



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

“Sharing Maritime Knowledge”

CURRENT AWARENESS BULLETIN

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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.

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IMO NEWS & EVENTS

New data highlights lack of gender diversity in maritime

IMO-WISTA Women in Maritime Survey indicates ongoing gender disparity in the maritime sector, sparking renewed calls for action.

The second [Women in Maritime survey](#), jointly published by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Women's International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA), provides new insights into gender diversity within the industry.

The report presents data on the proportion and distribution of women working in the maritime sector from IMO Member States and the private sector. [More...](#)

[IMO-WISTA Women in Maritime Survey 2024](#)

2025 International Day for Women in Maritime: An ocean of opportunities

IMO Secretary-General underscores women's potential to transform ocean industries.

This year's International Day for Women in Maritime, celebrated annually on 18 May, will spotlight pathways for women's leadership, participation and impact in the global ocean economy.

Shipping carries more than 80% of global trade in goods and is essential to everyone on the planet. However, the sector remains male-dominated - women make up less than 20% of the maritime workforce onshore, with significantly lower participation at sea.

To discuss how closing this gender gap could unlock growth and opportunities across the industry, the International Maritime Organization is hosting a symposium in London on Friday, 16 May under the theme: 'An Ocean of Opportunities for Women'. [More...](#) The event will be livestreamed on IMO's [YouTube channel](#)

Karin Orsel receives IMO Gender Equality Award

Maritime entrepreneur recognised for her work to advance gender equality and empower women in the industry

Netherlands shipowner and entrepreneur Ms. Karin Orsel was presented with the International Maritime Organization's Gender Equality Award by Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez on Friday, 16 May.

The winner of the Award is selected each year by a high-level panel and endorsed by the IMO Council, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to advancing gender equality in the maritime sector.

Receiving her award at a ceremony in London, ahead of the International Day for Women in Maritime (18 May), Ms. Orsel called for stronger support networks for women, especially those just entering the industry: [More...](#)

[Latest IMO Press Briefings](#)

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

Previous Meetings

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

Technical Cooperation Committee (TC 75) 02-06 June

Forthcoming Meetings

Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 110) 18-27 June

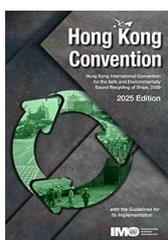
NEW IMO PUBLICATIONS



The following new titles have now been released in digital format. All digital publications can be purchased via the [IMO ePublications platform](#).

To purchase any of our printed publications or IMO-Vega, 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



Hong Kong Convention, 2025 Edition

Digital format: KA683E (English)
ISBN: 978-92-801-1831-5 (English)

This publication presents:

- the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009, which will enter into force on 26 June 2025;
- six resolutions adopted at the International Conference on the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships held under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization in Hong Kong, China, from 11 to 15 May 2009;
- six sets of guidelines for the uniform implementation of the Convention developed and adopted by IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee; and
- additional instruments on the implementation of the Hong Kong Convention



Model Course 1.25: General operator's certificate for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)

Digital format: KTC125E (English only)
ISBN: 978-92-801-1805-6 (English)

This course aims to facilitate training that meets the mandatory minimum standards of competence and relevant requirements in general operator's certificate for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). This is in accordance with the STCW Convention and Code, the Radio Regulations, and the STCW-F Convention and Code.



FAL Convention, 2024 Edition, Chinese

Digital format: KE350C (Chinese)
ISBN: 978-92-801-6131-1 (Chinese)

This consolidated edition of the FAL Convention includes the 2022 amendments (resolution FAL.14(46)) adopted at the forty-sixth session of the FAL Committee.

These amendments, which enter into force on 1 January 2024, address single window systems, electronic transmission of data, lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and the efforts to counteract the effects of corruption.

The publication also includes the 2023 amendments (resolution FAL.15(47)) that are expected to enter into force on 1 January 2025. These amendments affect Recommended Practice 7.11, and aim to address the need to combat illicit activities in the national facilitation programmes of Governments.



Basic Documents: Volume I, Arabic

Digital format: KD001A (Arabic)
ISBN: 978-92-801-5232-6 (Arabic)

This edition incorporates amendments to the Convention on the International Maritime Organization up to December 2021.

It also includes amendments to the Rules of Procedure of:

- the Assembly up to December 2021;
- the Council up to November 2021;
- the Maritime Safety Committee up to June 2017;
- the Legal Committee up to April 2017;
- the Marine Environment Protection Committee up to July 2017;
- the Technical Cooperation Committee up to July 2017;
- the Facilitation Committee up to June 2018; and
- Meetings under the London Convention, 1972 and the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention up to November 2018.

UNITED NATIONS

WHO chief laments most disruptive cuts to global health funding ‘in living memory’. *UN News.* 1 May 2025. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/05/1162846> “We are living through the greatest disruption to global health financing in memory,” said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Climate change takes increasingly extreme toll on African countries. Juliette Maigné. *UN News.* 12 May 2025. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/05/1163126> “Extreme weather and climate change impacts are hitting every single aspect of socio-economic development in Africa and exacerbating hunger, insecurity and displacement,” the UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Monday.

UN chief calls for major reforms to cut costs and improve efficiency. Vibhu Mishra. *UN News.* 12 May 2025. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/05/1163151> Briefing Member States in New York on Monday Mr. Guterres outlined wide-ranging effort to revamp how the UN system operates – cutting costs, streamlining operations, and modernizing its approach to peace and security, development and human rights.

