



**INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION
MARITIME KNOWLEDGE CENTRE (MKC)**

“Sharing Maritime Knowledge”

**CURRENT AWARENESS BULLETIN
MARCH 2025**

www.imo.org
[Maritime Knowledge Centre \(MKC\)](#)
mkc@imo.org

About the MKC Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)

The aim of the **MKC Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)** is to provide a digest of news and publications focusing on key subjects and themes related to the work of IMO. Each CAB issue presents headlines from the previous month. For copyright reasons, the *Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)* contains brief excerpts only. Links to the complete articles or abstracts on publishers' sites are included, although access may require payment or subscription.

The MKC *Current Awareness Bulletin* is disseminated monthly and issues from the current and the past years are free to download from this [page](#).

[Email us](#) if you would like to receive email notification when the most recent Current Awareness Bulletin is available to be downloaded.

The *Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)* is published by the Maritime Knowledge Centre and is not an official IMO publication. Inclusion does not imply any endorsement by IMO.

Table of Contents

IMO NEWS & EVENTS	2
NEW IMO PUBLICATIONS	4
UNITED NATIONS	6
CASUALTIES.....	7
ENVIRONMENT	12
ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION	13
HEALTH & SAFETY	15
IMO	15
LAW & POLICY	20
MARINE TECHNOLOGY.....	27
MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING	30
MARITIME SAFETY	32
MARITIME SECURITY	33
MIGRANTS	35
NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS	35
PIRACY.....	37
PORT STATE CONTROL.....	38
PORTS & HARBOURS.....	39
REGULATIONS	42
SALVAGE	43
SEAFARERS	44
SEARCH & RESCUE	48
SHIP RECYCLING	48
SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR	49
SHIPPING.....	50
RESEARCH.....	59

IMO NEWS & EVENTS

IMO opens global talks to secure net-zero deal for shipping

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) opened a critical round of negotiations aimed at finalizing new binding regulations to steer international shipping towards net-zero emissions over the next 25 years.

Speaking at the opening of the 83rd session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 83) on Monday, 7 April, in London, IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez welcomed the progress made towards agreement on the draft [IMO Net-Zero Framework](#), which will bolster maritime action on climate change. [More...](#)

IMO takes action on seafarers' rights, substandard shipping

Legal Committee adopts guidelines on fair treatment of seafarers detained in connection with alleged crimes; launches work on substandard shipping.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has adopted crucial new guidelines to protect seafarers from unfair treatment when detained in foreign jurisdictions in connection with alleged crimes committed at sea.

The guidelines, adopted by the Legal Committee during its meeting in London from 24 to 28 March, aim to protect seafarers' rights and ensure they are treated with fairness and dignity, no matter where they are in the world.

IMO Secretary-General Mr. Arsenio Dominguez stated: "Unfortunately, incidents of unjust treatment of seafarers are on the rise, posing a significant challenge to the sustainability of shipping. These cases not only undermine seafarers' morale but also discourage young talent from pursuing a career at sea." He said the guidelines "will add a significant value in resolving the challenges faced by seafarers and ensure that seafarers are treated fairly." [More...](#)

Further progress on IMO "net zero framework" in Working Group

The Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions from Ships (ISWG-GHG 19) met for its 19th session from 31 March to 1 April 2025, chaired by Mr. Sveinung Oftedal (Norway). The meeting was attended by some 1,000 delegates ([photos](#)).

Discussions on mid-term GHG reduction measures

The [2023 IMO GHG Strategy](#) commits Member States to adopting new mid-term measures to reduce GHG emissions from ships in late 2025, including:

- a technical element, namely a goal-based marine fuel standard regulating the phased reduction of a marine fuel's GHG intensity; and
- an economic element, on the basis of a maritime GHG emissions pricing mechanism.

The Intersessional Working Group continued discussions on the mid-term GHG reduction measures, to be presented as draft amendments to Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships ([MARPOL](#)). [More..](#)

[Latest IMO Press Briefings](#)

[MEETING SUMMARIES AND SCHEDULE](#) [Programme of Meetings for 2025](#) 

Previous Meetings

Legal Committee (LEG 112) 24-28 March 2025

Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships (ISWG-GHG 19)
31 March-01 April

Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 83) 07-11 April

Forthcoming Meetings

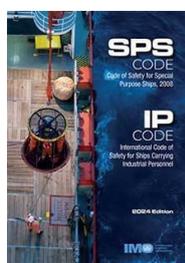
Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR 12) 13-22 May

NEW IMO PUBLICATIONS



To purchase any IMO Publication or Internet Subscription service, please contact one of our world-wide [IMO Authorized Distributors](#).

For any publication queries, please contact the IMO Publishing sales team at sales@imo.org



SPS Code and IP Code, 2024 Edition

Print format: IB820E

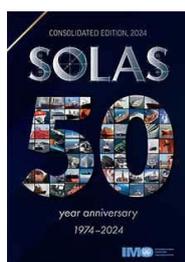
Digital format: KB820E (English) KB820F (French) KB820S (Spanish)

ISBN: 978-92-801-1788-2 (Print English) 978-92-801-3212-0 (Digital

English) 978-92-801-2573-3 (French) 978-92-801-3216-8 (Spanish)

This publication includes the *Code of Safety for Special Purpose Ships, 2008* (2008 SPS Code), the new *International Code of Safety for Ships Carrying Industrial Personnel* (IP Code), and SOLAS chapter XV on safety measures for ships carrying industrial personnel.

The 2008 SPS Code sets safety standards for special purpose ships carrying 'special personnel' such as scientists and technicians involved in specific onboard activities. The IP Code, which came into force on **1 July 2024**, extends these safety principles to ships transporting 'industrial personnel'. This new code addresses the safety requirements for the offshore and energy sectors, ensuring safer transport and transfer of personnel involved in offshore industrial activities.



SOLAS Consolidated Edition, 2024 Edition

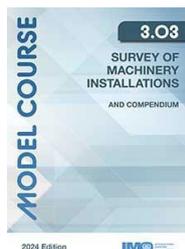
Digital format: KH110E (English)

ISBN: 978-92-801-1793-6 (English)

Of all the international conventions dealing with maritime safety, the most important is the *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea*, better known as SOLAS, which covers a wide range of measures designed to improve the safety of shipping.

The Convention is also one of the oldest of its kind: the first version was adopted in 1914 following the sinking of the **Titanic** with the loss of more than 1,500 lives. Since then, there have been four more versions of SOLAS. The present version was adopted in 1974 and entered into force in 1980. This publication commemorates the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the 1974 SOLAS Convention, a prominent international instrument for maritime safety.

This edition of the publication presents a consolidated text of the Convention, its Protocol of 1988 and all amendments that have entered into force on or before **1 July 2024**. Additionally, this edition includes the **unified interpretations of SOLAS regulations** approved by the Maritime Safety Committee.



Model Course: Survey of machinery installations, 2024 Edition

Digital format: KTB303E
ISBN: 978-92-801-1782-0

This course equips maritime professionals with the skills to survey and assess machinery installations, ensuring compliance with international standards. Flexible in design, the course can be tailored to the trainees' knowledge levels and training needs. Validated by the IMO Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and

Equipment, this course is a vital resource for standardizing machinery installation surveys, enhancing safety and competence across the global maritime industry.

The course covers the requirements of initial, annual, intermediate, and periodical and renewal surveys, as specified in SOLAS. It does not cover preliminary design or plan approvals, nor does it cover the survey or inspection of chemical tankers, gas carriers, special purpose ships or mobile offshore units.

UNITED NATIONS

World's largest conference on women calls for equality amid gender backlash. *UN News.* 10 March 2025. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/03/1160951> The 69th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69), which runs from 10 to 21 March, is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of their lives throughout the world and shaping global standards on gender equality and empowerment.

Guterres prioritises UN reform to ensure taxpayers' money reaches those in need. Vibhu Mishra. *UN News.* 12 March 2025. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/03/1161046> Speaking to reporters at UN Headquarters, in New York, Mr. Guterres emphasised that the reforms are not just about internal processes but aimed at delivering tangible improvements in peace, development and humanitarian aid – all while ensuring that public funds are used wisely and transparently.

State of the Global Climate 2024. *World Meteorological Organization (WMO).* 19 March 2025. Available from: <https://wmo.int/publication-series/state-of-global-climate-2024> The clear signs of human-induced climate change reached new heights in 2024, which was likely the first calendar year to be more than 1.5°C above the pre-industrial era, with a global mean near-surface temperature of 1.55 ± 0.13 °C above the 1850-1900 average.

Climate change: Paris Agreement goals still within reach, says UN chief. *UN News.* 18 March 2025. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/03/1161251> The latest State of the Global Climate report confirms 2024 as the hottest year since records began 175 years ago, with a global mean temperature of 1.55°C above pre-industrial levels – surpassing the critical warming threshold of 1.5°C for the first time.

Mind your language: The battle for linguistic diversity in AI. Fabrice Robinet. *UN News.* 23 March 2025. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/03/1161406> With his signature geeky glasses and TED-Talk-style headset, Sundar Pichai looked straight out of a Silicon Valley incubator.

'Racism requires ignorance': How art and culture can help end racial discrimination. Ana Carmo. *UN News.* 24 March 2025. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/03/1161436> "Ignorance allows for racism, but racism requires ignorance. It requires that we don't know the facts," says Sarah Lewis, Associate Professor of African and African American Studies at Harvard University and founder of the Vision & Justice programme there, which connects research, art, and culture to promote equity and justice.

CASUALTIES

Crew fatality in a cargo tank. *Gard*. 28 February 2025. Available from:

<https://gard.no/insights/crew-fatality-in-a-cargo-tank/>

Cargo tanks often contain residual gases and vapours that can be toxic or flammable.

Boats collision leaves 11 dead in Hunan. Zou Shuo. *China Daily*. 1 March 2025.

Available from: <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202503/01/WS67c2867fa310c240449d7fd8.html>

Eleven people have died and five are still missing as of Friday night after two boats collided in a river in Yuanling county, Hunan province, on Tuesday, according to local authorities.

MSC ship hit by missile in Ukraine. Liv Almer and Dag Holmstad. *ShippingWatch*.

3 March 2025. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article17956722.ece>

Two ships, including an MSC-owned feeder ship, have been hit by a missile in the Ukrainian city of Odesa over the weekend, writes the head of the regional military administration in Odesa, Oleh Kiper, on Telegram.

A boat that cannot float: Cargo ship run aground in NL cannot be safely refloated in its current state. Gary Kean. *The Telegram (Canada)*. 3 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.saltwire.com/newfoundland-labrador/cargo-ship-run-aground-in-nl-cannot-be-safely-refloated>

The Canadian Coast Guard said the grounded ship in western NL may have to be dismantled at the site in Cedar Cove.

Korean Boxship Crossing North Pacific Reports Lost and Damaged Containers.

Maritime Executive. 6 March 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/korean-boxship-crossing-north-pacific-reports-lost-and-damaged-containers>

South Korea's SM Line issued a customer alert on March 5 reporting that one of its vessels has experienced damaged and lost containers in a Pacific storm.

Incident Updates: Stena Immaculate North Sea. *Crowley Maritime*. 10 March 2025.

Available from: <https://www.crowley.com/news-and-media/press-releases/update-on-stena-immaculate-incident-in-the-north-sea/>

Crowley continues to work closely with U.K. agencies to support the incident response, salvage and environmental impact mitigation operations resulting from container ship *Solong* striking the Crowley-managed tanker *Stena Immaculate* while at anchor on Monday, March 10.

Dozens hurt after oil tanker collides with cargo ship headed to Rotterdam.

NL Times (Netherlands). 10 March 2025. Available from: <https://nltimes.nl/2025/03/10/dozens-hurt-oil-tanker-collides-cargo-ship-headed-rotterdam>

A U.S.-flagged oil tanker and a Portuguese-flagged cargo ship collided in the North Sea on Monday, sparking fires on both vessels and triggering a large-scale rescue operation.

Updates: Vessels incident off coast of East Yorkshire. *UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency*.

10 March 2025. Available from: <https://hmcoastguard.uk/news/updates-vessels-incident-coast-east-yorkshire>

Chief Coastguard Paddy O'Callaghan said: "The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), working with other partners, continues to support the joint response to the collision between the *SOLONG* and the *STENA IMMACULATE*."

Search called off for missing person after North Sea tanker collision. Hannah Al-Othman, Karen McVeigh and Jamie Grierson. *The Guardian*. 10 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/mar/10/uk-coastguard-scrambled-after-reports-of-collision-between-tanker-and-cargo-vessel> The search for a missing crew member after a collision between an oil tanker and a cargo ship in the North Sea has been called off, the coastguard has said.

'Multiple explosions': Crew of US-flag tanker abandon ship after collision with container vessel. Holly Birkett, Paul Peachey and Ian Lewis. *TradeWinds*. 10 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/-multiple-explosions-crew-of-us-flag-tanker-abandon-ship-after-collision-with-container-vessel/2-1-1790299> The crew of a US-flagged tanker has abandoned ship after a collision with a container vessel sparked explosions and set both on fire off the coast of England.

North Sea: Tanker hired by US military hit by cargo ship. Zac Crellin. *Deutsche Welle (Germany)*. 10 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.dw.com/en/north-sea-tanker-hired-by-us-military-hit-by-cargo-ship/a-71878602> Cargo ship *Solong* hit the *Stena Immaculate* tanker carrying jet fuel for the US government off the eastern coast of the United Kingdom on Monday, causing a large fire on both vessels and triggering a rescue operation.

Cargo vessel that collided with US-military chartered tanker was carrying sodium cyanide. Christian Edwards and Catherine Nicholls. *CNN*. 10 March 2025. Available from: <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/03/10/uk/uk-yorkshire-ship-tanker-collision-intl-gbr/index.html> A cargo ship that smashed into a US military chartered oil tanker off the northeast coast of England on Monday was carrying sodium cyanide, according to the maritime intelligence company and shipping journal Lloyd's List

More than 30 mariners rescued as oil tanker and cargo vessel crash off the east coast - live updates. Deborah Hall. *Grimsby Telegraph (UK)*. 10 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.grimsbytelegraph.co.uk/news/grimsby-news/live-updates-two-vessels-crash-10008962> A huge rescue operation was sparked after an oil tanker and a cargo ship collided in the North Sea this morning

Lincolnshire coast 'at risk' after oil tanker crash, wildlife charity warns. Lorna Hughes. *Lincolnshire Live (UK)*. 10 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.lincolnshirelive.co.uk/news/local-news/lincolnshire-coast-at-risk-after-10011113> The north Lincolnshire coast is "at risk" after an oil tanker crash in the North Sea, a wildlife charity has warned.

Key questions answered on how the UK responds to oil spills. Rebecca Speare-Cole. *The Independent*. 10 March 2025. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/ywc3wn5r> Jet fuel has been released into the North Sea after an oil tanker and cargo ship collided off the East Yorkshire Coast on Monday morning

North Sea tanker collision - what we know so far. Vicky Wong and Esme Stallard. *BBC News*. 10 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c62z9ee68y6o> It is unclear how much fuel has been released into the sea but early assessments suggest the impact is limited with some fuel having burned off and evaporated.

Tanker collision details revealed by crew member who says vessel rammed ship "out of the blue". Ian Lee, Duarte Dias and Haley Ott. *CBS News (US)*. 11 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cargo-ship-crash-tanker-north-sea-us-military-details-revealed-crew-member/> An American man who said he was among the crew on the *MV Stena Immaculate* tanker when it was hit Monday by a cargo ship, causing both vessels to burst into flames off England's east coast, told CBS News the other ship "came from out of the blue" and rammed the *Stena*.

North Sea vessel collision: Oral statement to Parliament. Mike Kane MP. *UK Government*. 11 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/north-sea-vessel-collision> Mr Speaker, with permission, I wish to make a statement regarding the collision between 2 vessels off the east coast of Yorkshire that occurred yesterday (10 March 2025).

Global compensation fund not available to cover pollution from North Sea tanker explosion. Paul Peachey. *TradeWinds*. 11 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/global-compensation-fund-not-available-to-cover-pollution-from-north-sea-tanker-explosion/2-1-1790601> Access to the global fund that pays compensation for oil spills is not available for the North Sea collision because of the nature of the cargo, officials have confirmed.

Solong seafarer still missing in Stena tanker collision. Nick Savvides. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 11 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/accidents/solong-seafarer-still-missing-in-stena-tanker-collision> One crew member of the Portuguese-flagged container vessel *Solong* which collided with the product tanker *Stena Immaculate*, which was stationary and at anchor, remains missing and the search for the sailor was ended.

Oil tanker-freighter collision could have lethal ecological impact - it depends on these three things. Victoria Seabrook. *Sky News*. 11 March 2025. Available from: <https://news.sky.com/story/environmental-impact-of-oil-tanker-collision-depends-on-at-least-three-things-13325891> That depends on a few things - but the clouds of filthy black smoke from the fires that burned into the next morning are worrying for a start, and these fires have prevented authorities from moving in and assessing the damage.

North Sea collision: ship's master arrested as fears grow for marine life. Robyn Vinter, Josh Halliday and Karen McVeigh. *The Guardian*. 11 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/mar/11/north-sea-collision-man-arrested-on-suspicion-of-gross-negligence-manslaughter> Police have detained the master of the container ship *Solong* as experts voiced growing fears over the environmental impact of the collision in the North Sea.

North Sea collision: How the collision unfolded. *BBC Radio Humberside*. 12 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0kxh9j1> It was the last thing the crew expected, a cargo ship that "came from out of the blue".

Russian missile hits grain ship in Odesa – shipping needs much more than a ceasefire. Liv Almer. *ShippingWatch*. 12 March 2025. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/logistics/article17987401.ece> A flash of light briefly streaks across the night sky before a roar from the east silences the port city of Odesa.

Fire on tanker out after North Sea collision. Stuart Harratt and Jonathan Josephs. *BBC News*. 12 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c30mj5qq9d5o> US-registered tanker *Stena Immaculate* and Portuguese-flagged cargo ship *Solong* collided off the East Yorkshire coast on Monday.

UK investigators take lead in probe to determine cause of fiery collision. Eric Priante Martin. *TradeWinds*. 12 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/uk-investigators-take-lead-in-probe-to-determine-cause-of-fiery-collision/2-1-1791804> The UK has taken the lead role in the investigation into the deadly collision that saw an Ernst Russ container ship strike a Stena Bulk tanker off England, with the US and Portugal joining the probe.

Positive North Sea collision update issued after concerns about Lincolnshire coastline. Jamie Waller. *Lincolnshire Live (UK)*. 12 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.lincolnshirelive.co.uk/news/lincoln-news/positive-north-sea-collision-update-10016108> Lincolnshire's coastline will hopefully not be damaged by the North Sea oil tanker crash, a county leader has said.

Statement on the collision between *Solong* and *Stena Immaculate*. *UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB)*. 13 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-on-the-collision-between-solong-and-stena-immaculate> The MAIB was notified of the collision of the Portuguese registered container ship *Solong* and the US registered oil tanker *Stena Immaculate* in the North Sea 14nm north-east of Spurn Head at the entrance to the River Humber.

ITF calls for transparent and internationally coordinated investigation into North Sea crash. *International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)*. 13 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.itfglobal.org/en/news/itf-calls-transparent-and-internationally-coordinated-investigation-north-sea-crash> In the aftermath of the tragic North Sea collision between the Madeira-flagged cargo ship, *Solong*, and the US-flagged tanker, *Stena Immaculate*, the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) calls for a fully transparent and internationally coordinated investigation.

Flashback in Maritime History: AMOCO CADIZ oil spill 16 March 1978. *Maritime Cyprus*. 14 March 2025. Available from: <https://maritimecyprus.com/2025/03/14/flashback-in-maritime-history-amoco-cadiz-oil-spill-16-march-1978-8/> On 16 March 1978, the very large crude carrier (VLCC) *AMOCO CADIZ* lost steering in a Force 10 storm and grounded on Portsall Rocks off the coast of Brittany, France.

After the North Sea tanker crash, a multi-million dollar battle over who's to blame. Karl Mathiesen. *POLITICO*. 19 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.politico.eu/article/north-sea-oil-tanker-crash-england-solong-stena-immaculate-pollution/> A week after the tanker crash off the English coast, officials are trying to work out the damage done — and who is going to pick up the bill.

