriers, container ships and fishing vessels.

The Marshall Islands only recently began to be viewed as a tourist destination. For environmental reasons, controlled tourism is the watchword, whether on Majuro or on the outer atolls, the lagoons and the ocean offer snorkelling, scuba diving, sport-fishing and sailing.

### Language

Languages spoken are Marshallese and English.

### Currency

US Dollar.

### Exchange Control

None.

### Type of Law

Common Law based on Anglo/American Common Law.

### Principal Corporate Legislation

The Associations Law of the Republic of the Marshall Islands 1990, incorporates the Business Corporations Act (BCA), the Limited Partnership Act, the Limited Liability Company Act and the Partnership Act.

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