‘The world is failing its health checkup,’ says WHO. *UN News.* 15 May 2025. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/05/1163281> “Behind every data point is a person – a child who didn’t reach their fifth birthday, a mother lost in childbirth, a life cut short by a preventable disease,” said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, as the organization’s latest statistics report revealed the pandemic’s deeper health impacts.

In Baghdad, Guterres affirms UN will never forget staff killed in Canal Hotel attack. *UN News.* 18 May 2025. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/05/1163396> António Guterres was speaking during a wreath-laying ceremony at a memorial in Baghdad to honour the victims of the 19 August 2003 Canal Hotel bombing - the worst terrorist attack in UN history.

Member States approve WHO Pandemic Agreement in World Health Assembly Committee, paving way for its formal adoption. *World Health Organization (WHO).* 19 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-05-2025-member-states-approve-who-pandemic-agreement-in-world-health-assembly-committee--paving-way-for-its-formal-adoption> WHO Member States, meeting today in Committee A of the World Health Assembly, approved a resolution that calls for the adoption of an historic global compact to make the world safer from future pandemics.

Biodiversity loss demands urgent global action, says UN chief. Vibhu Mishra. *UN News.* 21 May 2025. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/05/1163561> In a message marking Thursday’s International Day for Biological Diversity, the UN chief raised alarm over the “lightning pace” of degradation of the natural world.

UN aims to transform urgency into action at Nice Ocean Conference. *UN News.* 27 May 2025. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/05/1163746> The third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC 3) from 9-13 June will bring together Heads of State, scientists, civil society and business leaders around a single goal: to halt the silent collapse of the planet’s largest – and arguably most vital – ecosystem.

UN's lifesaving programmes under threat as budget crisis hits hard. *UN News*. 30 May 2025.
Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/05/1163901> Member States had paid just \$1.8 billion towards the UN's \$3.7 billion regular budget for 2025, as of 9 May.

CASUALTIES

Three Crew Injured as Engine Room Incident Disables Maersk Containership. *Maritime Executive*. 1 May 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/three-crew-injured-as-engine-room-incident-disables-maersk-containership> Maersk is confirming there was an incident aboard one of its containerships in the Atlantic on Monday, April 28, that injured three crewmembers and has left the ship drifting while teams work to identify “operational contingencies.”

Gaza aid vessel ‘attacked by drones’ just outside Malta waters. Sarah Carabott. *Times of Malta*. 2 May 2025. Available from: <https://timesofmalta.com/article/gaza-aid-vessel-attacked-drones-outside-malta-waters.1109052> 🗞️ Activists on board a Gaza Freedom Flotilla vessel say their vessel was attacked by drones just outside Maltese waters early on Friday.

Press Release by the Government of Malta. *Government of Malta*. 2 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.gov.mt/en/Government/DOI/Press%20Releases/Pages/2025/05/02/pr250720.aspx> At 0020hrs (local time), Malta Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) received a Mayday call from the passenger vessel *Conscience*, reporting a fire on the bow while outside territorial waters.

Xi urges all-out search, rescue efforts following boat capsizing in SW China. *CCTV.com (China)*. 4 May 2025. Available from: <https://english.cctv.com/2025/05/05/ART1qdmMY8xvY3xP8p5lsnmM250505.shtml> Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday urged all-out efforts to search those falling into water and treat the injured after two boats capsized in southwest China’s Guizhou Province.

At least 9 dead as two boats capsize in SW China, rescue underway. *China Global Television Network (CGTN)*. 5 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpDFN8vdEZM> 🗞️ At least nine people were killed and one remains missing after two passenger boats capsized in the Liuchong River in Qianxi City, a tourist attraction in southwest China’s Guizhou Province, at around 4:40 p.m. on Sunday, according to local authorities.

3 dead, 4 injured after boat capsizes off San Diego. The Coast Guard has suspended its search for 7 missing. Zoe Sottile. *CNN*. 5 May 2025. Available from: <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/05/05/us/san-diego-panga-boat-capsized> The US Coast Guard has suspended the search for seven people who remain missing after a small boat overturned Monday in the ocean near San Diego, leaving three people dead and four others injured.

Container ship adrift after engine explosion. Gareth Finighan and Jonathan Bell. *Royal Gazette (Bermuda)*. 6 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.royalgazette.com/transport/news/article/20250506/container-ship-adrift-after-engine-explosion/> Two crewmen, one of whom was reported to be “gravely” injured, have received medical treatment on the island after an explosion on board a container ship in the seas east of Bermuda.

Mediterranean crossing: At least 3 die, including 2 children. John Silk. *Deutsche Welle (Germany)*. 11 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.dw.com/en/mediterranean-crossing-at-least-3-die-including-2-children/a-72509717> Two children, aged 3 and 4, and an adult died during a Mediterranean crossing from Libya to Italy on a frail boat whose engine gave way, a German aid organization has said.

MSC ship aground off Jeddah, likely victim of GPS spoofing. Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*. 13 May 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/msc-ship-aground-off-jeddah-likely-victim-of-gps-spoofing/> 🗺️ Three days on from grounding off Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, the 7,000 teu *MSC Antonia* remains stuck in the Red Sea, with vessel tracking showing the ship was likely the victim of GPS jamming.

Stricken Maersk Sana continues to 'drift safely' in western Atlantic. Paul Bartlett. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 13 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/accidents/stricken-maersk-sana-continues-to-drift-safely-in-western-atlantic> The 21-year-old *Maersk Sana* remains adrift and a tug from Europe will only arrive 'in the next several days' the Danish shipping company said in an update.