Fatal accident on board bulk carrier *Berge Mawson* with loss of 3 lives. *UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB)*. 20 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/maib-reports/fatal-accident-on-board-bulk-carrier-berge-mawson-with-loss-of-3-lives> On the morning of 27 June 2022, three unconscious stevedores were found in a cargo hold access space on the Isle of Man registered bulk carrier *Berge Mawson* at Bunyu Island Anchorage, Indonesia. [MAIB investigation report \(and annexes\) 5-2025: *Berge Mawson*](#) 

The CBC's Leila Beaudoin got up close and personal with a grounded cargo ship off the coast of N.L. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC)*. 26 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.6700032>  In February, all 20 crew members of the *MSC Baltic III* were rescued after the cargo ship became grounded.

A year after the Baltimore bridge collapse, a long road to recovery is ahead. Lea Skene and Briane Witte. *Associated Press*. 26 March 2025. Available from: <https://apnews.com/article/francis-scott-key-bridge-collapse-anniversary-baltimore-dc6809a692dfc48a57d54d40b6b58ad0> A year after the catastrophic collapse of Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge, Maryland leaders are honouring the six construction workers who were killed when the road they were repairing buckled underneath them.

Six dead, nine injured in tourist submarine sinking off Egypt Red Sea coast. El-Sayed Gamal El-Din. *Ahram Online (Egypt)*. 27 March 2025. Available from: <https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/1238/543702/Egypt/Tourism/Six-dead,-injured-in-tourist-submarine-sinking-of.aspx> At least six people were killed and nine others injured when a tourist submarine sank off Egypt's Red Sea coast near Hurghada early on Thursday, authorities said.

Six tourists dead and 39 rescued as submarine sinks off Egypt's Red Sea coast. Amr Mostafa and Kamal Tabikha. *The National (UAE)*. 27 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/mena/2025/03/27/six-deaths-reported-after-tourist-submarine-sinks-off-egypts-red-sea-coast> At least six people were reported dead and nine injured when a tourist submarine sank off the Egyptian Red Sea city of Hurghada on Thursday.

Six killed in Red Sea tourist submarine sinking off Egypt: What we know. *Al Jazeera*. 28 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/3/28/six-killed-in-red-sea-tourist-submarine-sinking-off-egypt-what-we-know> A tourist submarine sank on Thursday during a routine underwater sightseeing tour off the coast of Hurghada, a popular Red Sea resort city in Egypt, killing at least six Russian nationals on board.

Container ship damaged in North Sea collision arrives in Port of Aberdeen. *STV News (Scotland)*. 28 March 2025. Available from: <https://news.stv.tv/north/container-ship-damaged-in-north-sea-collision-arrives-in-port-of-aberdeen> Portuguese vessel *Solong* was towed to the Scottish port city for "safe berthing" after it crashed into the anchored tanker *Stena Immaculate* off the East Yorkshire coast on March 10.

They watched the Key Bridge fall. Now they can't take their eyes off the *Dali*. Brenna Smith. *Baltimore Banner (US)*. 29 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.thebaltimorebanner.com/community/local-news/key-bridge-dali-livestream-LPZZVQY5DBGURJULRLDDB4J6HU> Before dawn on March 26 last year, Mike Singer stared at his glowing laptop.

ENVIRONMENT

Fast-growing trillion-dollar ocean economy goes beyond fishing and shipping. *UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*. 5 March 2025. Available from: <https://unctad.org/news/fast-growing-trillion-dollar-ocean-economy-goes-beyond-fishing-and-shipping> More than just fishing boats and cargo ships, the fast-growing ocean economy hit a record \$2.2 trillion in exports in 2023, with services accounting for 59% of the total.

Copernicus: Global sea ice cover at a record low and third-warmest February globally. *Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S)*. 5 March 2025. Available from: <https://climate.copernicus.eu/copernicus-global-sea-ice-cover-record-low-and-third-warmest-february-globally> The Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), implemented by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts on behalf of the European Commission with funding from the EU, routinely publishes monthly climate bulletins reporting on the changes observed in global surface air and sea temperatures, sea ice cover and hydrological variables.

Clean Arctic Alliance Reaction to Copernicus Global Sea Ice Loss Report. *Clean Arctic Alliance*. 6 March 2025. Available from: <https://cleanarctic.org/2025/03/06/clean-arctic-alliance-reaction-to-copernicus-global-sea-ice-loss-report/> Responding to reports from EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service that global sea ice cover reached a record low in February, the Clean Arctic Alliance today called on the IMO and the shipping sector to slash black carbon emissions from shipping in the Arctic region.

Meteorological services are vital for the ocean economy. *World Meteorological Organization*. 7 March 2025. Available from: <https://wmo.int/media/news/meteorological-services-are-vital-ocean-economy> The 5th UN Ocean Forum has called for smarter, more concerted action to protect the world's vast marine spaces for future generations.

Zanzibar's marine economy under threat from climate change. Rosemary Mirondo. *The Citizen (Tanzania)*. 13 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/zanzibar/zanzibar-s-marine-economy-under-threat-from-climate-change-4962588> Zanzibar's marine-dependent economy is facing increasing risks due to climate change, with rising sea levels, saltwater intrusion, beach erosion, and extreme weather events disrupting key sectors such as fishing, tourism and agriculture.

From deluges to drought: Climate change speeds up water cycle, triggers more extreme weather. Tammy Webber and Donavon Brutus. *Associated Press*. 24 March 2025. Available from: <https://apnews.com/article/climate-change-extremes-drought-flood-rain-hydrological-cycle-b1f3e71ec6bac03f7c72a16be2739b01> 🗞️ Around the globe, rising temperatures stoked by climate change are increasing the odds of both severe drought and heavier precipitation that wreak havoc on people and the environment.

New study reveals long-term effects of deep-sea mining and first signs of biological recovery. *British Geological Survey*. 27 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/news/new-study-reveals-long-term-effects-of-deep-sea-mining-and-first-signs-of-biological-recovery/> Concerns around deep-sea mining and its impact on the marine environment have been heightened by a lack of evidence and understanding of the long-term recovery of the deep-sea ecosystem once mining is finished.

Clouds changing as world warms, adding to climate uncertainty. *France 24*. 28 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20250328-clouds-changing-as-world-warms-adding-to-climate-uncertainty> Some clouds are rising higher into the atmosphere, where they trap more heat.

Climate-smart trade facilitation: From efficiency to climate solutions. *UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*. 28 March 2025. Available from: <https://unctad.org/news/climate-smart-trade-facilitation-efficiency-climate-solutions> A new project sets out to cut carbon emissions from cross-border trade while enhancing efficiency, sustainability, economic and climate resilience in Africa and Asia-Pacific.

OECD urges strengthened co-operation to sustain trillion-dollar ocean economy. *OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)*. 31 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.oecd.org/en/about/news/press-releases/2025/03/oecd-urges-strengthened-co-operation-to-sustain-trillion-dollar-ocean-economy.html> While the ocean economy doubled in real terms, from US 1.3 trillion in 1995 to US 2.6 trillion in 2020, co-ordinated policy action is essential to safeguard its long-term prosperity and sustainability, a new OECD report finds. [The Ocean Economy to 2050 Full Report](#) 

Ocean economy needs protection against wave of threats: OECD. *Al Jazeera*. 31 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/3/31/ocean-economy-needs-protection-against-wave-of-threats-oecd> The global ocean economy is at risk of major disruption without increased protection, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

EU seas: polluting ships can still slip through the net. *European Court of Auditors*. 4 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/news/NEWS-SR-2025-06> EU legislation incorporates relevant international rules – sometimes with even stricter requirements – in areas such as oil pollution, shipwrecks, and sulphur emissions. [EU actions tackling sea pollution by ships – Not yet out of troubled waters Full report](#)  [Replies of the European Commission](#) 

Lax enforcement of EU maritime pollution rules put targets in doubt, auditors find. Bárbara Machado. *EurActiv*. 4 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/eet/news/lax-enforcement-of-eu-maritime-pollution-rules-put-targets-in-doubt-auditors-find/> Seawater contamination due to oil spills from ships, gas emissions, chemical discharges and waste remains a major problem affecting European waters, despite EU goals of eliminating seawater pollution by 2030.

Why are whales getting tangled up in ropes? Steven McKenzie and Jennifer Bowey. *BBC News*. 6 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy9dxrr2x5lo>  It was the latest in a series of whale entanglements off the Scottish coast in the last few months.

'North Sea oil spill environmental impact could be severe'. *University of Reading (UK)*. 10 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.reading.ac.uk/news/2025/Expert-Comment/North-Sea-oil-spill-environmental-impact-could-be-severe> A cargo vessel has collided with an oil tanker in the North Sea.

North Sea collision: What are the potential environmental impacts? Martin Stew.

ITV News (UK). 10 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.itv.com/news/2025-03-10/what-are-the-environmental-impacts-of-a-potential-oil-spill> Monday's collision between an oil tanker and a cargo ship in the North Sea immediately sparked environmental concerns.

Where and when will pollution hit the coast? BBC Radio Humberside. 12 March 2025.

Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0kxpg5> Marine experts and meteorologists assess the consequences of the collision.

North Sea oil spill may take two months to clear following ship collision – expert.

Sam Baker. *Chemical Engineer*. 12 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.thechemicalengineer.com/news/north-sea-oil-spill-may-take-two-months-to-clear-following-ship-collision-expert/> Jet fuel that spilled into the North Sea following Monday's collision between a tanker and a cargo ship off the coast of Hull, UK could take "up to two months" to clear, an expert has told TCE.

How North Sea tanker collision could affect one of Britain's most important coastlines.

Krysia Mazik, Magnus Johnson, Rodney Forster and Sue Hull. *The Conversation*. 12 March 2025.

Available from: <https://theconversation.com/how-north-sea-tanker-collision-could-affect-one-of-britains-most-important-coastlines-252068> An oil tanker carrying jet fuel was recently hit by a cargo ship while at anchor 13 miles (21km) off the east coast of England.

Fiji's fishing ship graveyard highlights lax Pacific dumping controls. Harry Pearl.

Radio New Zealand. 12 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/pacific/544511/fiji-s-fishing-ship-graveyard-highlights-lax-pacific-dumping-controls> Parts of Suva harbor in Fiji resemble a ship graveyard with more than two dozen rusting and unseaworthy vessels abandoned due to financial problems by their foreign owners and enabled by policy failures.

Sunk costs: Pacific shipwrecks and the urgent call for the Nairobi Convention.

Lowy Institute (Australia). 14 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/sunk-costs-pacific-shipwrecks-urgent-call-nairobi-convention> It is estimated that there are 3,800 shipwrecks scattered across the floor of the Pacific Ocean.

Small plastic pellets wash ashore following North Sea collision. Dave Higgins and

Lauren Davidson. *Grimsby Telegraph (UK)*. 17 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.grimsbytelegraph.co.uk/news/grimsby-news/small-plastic-pellets-wash-ashore-10030643> Small plastic pellets which can present a risk to wildlife have entered the water and washed ashore following the collision between a cargo ship and oil tanker in the North Sea last week, according to the Coastguard.

North Sea collision: operation to clear up plastic pellets begins. Robyn Vinter. *The Guardian*.

17 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/mar/17/north-sea-collision-operation-to-clear-up-plastic-pellets-begins> An operation is under way to retrieve thousands of plastic pellets from the North Sea that were spilt in a collision between two ships last week, in which one man died.

TIP 19: Response to plastic pellet incidents. *International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation*

Limited (ITOPF). 18 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.itopf.org/knowledge-resources/documents-guides/tip-19-response-to-plastic-pellet-incident/> Concern over the extent of plastic and microplastic contamination of our oceans has steadily increased over many years. [Technical Information Paper \(TIP\) 19](#)

World War II era shipwreck could trigger \$200m oil spill cleanup. Nick James.

Radio New Zealand. 21 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/545496/world-war-ii-era-shipwreck-could-trigger-200m-oil-spill-cleanup> Documents reveal a World War II era shipwreck could trigger a \$200 million oil spill clean up but the government is going against officials' advice to at least do a risk assessment survey.

Ocean dumping – or a climate solution? A growing industry bets on the ocean to capture carbon. Helen Wieffering. *Associated Press*. 21 March 2025. Available from:

<https://tinyurl.com/p69wuyeu> From the grounds of a gas-fired power plant on the eastern shores of Canada, a little-known company is pumping a slurry of minerals into the ocean in the name of stopping climate change.“

HEALTH & SAFETY

Nigeria Reinforces Advocacy For Welfare Of Seafarers, Other Maritime Workers.

Kelechi Onyemaobi. *Nigerian Voice*. 22 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.thenigerianvoice.com/news/348438/nigeria-reinforces-advocacy-for-welfare-of-seafarers-other.html> The Federal Government of Nigeria has continued its advocacy for the formal designation of seafarers as key workers - in order to enhance their welfare.

Are we killing seafarers with fatigue? Craig Eason. *TradeWinds*. 24 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.tradewindsnews.com/ship-management/are-we-killing-seafarers-with-fatigue-/2-1-1796312> Fatigue is still a huge issue in shipping, despite technology and regulations being brought in to try to tackle the problem.

Thanks to hydroponics, fresh veggies grown on board merchant ships are heralding a sea change in crew well-being. Sunanda Mehta. *Indian Express*. 30 March 2025. Available from:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/hydroponics-fresh-veggies-on-board-merchant-ships-9913107/> Addressing seafarers' long-standing need for fresh vegetables as they undertake long voyages across oceans, shipping companies have for the first time installed technology-driven vegetable growing units on board merchant ships.

IMO

IMO helps Ghana's transition efforts towards greener maritime practices. *GhanaWeb*.

1 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/business/IMO-helps-Ghana-s-transition-efforts-towards-greener-maritime-practices-1973609> The IMO has selected Ghana as one of five countries to receive technical support in developing a National Action Plan (NAP) under the GreenVoyage2050 programme.

Arsenio Dominguez doubles down on diversity at IMO as Donald Trump turns tables.

Sandra Boga. *TradeWinds*. 3 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.tradewindsnews.com/people/arsenio-dominguez-doubles-down-on-diversity-at-imo-as-donald-trump-turns-tables/2-1-1786343> IMO secretary general Arsenio Dominguez has doubled down on his commitment to diversity in shipping, saying the regulator would not be swayed by changing opinions in the US.

Maersk warns IMO rule glitch could entrench fossil LNG. Declan Bush. *Lloyd's List*.

3 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.lloydlist.com/LL1152750/Maersk-warns-IMO-rule-glitch-could-entrench-fossil-LNG> Maersk says a glitch in the design of green fuel standard proposals on the table at the IMO would give fossil LNG an outside financial benefit, making pay-to-pollute the industry's default option for compliance.

UCL's Smith hits out at flawed IMO credit trading compromise. Declan Bush. *Lloyd's List*.

4 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.lloydlist.com/LL1152766/UCL%E2%80%99s-Smith-hits-out-at-flawed-IMO-credit-trading-compromise> A bridge proposal meant to fix flaws in credit trading plans at the IMO would fail in practice, UCL's Tristan Smith has argued.

IMO Secretary-General visits STC in Rotterdam. Mariska Buitendijk. *SWZ Maritime (Netherlands)*.

7 March 2025. Available from: <https://swzmaritime.nl/news/2025/03/07/imo-secretary-general-visits-stc-in-rotterdam/> A key moment of the visit was an interactive college tour with vocational (mbo) and higher education (hbo) maritime students.

Fortescue calls on IMO to set \$100/mt carbon levy on bunker consumption.

Hellenic Shipping News. 11 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/fortescue-calls-on-imo-to-set-100-mt-carbon-levy-on-bunker-consumption/> Fortescue wants the IMO to impose a carbon levy of \$100/mt on marine energy consumption to make "green ammonia" competitive as a marine fuel, Executive Chairman Andrew Forrest said March 9.

Why the IMO is desperate to avoid a vote on emissions curbs. Declan Bush. *Lloyd's List*.

11 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.lloydlist.com/LL1152839/Why-the-IMO-is-desperate-to-avoid-a-vote-on-emissions-curbs> The IMO has always stressed the need to find consensus on a climate plan for shipping.

Countdown: Reflections from ISWG-GHG 18. *Maersk Mc-Kinney Møller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping*. 12 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.zerocarbonshipping.com/news/countdown-reflections-from-iswg-ghg-18/>

As the dust settles from a week of intense negotiations at ISWG-GHG 18 in London, we reflect on the key developments in this seventh edition of Countdown to MTM

Technical neutrality under threat at IMO. *SEA-LNG*. 13 March 2025. Available from: <https://sea-lng.org/2025/03/technical-neutrality-under-threat-at-imo/>

SEA-LNG and its members welcome the ongoing discussions at IMO to establish technical and economic measures to achieve the 2023 IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships.

ONE urges IMO to consider both business and climate at crucial April meeting.

Tomas Kristiansen. *ShippingWatch*. 13 March 2025. Available from:

<https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article17989139.ece> With few weeks left to IMO's crucial meeting in London, the shipping industry has started the count-down to what may materialize into a gigantic environmental and commercial shift for all carriers.

IMO Carbon Levy Uncertainty Stalling Maritime Investment, ABS Chief Warns. Mike Schuler.

gCaptain. 13 March 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/imo-carbon-levy-uncertainty-stalling-maritime-investment-abs-chief-warns/> Uncertainty surrounding the IMO's proposed carbon levy is creating significant hesitation in shipping industry investments, according to Christopher Wiernicki the Chairman and CEO of the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS).

MEPC 83: “To create a global level playing field, there is only one organisation that can do that, and that is the IMO”. *Royal Belgian Shipowners’ Association*. 17 March 2025. Available from: <https://kbrv.be/library/mepc-83-to-create-a-global-level-playing-field-there-is-only-one-organisation-that-can-do-that-and-that-is-the-imo> To start off the series is Yvan Vlamincx, Managing Director of Fast Lines Belgium.

Andriy Yermak Meets with the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization. *Presidential Office of Ukraine*. 17 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/andrij-yermak-zustrivsvya-z-generalnim-sekretarem-mizhnarodno-96661> Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine Andriy Yermak met with Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization Arsenio Dominguez.

Maersk climate boss warns: IMO proposal will favour LNG. Liv Almer. *ShippingWatch*. 19 March 2025. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article18009610.ece> The IMO’s proposal for a marine fuel standard entailing a gradual reduction of greenhouse gas emissions – along with one or more financial incentives to encourage the use of green fuels – could end up being a hindrance to the shipping industry’s green transition, writes Maersk’s head of energy transition Morten Bo Christiansen in a post on LinkedIn.

The IMO’s mid-term measures: progress, challenges, and next steps. Marie Fricaudet. *Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDR)*. 20 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.iddri.org/en/publications-and-events/blog-post/imos-mid-term-measures-progress-challenges-and-next-steps> The IMO is moving forward with its mid-term measures to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from international shipping.

Why you should worry about boring IMO debates. *Lloyd’s List*. 21 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.loydslist.com/LL1152947/Why-you-should-worry-about-boring-IMO-debates> In a perfect world, decarbonisation would go something like this: This April, the International Maritime Organization passes a simple climate levy paired with a green fuel standard, to help narrow the cost gap between fossil and green fuels.

No more excuses: real climate action now. Ralph Regenvanu. *Pacific Islands News Association (PINA)*. 21 March 2025. Available from: https://pina.com.fj/2025/03/21/no-more-excuses-real-climate-action-now/?doing_wp_cron=1742564191.1380949020385742187500 Vanuatu stands with the 6PAC+ alliance at the IMO that includes the Pacific, the Caribbean, Africa, and many SIDS and LDCs.

MEPC 83: “The only way to drive innovation in the shipping industry is a global framework.” *Royal Belgian Shipowners’ Association*. 24 March 2025. Available from: <https://kbrv.be/library/mepc-83-the-only-way-to-drive-innovation-in-the-shipping-industry-is-a-global-framework> This week, Marc Nuytemans, Board Member of the Royal Belgian Shipowners’ Association gives his thoughts about what it will take for shipping’s decarbonisation to succeed.

It’s time for shipping to launch first global tax on a polluting sector. Ambassador Ali Mohamed. *Climate Home News*. 24 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2025/03/24/its-time-for-shipping-to-launch-first-global-tax-on-a-polluting-sector/> These are not abstract threats; they are dismantling the livelihoods of millions of Kenyans who depend on agriculture and marine resources.

Decarbonising shipping: where does Africa stand? Maria Ogbugo. *The Nation (Kenya)*. 24 March 2025. Available from: <https://nation.africa/kenya/blogs-opinion/blogs/decarbonising-shipping-where-does-africa-stand--4977430> Ahead of a crucial IMO intersessional working group meeting at the end of March, putting in place measures to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the shipping industry has been a long time coming.

IMO lead negotiator is 80% confident of reaching global climate deal in April.

