

Maiden voyage brings ship to Shannon Estuary

THE shape of things to come in oil transportation was seen in the Shannon Estuary, when the tanker, Mersey Fisher, arrived from Milford Haven at the end of her maiden voyage.

Built in Barrow-in-Furness, the state-of-the-art tanker carried a cargo of 4,128 tonnes of petrol and gas oil for Estuary fuel.

It discharged at the specially constructed 'dolphin' jetty at Foynes port.

Owner by James Fisher and company, of London, the ship has a double hull, special spillage tanks, and a deck containment system.

The Master, Captain Roger Vine, said the maiden voyage had gone smoothly.

"I was delighted to be back at sea," he said, "after a long period living in a hotel in Barrow-in-Furness during construction."

"The yard in Barrow had been building submarines for years, and they had a learning curve getting back to civilian

shipping."

He continued: "Many people have the wrong idea about oil tankers, but not a single drop of water or waste oil goes into the ocean from the new generation of tanker."

"It's all contained in storage tanks and pumped ashore at designated facilities at regular intervals."

Foynes Harbourmaster, Captain Senan Histon, said they were delighted to continue their long association with James Fisher and Company.

He said Foynes was one of the few ports in the country with a special dolphin jetty for handling oil and bulk liquid chemicals and complied with the latest international standards for health, safety and the environment.

He presented Captain Vine with a limited edition miniature bronze currach to mark the completion of the Mersey fisher's maiden voyage.



Captain Senan Histon making the presentation of a bronze currach to Captain Roger Vine, watched by Tim Egan, of Mullock and Sons, shipbrokers.