Large fire on board ship in Port of Amsterdam. Mariska Buitendijk. *SWZ Maritime (Netherlands)*. 16 May 2025. Available from: <https://swzmaritime.nl/news/2025/05/16/large-fire-on-board-ship-in-port-of-amsterdam/> The vessel is carrying scrap metal and the fire started in one of the holds. Firefighting efforts are expected to take a long time.

Mexican tall ship strikes Brooklyn Bridge, snapping masts and killing 2 crew members. Ruth Brown and Kyle Marian Viterbro. *Associated Press*. 18 May 2025. Available from: <https://apnews.com/article/brooklyn-bridge-collision-mexican-navy-ship-ca335dc85ebfbf981bc38516985461c8> 🗺️ A Mexican navy sailing ship on a global goodwill tour struck the Brooklyn Bridge in New York on Saturday, snapping its three masts, killing two crew members and leaving some sailors dangling from harnesses high in the air waiting for help.

Not alive to the risks: Sole watchman likely on his mobile phone before collision, judge finds. Paul Peachey. *TradeWinds*. 20 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/insurance/-not-alive-to-the-risks-sole-watchman-likely-on-his-mobile-phone-before-collision-judge-finds/2-1-1821408> A judge has ruled that a chief officer on sole watch on the bridge of a bulker was probably listening to clips on his mobile phone in the run-up to a collision with another vessel off the Greek coast.

Damaged Gaza aid ship arrives in Libyan port of Misurata. *Times of Malta*. 20 May 2025. Available from: <https://timesofmalta.com/article/damaged-gaza-aid-ship-arrives-libyan-port-misurata.1110006> A Gaza-bound aid ship reportedly struck by Israeli drones outside Malta earlier this month has been towed to the Libyan port of Misurata.

Dutch safety board calls for urgent improvements after deadly North Sea cargo ship blaze. Mike Corder. *Associated Press*. 22 May 2025. Available from: <https://apnews.com/article/cargo-ship-fire-netherlands-fremantle-cars-20ea27b2097a96baeda10481dc7a9e7e> Protocols for responding to emergencies on busy North Sea shipping routes off the Dutch coast must be urgently improved, an independent Dutch safety watchdog said Thursday in a report into a deadly blaze on a cargo ship.

Emergency assistance Fremantle Highway. Isabelle Martinetti. *Dutch Safety Board*. 22 May 2025. Available from: <https://onderzoeksraad.nl/en/onderzoek/fire-aboard-cargo-ship/> 🗺️ At 23:43 on the evening of Tuesday, 25 July 2023, the Coastguard Coordination Centre received a report that fire had broken out on board the *Fremantle Highway*, a Panamanian car carrier. [Summary Report](#) 📄 [Recommendations](#) 📄

Man sleeps through massive container ship running aground on his front lawn. Todd Symons. *CNN*. 23 May 2025. Available from: <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/05/23/europe/norway-container-ship-garden-intl-hnk-scli> 🇳🇴 A Norwegian man managed to sleep through an enormous container ship running aground on his front lawn.

NCL Salten still grounded in Norway. Mariska Buitendijk. *SWZ Maritime (Netherlands)*. 26 May 2025. Available from: <https://swzmaritime.nl/news/2025/05/26/ncl-salten-still-grounded-in-norway/> At the time of the accident, the ship carried sixteen crew. No-one was injured and so far, there have not been any spills.

Liberian cargo ship sinks: Kerala declares emergency as major oil spill feared — Top developments. *Times of India*. 25 May 2025. Available from: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/liberian-cargo-ship-sinks-kerala-declares-emergency-as-major-oil-spill-feared-top-developments/articleshow/121396149.cms> The Kerala government on Sunday declared a statewide emergency after a Liberian container ship, *MSC ELSA 3*, carrying 640 containers, including 13 with hazardous cargo, capsized and sank off the state's coast, triggering fears of a major ecological disaster.

Container ship capsizes off Kerala coast; 21 rescued, 3 remain onboard for salvage ops. *Times of India*. 25 May 2025. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/3cy28cky> A Liberia-flagged container vessel, *MSC ELSA 3*, capsized after departing Vizhinjam port on Saturday, prompting a major rescue operation by the Indian Coast Guard, reported All India Radio News Trivandrum.

Three injured in reported weekend explosion aboard ship in Bluff. *1News (New Zealand)*. 26 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.1news.co.nz/2025/05/26/three-injured-two-serious-in-reported-explosion-aboard-ship-in-bluff/> The incident happened while the crew was working on a boiler in the ship's engine room at around 3.15am on Saturday.

Coast Guard confirms oil spill after container vessel sinks off Kerala coast, swings into action. Manoj Viswanathan. *New Indian Express*. 27 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/kerala/2025/May/27/coast-guard-confirms-oil-spill-after-container-vessel-sinks-off-kerala-coast-swings-into-action> The Indian Coast Guard) on Monday confirmed oil spill in the Arabian sea, around the area off Kerala's coast where *MSC Elsa 3*, a Liberia-flagged container vessel carrying hazardous cargo and calcium carbide, sunk the day before.

Containers from sunken ship washed ashore at Thiruvananthapuram. *New Indian Express*. 27 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/kerala/2025/May/27/containers-from-sunken-ship-washed-ashore-at-thiruvananthapuram> The containers from the *MSC ELSA 3*, which sank off the coast of Kochi, have begun washing ashore in various parts of Thiruvananthapuram.