Tomas Kristiansen and Mette Grube Condrup. *ShippingWatch*. 26 March 2025. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article18032437.ece> Norwegian Sveinung Oftedal, among other things known for his skill at diplomacy, has a firm opinion on whether the crucial IMO climate meeting from April 7-11 will be a success or a failure.

Op-Ed: Three GHG Meetings in London Can Transform Shipping. Delaine McCullough. *Maritime Executive*. 26 March 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/editorials/op-ed-three-ghg-meetings-in-london-can-transform-shipping> The International shipping sector provides an outsized and growing contribution to the climate crisis, already causing around 3% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions - shipping's annual emissions are about as much as a major industrial country like Japan.

Media Release: "INTERCARGO Reaffirms Call for Simplicity as IMO Climate Talks Intensify". *International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners (INTERCARGO)*. 27 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.intercargoo.org/media-release-intercargoo-reaffirms-call-for-simplicity/> The International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners (INTERCARGO) has renewed its call for straightforward and practical mid-term measures as the IMO's climate negotiations enter the next critical phase.

London Shipping Summit Must Slash Industry Contribution to Climate Crisis. *Clean Shipping Coalition (CSC)*. 27 March 2025. Available from: <https://cleanshipping.org/news/impending-summit-must-slash-shippings-contribution-to-climate-crisis/> "The coming two weeks at the IMO gives governments a crucial window to slash shipping's climate heating greenhouse gas emissions", said Delaine McCullough, Ocean Conservancy's Shipping Emissions Policy Manager and President of the Clean Shipping Coalition.

Crunch Time for Climate Action: Fossil Fuels or a 1.5°C Future? Micronesian Center for Sustainable Transport (MCST). *Hellenic Shipping News*. 27 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/crunch-time-for-climate-action-fossil-fuels-or-a-1-5c-future/> With the survival of island nations hanging in the balance, the IMO will reconvene in London on March 31 and April 1, for a crucial two-day Intersessional Working Group on Greenhouse Gas (ISWG-GHG 19) meeting.

EU appears to back down on carbon levy on international shipping. Fiona Harvey. *The Guardian*. 27 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/mar/27/eu-appears-to-back-down-on-carbon-levy-on-international-shipping> The long-awaited carbon levy on international shipping that was to supply vital climate finance looks set to be significantly diluted, after the EU appeared to be backing down in global talks, in a blow to vulnerable countries.

Kitack Lim expects 'positive outcome' on upcoming MEPC 83 meeting in April. Karen Ng. *TradeWinds*. 27 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/people/kitack-lim-expects-positive-outcome-on-upcoming-mepc-83-meeting-in-april/2-1-1798272> Former International Maritime Organization secretary general Kitack Lim expects a "positive outcome" from the upcoming 83rd Marine Environment Protection Committee meeting.

IMO policy measures: Ensuring certainty for shipping's energy transition. *Global Maritime Forum*. 27 March 2025. Available from: <https://globalmaritimeforum.org/insight/imo-policy-measures-ensuring-certainty-for-shippings-energy-transition/> The IMO's revised GHG strategy ('2023 IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships') calls for ending fossil fuel consumption and reaching net-zero GHG emissions "by or around, i.e. close to, 2050".

China's Opposition to Carbon Levy Sets Stage for Tense IMO Talks. *Ship & Bunker*. 28 March 2025. Available from: <https://shipandbunker.com/news/world/228860-chinas-opposition-to-carbon-levy-sets-stage-for-tense-imo-talks> China, South Africa and Brazil are expected to hold firm against a carbon levy at the IMO meetings.

Small islands fear EU betrayal over shipping emissions levy. Joe Lo. *Climate Home News*. 28 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2025/03/28/small-islands-fear-eu-betrayal-over-shipping-emissions-levy/> On the sidelines of Singapore Maritime Week on Wednesday, representatives of the European Commission, Denmark and the Netherlands met with officials from China, Japan and Singapore.

Opinion: Everyone could lose out if IMO fails to deliver clear-cut rules. Michael Prehn. *ShippingWatch*. 28 March 2025. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article18039698.ece> The International Maritime Organization will soon be narrowing the options for a 'basket' of measures to transition shipping to zero emissions over the next quarter of a century.

Black Carbon and the Arctic: What is Happening, and What Comes Next? *Clean Arctic Alliance*. 31 March 2025. Available from: <https://cleanarctic.org/2025/03/31/black-carbon-and-the-arctic-what-is-happening-and-what-comes-next/> In January 2025, during a meeting of the IMO Pollution Prevention and Response sub-committee (PPR 12), a growing number of IMO member states, along with parts of the fuel and shipping industry, demonstrated broad support for development of the "polar fuels" concept to help define fuels for use by Arctic shipping.

Vision 2050: Fuel standards to align international shipping with the Paris Agreement. Hae Jeong Cho, Gabriel Alvarez and Bryan Comer. *International Council on Clean Transportation*. 31 March 2025. Available from: <https://theicct.org/publication/vision-2050-fuel-standards-to-align-international-shipping-with-the-paris-agreement-mar25/> In 2023, the IMO adopted a revised strategy that aims to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from international shipping to net-zero by or around 2050. [Report](#)  [Supplemental Data](#) 

Good medicine, bad medicine? Lobbyists jostle over maritime fuels ahead of IMO meet. Lucy Hine. *TradeWinds*. 31 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/sustainability/good-medicine-bad-medicine-lobbyists-jostle-over-maritime-fuels-ahead-of-imo-meet/2-1-1798950> Shipping players are on manoeuvres ahead of the International Maritime Organization's April MEPC 83 meeting, and there appears to be some heavyweight backstage lobbying.

LAW & POLICY

Members of Parliament ratify UN marine biodiversity agreement. Robert Andre Emmanuel. *Antigua Observer (Antigua and Barbuda)*. 28 February 2025. Available from:

<https://antiguaobserver.com/members-of-parliament-ratify-un-marine-biodiversity-agreement/>

The House of Representatives ratified the Agreement under the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, commonly known as the BBNJ Agreement, as government MPs defined the resolution as solidifying the country's position as a global climate change leader.

Tanzania unveils blue economy policy to boost sector's impact. Aurea Simtowe.

The Citizen (Tanzania). 28 February 2025. Available from:

<https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/tanzania-unveils-blue-economy-policy-to-boost-sector-s-impact-4945760>

The government has unveiled the national blue economy policy to unlock the ocean's wealth and drive sustainable development.

French city of Nice backtracks on big cruise ship ban. *France 24*. 1 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20250301-french-city-of-nice-backtracks-on-big-cruise-ship-ban-in-bid-to-placate-business-owners>

The mayor of Nice backtracked Friday on sharply limiting visits by large cruise ships to avoid overtourism in the French Riviera city.

After NOAA Layoffs, Experts Warn of Impacts on Shipping and Fisheries. *Maritime Executive*.

2 March 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/index.php/article/after-noaa-layoffs-experts-warn-of-impacts-on-shipping-and-fisheries>

The U.S. Commerce Department has laid off as many as 880 employees from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the agency that provides weather forecasting, prepares nautical charts and administers federal fishery quotas.

Oceans of opportunity squeezed dry by unsustainable use. *UN News*. 3 March 2025.

Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/03/1160716>; In the run-up to the UN Ocean Conference 2025 in June, the UN trade and development agency, UNCTAD, emphasised that oceans are essential to all life, by sustaining biodiversity, regulating the climate and generating oxygen. [5th UN Ocean Forum on trade-related aspects of Sustainable Development Goal 14](#)

The ITLOS advisory opinion on climate change: Revisiting the relationship between the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Paris Agreement. Bastiaan E. Klerk.

Review of European, Comparative & International Environmental Law. 12 January 2025.

Available from: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/reel.12588> The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) has issued its highly anticipated Advisory Opinion on Climate Change and International Law, following a request from the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS).

Countries fail again to decide timing of key IPCC climate science reports. Matteo Civillini.

Climate Home News. 3 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.climatechangenews.com/2025/03/03/countries-fail-again-to-decide-on-timing-of-key-ipcc-climate-science-reports/>

While officials agreed on the outline of the IPCC's three flagship reports in Hangzhou, China, on Saturday, they failed to break the deadlock on when they should be delivered, despite week-long talks running into overtime with a nearly uninterrupted 30-hour session on the closing day.

Trump administration again labels Houthis 'terrorist organization'. *Voice of America.*

4 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.voanews.com/a/trump-administration-again-labels-houthis-terrorist-organization-/7997241.html> The U.S. State Department on Tuesday reinstated the "foreign terrorist organization" designation for Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi group, fulfilling an order announced by President Donald Trump shortly after he took office.

Dialogue Outlines Priorities for Ambitious and Effective Plastic Treaty. *International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).*

5 March 2025. Available from: <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/dialogue-outlines-priorities-for-ambitious-and-effective-plastic-treaty/> As countries and stakeholders prepare for the resumed fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5.2) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)-coordinated Geneva Environment Network (GEN) hosted an online event that provided an update on where we stand after the last round of negotiations and explored ways forward.

Update from Greece: Limitless? Not this time! Panagiotis Adamos. *Steamship Mutual.*

5 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.steamshipmutual.com/update-greece-limitless-not-time> The recently published Greek Supreme Court decision number 1806/2023 reaffirmed shipowners' right to limit liability under the LLMC 1976 Convention for maritime claims in the event of a collision, in respect of losses arising out of Master's personal acts or omissions, but not out of shipowners' personal acts or omissions.

CMA CGM Group Announces \$20 Billion Investment in America's Maritime Transportation, Logistics and Supply Chain Capabilities Over the Next Four Years. *CMA CGM.*

6 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.cmacgm-group.com/en/news-media/cma-cgm-group-announces-20-billion-investment-americas-maritime-transportation-logistics> CMA CGM Group, a global leader in sea, land, air, and logistics solutions, and owner of the U.S. flag carrier American President Lines (APL), today announced a \$20 billion investment to contribute to U.S. maritime economy and support the transformation of America's domestic supply chain over the next four years.

Malaysia Must Prioritise Green Shipping As Global Maritime Industry Leans Towards Protecting Environment - Consultant. Harizah Hanim Mohamed. *Bernama (Malaysia).*

9 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.bernama.com/en/news.php?id=2400455> Malaysia should embrace and prioritise green shipping trends to remain relevant despite its strategic advantage along the Strait of Malacca, a global management consultant said.

EU Ocean Days 2025: EU-funded initiatives for a sustainable blue economy.

European Commission. 10 March 2025. Available from: https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/eu-ocean-days-2025-eu-funded-initiatives-sustainable-blue-economy-2025-03-10_en Last week, more than 1,800 ocean stakeholders including policymakers, regional authorities met at the European Ocean Days in Brussels and online.

Lok Sabha Passes Bills of Lading Bill, 2025, Modernizing 169-Year-Old Colonial Shipping Law. *Government of India.*

10 March 2025. Available from: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2110053> In an effort to support the country's growing shipping sector, the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal introduced the Bills of Lading Bill, 2025, which aims to update and simplify the legal framework for shipping documents.

Maritime framework in focus as Jamaica develops its maritime services. *Hellenic Shipping News*. 11 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/maritime-framework-in-focus-as-jamaica-develops-its-maritime-services/> As Jamaica continues to develop its maritime sector, expanding its shipping services, growing its bunkering capability, and operating the country's first floating drydock, the need for robust legal expertise and essential regulatory frameworks is paramount.

Mediterranean Sea: Council prolongs the mandate of Operation IRINI until 2027. *European Council*. 11 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/03/11/mediterranean-sea-council-prolongs-the-mandate-of-operation-irini-until-2027/> The Council today extended the mandate of the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) military operation in the Mediterranean - EUNAVFOR MED IRINI - until 31 March 2027.

Update on Operation ASPIDES in the Red Sea area. *International Union of Marine Insurance*. 12 March 2025. Available from: <https://iumi.com/newsletter-march-2025/update-on-operation-aspides-in-the-red-sea-area/> The European Union's Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) OPERATION ASPIDES is an EU defensive maritime security operation under the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

The SHIPS Act: The Advent of a New U.S. Merchant Marine Fleet? *Blank Rome LLP*. 12 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.blankrome.com/publications/ships-act-advent-new-us-merchant-marine-fleet> Back in December, U.S. Sen. Scott Kelly (D-Arizona), U.S. Sen. Todd Young (R-Indiana), and then-Rep. Mike Waltz (R-Florida) (now the president's National Security Advisor) co-sponsored a bill to revamp shipbuilding in the United States.

Rich nations ignore polluting past to claim climate plans are 1.5C-compatible. *Joe Lo*. *Climate Home News*. 12 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2025/03/12/rich-nations-ignore-polluting-past-to-claim-climate-plans-are-1-5c-compatible/> In Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) plans submitted to the United Nations in recent months, countries including the UK, Canada and Switzerland have argued that if every nation cut emissions as fast as they aim to, then the Paris Agreement goal of keeping warming to 1.5C above pre-industrial times would be achieved.

Marshall Islands Submits BBNJ Instrument of Ratification to the United Nations. *Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA)*. 13 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.rmimra.com/updates/articles/18-announcement/182-marshall-islands-submits-bbnj-instrument-of-ratification-to-the-united-nations> The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) has taken a significant step in advancing global ocean governance by officially delivering its instrument of ratification for the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) to the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (UN OLA) Treaty Section.

Treasury Sanctions Iranian Oil Minister, Shadow Fleet Operators. *US Department of the Treasury*. 13 March 2025. Available from: <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sb0049> Today, the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) is designating Iran's Minister of Petroleum, Mohsen Paknejad, who oversees the export of tens of billions of dollars' worth of Iranian oil and has allocated billions of dollars' worth of oil to Iran's armed forces for export.

[Joint Statement] Welcoming Korea's Ratification of the BBNJ Agreement. *High Seas Alliance*. 14 March 2025. Available from: <https://highseasalliance.org/2025/03/14/joint-statement-welcoming-koreas-ratification-of-the-bbnj-agreement/> On Thursday, March 13, the National Assembly held a plenary session and passed the "Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction" under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Japan's unwavering support to Mauritius in the field of maritime safety and security highly commended. *Maritimafrika*. 14 March 2025. Available from: <https://maritimafrika.com/en/japans-unwavering-support-to-mauritius-in-the-field-of-maritime-safety-and-security-highly-commended/>

At the signing ceremony of the Japan Grant Aid of some one billion Japanese Yen, equivalent to around Rs 300 m, under the Japan Economic Social Development Programme, for the acquisition of a tugboat by the Prime Minister's Office, today, in Port Louis, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mr Dhananjay Ramful, reaffirmed Mauritius' gratitude to Japan for its unwavering support in the field of maritime safety and security.

Global Trade Update (March 2025). *UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*. 14 March 2025. Available from: <https://unctad.org/publication/global-trade-update-march-2025> The March 2025 edition examines tariffs and their impact on global trade. As an important trade policy tool, tariffs serve as a mechanism to protect domestic industries and generate government revenue.
[Policy insights: The role of tariffs in international trade](#) 

A new era of maritime excellence: Malta's maritime reforms set sail. Sarah Demicoli. *Times of Malta*. 16 March 2025. Available from: <https://timesofmalta.com/article/a-new-era-maritime-excellence-malta-maritime-reforms-set-sail.1106638> In a bold move to secure its position as a global maritime leader, Malta has introduced sweeping reforms through Act No. I of 2025.

JOINT PRESS RELEASE ICS-CMI – Joint Ratification Campaign. *Comité Maritime International*. 17 March 2025. Available from: <https://comitemaritime.org/joint-press-release-ics-cmi-joint-ratification-campaign/> Today, the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and the Comité Maritime International (CMI) launch an updated campaign for 'Promoting Maritime Treaty Ratification'.

US vows to keep hitting Houthis until shipping attacks stop. *Arab News (Saudi Arabia)*. 17 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2593796/middle-east> <https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article18002924.ece> The United States will keep attacking Yemen's Houthis until they end attacks on shipping, the US defense secretary said on Sunday, as the Iran-aligned group signalled it could escalate in response to deadly US strikes the day before.

FMC Launching Examination of Global Maritime Chokepoints. *US Federal Maritime Commission (FMC)*. 17 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.fmc.gov/articles/fmc-launching-examination-of-global-maritime-chokepoints/> The Federal Maritime Commission is gathering information about seven international maritime chokepoints to identify any regulations, policies, or practices that create unfavourable shipping conditions

Why are proposed deep-sea mining rules so contentious? Amélie Bottollier-Depois. *Phys.org*. 17 March 2025. Available from: <https://phys.org/news/2025-03-deep-sea-contentious.html> After more than a decade of negotiations, a new round of talks to finalize a code to regulate deep-sea mining in international waters begins Monday in Jamaica, with hopes high for adoption this year.

Houthis will target US ships in response to deadly airstrikes. Christian Moess Laursen.

ShippingWatch. 17 March 2025. Available from:

<https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article18002924.ece>

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2593796/middle-east> The escalation comes after the Houthis decided last week to resume armed attacks on all Israeli ships in the Red Sea because Israel is blocking aid from entering Gaza.

Government of Samoa Hosts National Workshop on the Ratification and Implementation of the BBNJ Agreement. *International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)*. 18 March 2025.

Available from: <https://iucn.org/news/202503/government-samoa-hosts-national-workshop-ratification-and-implementation-bbnj-agreement>

The Government of Samoa, in collaboration with the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) through its Oceania Regional Office, is facilitating the National Workshop on the Ratification and Implementation of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement).

Offshore Oil and Gas Risks Exposed in New Publication. *Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)*. 19 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.ciel.org/news/offshore-oil-and-gas-risks-exposed-in-new-publication/>)

As fossil fuel companies take their operations to ever deeper waters, a new publication from the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), *Offshore, Off-Limits: Making Oceans Off-Limits to Offshore Oil and Gas*, exposes the many risks of offshore oil and gas activity at every stage and outlines legal tools to hold industry actors accountable and protect oceans and coastal communities worldwide. [Making Oceans Off-Limits to Offshore Oil and Gas](#)

Saudi Arabia and The Bahamas Meet to Discuss Enhanced Collaboration at the IMO.

Saudi Press Agency (SPA). 19 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2284791>

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's delegation to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), led by Permanent Representative Eng. Kamal Al Junaidi, met with members of The Bahamas' delegation, led by the Hon. JoBeth Coleby-Davis, Minister of Energy and Transport, and Paul Rolle, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the IMO, on March 11, 2025.

Joint statement of European Shipowners and Sea Europe on European Maritime Industrial Strategy and Sustainable Transport Investment Plan. *ECSA European Shipowners and SEA Europe*. 19 March 2025. Available from:

<https://tinyurl.com/7x2t8m33> The two associations confirm their commitment to collaborate towards the EU climate targets and to enhance the international competitiveness of Europe's maritime sector.

Horizon Scan from Across the Pacific - Sailing Toward an Ocean of Justice and Resilience.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). 20 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.undp.org/pacific/blog/horizon-scan-across-pacific-sailing-toward-ocean-justice-and-resilience>

The term "ocean justice" sits at the crossroads of ocean stewardship, social inclusion, and equity.

Korea ratifies UN agreement on sustainable use of marine biological diversity.

Korea JoongAng Daily (South Korea). 20 March 2025. Available from:

<https://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/2025-03-20/national/environment/Korea-ratifies-UN-agreement-on-sustainable-use-of-marine-biological-diversity/2266536>

Korea has formally confirmed its ratification of a UN agreement on the sustainable use of marine biological diversity, becoming the first East Asian country to do so, Korea's Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

7 arrested for facilitating migrant smuggling across the English Channel. EUROPOL.

20 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/7-arrested-for-facilitating-migrant-smuggling-across-english-channel> On 19 March 2025, an operation involving law enforcement and judicial authorities from Belgium and Germany, coordinated by Europol, targeted a migrant smuggling network active across the English Channel.

MEDITERRANEAN: More rescues and deaths in Central Mediterranean — Cyprus accused of pushbacks and ignoring NGO warnings prior to tragedy — Leaked EU document suggests Malta refuses to co-operate in search and rescue missions — Italian court confirms suspension of rescue ship's detention. European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE).

20 March 2025. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/bdd8vhvp> There have been a number of serious incidents in the Central Mediterranean in recent weeks.

Fiji urged to accelerate BBNJ ratification. Islands Business (Fiji). 21 March 2025. Available from: <https://islandsbusiness.com/news-break/fiji-urged-to-accelerate-bbnj-ratification/> Regional partners are calling on Fiji to speed up its ratification of the BBNJ Agreement as other countries move forward with their commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Cyprus pushes for inclusive, competitive shipping at European summit. Souzana Psara. *Cyprus Mail*. 21 March 2025. Available from: <https://cyprus-mail.com/2025/03/21/cyprus-pushes-for-inclusive-competitive-shipping-at-european-summit> Deputy Minister of Shipping Marina Hadjimanolis attended the European Shipping Summit (ESS) this week, where she underlined the need to enhance competitiveness and inclusivity within European shipping.