Container from the sunken ship MSC ELSA 3 washes ashore at Kollam Coast: removal underway. *Asian News International (ANI)*. 28 May 2025. Available from: <https://aninews.in/news/national/general-news/container-from-the-sunken-ship-msc-elsa-3-washes-ashore-at-kollam-coast-removal-underway20250528095255/> The Liberia-flagged container vessel *MSC ELSA 3*, which sank off the Kochi coast on May 24, has left a trail of debris along the Kerala coastline.

Technical failure in ballast management system led to failure of sunk ship: Shipping regulator. Manoj Viswanathan. *Indian Express*. 29 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/kerala/2025/May/29/technical-failure-in-ballast-management-system-led-to-failure-of-sunk-ship-shipping-regulator> Dismissing the sabotage theory behind the capsizing of container vessel *MSC Elsa 3*, the Director General (DG) of Shipping Shyam Jagannathan on Wednesday said the ship sank due to the failure of its ballast management system, which ensures the vessel's stability.

Who is responsible for the container ship that capsized off Kerala's coast? The answer is intentionally confusing. Prasanth Nair. *Indian Express*. 30 May 2025. Available from: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/who-is-responsible-for-the-container-ship-that-capsized-off-keralas-coast-the-answer-is-intentionally-confusing-10038922/> On May 25, the *MSC ELSA 3* — a container ship sailing under the flag of Liberia — was officially declared a “total loss” following its capsizing off the Kerala coast.

ENVIRONMENT

Blue whale decline in Sri Lanka tied to climate and human activity. Simon Payne. *Mongabay*. 30 April 2025. Available from: <https://news.mongabay.com/2025/04/blue-whale-decline-in-sri-lanka-tied-to-climate-and-human-activity/> Sri Lankan waters are considered a haven for the largest creatures ever to have lived, the blue whale, a rare place for a resident, year-round population to thrive.

Copernicus: Global temperature record streak continues – April 2024 was the hottest on record. *Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S)*. 7 May 2025. Available from: <https://climate.copernicus.eu/copernicus-global-temperature-record-streak-continues-april-2024-was-hottest-record> April 2024 was warmer globally than any previous April in the data record, with an average ERA5 surface air temperature of 15.03°C, 0.67°C above the 1991-2020 average for April and 0.14°C above the previous high set in April 2016.

‘It’s like putting a whale in a blender’: the rise of deadly ship collisions in Chile. *The Guardian*. 7 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/may/07/its-like-putting-a-whale-in-a-blender-the-rise-of-deadly-ship-collisions-in-chile> On average, five fatal whale strikes occur in the country's waters each year, the highest in the world – and just a fraction of the total number killed, say researchers.

Extreme weather and climate change impacts hit Africa hard. *World Meteorological Organization (WMO)*. 12 May 2025. Available from: <https://wmo.int/news/media-centre/extreme-weather-and-climate-change-impacts-hit-africa-hard> Extreme weather and climate change impacts are hitting every single aspect of socio-economic development in Africa and exacerbating hunger, insecurity and displacement, according to the WMO State of the Climate in Africa 2024 report.

Climate-driven changes to ocean colour fuel urgency ahead of UN summit. *Radio France Internationale (RFI)*. 14 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.rfi.fr/en/environment/20250514-climate-driven-changes-to-ocean-colour-fuel-urgency-ahead-of-un-summit> The colour of the world's oceans is changing – a visible sign of climate disruption that scientists say could have wide-ranging consequences for marine life. The shift comes as world leaders prepare to meet in Nice next month for a major United Nations summit on ocean conservation.

Changing ocean temperatures continue to impact Maritime fisheries: marine scientist.

Sean Mott. *CTV News (Canada)*. 14 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/atlantic/article/changing-ocean-temperatures-continue-to-impact-maritime-fisheries-marine-scientist/> The changing ocean temperatures in the last few decades have greatly impacted the Maritime fishery industry, and according to one marine scientist, those effects are going to continue for a long time to come.

Decommissioning offshore wind is a looming ecological challenge. Catherine Early.

Dialogue Earth. 20 May 2025. Available from: <https://dialogue.earth/en/energy/decommissioning-offshore-wind-is-a-looming-ecological-challenge/> Wind farms built out at sea are experiencing a construction boom.

US finds endangered Gulf of Mexico whale threatened by oil and gas vessel strikes.

Straits Times. 21 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.straitstimes.com/world/united-states/us-finds-endangered-gulf-of-mexico-whale-threatened-by-oil-and-gas-vessel-strikes> The Trump administration published a long-awaited environmental assessment on May 20 that found that vessel strikes related to oil and gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico are likely to jeopardise the existence of the endangered Rice's whale.

Commission publishes 2025 report on EU blue economy. *European Commission*. 22 May 2025.

Available from: https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-publishes-2025-report-eu-blue-economy-2025-05-22_en The report presents the economic performance of the EU blue economy sectors and provides estimations of their economic performance.

[EU Blue Economy Report 2025 - web version](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Two more tar balls found near cargo ship wrecked in western NL. Gary Kean.

The Telegram (Canada). 2 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.saltwire.com/newfoundland-labrador/more-tar-balls-cargo-ship-wrecked-nl> Two more tar balls have been found along the shoreline near the wrecked *MSC Baltic III*, bringing the total to eight that have washed ashore since the cargo ship ran aground.

Volumes of ships' ballast water discharges are huge – controls are failing. Mette Grube

Condrup. *ShippingWatch*. 5 May 2025. Available from:

<https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article18149810.ece> Every day, large parts of the world's fleet violate global legislation prohibiting the discharge of untreated ballast water.

Cleaning up toxic wartime shipwrecks. Esme Mathis. *Australian Geographic*. 8 May 2025.

Available from: <https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/science-environment/2025/05/cleaning-up-toxic-wartime-shipwrecks/> On 7 May 1942 a World War II naval battle was unfolding in the heart of the Coral Sea a few hundred kilometres off the North Queensland coast.

Oil spill response drones launched along Northern Sea Route. *TASS Russian News Agency*.

14 May 2025. Available from: <https://tass.com/economy/1957443> An oil spill response system of Skopa (Osprey) - 20 UAVs is deployed aboard the Ural nuclear-powered icebreaker for duty in waters of the Northern Sea Route (NSR), the developing company, OMVTECH, told TASS.

Japan's Fukushima nuclear wastewater 'pose major environmental, human rights risks' - UN experts. *Radio New Zealand*. 20 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/561566/japan-s-fukushima-nuclear-wastewater-pose-major-environmental-human-rights-risks-un-experts> The United Nations (UN) human rights experts have written to the Japanese government to express their concerns about the release of more than one million metric tonnes of treated nuclear wastewater into the Pacific Ocean.

Cruise Ships Bombarding Cork Harbour Residents with Dangerous Levels of Air Pollution.

Clean Arctic Alliance. 22 May 2025. Available from: <https://cleanarctic.org/2025/05/22/cruise-ships-bombarding-cork-harbour-residents-with-dangerous-levels-of-air-pollution/> Air quality measurements taken last week when cruise ships – such as NCL's *Norwegian Star* – visited Cobh, in Ireland's Cork Harbour, show air pollution levels up to more than 250 times higher than safe levels recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Land pollution is drowning the oceans in plastic, French experts warn. Isabelle Martinetti.

Radio France Internationale (RFI). 23 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.rfi.fr/en/environment/20250523-land-pollution-is-drowning-the-oceans-in-plastic-french-experts-warn> With global plastic production doubling in less than 10 years, reducing it is key for protecting the ocean, according to findings at the Reducing Plastics: A Vital Issue for the Ocean conference, held in Marseille on Monday.

'Hard to clean once it hits shore': Scientists warn of oil spill threat after container ship sinks off Kerala. Nikhil Ghanekar. *Indian Express*. 27 May 2025. Available from:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/hard-to-clean-scientists-warn-oil-spill-container-ship-kerala-10031623/> Even as the Indian Navy and Coast Guard race to contain any oil spill from the *MSC Elsa 3* container ship, which sank Sunday, marine biology experts said that authorities must try to contain as much oil and pollution as possible offshore, as onshore clean-up has limitations—especially during the monsoon season.

HEALTH & SAFETY

MOL Launches "OceanCare" -A Dedicated Wellbeing Support Program for Seafarers.

Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. 8 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.mol.co.jp/en/info/article/2025/0508.html> The program commenced on May 1, 2025, and is designed to provide easily accessible and confidential mental health support services to all MOL seafarers and their families.

IMarEST Guide will help Ship Managers take the lead on Mental Health. *Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST)*. 14 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.imarest.org/resource/imarest-guide-will-help-ship-managers-take-the-lead-on-mental-health.html> Designed to empower ship managers and owners to take leadership on mental health, the guide outlines how to create a robust policy and implement measures to safeguard seafarers. [Transforming Mental Health at Sea: A Vision for Wellbeing](#) 

Addressing seafarer burnout. Martin Hedman. *Splash 247.com*. 15 May 2025. Available from:

<https://splash247.com/addressing-seafarer-burnout/> The issue of burnout among seafarers has often been pigeonholed into a narrow focus on mental health, yet the reality on the high seas is far more complex.

IMO

Supporting Cook Islands with audit preparations. *Maritime New Zealand*. 1 May 2025.

Available from: <https://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/public/news/2025/may/supporting-cook-islands-with-audit-preparations> As an IMO member, the Cook Islands is obliged to participate in the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS).

The ship.energy podcast - Arsenio Dominguez, Secretary-General, IMO. *ship.energy*.

5 May 2025. Available from: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/arsenio-dominguez-secretary-general-imo/id1567271142?i=1000706374232> As the dust begins to settle on the landmark approval of the first global greenhouse gas (GHG) pricing mechanism for international shipping, the IMO Secretary-General considers the road ahead, and urges the industry to not delay action on decarbonisation.

Is the IMO fit for purpose? *Splash 247.com*. 5 May 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/is-the-imo-fit-for-purpose/> Andrew Lemi's questions the regulator's global role from a lifeboat industry perspective.

EUROPE: NGOs and associations call on EC to step up on clean shipping policy in wake of 'disappointing' IMO regulations. Ian Taylor. *Bunkerspot*. 7 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.bunkerspot.com/europe/65062-europe-ngos-and-associations-call-on-ec-to-step-up-on-clean-shipping-policy-in-wake-of-disappointing-imo-regulations> Seven NGOs and industry alliances have today (7 May) written an open letter to the European Commission (EC) and European Union (EU) Presidency, calling on them to strengthen their clean shipping policy in the wake of what they consider to be 'disappointing' regulations agreed last month by the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC).

IMO GHG pricing falls short on green methanol, ammonia. Stefka Wechsler. *Argus Media*.