MARINA, Maersk to advance PH's adoption of sustainable practices. PortCalls Asia. 25 March 2025. Available from: <https://portcalls.com/marina-maersk-to-advance-phs-adoption-of-sustainable-practices/> The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and Danish shipping and logistics company Maersk have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to collaborate with the aim of advancing the Philippines' adoption of sustainable practices in the maritime industry.

Blue Economy. Government of India. 25 March 2025. Available from: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2114953> The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India has taken note of the imminent threat to the Blue Economy posed by climate change, which may affect the livelihoods of fishermen and other coastal communities.

Hidden cost: How keeping climate data classified hurts developing countries.

Rachel Santarsiero. *Climate Home News*. 25 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2025/03/25/hidden-cost-how-keeping-climate-data-classified-hurts-developing-countries/> Relying on a broad consensus of open-source scientific studies, modelling, and forecasts, the spy community has intermittently let the public in on its climate change agenda.

Protecting undersea cultural heritage in spotlight at mining code talks. France 24.

26 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20250326-protecting-undersea-cultural-heritage-in-spotlight-at-mining-code-talks> They are pushing at a meeting in Jamaica of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) -- an organization established under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea -- for such protection to be enshrined in a mining code that is being negotiated to govern the exploitation of sea beds in international waters.

Chinese ship fee threatens Tropical Shipping survival. Neil Hartnell. *The Tribune (Bahamas)*. 26 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.tribune242.com/news/2025/mar/26/chinese-ship-fee-threatens-tropical-shipping-survival/> The survival of a major ocean freight carrier serving The Bahamas would be in jeopardy if the US proceeds with a Chinese-made ship fee that “would almost double” 40-foot container cargo rates.

Breaking Barriers: Norton Rose Fulbright's Sue Ann Gan on navigating maritime law and pushing for inclusivity. Umairah Nasir. *Human Resources Online*. 26 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.humanresourcesonline.net/breaking-barriers-norton-rose-fulbright-s-sue-ann-gan-on-navigating-maritime-law-and-pushing-for-inclusivity> Sue Ann Gan, Partner, Norton Rose Fulbright, is a shipping lawyer in Singapore, specialising in maritime law.

UN, Germany say tackling climate crisis is path to economic and national security. Megan Rowling. *Climate Home News*. 26 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2025/03/26/un-germany-say-tackling-climate-crisis-is-path-to-economic-and-national-security/> In a speech to the Petersberg Climate Dialogue in Berlin, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called on countries to ensure they deliver new national climate plans by September that are strong enough to limit global warming to 1.5C and to provide finance to developing countries in line with promises.

Maritime Week Africa: The blue economy is ‘the new frontier of African Renaissance’. Lesley Bankes-Hughes. *Bunkerspot*. 27 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.bunkerspot.com/africa/64729-maritime-week-africa-the-blue-economy-is-the-new-frontier-of-african-renaissance> The value of Africa’s blue economy is projected to be \$405 billion by 2030 and, as Ambassador Nancy Karigithu, Special Envoy & Advisor for Maritime and Blue Economy in the Executive Office of the President of Kenya, told delegates at Maritime Week Africa this week, an integrated and cross-sector maritime policy approach will be the most effective way of driving not only this sector’s development, but enabling ‘all the sub-sectors of the economy, at national and continental levels, to contribute to economic growth.’

The formula for better Arctic shipping: international governance, regional collaboration — and more ambition all round. Sam Davin. *WWF Canada*. 28 March 2025. Available from: <https://wwf.ca/stories/better-arctic-shipping/> Arctic Council working group, reported that from 2013 to 2023, the number of ships operating in the Arctic grew 37 per cent while the total distance sailed increased by 111 per cent.

Bulgaria proposes to host a center for shipping control in the Black Sea. Krassen Nikolov. *EurActiv*. 28 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/bulgaria-proposes-to-host-a-center-for-shipping-control-in-the-black-sea/> The idea was presented by Bulgarian Prime Minister Rosen Zhelyazkov after today's "Peace and Security for Ukraine" meeting in Paris.

Breaking Houthi resolve: Why Trump’s strikes won’t work any better than Biden’s. Mark O’Neill. *Lowy Institute (Australia)*. 28 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/breaking-houthi-resolve-why-trump-s-strikes-won-t-work-any-better-biden-s> The Houthis have proven resilient in the face of strikes.

The Council of the International Seabed Authority concludes Part I of its thirtieth session. *International Seabed Authority*. 29 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.isa.org/im/news/the-council-of-the-international-seabed-authority-concludes-part-i-of-its-thirtieth-session/> The Council of the International Seabed Authority (the Authority) successfully concluded the first part of its thirtieth session, advancing discussions on the development of regulations for the exploitation of mineral resources in the international seabed area.

Reconsidering Sovereignty Amid the Climate Crisis. Mitya Labh. *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*. 31 March 2025. Available from:

<https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2025/03/reconsidering-sovereignty-amid-the-climate-crisis?lang=en> The current international order is based on the presumption that our physical geography is fixed and unchanging.

High Seas Treaty Ratification Tracker. *High Seas Alliance*. March 2025. Available from:

<https://highseasalliance.org/treaty-ratification/?cmplz-force-reload=1742468036509>

In June 2023, governments adopted the High Seas Treaty to protect ocean life.

MARINE TECHNOLOGY

Significant increase in biofuel usage to meet GHG reduction targets. *Lloyd's Register*.

28 February 2025. Available from: <https://www.lr.org/en/knowledge/press-room/press-listing/press-release/2025/significant-increase-in-biofuel-usage-to-meet-ghg-reduction-targets/> The FOBAS Fuel Quality Report H2 2024, which examines fuel quality trends from the second half of 2024, also identifies ongoing concerns with high total sediment levels, sulphur compliance, and flash point irregularities.

The Week in Alt Fuels: Who pays for a green gas leak? Konica Bhatt. *Engine Technologies*.

28 February 2025. Available from: <https://engine.online/news/alternative-fuels/the-week-in-alt-fuels-who-pays-for-a-green-gas-leak-689f> The absence of an IMO liability framework for using gaseous marine fuels for bunkering could create legal uncertainty and complicate compensation claims in offshore accidents.

Biofuels transparency and quality concerns highlighted. Paul Bartlett. *Seatrade Maritime News*.

3 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/bunkering/biofuels-transparency-and-quality-concerns-highlighted?> Lloyd's Register's latest Fuel Oil Bunkering Analysis and Advisory Service (FOBAS) urges caution on the quality of biofuels and expresses continuing concern on high bunker sediment levels, failings in sulphur compliance, and flash point irregularities.

First Japanese Ship with Onboard Carbon Capture Delivered. *Ship & Bunker*. 5 March 2025.

Available from: <https://shipandbunker.com/news/apac/674706-first-japanese-ship-with-onboard-carbon-capture-delivered> As pressure mounts to cut CO2 emissions, shipowners are seeking ways to bring their existing fleets in line with tightening regulations.

Lloyd's Register to use generative AI to advance the application of nuclear technology

in maritime in collaboration with Microsoft. *Lloyd's Register*. 5 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.lr.org/en/knowledge/press-room/press-listing/press-release/2025/lloyds-register-to-use-generative-ai-to-advance-the-application-of-nuclear-technology-inmaritime-in-collaboration-with-microsoft/> The capabilities are designed to enhance the regulatory process for nuclear technology and will be used by Lloyd's Register to advance the deployment of nuclear in maritime applications.

Deep-sea mining tech advances but doubts remain. Chris Baraniuk. *BBC News*. 7 March 2025.

Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cg45zwe0v0ro> All the while, the autonomous machine's on-board camera scanned for creatures that might be resting on those rocks, to avoid snatching an innocent lifeform from its habitat.

Geoengineering Governance: Restrictive Framework Must Be Upheld and Strengthened.

Mary Church. *Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)*. 5 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.ciel.org/govern-geoengineering/> This is the second analysis in a multipart series exposing the threats and risks connected to geoengineering and why these technologies must not be considered effective climate action.

US\$2Tn of investment needed for green fuel production by 2050. Martyn Wingrove. *Riviera Maritime*. 11 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/us2trn-of-investment-needed-on-green-fuel-production-by-2050-84169> IMO is being urged to introduce high levies on shipping companies to encourage developing countries to produce fuels with renewable energy resources, enabling net-zero emissions targets to be met in the next 25 years.

Fortescue Green Pioneer makes splash in UK as critical moment looms for global shipping. *Fortescue*. 9 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.fortescue.com/en/articles/fortescue-green-pioneer-makes-splash-in-uk-as-critical-moment-looms-for-global-shipping> *Fortescue Green Pioneer*, the world's first dual-fuelled ammonia-powered vessel, has arrived in London – its first stop on a global tour of ports aimed at fast-tracking international shipping's transition to green fuels.

Shared language needed to better understand marine genetic resources. *Economist Impact*. 10 March 2025. Available from: <https://impact.economist.com/ocean/biodiversity-ecosystems-and-resources/shared-language-needed-to-better-understand-marine-genetic-resources> Marine genetic resources are big business.

Baltic Exchange introduces biofuel blends in latest expansion of its Emissions Calculator. *Baltic Exchange*. 12 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.balticexchange.com/en/news-and-events/news/press-releases-/2025/Baltic-Exchange-introduces-biofuel-blends-in-latest-expansion-of-its-Emissions-Calculator.html> Baltic Exchange has introduced a series of green fuel options to its FuelEU voyage and compliance cost calculator as more shipowners, traders and charterers seek to understand the commercial implications of this regulation on their voyage costs.

Robosys Automation Launches Its New Autonomous Trials Boat in Support of Pioneering Advanced MASS. *Society of Maritime Industries*. 13 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.maritimeindustries.org/news/robosys-automation-launches-its-new-autonomous-trials-boat-support-pioneering-advanced-mass> The advanced maritime autonomy software developer, Robosys Automation, has unveiled its new autonomous trials boat, which has been commissioned to deliver testing and sea trials in support of integrating clients' software and hardware with the VOYAGER AI suite.

DNV white paper guides shipowners on safe and scalable adoption of ammonia and hydrogen fuels. *DNV*. 13 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.dnv.com/news/dnv-white-paper-guides-shipowners-on-scalable-adoption-of-ammonia-and-hydrogen-fuels/> Both hydrogen and ammonia have properties that introduce new safety risks, triggering the need for increased focus on safety in ship design, construction, and operation.

Wind-powered mast to cut emissions sets sail to Canada. *France 24*. 17 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20250317-wind-powered-mast-to-cut-emissions-sets-sail-to-canada> After a night of work and a short nap, George Thompson, the founder of GT Wings -- the startup that produced this 20-metre-high mast -- was back on the ship's main deck.

Europe is hydrogen's next best hope if the IMO fails, says analyst. Declan Bush. *Lloyd's List*. 17 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1152892/Europe-is-hydrogens-next-best-hope-if-the-IMO-fails-says-analyst> Green hydrogen as marine fuel could still happen if the IMO fails to produce an ambitious climate regulation in April.

Global Fishing Watch spotlights ocean governance successes, highlighting policy wins and tech innovations. *Global Fishing Watch*. 17 March 2025. Available from:

<https://globalfishingwatch.org/press-release/global-fishing-watch-spotlights-ocean-governance-successes-highlighting-policy-wins-and-tech-innovations/> Global Fishing Watch today released its 2024 annual report, showcasing a year of bold strides and critical breakthroughs in driving transparent and equitable ocean governance — from undertaking pioneering research on hidden human activity at sea and catalyzing policy change at the United Nations to joining forces with governments worldwide to advance their ocean management strategies.

Case for engine retrofits clouded by lack of green fuels. Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*.

19 March 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/case-for-engine-retrofits-clouded-by-lack-of-green-fuels/> Failure to scale up suitable quantities of well-priced green fuels has blunted a projected rush to retrofit ships with cleaner engines, a delay that will potentially bring a bottleneck at repair yards further down the line, according to a new study from Lloyd's Register (LR).

Recommendations to Accelerate the Production of Green Fuels. *Danish Shipping*.

18 March 2025. Available from: <https://danishshipping.dk/en/latest-news/2025/10-recommendations-from-danish-shipping-to-accelerate-the-production-of-green-fuels/> Danish shipping companies are ready to invest in new vessels and green fuels, yet they expect to predominantly operate on green fuels only after 2035. [10 Recommendations](#) 

MOL Starts Use of Bio-LNG Fuel for Car Carrier *Celeste Ace* - Key Milestone toward Achieving Net Zero Emissions by 2050. *Mitsui O.S.K. Lines (MOL)*. 19 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.mol.co.jp/en/pr/2025/25035.html> Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. (MOL; President & CEO: Takeshi Hashimoto) today announced that on Sunday, March 16, its operated LNG-fuelled car carrier *Celeste Ace* was supplied with about 500 tons of bio-LNG (LBM: Liquified Bio Methane) fuel (Note 1) from *Titan Supply B.V.* (President: Niels den Nijs; Head Office: Amsterdam, the Netherlands) at the port of Zeebrugge, Belgium.

MASS warfare: is the weaponisation of commercial vessels a growing threat? Peter McArthur. *Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST)*. 21 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.imarest.org/resource/mass-warfare-is-the-weaponisation-of-commercial-vessels-a-growing-threat.html> How likely is it that commercial ships could be weaponised remotely?

How AI is helping shipping industry to meet 40% carbon cut target set by Intl Maritime Org.

Kalyan Das. *Times of India*. 23 March 2025. Available from: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/how-ai-is-helping-shipping-industry-to-meet-40-carbon-cut-target-set-by-intl-maritime-org/articleshow/119383541.cms> Shipping companies worldwide need to meet targets set by IMO — a UN agency that regulates global shipping — of reducing carbon emissions by 40% by 2030 compared to 2008 levels, and artificial intelligence (AI) is emerging as a game-changer in this effort

How ICODOS turns sewage biogas into a marine fuel. Mariska Buitendijk.

SWZ Maritime (Netherlands). 25 March 2025. Available from: <https://swzmaritime.nl/news/2025/03/25/how-icodos-turns-sewage-biogas-into-a-marine-fuel/> There are around 80,000 sewage treatment plants in Europe – and therefore plenty of potential for a new, climate-neutral process to produce methanol.

IACS Publishes New Recommendation on 3D Printing for Marine and Offshore Applications.

International Association of Classification Societies (IACS). 24 March 2025. Available from: <https://iacs.org.uk/news/iacs-publishes-new-recommendation-on-3d-printing-for-marine-and-offshore-applications> The International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) has published a new recommendation, Rec.186, that meets the need for a standardised approach to integrating Additive Manufacturing (AM), commonly referred to as 3D printing, into marine and offshore applications.

MIT Maritime Consortium sets sail. *MIT News*. 26 March 2025. Available from: <https://news.mit.edu/2025/mit-maritime-consortium-sets-sail-0326> A new international collaboration unites MIT and maritime industry leaders to develop nuclear propulsion technologies, alternative fuels, data-powered strategies for operation, and more.

Wind propulsion key to cut costs and carbon in shipping, shows new report. *Seas at Risk*. 27 March 2025. Available from: <https://seas-at-risk.org/press-releases/wind-propulsion-key-to-cut-costs-and-carbon-in-shipping-shows-new-report/> As IMO prepares to meet in London from 31 March to 11 April to finalise measures for its greenhouse gas (GHG) strategy, a new report by marine NGO Seas At Risk shows the significant economic and climate benefits of using wind-assisted propulsion to power global shipping.
[Wind First! How wind-assisted ship propulsion is the zero-emission fuel for shipping's future](#) 

A 'Google maps for the sea', sails and alternative fuels: the technologies steering shipping towards lower emissions – podcast. Gemma Ware. *The Conversation*. 27 March 2025. Available from: <https://theconversation.com/a-google-maps-for-the-sea-sails-and-alternative-fuels-the-technologies-steering-shipping-towards-lower-emissions-podcast-253088>  Host Gemma Ware interviews Alice Larkin, Professor of Climate Science and Energy Policy, University of Manchester and Daniel Precioso Garcelán, Post-Doc Researcher in Applied Mathematics, IE University.

MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING

Anglo-Eastern launches state-of-the-art LNG/Ammonia bunkering station skid for maritime training. *Anglo-Eastern*. 3 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.angloeastern.com/news-and-insights/anglo-eastern-launches-state-of-the-art-lng-ammonia-bunkering-station-skid-for-maritime-training> Anglo-Eastern, a global leader in innovative maritime training solutions, is proud to announce the establishment of a new LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas)/Ammonia bunkering station skid at Anglo-Eastern Maritime Academy (AEMA) located in Karjat, Mumbai which was unveiled during Anglo-Eastern's 2025 Mumbai Conference in February.

Maritime UK Launches Career Toolkits to Inspire the Next Generation. *Maritime UK*. 4 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.maritimeuk.org/media-centre/news/maritime-uk-launches-career-toolkits-inspire-next-generation/> Maritime UK is excited to announce the launch of its new Maritime Career Toolkits, designed to support teachers and Maritime Ambassadors in showcasing the diverse and rewarding career opportunities available in the maritime sector.

From paper to pixels: Between traditional seafaring and future digital navigation. *Hapag-Lloyd*. 4 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.hapag-lloyd.com/en/company/about-us/newsletter/2025/03/from-paper-to-pixels--between-traditional-seafaring-and-future-d.html> At 9 o'clock on a Sunday morning off the coast of South Africa, Captain Andreas Köppel tries to connect his Bluetooth speaker to the TV in the captain's cabin.

OSM Thome Strengthens Commitment to Maritime Education Through the Adopt A Ship Program. *OSM Thome*. 11 March 2025. Available from: <https://osmthome.com/osm-thome-strengthens-commitment-to-maritime-education-through-the-adopt-a-ship-program/> The Adopt A Ship Program, led by IMO Goodwill Ambassador George Hoyt under Adopt A Ship International, is a global initiative that fosters maritime awareness among students by connecting classrooms with seafarers aboard ships.

Seafarers Caught in the Middle of Shipping's Fuel Transition. *Ship & Bunker*. 14 March 2025. Available from: <https://shipandbunker.com/news/world/996448-seafarers-caught-in-the-middle-of-shippings-fuel-transition> Seafarers are at the frontline of the shipping industry's transition to alternative fuels, yet the training and regulatory framework to support them remains incomplete.

Taking a degree to make a difference. *Nautilus International*. 13 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.nautilusint.org/en/news-insight/telegraph/taking-a-degree/> Merchant Navy Medal recipient Gordon Foot decided to undertake a postgraduate degree in Maritime Operations at MLA College to arm himself with information for his work on behalf of other seafarers, writes Rob Coston

Seafarer training for marine ammonia fuel comes into focus. Julian Atchison. *Ammonia Energy Association*. 12 March 2025. Available from: <https://ammoniaenergy.org/articles/seafarer-training-for-marine-ammonia-fuel-comes-into-focus/> Already in 2025, we have seen multiple initiatives launched and resources released to contribute to seafarer training ahead of the first ammonia-fuelled vessels.

Maritime digital skills lacking but industry catching up. Amy McLellan. *Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST)*. 12 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.imarest.org/resource/mp-maritime-digital-skills-lacking-but-industry-catching-up.html> Moving into 2025, IMarEST noted the key areas requiring focus to build a resilient and sustainable maritime future and among these were skills shortages and workforce training.

Workshop to seek solutions to maritime skills shortage. Allen Newton. *DCN - Daily Cargo News (Australia)*. 20 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.thedcn.com.au/region/australia/workshop-to-seek-solutions-to-maritime-skills-shortage/> A Maritime Skills Workshop has expressed concerns at the ageing workforce and sought solutions to a critical shortage of maritime skills.

Get serious about fixing barriers to maritime careers Nautilus tells European Shipping Summit. *Nautilus International*. 20 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.nautilusint.org/en/news-insight/news/get-serious-about-fixing-barriers-to-maritime-careers-nautilus-tells-european-shipping-summit/> Nautilus International took a firm stand for diversity and inclusion in the maritime sector during the European Shipping Summit, which assistant general secretary Sacha Meijer and head of international relations Danny McGowan attended on behalf of the Union and the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF).



Increased Allowance and Shorter Training Duration to Make Seafaring a More Attractive and Meaningful Career for Mid-Careerists. *Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)*. 24 March 2025. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/3neu3cv9> The MPA, in partnership with the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU), NTUC's Employment and Employability Institute (e2i), SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG), and supported by the Singapore Shipping Association, has launched the enhanced Tripartite Maritime Training Award.

Ocean science in action: Empowering women for a sustainable ocean future. Polina Savina. *UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission*. 28 March 2025. Available from: <https://oceandecade.org/news/ocean-science-in-action-empowering-women-for-a-sustainable-ocean-future/> 🗣️ In this article, we highlight three initiatives endorsed by the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 ('Ocean Decade') that are pioneering innovative solutions through science, capacity building, and community action to address gender inequalities and promote inclusivity.

Deep dive on seafarer sustainability. *Lloyd's Register Foundation*. 27 March 2025.

Available from: <https://www.lrfoundation.org.uk/publications/deep-dive-on-seafarer-sustainability>

'Deep dive on seafarer sustainability: Supporting the opportunity for Africa and women to create a sustainable supply of seafarers for the future', was carried out by the World Maritime University.

[Full Report](#) 

Maritime Energy Training Facility Digital Platform Provides Maritime Workforce with Training in Safe Handling of Alternative Marine Fuels and New Technologies. *Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)*. 27 March 2025. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/r3zmp8ph>

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) has announced the Maritime Energy Training Facility (METF) Digital Platform, an initiative to help the global maritime workforce access training in the safe handling of alternative marine fuels and new technologies.

Uncovering the employment challenges and pitfalls for maritime's international workforce.

David Ashmore. *Riviera Maritime*. 27 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.rivieramm.com/opinion/uncovering-the-employment-challenges-and-pitfalls-for-maritimes-international-workforce-84278>

The maritime industry is a cornerstone of global trade, relying on seafarers to keep goods moving across international waters.

MPA and Dalian Maritime University Renew Partnership to Strengthen Maritime Talent Development and Academic Exchange. *Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)*.

28 March 2025. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/mv6mf9v5>

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and Dalian Maritime University have renewed their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance talent development and academic exchange between Singapore and China in the maritime sector.

MARITIME SAFETY

Maritime safety top priority for Denmark in West Africa. Buertey Francis Boryor.

Business & Financial Times (Ghana). 5 March 2025. Available from:

<https://thebftonline.com/2025/03/05/maritime-safety-top-priority-for-denmark-in-west-africa/>

The outgoing Defence Attaché at the Embassy of Denmark in Ghana, Lieutenant Colonel Lasse Sand, has said his country envisions a maritime industry in West Africa where shipping companies can operate freely without the need for private security, ensuring that vessels move safely and anchor without threat.

St Kitts & Nevis launches CIC on pilot ladder transfers. *Safety4Sea*. 6 March 2025.

Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/st-kitts-nevis-launches-cic-on-pilot-ladder-transfers/>

The concentrated inspection campaign on pilot ladder transfer and boarding arrangements will be held for three months, and will come into effect on 1st April 2025 until 30th June 2025.

Maritime Technologies Forum Releases New Report on Safe Carriage of Electric Vehicles.

Maritime Technologies Forum (MTF). 10 March 2025. Available from:

[https://www.marimetechforum.com/documents/2025-03-10-](https://www.marimetechforum.com/documents/2025-03-10-MTF%20Safe%20Carriage%20of%20Electric%20Vehicles%20PR-rev-2e.pdf)

[MTF%20Safe%20Carriage%20of%20Electric%20Vehicles%20PR-rev-2e.pdf](https://www.marimetechforum.com/documents/2025-03-10-MTF%20Safe%20Carriage%20of%20Electric%20Vehicles%20PR-rev-2e.pdf)  The Maritime Technologies Forum (MTF) has today published a comprehensive report titled "Safe Carriage of Electric Vehicles," addressing the critical issue of transporting electric vehicles (EVs) on Pure Car and Truck Carrier (PCTC) vessels. [Report](#) 

Hazardous container leaks: swift action is key. Mark Russell and Svetlana Ormane. *Gard*. 10 March 2025. Available from: <https://gard.no/insights/hazardous-container-leaks-swift-action-is-key/> It is estimated that more than 5 million containers are packed with Dangerous Goods (DG) each year – and as global container shipping continues to grow, the number is likely rising.

Enclosed space survey aims to understand why seafarers are still dying. *InterManager*. 11 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.intermanager.org/2025/03/enclosed-space-survey-aims-to-understand-why-seafarers-are-still-dying/> Ship managers and maritime professionals have joined forces to address concerns over the continuing deaths of seafarers and shore workers in enclosed spaces onboard ships.

G7 Foreign Ministers' Declaration on Maritime Security and Prosperity. *Government of Canada*. 14 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2025/03/g7-foreign-ministers-declaration-on-maritime-security-and-prosperity.html> We, the Foreign Ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, and the High Representative of the European Union, reaffirm the G7's steadfast commitment to contribute towards a free, open, and secure maritime domain based on the rule of law that strengthens international security, fosters economic prosperity, and ensures the sustainable use of marine resources.

Supporting leaders for safer crews. *International Seafarers' Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN)*. 14 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.iswan.org.uk/news/supporting-leaders-for-safer-crews/> Crew feeling able to speak up when things go wrong without negative repercussions is a critical part of safety culture on board a vessel.

Firefighting at Sea. John Gow. *International Institute of Marine Surveying (IIMS)*. 27 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.iims.org.uk/firefighting-at-sea/> The most important of all international maritime safety conventions is the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS).

IACS Publishes 2024 Annual Review, with focus on safety first. *International Association of Classification Societies (IACS)*. 31 March 2025. Available from: <https://iacs.org.uk/news/iacs-publishes-2024-annual-review-with-focus-on-safety-first> Report highlights role of IACS and its members in developing technical rules and guidance to meet new and emerging safety issues facing global shipping. [Annual Review 2024](#) 

MARITIME SECURITY

Multiple groups of robbers targeting ships in Singapore Strait. Marcus Hand. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 3 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/piracy/multiple-groups-of-robbers-targeting-ships-in-singapore-strait> Three incidents were reported in the Philip's Channel on 28 February between 00:30 and 07:00 hours local time, including one involving the Singapore-registered chemical tanker Basset where a seafarer was injured and evacuated to hospital.

NIMASA Calls for End to War Risk Insurance Premiums Amid Improved Maritime Security. *Ships & Ports*. 7 March 2025. Available from: <https://shipsandports.com.ng/nimasa-calls-for-end-to-war-risk-insurance-premiums-amid-improved-maritime-security/> The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) has expressed frustration over the continued payment of war risk insurance premiums on cargoes bound for Nigeria, despite significant investments in maritime security and a sharp decline in piracy incidents.

‘Maritime threat’: Houthis issue ultimatum over Israeli blockade of Gaza aid. Gary Dixon. *TradeWinds*. 10 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/-maritime-threat-houthis-issue-ultimatum-over-israeli-blockade-of-gaza-aid/2-1-1790113> The Houthi rebel militia in Yemen has issued a new ultimatum over Israel’s blockade on aid going into Gaza.

‘Filled with arrogance’: China lashes out at G7 over statements on maritime security. Christopher Bodeen. *Associated Press*. 15 March 2025. Available from: <https://apnews.com/article/china-g7-maritime-security-2ca16405f82352a62a41eef10866d4f1> China has lashed out at accusations it is endangering maritime safety made by top diplomats from the Group of 7 industrialized democracies in a joint statement, saying the G7 members are “filled with arrogance, prejudice and malicious intentions”.

Djibouti and EUCAP Somalia Discuss Strengthening Maritime Security. *Mogadishu24 (Somalia)*. 17 March 2025. Available from: <https://mogadishu24.com/djibouti-and-eucap-somalia-discuss-strengthening-maritime-security/> The Commander of the Djibouti Coast Guard, Colonel Wais Omar Bogoreh, welcomed a delegation led by Kęstutis Lančinskas, Head of Mission for EUCAP Somalia, in Doraleh.

EUNAVFOR ASPIDES: Key Updates in 2025. *European Union External Action Service (EEAS)*. 17 March 2025. Available from: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eunavfor-aspides/eunavfor-aspides-key-updates-2025_en ITS FEDERICO MARTINENGO and HS HYDRA have each completed multiple successful close protection missions to merchant vessels in the area of operation, under the EUNAVFOR ASPIDES Operation.

Estonia building undersea cable repair capabilities as threats grow in Baltic Sea. Albert Wai. *Straits Times*. 27 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.straitstimes.com/world/estonia-building-undersea-cable-repair-capabilities-as-threats-grow-in-baltic-sea> Estonia is looking to beef up its capabilities to repair submarine cables and monitor their security in the Baltic Sea, in the light of the growing threats to such critical infrastructure, said the country’s deputy minister for maritime and water affairs.

Coping with Sabotage and Seabed Security Threats in the Baltic Sea: a Regional Maritime Security Policy. Adriana Ávila-Zúñiga-Nordfeld. *Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS)*. 28 March 2025. Available from: <https://hcss.nl/report/coping-with-sabotage-seabed-security-threats-baltic-sea/> The security of undersea infrastructure in the Baltic Sea is increasingly at risk due to suspected sabotage incidents targeting communication cables. [Report](#) 

Maritime associations launch updated guidance to protect vessels and seafarers from rapidly evolving security threats. *International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA)*. 31 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.imca-int.com/news-events/imca-news/news/maritime-associations-launch-updated-guidance-to-protect-vessels-and-seafarers-from-rapidly-evolving-security-threats/> An alliance of maritime associations has released new best practice guidance to help vessels and crews respond to the growing challenge of maritime security threats. [BMP Maritime Security](#)  [Maritime Global Security](#)

MIGRANTS

Migrants rescued after several days stranded on oil platform. Laura Gozzi. *BBC News*. 4 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c743znzplgqo> "Women, men and children" were shipwrecked with no food or water, according to Mediterranea, a migrant rescue charity.

Over 180 Migrants Feared Dead After Shipwrecks Off Yemen's Coast. *International Organization for Migration (IOM)*. 7 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.iom.int/news/over-180-migrants-feared-dead-after-shipwrecks-yemens-coast> Two boats carrying over 180 migrants capsized off the coast of Yemen's Dhubab district in Ta'iz Governorate on Thursday, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s field reports.

Migrant dies trying to cross English Channel, says French coastguard. *Sky News*. 19 March 2025. Available from: <https://news.sky.com/story/migrant-dies-trying-to-cross-english-channel-says-french-coastguard-13332007> A rescue operation was launched after reports that a group of people tried to board a dinghy in the Equihen-Plage area, in northern France, shortly after 9am on Wednesday.

Italy says six dead, 40 missing after migrant shipwreck. *France 24*. 19 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20250319-italy-says-six-dead-40-missing-after-migrant-shipwreck> "Still too many dead in a new shipwreck in the Mediterranean," Chiara Cardoletti, the Italy representative of the UN refugee agency UNHCR, said on X.

NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS

Navigating the polar frontier: exploring the effects of sea-ice decline on shipping and sea routes in the Arctic. Lily Thompson. *European Geosciences Union (EGU)*. 7 March 2025. Available from: <https://blogs.egu.eu/divisions/cr/2025/03/07/navigating-the-polar-frontier-effects-of-sea-ice-decline-on-shipping-and-sea-routes/> Sea ice is a vital component of the unique Arctic ecosystem.

UKMTO receives reports of GPS interference in Strait of Hormuz. *Safety4Sea*. 11 March 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/ukmto-receives-reports-of-gps-interference-in-strait-of-hormuz/> According to UKMTO, with disruptions lasting several hours, there have been reports from several vessels that have encountered GPS interference in the Strait of Hormuz.

EXPLAINER: How ships travel in international waters, what guides the routes. Felix Kipmekoi. *The Star (Kenya)*. 11 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2025-03-11-explainer-how-ships-travel-in-international-waters-what-guides-the-routes> A crew member is yet to be accounted for after an oil tanker and a cargo ship collided in the North Sea Monday morning.

Suez Canal Authority, MSC discuss Red Sea stability, return to normal transit. *Daily News (Egypt)*. 16 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2025/03/16/suez-canal-authority-msc-discuss-red-sea-stabilityreturn-to-normal-transit/> The chairperson of the Suez Canal Authority (SCA), Admiral Osama Rabie, has discussed the impact of developments in the Red Sea region with Soren Toft, the CEO of Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), via video conference.

Suez Canal discusses Red Sea developments with MSC. *State Information Service (Egypt)*. 16 March 2025. Available from: <https://sis.gov.eg/Story/205582/Suez-Canal-discusses-Red-Sea-developments-with-MSC> The Suez Canal Authority (SCA) and MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company held discussions on Sunday regarding the impact of recent developments in the Red Sea and Bab el-Mandeb Strait on global shipping, as well as the company's navigation policies in the Suez Canal.

Houthi ban US vessels from Red Sea in response to Yemen attacks. Gary Howard. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 16 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/security/houthi-ban-us-vessels-in-response-to-yemen-attacks> The Houthi have said they will ban US vessels from navigation of the southern Red Sea, Arabian Sea, and Gulf Aden, and that it will target US Navy ships in response to US airstrikes on Yemen.

Finnish Coast Guard notes uptick in ships concealing their location. *Yle (Finland)*. 17 March 2025. Available from: <https://yle.fi/a/74-20150106> The Gulf of Finland Coast Guard District has noted an increase in the number of shipping vessels moving in the gulf without their automatic identification systems (AIS) showing their location.

G7 pushes for crackdown on shadow fleet with 'satellite-based vessel tracking'. Paul Peachey. *TradeWinds*. 17 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/g7-pushes-for-crackdown-on-shadow-fleet-with-satellite-based-vessel-tracking-/2-1-1793297> The G7 group of leading industrialised countries has called for a comprehensive record of shadow fleet movements and ship-to-ship (STS) oil transfers to tackle illegal business.

Shipping needs to look to airline industry 'TCAS' functions. *American Journal of Transportation*. 20 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.ajot.com/news/shipping-needs-to-look-to-airline-industry-tcas-functions> Meanwhile, in commercial aviation, mid-air collisions have been virtually eliminated thanks to the software application known as TCAS (Traffic Collision Avoidance System).

Kenya's Tea Exports Hit by Spike in Red Sea Attacks. Edwin Hinda. *Kenya Times*. 20 March 2025. Available from: <https://thekenyatimes.com/latest-kenya-times-news/rising-red-sea-attacks-disrupt-kenyas-tea-exports/> In a statement on Wednesday, March 19, the Tea Board of Kenya (TBK) said the attacks have forced ships to avoid the route and use longer ones.

Calming the Red Sea's Turbulent Waters. *International Crisis Group*. 21 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.crisisgroup.org/middle-east-north-africa/gulf-and-arabian-peninsula/yemen/248-calming-red-seas-turbulent-waters> Renewed violence between the U.S. and the Houthis in Yemen has brought a sudden end to the short-lived calm in the Red Sea during the Gaza ceasefire.

How new fuel bunkering will impact route planning. Keri Allan. *ShipTechnology*. 24 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.ship-technology.com/features/how-new-fuel-bunkering-will-impact-route-planning/> The maritime industry's transition to a lower emissions future is being driven by a developing set of regulatory requirements.

Baltic and Arctic are newest AIS interference hotspots. Bridget Diakun. *Lloyd's List*. 24 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1152967/Baltic-and-Arctic-are-newest-AIS-interference-hotspots> Incidents of disruptions to Automatic Identification System data in the Baltic and Barents Seas have surged in recent months, according to analysis of Lloyd's List Intelligence vessel-tracking data.

Suez Canal Authority says it can handle challenges, major lines to resume transit after stability. *Daily News (Egypt)*. 25 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2025/03/25/suez-canal-authority-says-it-can-handle-challenges-major-lines-to-resume-transit-after-stability/> Egypt's Suez Canal Authority (SCA) has said it is well-equipped to handle current challenges and that major shipping lines intend to resume transits through the canal once stability returns to the Red Sea region.

PIRACY

Navigating Legal Frontiers: Combating Cyber Piracy in the 21st Century. *India Foundation*. 4 March 2025. Available from: <https://indiafoundation.in/articles-and-commentaries/navigating-legal-frontiers-combating-cyber-piracy-in-the-21st-century/> Piracy has been a longstanding threat to maritime trade, evolving from physical attacks on merchant vessels to sophisticated cyberattacks on shipping infrastructure.

More Incidents of Armed Robbery Around Singapore Strait. *Maritime Executive*. 11 March 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/more-incidents-of-armed-robbery-around-singapore-strait> The crime wave that has been plaguing the area around the Singapore Strait in 2025 is continuing.

Suspected pirate attack on a Yemeni-flagged fishing boat in Durdura, North Coast of Puntland, Somalia. *EU NAVFOR Operation ATALANTA*. 17 March 2025. Available from: <https://eunavfor.eu/news/suspected-pirate-attack-yemeni-flagged-fishing-boat-durdura-north-coast-puntland-somalia> On 16 March, EUNAVFOR ATALANTA was informed of a suspected piracy related incident on a Yemeni-flagged dhow* off Durdura, in the vicinity of Eyl, Northern coast of Puntland (Somalia).

Shots Fired as Pirates Board Tanker off Central African Coast. *Maritime Executive*. 18 March 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/shots-fired-as-pirates-board-tanker-off-central-african-coast> A bitumen tanker was briefly commandeered by pirates overnight with reports of shots fired.

Petro-piracy: The Ongoing Threat to Oil Security. Joke Falaju. *Sri Lanka Guardian*. 18 March 2025. Available from: <https://slguardian.org/petro-piracy-the-ongoing-threat-to-oil-security/> Despite the perception that oil piracy is a thing of the past, the danger of petro-piracy continues to be a pressing issue for the global oil industry.

The Yemeni-flagged fishing boat “Al-Hidaya” has been released. *EU NAVFOR Operation ATALANTA*. 21 March 2025. Available from: <https://eunavfor.eu/news/yemeni-flagged-fishing-boat-al-hidaya-has-been-released> The Yemeni-flagged dhow “AL-HIDAYA” that was hijacked on 16 March off Durdura, in the vicinity of Eyl, Northern coast of Puntland (Somalia) has been released.

Anti-Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2025 - Adapting To Emerging Maritime Threats Amidst Geopolitical Uncertainty. *ReCAAP*. 26 March 2025. Available from: https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/news/2025/Press%20Release%20-%20Anti-Piracy%20and%20Sea%20Robbery%20Conference%202025_final.pdf The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC), together with co-organisers, the Maritime & Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), held the annual Anti-Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference today in conjunction with Singapore Maritime Week 2025.

ITF demands safe return of seafarers kidnapped in Gulf of Guinea and demands action against piracy. *ITF Seafarers*. 26 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.itfseafarers.org/en/news/itf-demands-safe-return-seafarers-kidnapped-gulf-guinea-and-demands-action-against-piracy> ITF Seafarers' Section Coordinator, Fabrizio Barcellona, said: "This is a desperate situation with ten seafarers kidnapped, their crew mates threatened with execution, and their families pleading for help."

Importers pay \$1.5bn war risk premium despite reduction in piracy. Anozie Egoe.

Punch (Nigeria). 28 March 2025. Available from: <https://punchng.com/importers-pay-1-5bn-war-risk-premium-despite-reduction-in-piracy/> Despite the reduction in piracy attacks in the Gulf of Guinea, importers paid \$1.5bn as war risk insurance premiums on Nigeria-bound cargoes in the last three years, The PUNCH reports.

PORT STATE CONTROL

Eagle S leaves Finnish waters. *Yle (Finland)*. 2 March 2025. Available from: <https://yle.fi/a/74-20146920> Police on Sunday said the *Eagle S* oil tanker was being released from custody.

"MSC ARIES" - MSC operated vessel seized by Iranian authorities for "violation of maritime laws". Craig Bird and Sara Yitbareck. *Clyde & Co LLP*. 3 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.clydeco.com/en/insights/2025/03/msc-aries-msc-operated-vessel-seized-by-iranian-au> Iranian authorities claim to have seized and detained the vessel on "judicial grounds" for allegedly breaching maritime laws by turning off its AIS transmitter and endangering the safety of navigation.

Thousands of dollars in fines to shipping company not complying with AMSA safety direction. *Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)*. 18 March 2025. Available from:

<https://media.amsa.gov.au/media-release/thousands-dollars-fines-shipping-company-not-complying-amsa-safety-direction> Gladstone Magistrates Court has fined Universal Shipping Alliance Ltd, owner of foreign-flagged bulk carrier *KMAX Leader*, \$63,000 for failing to comply with an Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) written direction and ordered them to pay court costs.

Germany seizes suspected Russian 'shadow fleet' oil tanker. Richard Connor.

Deutsche Welle (Germany). 21 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-seizes-suspected-russian-shadow-fleet-oil-tanker/a-71999181> A confiscation order has been issued for the oil tanker *Eventin* and some 100,000 metric tons of oil aboard it, the German news magazine Spiegel reported on Friday.