7 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.argusmedia.com/en/news-and-insights/latest-market-news/2686056-imo-ghg-pricing-falls-short-on-green-methanol-ammonia> The IMO's proposed global greenhouse gas (GHG) pricing mechanism might not drive significant uptake of green methanol and green ammonia by 2035, given current market prices.

International Maritime Organization Takes Big Step to Support Global Net-Zero Goals.

Fred Felleman and Sandra Killroy. *Port of Seattle*. 9 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.portseattle.org/blog/international-maritime-organization-takes-big-step-support-global-net-zero-goals> The climate crisis demands action across all sectors. It's the shipping industry's turn given it is estimated to contribute 3% climate warming gases.

IMO Net Zero Framework: Clarity is Still Needed to Address Implementation Challenges.

Hellenic Shipping News. 12 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/imo-net-zero-framework-clarity-is-still-needed-to-address-implementation-challenges/> A lot of unknowns are yet to be determined over the next few months and years, in order for the shipping industry to gain full clarity around the implementation of the recently agreed IMO Net Zero Framework.

Watering down already weak IMO compromise will sink shipping's climate ambition. *Carbon Market Watch*. 15 May 2025. Available from: <https://carbonmarketwatch.org/2025/05/15/watering-down-already-weak-imo-compromise-will-sink-shippings-climate-ambition/> The recent 83rd meeting of the Marine Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC) was meant to agree on mid-term measures to chart a course for the decarbonisation of international shipping, in line with the IMO's greenhouse gas (GHG) strategy.

IMO 2028: a salient step towards shipping's decarbonisation. Steve Bee and Emilian Buksak. *Riviera Maritime*. 19 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/imo-2028-a-salient-step-towards-shippings-decarbonisation-84886> In April, IMO achieved another important step towards establishing a legally binding framework to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from ships globally, aiming for net-zero emissions by or around 2050.

David Appleton: Decarbonisation discussions hit choppy waters at the IMO. *Nautilus International*. 19 May 2025. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/24ryk2ns> The 83rd session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) in April this year marked a pivotal moment in our industry's journey towards decarbonisation.

ClassNK releases report "ClassNK Alternative Fuels Insight (Version 3.0)" - Providing new information on cost simulations reflecting approval at MEPC 83. *ClassNK*. 21 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.classnk.com/hp/en/news.aspx?id=13662&layout=1&type=p> The "ClassNK Alternative Fuels Insight" outlines the characteristics and latest trends, including factors such as fuel availability and cost projections for each alternative fuel, as well as our support for your future fuel option. [ClassNK Alternative Fuels Insight \(Version 3.0\)](#) 📄

Global Maritime Forum on IMO's net zero framework: It will take time to unpick. Nidaa Bakhsh. *ShippingWatch*. 23 May 2025. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article18211644.ece> The Global Maritime Forum, a non-profit organization helping to shape shipping's future, says while the outcome of the IMO's climate accord was a step forward, a lot more work is needed to clear up the resulting ambiguity.

IMO signals an end to conventional fuels, but more is needed to deliver scalable alternatives in time. *Global Maritime Forum*. 27 May 2025. Available from: <https://globalmaritimeforum.org/press/imo-signals-an-end-to-conventional-fuels-but-more-is-needed-to-deliver/> A new insight brief from the Getting to Zero Coalition and the Global Maritime Forum found that the IMO's new policy measures are ambitious enough to drive a transition to scalable zero-emission fuels but will ultimately only succeed if they include meaningful rewards and, over time, higher penalties for non-compliance. [IMO policy measures: What's next for shipping's fuel transition?](#) 📄

Putting hard GHG numbers to IMO's pricing mechanism. Selwyn Parker. *Riviera Maritime*. 27 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/putting-hard-ghg-numbers-to-imos-pricing-mechanism-84975> Hardly was the ink dry on IMO's new greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions pricing system when Professor Lynn Loo sat down with pen and paper to help make sense of it all.

Indonesia Strengthens Maritime Resilience Through IMO Global Partnership.

Dessy Anugranov. *Radio Republik Indonesia – RRI*. 27 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.rri.co.id/internasional/1545614/indonesia-strengthens-maritime-resilience-through-imo-global-partnership>

Indonesia's Ministry of Transportation is committed to strengthening its collaboration with the IMO to enhance the resilience of the maritime sector and advance the global maritime agenda.

First-ever global shipping emissions levy approved, but Pacific push for stronger deal fails.

Radio New Zealand. 28 May 2025. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7a4bym> ©

Shipping companies will soon have to pay for carbon emissions produced by its vessels for the first time, but the new deal agreed by the global maritime watchdog is still significantly lower than what was demanded by Pacific Island nations.

IMO's Net Zero Framework sends a clear signal to shipowners to order ammonia dual fuel ships, but remaining uncertainties undermine early investment in e-fuels.

UCL Energy Institute. Shipping and Oceans Research Group. 30 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.shippingandoceans.com/post/imo-net-zero-framework-sends-a-clear-signal-to-shipowners-to-order-ammonia-dual-fuel-ships>

A new study released today by UMAS and UCL Energy Institute Shipping and Oceans Research Group, and undertaken for Global Maritime Forum, shows that under the parameters principally agreed last month within the IMO Net Zero Framework, ammonia dual-fuelled ships have a clear competitive advantage from the mid-term (mid-2030's), while the near-term landscape remains less certain, with different fuel and technology choices offering similar competitiveness depending on various factors and unresolved policy details.

Experts discuss fears on proposed IMO ships greenhouse gas emission policies.

Patrick Beja. *The Standard (Kenya)*. 30 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/business/shipping-logistics/article/2001520340/experts-discuss-fears-on-proposed-imo-ships-greenhouse-gas-emission-policies>

Experts are burning the midnight oil to ensure the country gets justice in the new maritime environmental policies ahead of 2028.

Decarbonising Shipping is a Potential Game-Changer for Climate Action: Here's how.

Christiaan De Beukelaer. *University of Melbourne (Australia)*. 30 May 2025. Available from:

https://figshare.unimelb.edu.au/articles/report/Decarbonising_Shipping_is_a_Potential_Game-Changer_for_Climate_Action_Here_s_how/29194391/1?file=54957020

The IMO adopted a strategy to phase out greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by mid-century. This strategy lacks teeth until IMO Member States agree on legally binding measures in April 2025. [Report](#) 📄

The way to achieve CO2 targets is efficiency - not IMO regulation.

Nidaa Bakhsh. *ShippingWatch*. 30 May 2025. Available from:

<https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article18183616.ece>

The shipping industry should focus on efficiency measures rather than just the IMO rules which are not yet set in stone.

LAW & POLICY

‘We belong to one ocean’: Indigenous leaders push for seat at the table of high seas biodiversity treaty. Sonam Lama Hyolmo. *Mongabay*. 29 April 2025. Available from:

<https://news.mongabay.com/2025/04/we-belong-to-one-ocean-indigenous-leaders-demand-seat-at-the-table-of-high-seas-biodiversity-treaty/> In Native Hawaiians’ genealogical stories, says Solomon Kaho’ohalahala, the coral polyp is considered the oldest ancestor and they hold spiritual relationships with migratory animals, including the Koholā, or humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*).

Saudi Arabia important as Red Sea is its front yard, says chief of EU naval mission.

Rashid Hassan. *Arab News (Saudi Arabia)*. 1 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2599188/amp> Saudi Arabia is an important regional power that needs to be kept informed of security operations in the Red Sea, Rear Adm. Vasileios Gryparis, commander of the EU military mission EUNAVFOR Aspides, has told Arab News.

New Caledonia bans ‘dangerous’ seabed mining for half a century. *Radio France*

Internationale (RFI). 2 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.rfi.fr/en/environment/20250502-new-caledonia-bans-dangerous-seabed-mining-for-half-a-century> The law blocks all commercial exploration, prospecting and mining of mineral resources within New Caledonia’s exclusive economic zone – an area of 1.3 million square kilometres.

US, Yemen’s Houthis agree ceasefire: Mediator Oman. *Ahram Online (Egypt)*. 6 May 2025.

Available from: <https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/545802/World/Region/-US,-Yemen;s-Houthis-agree-ceasefire-Mediator-Oman.aspx> The United States and Yemen’s Houthis have reached a ceasefire agreement, mediator Oman announced Tuesday, saying the deal would ensure “freedom of navigation” in the Red Sea where the rebels have attacked shipping.

Oman Welcomes US-Yemen Ceasefire Agreement. *Oman News Agency (ONA)*. 6 May 2025.

Available from: <https://www.omannews.gov.om/topics/en/81/show/122148/ona> A spokesperson at the Foreign Ministry stated that, following recent discussions and engagements conducted by the Sultanate of Oman with the United States and the relevant authorities in Sana’a, Republic of Yemen, efforts to de-escalate tensions have culminated in a ceasefire agreement between the two sides.

The business case for a sustainable blue economy. Alfredo Giron. *World Economic Forum*.

6 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2025/05/the-business-case-for-a-sustainable-blue-economy/> The ocean economy supports millions and underpins some of the world’s most critical industries.

HM Customs seizes 120 kg of cocaine from a bulk carrier in Gibraltar Waters. *Government*

of Gibraltar. 6 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/press-releases/hm-customs-seizes-120-kg-of-cocaine-from-a-bulk-carrier-in-gibraltar-waters-3202025-10833> On the evening of the 30th of April officers of the HM Customs Marine Section, equipped with a departmental underwater drone, conducted a search of the vessel which had called in for bunkers in Gibraltar, arriving from the port of Santos in Brazil.

Fiji Ratifies Historic BBNJ Treaty: A Milestone for Ocean Protection and Regional Leadership.

WWF. 7 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.wwpacific.org/?391556/Fiji-Ratifies-Historic-BBNJ-Treaty-A-Milestone-for-Ocean-Protection-and-Regional-Leadership> In a landmark decision for global ocean governance and Pacific leadership, the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on 1 May officially approved the ratification of the High Seas Treaty, officially known as the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Treaty).

Kenya Hosts IOC-UNESCO Summit on Sustainable Ocean Economy. *Kenya News Agency.*

7 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.kenyanews.go.ke/kenya-hosts-ioc-unesco-summit-on-sustainable-ocean-economy/> Kenya is taking center stage in advancing Africa's sustainable blue economy as it hosts the 8th Session of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO Subcommittee for Africa and the Adjacent Island States.

FEC Approves National Policy On Marine, Blue Economy. *Ejike Ejike. Leadership (Nigeria).*

8 May 2025. Available from: <https://leadership.ng/fec-approves-national-policy-on-marine-blue-economy/> Nigeria has taken a bold step toward unlocking the full potential of its marine and coastal resources as the Federal Executive Council (FEC) has approved the country's first-ever National Marine and Blue Economy Policy.