MSC Containership Seeks Refuge in Vigo After Container Collapse. *Maritime Executive*.

24 March 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/msc-containership-seeks-refuge-in-vigo-after-container-collapse> Authorities in the Port of Vigo, Spain reported they moved quickly to reduce the navigation hazard and direct the *MSC Houston V* (58,300 dwt) containership into port after it reported a stack collapse.

Report: India Turned Away Shadow Fleet Tanker Laden with Russian Oil. *Maritime Executive*.

28 March 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/report-india-turned-away-shadow-fleet-tanker-laden-with-russian-oil> While remaining the largest customer for Russian oil, India has had a spotty relationship with the shadow fleet and several times cracked down or responded to Western sanctions.

PORTS & HARBOURS

US port fees on China vessels would affect all shipping firms, CMA CGM says. *Reuters*. 28 February 2025. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/us-port-fees-china-vessels-would-affect-all-shipping-firms-cma-cgm-says-2025-02-28/> U.S. proposals to hit Chinese vessels with high port fees would have a major impact on all firms in a container shipping industry in which most vessels are built in China, French-based shipping firm CMA CGM said on Friday.

Ammonia-powered vessel docks in Southampton. *BBC News*. 2 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2er3dv9rj0o> The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) is conducting inspections on The Singapore-flagged vessel in the Hampshire port before it travels to West India Dock in London.

Chinese port operator sells stake in Panama Canal. Emil Rømer Olsen and Liv Almer. *ShippingWatch*. 4 March 2025. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/Ports/article17963635.ece> The Hong Kong-based port operator CK Hutchison has decided to sell a stake in its port activities to a consortium led by the American asset manager Blackrock.

Port of Liverpool expands bulk cargo handling with new deep water berth. Sue Terpilowski. *Sea News*. 4 March 2025. Available from: <https://seanews.co.uk/shipping-news/port-of-liverpool-expands-bulk-cargo-handling-with-new-deep-water-berth/> The Port of Liverpool has inaugurated its first deep water bulk berth in 40 years, significantly enhancing its cargo handling capabilities.

The ports of Bremen are now 'methanol-ready'. *American Journal of Transportation (AJOT)*. 5 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.ajot.com/news/the-ports-of-bremen-are-now-methanol-ready> Climate protection - this topic has long been of crucial importance in the shipping industry as well: more and more new ships are leaving the shipyards with alternative propulsion systems or are being retrofitted accordingly.

Chinese Ports in Panama Come Under New Management. *Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)*. 6 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.csis.org/analysis/chinese-ports-panama-come-under-new-management> On March 4, BlackRock, Inc., one of the largest U.S. asset management firms, signed a memorandum of understanding with CK Hutchison Holdings Limited solidifying a deal to buy 90 percent of the Panama Ports Company, which operates the Balboa and Cristóbal ports in Panama.

In 2024, 41,33% of port professionals participating in ESPO work were women. *European Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO)*. 7 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.espo.be/news/in-2024-4133-of-port-professionals-participating-in-espo-work-were-women> In 2024, taking all ESPO board meetings and technical committees together, women represented 41.33% of the port professionals participating in the meetings.

Tianjin Port to lift container throughput to 35m by 2035: plan. *Global Times (China)*. 9 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1329789.shtml> Tianjin Port in North China's Tianjin Municipality has announced to a new plan to expand its annual container throughput capacity to 35 million 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs) by 2035.

US could face trade 'apocalypse' if Trump port fee plan isn't killed. Greg Miller. *Lloyd's List*. 11 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.loydslist.com/LL1152844/US-could-face-trade-apocalypse-if-Trump-port-fee-plan-isnt-killed> Tariffs are bad enough — just look at the US stock market — but business leaders are warning of catastrophe if the Trump administration's port fee plan goes forward.

Move to shore power for ships would reduce carbon, improve WA communities' health.

Jayne Stevenson. *Seattle Times (US)*. 13 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/move-to-shore-power-for-ships-would-reduce-carbon-improve-wa-communities-health/> Ships play a vital role in facilitating the global movement of goods worldwide.

The Swedish Maritime Administration and Ports of Stockholm establish a joint maritime traffic centre.

Ports of Stockholm. 14 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.portsofstockholm.com/about-us/news/2025/the-swedish-maritime-administration-and-ports-of-stockholm-establish-a-joint-maritime-traffic-centre/> The Swedish Maritime Administration and Ports of Stockholm are taking a historic step by establishing a joint maritime traffic centre in Stockholm.

California, Shanghai Leadership Collaborate to Advance Green Shipping Corridor.

California Air Resources Board. 18 March 2025. Available from:

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/news/california-shanghai-leadership-collaborate-advance-green-shipping-corridor> Transportation and environmental policy leaders and scholars from California state agencies, the ports of Long Beach, Los Angeles and Shanghai gathered Wednesday to discuss their efforts to decarbonize the maritime industry via development of a Green Shipping Corridor between California and Shanghai.

America's ports have laboured to clean up pollution. Will that continue? Alexa St John and Etienne Laurent. *Associated Press*. 18 March 2025. Available from:

<https://apnews.com/article/climate-ports-electrification-funding-environmental-justice-657086fe5f8dc90fd989d032332d0871> On a grey March afternoon at the Port of Los Angeles, the largest in the U.S., powerful electric top-handlers whir, beep and grind as they motor back and forth, grabbing trailers from truck beds and stacking them as they move on or off the mighty container ships that ferry goods across the Pacific.

Ctg port links with Indo-Pacific maritime information sharing platform. *Daily Star (Bangladesh)*.

19 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ctg-port-links-indo-pacific-maritime-information-sharing-platform-3852246> Chattogram Port has been linked with the Indo-Pacific Regional Information Sharing (IORIS) platform as part of efforts to enhance maritime security capabilities.

Malta signs Mediterranean's first Power Purchase agreement with Carnival Corporation.

Alex Smith. *Cruise & Ferry*. 19 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.cruiseandferry.net/articles/malta-signs-mediterraneans-first-power-purchase-agreement-with-carnival-corporation> Through the agreement with Transport Malta, Carnival Corporation cruise ships will be able to the shore power grid at Valletta Cruise Port.

Ferry shipping executives call for broader shore power funding at Interferry's European Shipping Summit Seminar. *Interferry*. 20 March 2025. Available from: https://interferry.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/20250318_ESS-Seminar-outcome_19-MAR-2025_FINAL.pdf

The panel discussion, moderated by Claes Berglund of Stena AB, featured Isabelle Ryckbost, Secretary General of ESPO, Inesa Ulichina, Sustainable Shipping Officer at Transport & Environment and Jørgen Bjerre of the European Commission.

Drugs are still flowing into the EU by ship – now also through smaller ports. Jens Thomsen. *ShippingWatch*. 20 March 2025. Available from:

<https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article18012819.ece> Major South American drug cartels in have been forced to adopt new methods to smuggle narcotics to Europe by ship after authorities have succeeded in recent years in making it harder for smugglers to land their illegal cargoes.

Port Work in Transition: ETF Dockers at Connecting Ports #11. *European Transport Workers' Federation*. 21 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.etf-europe.org/port-work-in-transition-etf-dockers-at-connecting-ports-11/> The ETF made its points clearly to the discussion during the recent Connecting Ports Session edition “Port Work in Transition – Balancing progress and change in sustainability, automation, and digitalization,” held on the 20th of March 2025 and hosted by HPC Hamburg Port Consulting

Bunkering at the Port of Singapore: The new normal is digital. Naida Hakirevic Prevljak. *Offshore Energy*. 21 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.offshore-energy.biz/bunkering-at-the-port-of-singapore-the-new-normal-is-digital/> At the 80th Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) session in July 2023, the IMO formally confirmed that bunker delivery notes are acceptable in either hard copy or digital form.

Trans-Pacific shipping to navigate a green course. Rena Li. *China Daily*. 24 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202503/24/WS67e0b126a310c240449dc6da.html> The commitment to a sustainable and environment-friendly shipping corridor between Shanghai and California remains unwavering, industry insiders say.

Singapore debuts digital twin of its port. Derryn Wong. *Business Times (Singapore)*. 24 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/singapore/singapore-debuts-digital-twin-its-port> A virtual model of the Port of Singapore was launched by the Republic on Monday (Mar 24).

Rotterdam and Singapore Strengthen Collaboration on Green and Digital Shipping Corridor. *Port of Rotterdam*. 25 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.portofrotterdam.com/en/news-and-press-releases/rotterdam-and-singapore-strengthen-collaboration-green-and-digital-shipping> The two ports have since brought together 28 partners across the entire container shipping value chain to drive the deployment of sustainable fuels on the 15,000-kilometer shipping route and implement digital solutions for improved efficiency.

The Panama Canal Promotes Sustainable Maritime Shipping With the NetZero Slot. *Panama Canal Authority*. 25 March 2025. Available from: <https://pancanal.com/en/promotes-sustainable-maritime-shipping-with-the-netzero-slot/> Contributing to the commitment of achieving net zero emissions by 2050, the Panama Canal reported through its Advisory to Shipping No. A-07-2025 the launch of the NetZero Slot, a transit slot reserved only for vessels with low carbon emissions, as a strategy to incentivize customers on their path to decarbonization.

Rising seas test defenses of South American ports. *France 24*. 26 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20250326-rising-seas-test-defenses-of-south-american-ports> The state-run port, which handles 1.7 million containers annually, is frequently lashed by swells several meters high as rising ocean levels linked to climate change cause more frequent storm surges.

Europe's ports are getting ready for the market uptake of new shipping fuels. *European Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO)*. 31 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.espo.be/news/europes-ports-are-getting-ready-for-the-market-uptake-of-new-shipping-fuels> Europe's ports fully support the decarbonisation efforts to be made by shipping companies to get to net-zero by 2050.

Ukraine's Black Sea ports battle through adversity. Nick Savvides. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 31 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/ports-logistics/ukraine-s-black-sea-ports-battle-through-adversity> As the discussions over a lasting ceasefire continue to make the headlines, Ukraine's Black Sea ports and terminals are showing a resilience in their operations despite the continued attacks on its facilities.

REGULATIONS

Søren Toft: Shipping "desperately" needs regulation to promote green efforts.

Mads Oddershede. *ShippingWatch*. 5 March 2025. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article17964836.ece> There is a fundamental lack of a clear direction for how the shipping industry should achieve its green transformation.

Under pressure: as complexity of emissions compliance builds, costs of decarbonisation rise. John Snyder. *Riviera Maritime*. 5 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/under-pressure-as-complexity-of-emissions-compliance-builds-costs-of-decarbonisation-rise-84018> When it comes to decarbonisation, shipowners are faced with a conundrum created by an ageing fleet, high newbuilding prices, low charter rates and an increasingly complex web of emissions regulations mandating more energy-efficient ships.

Singapore-registered bunker tankers can transport up to B30 biofuels from 7 March.

Manifold Times (Singapore). 6 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.manifoldtimes.com/news/singapore-registered-bunker-tankers-can-transport-up-to-b30-biofuels-from-7-march/> MPA is accepting early implementation of the draft MEPC circular for conventional bunker ships to carry biofuel blends of up to B30 before it is to be deliberated for approval by MEPC 83 in April.

Every vessel shall at all times.... Michael Cross. *Law Society Gazette (UK)*. 11 March 2025.

Available from: <https://www.lawgazette.co.uk/commentary-and-opinion/every-vessel-shall-at-all-times/5122619.article> 'Every vessel shall at all times maintain a proper look-out by sight and hearing as well as by all available means appropriate in the prevailing circumstances and conditions so as to make a full appraisal of the situation and of the risk of collision.' So begins Rule 5 of the The International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, adopted by the IMO in 1972 and given legal force in the UK under the Merchant Shipping Regulations 1996.

Carriers in united call: Fewer EU rules will free up resources for green efforts.

Mette Grube Condrup. *ShippingWatch*. 18 March 2025. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article18004869.ece> Despite the hard work and money spent to comply with the EU's extensive sustainability reporting requirements, shipping companies are ready for new rules.

Maersk wants global regulation to spur shipping's demand for greener fuels. Nidaa Bakhsh.

ShippingWatch. 21 March 2025. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article18017999.ece> Maersk is calling for a global regulation to stimulate demand for green fuels.

Greek shipping minister calls for EU-IMO alignment on emissions regulations. David Glass. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 24 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/regulations/greek-shipping-minister-calls-for-eu-imo-alignment-on-emissions-regulations>
In one of the first pieces of business since his appointment, Greece's new Shipping and Island Policy minister, Vassilis Kikilias, met with European Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism Apostolos Tzitzikostas in Brussels, on March 19, highlighting the need for a stronger EU shipping policy.

Maritime industry needs regulatory action to meet decarbonisation and digitalisation goals. *Lloyd's Register*. 26 March 2025. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/3p6hmv4s>
The global shipping industry risks falling short of its net-zero and digital transformation ambitions without sufficient regulatory support enacted at a global level, according to the inaugural Global Maritime Trends 2025 Barometer by Lloyd's Register and Lloyd's Register Foundation. [Global Maritime Trends Barometer 2025](#) 

Radical thinking needed on nuclear ship regulation. Markus Virtasalo and Samuli Hänninen. *ABB*. 26 March 2025. Available from: <https://new.abb.com/news/detail/124043/radical-thinking-needed-on-nuclear-ship-regulation> Historical differences of opinion over whether zero-emission nuclear power can overcome safety and environmental concerns to take a role in commercial shipping are quickly being revised in response to developments in 4th generation reactor technology.

SALVAGE

UN Yemen: Technical Support Team Report | MV Rubymar - March 2024. *United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)*. 3 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/yemen/un-yemen-technical-support-team-report-mv-rubymar-march-2024> At the request of the Government of Yemen, the United Nations mobilized a team of 15 members to work jointly with the Yemen Crisis Cell for two weeks and deliver a technical report to provide an analysis and recommendations on the best way to address the sinking of the *MV Rubymar*. [Report](#) 

T&T Salvage awarded contract for MSC Baltic III casualty. Karen Ng. *TradeWinds*. 4 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/containers/t-t-salvage-awarded-contract-for-msc-baltic-iii-casualty/2-1-1787403> Swiss liner giant says no pollution detected from wreck that likely cannot be refloated.

Still no timeline to remove grounded cargo ship near Lark Harbour. Maddie Ryan. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC)*. 7 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/msc-baltic-iii-update-1.7477762> It's sustainability over speed for the *MSC Baltic III* cargo ship salvage mission.

Salvors board stricken container ship and tanker in North Sea. Marcus Hand. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 14 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/accidents/salvors-board-stricken-container-ship-and-tanker-in-north-sea> "Both vessels are presently stable and salvors have been on board to carry out initial damage assessments to secure future safe access to both ships," said Paddy O'Callaghan, Chief Coastguard in an update issued at 5pm on Thursday.

Crews from *Solong* and *Stena Immaculate* Return Home as Salvage Continues.

Maritime Executive. 20 March 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/crews-from-solong-and-stena-immaculate-return-home-as-salvage-continues> Officials in the UK and the Philippines confirmed that the crewmembers of the containership *Solong* and tanker *Stena Immaculate* have been repatriated as the investigation into the incident continues.

ISU pollution prevention survey shows environmental benefit of salvage industry.

International Salvage Union (ISU). 22 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.marine-salvage.com/isu-pollution-prevention-survey-shows-environmental-benefit-of-salvage-industry-2/> Members of the International Salvage Union (ISU) provided 173 services to vessels carrying 1.9 million tonnes of potentially polluting cargo and fuel during operations in 2023.

***Solong* container ship involved in North Sea crash to be towed to Scotland.** *Sky News*.

25 March 2025. Available from: <https://news.sky.com/story/solong-container-ship-involved-in-north-sea-crash-to-be-towed-to-scotland-13335670> 📺 The *Solong* smashed into the anchored tanker *Stena Immaculate* around 12 miles off the coast of East Yorkshire on 10 March, leaving one man missing, presumed dead.

SEAFARERS

Shipping's shame: It's time to talk about abandonment, again. *Lloyd's List*. 24 February 2025.

Available from: <https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1152666/Shippings-shame-Its-time-to-talk-about-abandonment-again> 📍 In 2020, 85 vessels were reported abandoned. In 2023, that number was 142 — a worrying increase, but nothing compared to what was to come.

Barbados supports the welfare of seafarers by ratifying the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention. *International Labour Organization (ILO)*. 3 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/barbados-supports-welfare-seafarers-ratifying-seafarers-identity-documents> On 3 March 2025, Barbados deposited the instrument of ratification of the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185), as amended, with the Director-General of the ILO, Mr. Gilbert F. Hougbo.

All at sea: Shining a light on a hidden workforce. Beth Elliot. *Lloyd's Register Foundation*.

3 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.lrfoundation.org.uk/news/all-at-sea-shining-a-light-on-a-hidden-workforce> Beth Elliot, Director of Strategic Communications at Lloyd's Register Foundation discusses the hidden physical and mental safety challenges impacting the estimated 1.89 million seafarers worldwide.

When Filipino seafarers are abandoned at sea. *Rappler (Philippines)*. 5 March 2025.

Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=In4bDdj44as> 📺 Filipino seafarers, a top source of manpower in the global maritime industry, have consistently been in the top 5 most abandoned nationality.

Nautilus pushes for fair working conditions at maritime training roundtable.

Nautilus International. 5 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.nautilusint.org/en/news-insight/news/nautilus-pushes-for-fair-working-conditions-at-maritime-training-roundtable/> Nautilus assistant general secretary Sascha Meijer took part in a roundtable in Rotterdam looking at the future of maritime training, which was also attended by International Maritime Organization (IMO) secretary general Arsenio Dominguez.

Strengthening the fight against seafarer abandonment. Helio Vicente. *Splash 247.com*. 5 March 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/strengthening-the-fight-against-seafarer-abandonment/> Seafarer abandonment is a growing concern that continues to undermine the rights and well-being of maritime workers worldwide.

Dedicated helpline for female seafarers launched by Sailors' Society. *Sailors' Society*. 6 March 2025. Available from: <https://sailors-society.org/dedicated-helpline-for-female-seafarers-launched-by-sailors-society/> This International Women's Day (Saturday March 8) will see the launch of a helpline that ensures female seafarers have access to a trusted, female-led support system whenever they need it.

50 crew in distress with two Bangladeshi ships trapped in foreign ports for months. Mizanur Rahman Yousuf. *Business Standard (Bangladesh)*. 6 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/50-crew-distress-two-bangladeshi-ships-trapped-foreign-ports-months-1085671> Both are cargo vessels owned by Meghna Group, which operates a fleet of 25 oceangoing ships out of the 103 Bangladesh national flag carriers.

The curse of criminalisation. Steven Jones. *Splash 247.com*. 7 March 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/the-curse-of-criminalisation/> You might have heard of Captain Bekavac and Chief Officer Ali Albokhari of the *Phoenician-M*, two innocent seafarers slapped with 30-year sentences on baseless drug charges in Turkey.

DMW: All reported abandoned Filipino seafarers repatriated. Marita Moaje. *Philippine News Agency (PNA)*. 7 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1245634> The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) on Friday said all reported abandoned Filipino seafarers have been rescued and repatriated to the Philippines.

Tulfo wants CCTV cameras on maritime vessels amid disappearances of seafarers. Dhel Nazario. *Manila Bulletin*. 7 March 2025. Available from: <https://mb.com.ph/2025/3/7/tulfo-wants-cctv-cameras-on-maritime-vessels-amid-disappearances-of-seafarers> Senator Raffy Tulfo stressed the need to have closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras installed in ships boarded by seafarers as a means to expedite solving cases of disappearance among seamen.

Nautilus stands united with seafarers and emergency crews after North Sea allision. *Nautilus International*. 11 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.nautilusint.org/en/news-insight/news/nautilus-stands-united-with-seafarers-and-emergency-crews-after-north-sea-allision/> Nautilus International has expressed its profound concern following the allision between the Madiera-flagged *Solong* containership and the US-flagged *Stena Immaculate* in the North Sea.

Four Syrian seafarers killed in Russian missile attack on Odesa. Harry Papachristou. *TradeWinds*. 11 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/four-syrian-seafarers-killed-in-russian-missile-attack-on-odesa/2-1-1791139> Four seafarers were killed when a Russian missile hit their ship in the Ukrainian port of Odesa on Tuesday.

Under arrest captain of Solong container ship involved in North Sea crash is Russian national, company says. *Sky News*. 12 March 2025. Available from: <https://news.sky.com/story/captain-of-solong-container-ship-involved-in-north-sea-crash-is-russian-national-company-says-13326888> It comes after police said a man had been arrested on suspicion of gross negligence manslaughter in connection with Monday's collision.

Captain arrested on suspicion of gross negligence manslaughter over North Sea collision.

Adis Ajdin. *Splash 247.com*. 12 March 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/captain-arrested-on-suspicion-of-gross-negligence-manslaughter-over-north-sea-collision/> The captain of the containership *Solong*, involved in a collision with the *Stena Immaculate* tanker in the UK North Sea, has been arrested on suspicion of gross negligence manslaughter.

Four crew members of Dutch dredger that caused 2024 Singapore oil spill plead guilty.

Vanessa Lim. *Channel News Asia*. 12 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/singapore/four-crew-members-dutch-dredger-vox-maxima-caused-2024-oil-spill-plead-guilty-4995676> Four Dutch crew members of a dredger that hit a bunker vessel in June 2024 and caused an oil spill pleaded guilty on Wednesday (Mar 12) to failing to discharge their duties properly.

Russian captain charged over deadly North Sea collision with Stena tanker.

Paul Peachey. *TradeWinds*. 15 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/russian-captain-charged-over-deadly-north-sea-collision-with-stena-tanker/2-1-1793037> The master of a container ship involved in a deadly collision in the North Sea is due in an English court on Saturday after being charged with gross negligence manslaughter.

North Sea oil tanker owner praises 'heroic' crew.

Nathan Hemmingham. *BBC News*. 16 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c757k1q6yg2o> The *Stena Immaculate* and cargo ship *Solong* collided off the East Yorkshire coast at about 10:00 GMT on Monday.

ITF condemns killing of seafarers in Russian missile attack.

ITF Seafarers. 17 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.itfseafarers.org/en/news/itf-condemns-killing-seafarers-russian-missile-attack> The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) condemns the killing of seafarers and reiterates its call for an immediate and sustained ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine, urging a halt to all attacks on commercial ships.

RMT calls for greater seafarers' protections on third P&O anniversary.

National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT). 17 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.rmt.org.uk/news/3rd-anniversary-of-mass-pando-ferries-sackings/> Maritime union, RMT today called on the government to do more to protect seafarers, three years after P&O unlawfully sacked 800 workers.

Pakistan makes leap for seafarers' rights after MLC ratification.

Safety4Sea. 18 March 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/pakistan-makes-leap-for-seafarers-rights-after-mlc-ratification/> Instruments of ratification for the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930; the Maritime Labour Convention, as amended (MLC, 2006); and the Labour Statistics Convention, 1985 (No. 160) were handed over by Minister of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain to Gilbert F. Hougbo, the ILO Director-General, on 14 March 2025, during the 353rd session of the ILO Governing Body in Geneva.

Government pledges to solve visa challenges faced by seafarers - Transport minister.

GhanaWeb. 18 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/business/Government-pledges-to-solve-visa-challenges-faced-by-seafarers-Transport-minister-1976093> The Minister of Transport, Joseph Bukari Nikpe, has announced that the government will address one of the key challenges faced by seafarers — visa acquisition — to ensure the smooth running of their operations.

Nautilus Federation report shows clear pathways to tackle seafarer recruitment and retention crisis. *Nautilus International*. 19 March 2025. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/2s38mfhh>

The Nautilus Federation, a group of 21 like-minded global trade unions in shipping and inland waterways transport, has released a new report which aims to finally end the conversation on recruitment and retention of seafarers, and prompt the industry to act on the issue.

[Recruitment and retention of seafarers](#) 

Maritime agencies streamline SID issuance for Kenyan seafarers. Sadik Hassan.

Kenya News Agency (KNA). 21 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.kenyanews.go.ke/maritime-agencies-streamline-sid-issuance-for-kenyan-seafarers/>

Government agencies in the maritime sector working under the whole-of-government approach are doubling efforts to ensure seafarers are issued with the Seafarer's Identification Documents (SID) to unlock employment opportunities.

Speak out for seafarers unjustly imprisoned for doing their jobs. Paul Peachey. *TradeWinds*.

21 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/opinion/speak-out-for-seafarers-unjustly-imprisoned-for-doing-their-jobs/2-1-1794673>

It will be of little comfort to the two men sitting in a Turkish jail serving 30-year jail terms for drug convictions that the IMO will discuss new guidelines next week to ensure the fair treatment for seafarers accused of crimes.

The *Dali* crew is still in Baltimore, one year after the Key Bridge disaster. Hayes Gardner and Lillian Reed. *Baltimore Banner (US)*. 24 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.thebaltimorebanner.com/community/local-news/dali-crew-key-bridge-anniversary-LHQK43SK4RCFXMLCVFGNWSAJFU/>

Family back in India and Sri Lanka kept asking *Dali* crew members when they'd be home.

Maersk rehired seafarer previously fired for harassment. Dag Holmstad. *ShippingWatch*.

25 March 2025. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article18028671.ece>

In 2018, a seafarer on the container ship *Maersk Memphis* subjected a female shipmate to "sexual harassment, touching and threats of violence and unwanted sexual contact" and was fired in 2018 by Maersk's US subsidiary, reports Danish daily Berlingske.

VLCC crew left adrift without fuel after sanctioned tanker abandoned for third time in two years. Paul Peachey. *TradeWinds*. 25 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/vlcc-crew-left-adrift-without-fuel-after-sanctioned-tanker-abandoned-for-third-time-in-two-years/2-1-1796938>

Seafarers on board a VLCC were left stranded without fuel after the tanker was abandoned for a third time in two years, dumped by its flag state and hit by US sanctions, a union has told shipping's global regulator.

Appeal to rescue Indian seafarers kidnapped by pirates in Africa. R. Sivaraman.

The Hindu (India). 25 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/appeal-to-rescue-indian-seafarers-kidnapped-by-pirates-in-africa/article69368222.ece>

Seven Indian seafarers, including two engineers from Tamil Nadu, have been kidnapped by the pirates off the coast of Africa.

First-of-a-kind Sustainable Crewing Guidelines to safeguard seafarer well-being and protect supply chains from workforce crisis. *Global Maritime Forum*. 26 March 2025. Available from:

<https://globalmaritimeforum.org/press/first-of-a-kind-sustainable-crewing-guidelines-to-safeguard-seafarer-well/>

In a first-of-a-kind move to improve seafarer well-being and tackle worsening labour shortages in the shipping industry, the Global Maritime Forum today launched new Sustainable Crewing Guidelines, nine concrete recommendations to improve life at sea.

[Sustainable Crewing Guidelines](#) 

China Says Fishing Boat Crew is Safe After Piracy Incident Off Ghana. *Maritime Executive*. 31 March 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/china-says-fishing-boat-crew-is-safe-after-piracy-incident-off-ghana> Ghana's Navy announced over the weekend that it was investigating a suspected piracy attack on a commercial fishing boat off the coast of the West African country.

SEARCH & RESCUE

Cruise ship rescues 11 people adrift between Cuba and Mexico. Marnie Hunter and Forrest Brown. *CNN*. 27 February 2025. Available from: <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/02/27/travel/brilliance-of-the-seas-refugee-rescue-vacaya/index.html>  The cruise ship *Brilliance of the Seas* rescued 11 people adrift in the Gulf of Mexico between Cuba and Mexico on Wednesday, according to VACAYA, an LGBT+ vacation company that chartered the ship.

What happens when someone goes overboard on a cruise ship? Marc Shoffman. *The Independent*. 5 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/cruise/what-happens-person-overboard-cruise-ship-b2709339.html> Passengers rarely fall off cruise ships, but cases attract plenty of attention when they happen.

SHIP RECYCLING

Stronger enforcement of EU Ship Recycling Regulation is needed. *IndustriALL Global Union*. 3 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.industriall-union.org/stronger-enforcement-of-eu-ship-recycling-regulation-is-needed> The European Commission's recent evaluation of the EU Ship Recycling Regulation (EU SRR) has once again highlighted the urgent need for stricter enforcement to prevent hazardous working conditions and environmental damage in global shipbreaking yards.

Licence to kill waste. Veronica Schulz and Michael Bell. *University of Sydney (Australia)*. 3 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/business/news-and-events/news/2025/03/03/licence-to-kill-waste.html> The pressure of climate change brings a dual challenge and opportunity to the global ship recycling industry.

European Shipping Summit: Rapidly rising number of ships to be recycled puts the unclear regulatory framework under immense pressure. *Royal Belgian Shipowners' Association*. 20 March 2025. Available from: <https://kbrv.be/library/european-shipping-summit-rapidly-rising-number-of-ships-to-be-recycled-puts-the-unclear-regulatory-framework-under-immense-pressure> Opening the event was the keynote delivered by Karmenu Vella, former EU Commissioner for Environment, who set the scene with a poignant statement: "Global compliance builds consistent implementation".

SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR

Trump Announces a New White House Office of Shipbuilding. *Maritime Executive.*

4 March 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/trump-announces-a-new-white-house-office-of-shipbuilding> It is rare that maritime interests get billing in the annual State of the Union speech, the most-watched formal policy address that a U.S. president gets to deliver.

LNG retrofits surge as maritime industry seeks short-term carbon reduction solutions.

Lloyd's Register. 6 March 2025. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/2w9jfwbt> Since LR's initial report in 2023, the industry has seen the completion of the first methanol fuel conversions since 2015 and a continued expansion of shipyards with retrofit capabilities.

World's First Ammonia-Fuelled Ship Hits a Snag. Willie D. Jones. *IEEE Spectrum.*

10 March 2025. Available from: <https://spectrum.ieee.org/ammonia-fuel-2671266100> The *Viking Energy*, an oil platform supply ship undergoing a pioneering retrofit to run on ammonia fuel, is now scheduled to begin operations in 2026—two years later than initially planned.

The first Odfjell vessel is equipped with bound4blue suction sails. Ready to cross the Atlantic to document energy-saving capacity. *Odfjell.* 11 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.odfjell.com/about/our-stories/the-first-odfjell-vessel-with-bound4blue-suction-sails-is-crossing-the-atlantic-to-document-energy-saving-capacity> 📰 The installation took place at the EDR Antwerp Shipyard as the final stage of a thorough process.

Fuelling shipping's methanol powered orderbook. Marcus Hand. *Seatrade Maritime News.*

13 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/alternative-fuels/fuelling-shipping-s-methanol-powered-orderbook> Speaking to Greg Dolan, CEO of the Methanol Institute (MI) in Singapore recently he said that there were now around 50 methanol dual-fuel vessels on the water, with a further 350 methanol capable newbuildings in the orderbook – that is to say they could run on methanol from day one.

Zero emission ships will be ready, fuel supply a worry says LR chief. Marcus Hand.

Seatrade Maritime News. 21 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/alternative-fuels/zero-emission-ships-will-be-ready-fuel-supply-a-worry-says-lr-chief> Shipping is often accused of being slow when it comes to decarbonisation but its not a view that Lloyd's Register Chief Executive Nick Brown subscribes to saying that the "industry has done a huge amount".

Japan, Korea would struggle to fill US demand for non-China shipbuilding, NYK Line exec says. Sudarshan Varadhan. *Reuters.* 24 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.reuters.com/business/japan-korea-would-struggle-fill-us-demand-non-china-shipbuilding-nyk-line-exec-2025-03-24/> U.S. allies Japan and South Korea would struggle to quickly ramp up shipbuilding to meet U.S. demand for alternatives under President Donald Trump's plan to impose port fees on China-linked ships, a top Japanese shipping executive said on Monday.

HMM Unveils Korea's First Methanol-powered Container Ship, 'HMM Green'. Jasmine Choi.

Business Korea (South Korea). 25 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=238213> Hyundai Merchant Marine (HMM) announced the acquisition of Korea's first methanol-powered container ship, "HMM Green", on March 25.

Shipbuilding industry and opportunities from green transformation. *Vietnam.vn*. 28 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.vietnam.vn/en/nganh-dong-tau-va-co-hoi-tu-chuyen-doi-xanh> Faced with increasingly complex climate change and the priority of sustainable development, Vietnam's shipbuilding industry is facing an important turning point in implementing green transformation.

SHIPPING

Where did Russia's shadow fleet come from? Robin Brooks and Ben Harris. *Brookings Institution*. 27 February 2025. Available from: <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/where-did-russias-shadow-fleet-come-from/> The G7 (plus Australia) imposed a price cap on Russian oil in December 2022 to limit Russian revenue from energy exports.

Shipping profit boom evaporates on US tariffs, Red Sea reopening. *Business Times*. 2 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/international/global/shipping-profit-boom-evaporates-us-tariffs-red-sea-reopening> Global shippers from AP Moller-Maersk to Cosco Shipping Holdings, who logged windfall earnings last year, may see a reversal of fortunes in 2025 as a potential reopening of the Red Sea route and punitive US tariffs loom.

Steam turbine carriers are at higher risk amid increasing scrutiny and rising market uncertainty. *Drewry Shipping Consultants*. 3 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.drewry.co.uk/maritime-research-opinion-browser/maritime-research-opinions/steam-turbine-carriers-are-at-higher-risk-amid-increasing-scrutiny-and-rising-market-uncertainty> Spot rates for steam carriers averaged \$23,000pd in 2024, plummeting to \$5,000pd by the end of 2024, recording a historic low.

Global shipping: navigating the waves of geopolitics. Rico Luman and Inga Fechner. *ING Bank N.V.* 3 March 2025. Available from: <https://think.ing.com/articles/global-shipping-navigating-the-waves-of-geopolitics/> The shipping industry has faced turbulent times over the past few years, and 2025 looks no different with high trade disruption risks.

Norway green loan backs vessel conversions for robotic hull-cleaning expansion in Singapore. Martyn Wingrove. *Riviera Maritime*. 3 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/loan-accelerates-growth-in-vessels-and-robots-84013> A leader in the growing market for ship hull cleaning at sea plans to expand to meet a rising demand for its services.

Developing a green solution for shipping. *Rolls-Royce*. 4 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.rolls-royce.com/media/our-stories/discover/2025/developing-a-green-solution-for-shipping.aspx> The shipping industry is on a mission to become climate-neutral by 2050.

The shipping industry is turning to tech to improve sustainability. *Financial Times*. 4 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIkYtYdA4d8> How advanced tracking technology enabled a leading shipping company to effectively monitor carbon emissions and ensure compliance with maritime regulations.

Solomon Islands considers launching ship registry amid suspicion of Russian shadow fleet. Caleb Fotheringham. *Radio New Zealand*. 4 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/543649/solomon-islands-considers-launching-ship-registry-amid-suspicion-of-russian-shadow-fleet> Solomon Islands is considering following in the footsteps of other Pacific Island nations by starting a ship registry.

New report: Shipping is a key strategic industry in a more competitive world. New risks and opportunities abound for Danish shipowners. *Danish Shipping*. 5 March 2025. Available from: <https://danishshipping.dk/en/latest-news/2025/new-report-shipping-is-a-key-strategic-industry-in-a-more-competitive-world-new-risks-and-opportunities-abound-for-danish-shipowners/> Shipping has always been a critical strategic industry. [Report](#) 

The \$10 Billion Opportunity in Green Shipping. *Boston Consulting Group (BCG)*. 5 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.bcg.com/publications/2025/the-10-billion-opportunity-in-green-shipping> The growth in cargo owners' willingness to pay (WTP) a premium for green shipping is slowing in a market that remains largely unregulated and reliant on voluntary actions.

European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA) rebrands as European Shipowners. *ECSA European Shipowners*. 5 March 2025. Available from: <https://ecsa.eu/european-community-shipowners-associations-ecsa-rebrands-as-european-shipowners/> On the occasion of its 60 years, the European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA) becomes today ECSA European Shipowners, reinforcing its role as the voice of the European shipping industry.

In Key West, testing shows cruise ships stir up as much sediment as a hurricane. Greg Allen. *National Public Radio (US)*. 5 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.npr.org/2025/03/05/nx-s1-5294512/key-west-cruise-ships-sediment-testing> On a warm and sunny February day here in Florida's historic resort, people stream off the *Celebrity Constellation*, a cruise ship with more than 2,000 passengers.

Women in Green Shipping network hits London with biggest meeting to date. Lucy Hine. *TradeWinds*. 5 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/people/women-in-green-shipping-network-hits-london-with-biggest-meeting-to-date/2-1-1787922> More than 50 attendees joined the largest gathering yet of the Women in Green Shipping (WiGS) grouping for the first meeting of 2025 in London.

Norwegian shipowners and government sign declaration for gender equality. Jonas Walsgård. *TradeWinds*. 5 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/norwegian-shipowners-and-government-sign-declaration-for-gender-equality/2-1-1788039> The Norwegian Shipowners' Association and the Norwegian government have signed a declaration for increased gender equality in the maritime industries.

IMO flagged about new register created in tiny uninhabited South Pacific Island. *Islands Business (Fiji)*. 6 March 2025. Available from: <https://islandsbusiness.com/news-break/imo-flagged-about-new-register-created-in-tiny-uninhabited-south-pacific-island/> Wily, shady entrepreneurs are scanning world maps to seek ever more distant outposts to establish ship registers to help grease the flows of the dark fleet.

Navigating a green voyage together. *Voice of Vietnam (VoV)*. 6 March 2025. Available from: <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/navigating-a-green-voyage-together-post1159187.vov> Norway makes a strong presence at VietShip 2025 with the Norwegian Pavilion featuring the Norwegian leading companies to showcase Norway's innovations and advanced solutions for green maritime.

Shipping firms pull back from Hong Kong to skirt US-China risks. Greg Torode and Jonathan Saul. *Reuters*. 6 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/shipping-firms-pull-back-hong-kong-skirt-us-china-risks-2025-03-06/> Some shipping companies are discreetly moving operations out of Hong Kong and taking vessels off its flag registry.

Cook Islands Politicians Question Role Supporting Shadow Fleet. *Maritime Executive*.

7 March 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/cook-islands-politicians-question-role-support-shadow-fleet> The Cook Islands as a registry of ships has become one of the topics of the reporting on the shadow fleet of tankers servicing the Russian oil industry.

Celebrating progress on diversity. *Gard*. 7 March 2025. Available from: <https://gard.no/about-gard/company-news/celebrating-progress-on-diversity/> The event featured prominent industry leaders, including Captain Karen Davies, Managing Director of OCIMF, Guy Platten, Secretary General of the International Chamber of Shipping, and Dr. Heike Deggim, Director of the IMO's Marine Environment Division.

Shipping in the crosshairs as trade uncertainty hits all-time high. Sam Chambers.

Splash 247.com. 7 March 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/shipping-in-the-crosshairs-as-trade-uncertainty-hits-all-time-high/> At no point since tracking began on the subject have global trade policies been more uncertain than right now, according to one index developed in the US.

WSC's Anna Larsson wants gender equality in shipping to speed up. Mette Grube Condrup.

ShippingWatch. 7 March 2025. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/article17974357.ece> Despite the lack of gender equality in shipping, Anna Larsson, director of communications and head of Europe at the World Shipping Council, is happy with her career choice.

Buyers show waning appetite for premiums needed to decarbonize shipping. Jim Giles.

Trellis. 7 March 2025. Available from: <https://trellis.net/article/bcg-survey-maritime-shipping-premiums/> The willingness of companies to fund the transition of maritime shipping to net zero is slowing, a survey by the consulting firm BCG has found.

Women leave leadership waiting room as shipping's diversity drive threatens to stall.

Paul Peachey. *TradeWinds*. 7 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/sustainability/women-leave-leadership-waiting-room-as-shipping-s-diversity-drive-threatens-to-stall/2-1-1787355> Women's impressive gains in securing top shipping posts over the past decade show signs of stalling, with female talent dropping out of the queue to become next-generation leaders, according to the latest diversity trends.

Tides Are Turning: Women at the Helm, Accelerating Change. *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)*. 8 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.unodc.org/easternafrika/en/Stories/tides-are-turning--women-at-the-helm--accelerating-change.html> For ages, the open seas have been an exclusive boys' club, a no-woman's land where tradition dictated, "stay ashore."

US vetoes G7 proposal to combat Russia's shadow fleet of oil tankers. David Connett.

The Guardian. 8 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/mar/08/america-vetoes-g7-proposal-to-combat-russias-shadow-fleet-of-oil-tankers> The US has rejected a Canadian proposal to establish a task force that would tackle Russia's so-called "shadow fleet" of oil tankers, according to reports last night.

Maritime scheme to boost representation of females. Jodie Yettram. *Jersey Evening Post*.

8 March 2025. Available from: <https://jerseyeveningpost.com/news/2025/03/08/maritime-scheme-to-boostrepresentation-of-females/> The Danish operator set to take over Jersey's ferry services next month has launched a programme to increase female representation in maritime roles traditionally dominated by men.

US vetoes G7 shadow fleet task force plan, signals more change. Donato Paolo Mancini, Samy Adghirni and Laura Dhillon Kane. *ShippingWatch*. 10 March 2025. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article17980781.ece> The US has rejected a Canadian proposal to establish a task force that would tackle Russia's so-called shadow fleet of oil tankers, as the Trump administration re-evaluates its positions across multilateral organizations, according to people familiar with the matter.

German Merchant Shipping: Backbone of Economy and Security in Turbulent Times.

German Shipowners' Association. 11 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.reedereverband.de/en/german-merchant-shipping-backbone-economy-and-security-turbulent-times> The latest economic figures on the state of German merchant shipping, presented today by the German Shipowners' Association (VDR) at its annual press conference, underscore an important fact: Despite geopolitical turbulence and uncertain times in international trade policy, German shipping remains a reliable guarantor of economic strength and supply security for the Federal Republic. [Facts & figures on maritime shipping in Germany](#)

Charting the uncharted: The (un)intended consequences of oil sanctions and dark shipping.

Jesús Fernández-Villaverde, Yiliang Li, Le Xu and Francesco Zanetti. *Centre for Economic Policy Research*. 11 March 2025. Available from: <https://cepr.org/voxeu/columns/charting-uncharted-unintended-consequences-oil-sanctions-and-dark-shipping> In recent years, sanctions have become a frequently used tool for Western authorities to curb oil exports from targeted economies, aiming to reduce the latter's export revenues by restricting access to major markets.

Houthi Issue New Maritime Threat as Gaza Aid Deadline Passes. Mike Sculer. *gCaptain*.

11 March 2025. Available from: <https://qcaptain.com/houthi-issue-new-maritime-threat-as-gaza-aid-deadline-passes/> Yemen's Houthi forces have declared an immediate ban on Israeli ships in the Red Sea, Arabian Sea, Bab al-Mandab Strait, and Gulf of Aden, threatening to attack any vessels that violate the blockade.

IOPC Funds publishes Guidance for Member States on Investigating the Circumstances Surrounding an Oil Pollution Incident. *IOPC Funds*. 11 March 2025. Available from:

<https://iopcfunds.org/news/iopc-funds-publishes-guidance-for-member-states-on-investigating-the-circumstances-surrounding-an-oil-pollution-incident> Despite the plethora of international regulations governing the safety of international shipping, oil spill incidents continue to involve ships which are unsafe due to factors such as their advanced age, lack of repairs, substandard maintenance and disregard for safety standards. [Guidance](#) 

Pollution fund urges rapid probes for oil spills from unsafe tankers. Paul Peachey.

TradeWinds. 12 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/pollution-fund-urges-rapid-probes-for-oil-spills-from-unsafe-tankers/2-1-1791362> Coastal states should consider using satellite images and oil "fingerprinting" during investigations to link oil spills to uninsured and unsafe shipping, according to new guidance.

Free Report: The Lifecycle Dilemma. Fiona Macdonald. *Thetius*. 12 March 2025.

Available from: <https://thetius.com/free-report-the-lifecycle-dilemma/> The Lifecycle Dilemma: Navigating Cybersecurity Risks Across Designing, Constructing and Operating a Vessel delves into the shifting risks and disconnected approaches in cybersecurity across each stage from initial design through to its operation and maintenance. [Report](#) 

2025 GREEN4SEA Athens Forum: Stakeholders and regulators turning the tide on green shipping. *Safety4Sea*. 13 March 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/2025-green4sea-athens-forum/> The event was organized by SAFETY4SEA having as lead sponsors the following organizations: Jotun, MacGregor, and SQE MARINE.

HMS Lancaster and New Zealand-led Combined Task Force 150 Interdict Large Drug Haul. *Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)*. 13 March 2025. Available from: <https://combinedmaritimeforces.com/2025/03/13/hms-lancaster-and-new-zealand-led-combined-task-force-150-interdict-large-drug-haul/> The Royal Navy's *HMS Lancaster* (F229), working in direct support of New Zealand-led Combined Task Force (CTF) 150 of Combined Maritime Forces, seized 319 kg of heroin and 83 kg of methamphetamine from a vessel in the Arabian Sea, March 8.

Only 1.2% of seafarers are women, as industry struggles with inclusion. Buertey Francis Boryor. *Business & Financial Times (Ghana)*. 13 March 2025. Available from: <https://thebftonline.com/2025/03/13/only-1-2-of-seafarers-are-women-as-industry-struggles-with-inclusion/> President of the Women's International Shipping and Trading Association (WISTA Ghana), Gertrude Ohene-Aseinim, has said technical barriers and gender bias are the biggest challenges for women in the maritime industry.

Greece appoints former basketball professional and pandemic health minister as its new shipping czar. Harry Papachristou. *TradeWinds*. 14 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/people/greece-appoints-former-basketball-professional-and-pandemic-health-minister-as-its-new-shipping-czar/2-1-1792696> In yet another one of Greece's frequent cabinet reshuffles, Europe's biggest shipowning nation got a new merchant marine minister on Friday.

Getting the math right: Crunch time for shipping's net-zero ambitions. *Business Times (Singapore)*. 17 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/esg/getting-math-right-crunch-time-shippings-net-zero-ambitions> Today, more than 80 per cent of the world's traded goods are moved by shipping but the industry also accounts for up to 3 per cent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as it is heavily dependent on fossil fuels.

Geopolitics generating new set of mutual insurance risks. Paul Bartlett. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 17 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/insurance/geopolitics-generating-new-set-of-mutual-insurance-risks> Speaking to *Seatrade Maritime News* just a few days before a 32-year-old US-sanctioned Suezmax tanker, named *Mia*, was holed by a 20-year-old feeder container ship while anchored off Ambarli in the Sea of Marmara, the London P&I Club's Underwriting Director, Reto Toggwiler, outlined a whole new category of geopolitical risks which mutual insurers must now manage.

FG advocates Africa-led strategy to cut carbon emissions in shipping industry. Joke Falaju. *Guardian (Nigeria)*. 17 March 2025. Available from: <https://guardian.ng/news/fg-advocates-africa-led-strategy-to-cut-carbon-emissions-in-shipping-industry/> As the IMO moves to finalize its revised emissions reduction strategy, the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Gboyega Oyetola, has urged African nations to take an active role in shaping global shipping decarbonisation policies.

'Not panicking yet' over fears of huge shipping cost hike. Neil Hartnell. *The Tribune (Bahamas)*. 17 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.tribune242.com/news/2025/mar/17/not-panicking-yet-over-fears-of-huge-shipping-cost-hike/> Bahamian businesses are "not panicking yet" over fears this nation and the wider Caribbean will be "devastated" by potential container shipping cost increases worth thousands of dollars due to US policy changes.

European Maritime Space: Short sea shipping plays a key role in reducing emissions.

Gesine Meissner. *Safety4Sea*. 17 March 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/cm-european-maritime-space-short-sea-shipping-plays-a-key-role-in-reducing-emissions/> EMS supports the development of green corridors not only through funding but also by promoting smart port-side measures as incentives.

State of European Transport 2025 Shipping. *Transport & Environment*. 18 March 2025.

Available from: <https://www.transportenvironment.org/state-of-european-transport/state-of-transport-2025/shipping> A big portion of global maritime trade is connected to Europe, meaning climate action on the continent has a major impact elsewhere.

European shipping key for Europe's security with 35% of global fleet, studies find.

ECSA European Shipowners. 18 March 2025. Available from: <https://ecsa.eu/european-shipping-key-for-europes-security-with-35-of-global-fleet-studies-find/> European shipping represents a geopolitical asset for Europe facilitating the export and import of goods, food and energy, a Deloitte study finds.

MPA and CMA CGM Sign MoU to Enhance Sustainable Shipping and Digital Innovation.

Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA). 18 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.mpa.gov.sg/media-centre/details/mpa-and-cma-cgm-sign-mou-to-enhance-sustainable-shipping-and-digital-innovation> The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and the CMA CGM Group have renewed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to advance sustainable shipping and innovation.

The Biofuel Sham Could Worsen Global Hunger and Inequality. Jennifer Clapp and

Olivier de Schutter. *Project Syndicate*. 18 March 2025. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/4wzi7stm> Another major source of GHG emissions is poised to use biofuels to “decarbonize”.

EU Maritime Decarbonisation Target at Risk Without Effective Pricing Tool. *World Shipping*

Council. 19 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.worldshipping.org/news/eu-maritime-decarbonisation-target-at-risk-without-effective-pricing-tool> The World Shipping Council (WSC) today released new research that shows both renewable-capable vessels and renewable fuels could be available to meet EU 2030 targets, but that the price gap between fossil and renewable fuels is the major barrier to making decarbonisation a reality.

[WSC EU Shipping Decarbonisation Report: Can the EU fuel shipping's decarbonisation?](#) 📄

Marine insurance industry advances climate reporting in third annual disclosure report.

Global Maritime Forum. 19 March 2025. Available from: <https://globalmaritimeforum.org/press/marine-insurance-industry-advances-climate-reporting-in-third-annual/> The Poseidon Principles for Marine Insurance continue to take a leadership role in supporting global shipping decarbonisation with the release of their third annual disclosure report.

Poseidon Principles for Marine Insurance. Third Annual Disclosure Report. *Poseidon Principles for Marine Insurance*. 19 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.poseidonprinciples.org/insurance/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Poseidon-Principles-for-Marine-Insurance-third-Annual-Disclosure-Report.pdf> 📄 The Poseidon Principles for Marine Insurance are a framework for assessing and disclosing the climate alignment of hull and machinery insurance (H&M) portfolios.

The Commission adopts two new reports on the implementation of EU ETS in maritime transport and the maritime Monitoring, Reporting and Verification review. *European Commission*. 19 March 2025. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/4ea2bte5> On 18 March, the Commission adopted its first report on the implementation of the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) extension to maritime transport, which began on 1 January 2024.

Renewable energy-rich developing nations priced out of shipping's \$1.6 trillion energy transition opportunity. *UCL Energy Institute. Shipping and Oceans Research Group*. 20 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.shippingandoceans.com/post/renewable-energy-rich-developing-nations-priced-out-of-shipping-1-6-trillion-energy-transition> A new study released today by UMAS and UCL Energy Institute Shipping and Oceans Research Group shows that poor access to funding and higher costs of capital in developing countries could almost double the prices of e-fuels they produce, compared to developed economies—even when renewable energy resources such as onshore wind and solar are superior.

MAMII Urges EU to Act on Methane Ahead of the European Shipping Summit. *Methane Abatement in Maritime Innovation Initiative (MAMII)*. 20 March 2025. Available from: <https://mamii.org/mamii-urges-eu-to-act-on-methane-ahead-of-the-european-shipping-summit/> The EU must strengthen its approach to methane reduction in shipping by adopting policies that support innovation and align with new IMO guidelines, says the Methane Abatement in Maritime Innovation Initiative (MAMII).

MOT Drafts Action Plan To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Ships, Ports. *Bernama (Malaysia)*. 20 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.bernama.com/en/business/news.php?id=2404485> The Transport Ministry (MOT) is drafting the national action plan on reduction of greenhouse gas emission from ships and ports to strengthen efforts in decarbonising the maritime sector.

Traditional bunkers seen as dominant fuel choice for the coming decade. Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*. 20 March 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/traditional-bunkers-seen-as-dominant-fuel-choice-for-the-coming-decade/> Just over 53% of respondents in our ongoing future tech survey believe traditional bunker fuel will still be used for the majority of the global merchant fleet in 10 years' time.

How Africa can gain from new global shipping levy. Eldine Chilemba Giles. *Business Daily (Kenya)*. 20 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/bd/opinion-analysis/columnists/how-africa-can-gain-from-new-global-shipping-levy-4972886> African ports stand to gain billions in new investments through maritime shipping decarbonisation initiatives, yet most policymakers remain unaware of these emerging opportunities.

Søren Toft views the EU carbon trading scheme as a challenge to European competitiveness. Jens Thomsen. *ShippingWatch*. 20 March 2025. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article18015178.ece> The container sector is a strong supporter of regulation to help European shipping navigate the green transition, but the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) is not doing Europe's carriers any good.

Flags of questionable quality grow market share. Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*. 21 March 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/flags-of-questionable-quality-grow-market-share/> Over 5,000 vessels – equivalent to 14.5% of the global merchant fleet – operate under registries with less than 10% ratification of IMO and the ILO conventions, increasing exposure to enforcement actions, according to new data from analytics firm Kpler.

Can the shipping industry decarbonise? Megan Morrissey. *Eco-Business*. 24 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.eco-business.com/opinion/can-the-shipping-industry-decarbonise/>
As consumers, we don't know much, or really think much, about shipping.

Course charted for carbon free shipping by 2050. *UK Government*. 25 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/course-charted-for-carbon-free-shipping-by-2050> Fuels of the future and shipping charge points in harbours are at the centre of a major new strategy to make Britain's shipping fleet net zero by 2050 and drive growth in coastal communities.

Global shipping: mega profits, micro taxes. *Opportunity Green*. 25 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.opportunitygreen.org/publication-shipping-company-profits-and-taxes> Since the pandemic, leading shipping companies' profits have reached extraordinary scale. [Report](#) 📄

Maritime decarbonisation strategy and calls for evidence. *UK Government*. 25 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/maritime-decarbonisation-strategy-and-calls-for-evidence> By publishing our new Maritime decarbonisation strategy today, the government has set out plans to encourage and support our maritime sector in using fuels of the future and shipping 'chargepoints' to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Offshore contractors' role in decarbonisation, energy security and economic growth. Iain Grainger. *Riviera Maritime*. 25 March 2025. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/yvaen898>
Recent government consultations highlighted the importance of our sector's engagement with politicians and policymakers to explain offshore contractors' role and contributions.

Digitalisation, modelling, and simulation in decarbonisation with Dr Gu Hai from ABS. Marcus Hand. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 25 March 2025. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/2bj9ataf>
In the latest episode of the *Seatrade Maritime Podcast* we focus on the role of simulation and modelling for a safe transition with Dr Gu Hai, Vice President of Technology, Asia Pacific, for ABS.

Call for a Fair Course on Global Shipping Energy Transition. Manasseh Maelanga. *Pacific Islands News Association (PINA)*. 25 March 2025. Available from: <https://pina.com.fj/2025/03/25/call-for-a-fair-course-on-global-shipping-energy-transition/>
The ocean has always been central to the life and prosperity of the Solomon Islands, serving as our highway for sustenance, connection, and trade.

Outcomes of the United States and Russia Expert Groups On the Black Sea. *The White House*. 25 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/2025/03/outcomes-of-the-united-states-and-russia-expert-groups-on-the-black-sea/>
In line with presidential-level discussions between President Donald J. Trump and President Vladimir Putin, the United States facilitated bilateral technical-level talks with the Russian delegation March 23-25 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Following those discussions: The United States and Russia have agreed to ensure safe navigation, eliminate the use of force, and prevent the use of commercial vessels for military purposes in the Black Sea.

Russia-Ukraine Black Sea ceasefire comes with strings attached for shipping. Harry Papachristou. *TradeWinds*. 26 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/bulkers/russia-ukraine-black-sea-ceasefire-comes-with-strings-attached-for-shipping/2-1-1797680> A maritime ceasefire announced between Russia and Ukraine late on Tuesday is expected to reduce maritime insurance costs in the region, although it is unlikely to significantly impact the overall grain export trade.

Australia and Singapore support research projects to reduce maritime emissions.

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). 26 March 2025.

Available from: <https://www.csiro.au/en/news/All/News/2025/March/Australia-and-Singapore-support-research-projects-to-reduce-maritime-emissions> Australia and Singapore have selected eight projects for funding as part of a \$20 million initiative to help reduce emissions in the maritime sector.

The uncertainty and instability created by a credit-trading policy architecture favours states with strong industrial policy.

UCL Energy Institute. Shipping and Oceans Research Group.

26 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.shippingandoceans.com/post/uncertainty-and-instability-created-by-a-credit-trading-policy-architecture>

A new report from UCL's Energy Institute Shipping and Oceans Research Group shows that biggest implication of the three policy scenarios currently being debated is the level, stability and predictability of revenue they would likely generate.

Report: Panama Poised to Purge Sanctioned Tankers from Registry.

Maritime Executive. 27 March 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/report-panama-poised-to-purge-sanctioned-tankers-from-registry>

After an extended pressure campaign from the United States and activist groups such as UANI (United Against Nuclear Iran) the Panama Maritime Authority is poised to purge its registry of sanctioned tankers.

How the shipping sector could save on energy costs.

International Energy Agency (IEA).

28 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.iea.org/commentaries/how-the-shipping-sector-could-save-on-energy-costs> Maritime shipping is the backbone of international trade and an integral part of global supply chains.

Climate finance: Putting levies on shipping isn't just equitable — it makes economic sense.

Aoife O'Leary. TradeWinds. 28 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.tradewindsnews.com/opinion/climate-finance-putting-levies-on-shipping-isn-t-just-equitable-it-makes-economic-sense/2-1-1796242> Climate change is well recognised as a global justice issue, and for many the issue of finance is at its crux.

Clear policies, financing needed for green shipping fuels: maritime players.

Sharanya Pillai. Business Times (Singapore). 30 March 2025. Available from:

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/esg/clear-policies-financing-needed-green-shipping-fuels-maritime-players> Clear regulations and finance mechanisms are needed to boost green shipping fuels such as ammonia and methanol, said industry players who spoke at the Singapore Maritime Week.

Owner of Ship That Hit U.S. Tanker Seeks to Limit Liability.

Mike Schuler. gCaptain.

31 March 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/owner-of-ship-that-hit-u-s-tanker-seeks-to-limit-liability/> The owner of a cargo ship that struck a U.S. military-contracted tanker off England's northeast coast last month said on Monday it is setting up a fund for potential lawsuits over the collision.

RESEARCH

Wright CJ, Thornton JA, et al. **Lightning declines over shipping lanes following regulation of fuel sulfur emissions.** *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*. 11 March 2025. Available from: <https://acp.copernicus.org/articles/25/2937/2025/acp-25-2937-2025.html> Aerosol interactions with clouds represent a significant uncertainty in our understanding of the Earth system.

Hasan S. **An insight on the role and response of International Maritime Organization and classification societies in regulating maritime autonomous surface ships.** *International Journal of Maritime History*. 12 March 2025. Available from: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/08438714251325206> This paper explores the evolving dynamics between the IMO and classification societies in response to the challenges posed by Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS).

Lu P-H and Theocharis D. **The influence of energy efficiency and carbon indicators on ship prices: early evidence from the tanker and bulk carrier sectors.** *Maritime Economics & Logistics*. 12 March 2025. Available from: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41278-025-00316-5> This paper examines the effect of Carbon Intensity Indicator (CII), Annual Efficiency Ratio (AER) and Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index (EEXI) on secondhand ship prices.

Bunwaree P. **Curbing “Dark” Activity at Sea: The Role of the Marine Insurance Industry.** *European Journal of Risk Regulation*. 20 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/european-journal-of-risk-regulation/article/curbing-dark-activity-at-sea-the-role-of-the-marine-insurance-industry/C9161D34289EFB4437B724B7D82F5363> Some fishing vessels breach maritime laws by operating with their mandatory tracking systems (Automatic Identification System (AIS)) switched off.

Salman M. **Exploring economic and cargo efficiencies in the global shipping sector: A convergence analysis.** *Journal of Cleaner Production*. 20 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0959652625006481> Despite its essential role in global trade, maritime transport remains a major fossil fuel consumer and create pollution that causes climate change.

Jones DOB, Arias MB, et al. **Long-term impact and biological recovery in a deep-sea mining track.** *Nature*. 26 March 2025. Available from: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-025-08921-3> Deep-sea polymetallic nodule mining is currently in the exploration phase with some groups proposing a move towards extraction within years.

Gao F and Guo P. **Unique risks and evolving trends in Arctic governance: a forward-looking analysis based on policies and practices.** *European Journal of Futures Research*. 31 March 2025. Available from: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s40309-025-00250-y> As climate change and evolving international dynamics shape the Arctic, governance in the region is attracting heightened attention from major global stakeholders.

To subscribe or unsubscribe, send an email with your contact details to:
mck@imo.org

About the cover

The CAB Cover is a photograph of the international memorial to the world's seafarers, past, present and future which graces the entrance to IMO Headquarters in London. The memorial, a seven-metre high, ten-tonne bronze representation of the bow of a cargo ship with a lone seafarer on the deck, is the work of internationally renowned British sculptor Michael Sandle.