GCMD partners with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to advance maritime decarbonisation through sustainable finance. *Global Centre for Maritime Decarbonisation (GCMD).* 8 May 2025.

Available from: <https://www.gcformd.org/gcmd-partners-with-the-asian-development-bank-adb-to-advance-maritime-decarbonisation-through-sustainable-finance/> The partnership—GCMD's first with a multilateral development bank—complements its diverse pool of centre-level partners.

Prime Minister to announce largest ever sanctions package targeting shadow fleet as UK ramps up pressure on Russia. *UK Government.* 9 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-announce-largest-ever-sanctions-package-targeting-shadow-fleet-as-uk-ramps-up-pressure-on-russia> Russia's shadow fleet will be hit with the largest ever sanctions package today, ramping up pressure on Putin and protecting UK and European critical national infrastructure.

US and China lower mutual tariffs, calling 90-day truce in their trade war. *Harry Papachristou and Gary Dixon. TradeWinds.* 12 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/us-and-china-lower-mutual-tariffs-calling-90-day-truce-in-their-trade-war/2-1-1818050> The US and China announced on Monday a mutual decrease in the tariff hikes they levelled at each other last month, as talks for a global settlement continue.

Denmark takes over rotating Arctic Council chairship from Norway. *Eilís Quinn. Barents Observer (Norway).* 12 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.thebarentsobserver.com/news/denmark-takes-over-rotating-arctic-council-chairship-from-norway/429681> "In a world facing complex and difficult circumstances, the Arctic Council must rise to the moment by showing that, even now, through cooperation and dialogue we can live up to a higher responsibility," Vivian Motzfeldt, Greenland's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Research, said at a streamed news conference after the handover.

Sweden and UNDP boost Ukraine’s monitoring of Black Sea pollution. *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*. 12 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.undp.org/ukraine/press-releases/sweden-and-undp-boost-ukraines-monitoring-black-sea-pollution> The UNDP in Ukraine has delivered essential chemical reagents and laboratory consumables to regional units of the State Environmental Inspectorate of Ukraine, bolstering the country’s capacity to monitor and respond to environmental threats in the Black Sea region.

Small Islands, Big Challenges: SIDS Rally for Stronger Chemicals and Waste Management. *United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*. 12 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.unep.org/gef/news-and-stories/press-release/small-islands-big-challenges-sids-rally-stronger-chemicals-and-waste> Over 50 representatives from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are gathering at the Palais des Nations in Geneva for the first in-person ISLANDS Forum to strengthen sound management of chemicals and waste in these uniquely vulnerable nations.

EmpowerUs Project Highlights Women Making Waves. *European Commission*. 14 May 2025.

Available from: https://blue-economy-observatory.ec.europa.eu/news/empowerus-project-highlights-women-making-waves-2025-05-14_en Funded under the European Union’s Horizon Europe program, EmpowerUs is a €6 million, three-year project that will empower coastal communities to transition towards more resilient, inclusive and sustainable coastal development.

[EmpowerUs Women Making Waves Campaign](#) 

Arctic Council Misses Opportunity to Cut Climate Warming Super Pollutants. *Clean Arctic Alliance*. 14 May 2025. Available from: <https://cleanarctic.org/2025/05/14/arctic-council-misses-opportunity-to-cut-climate-warming-super-pollutants/>

“The Romssa-Tromsø Statement issued by the Arctic Council is a missed opportunity to acknowledge the impact that global climate heating is having on the Arctic, which is warming four times faster than anywhere else on earth, the consequences that the Arctic climate crisis is having for the rest of the planet, and on reducing the impact on the region from short-lived climate super pollutants like black carbon and methane”.

Why Should a Strict Liability Regime be Adopted for Deep-Seabed Mining Contractors?

Yavuz Arda Yakut. *EJIL:Talk! Blog of the European Journal of International Law*. 16 May 2025.

Available from: <https://www.ejiltalk.org/why-should-a-strict-liability-regime-be-adopted-for-deep-seabed-mining-contractors/> Deep-seabed mining (“DSM”) is a frontier industry that aims to mine critical minerals, including cobalt and nickel.

10 Thai sailors, ship convicted, fined \$4.3m over 32.9kg cocaine trafficking.

The Nation (Nigeria). 16 May 2025. Available from: <https://thenationonline.net/10-thai-sailors-ship-convicted-fined-4-3m-over-32-9kg-cocaine-trafficking/>

After over three years of diligent prosecution by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), a Federal High Court in Lagos presided over by Justice Daniel Osiagor has convicted 10 Thai sailors and their vessel named *MV Chayanee Naree* for trafficking 32.9 kilogrammes of cocaine from Brazil into Nigeria through the Apapa seaport, Lagos.

Carbon pricing is advancing despite Trump. Adair Turner. *Eco-Business*. 19 May 2025.

Available from: <https://www.eco-business.com/opinion/carbon-pricing-is-advancing-despite-trump/> Many fear that America’s withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement will undermine the international consensus to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions.

NIMASA, Tanzanian counterpart strengthen ties to improve Africa's maritime operational capacity. *One Page Africa*. 19 May 2025. Available from:

<https://onepageafrica.com/2025/05/19/nimasa-tanzanian-counterpart-strengthen-ties-to-improve-africas-maritime-operational-capacity/> The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency and the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation on Monday in Lagos, opened discussions for knowledge sharing, in order to deepen their operational capacities in the maritime industry.

UN Ocean Conference: "Human rights must be at the heart of ocean governance," urges UN expert. *United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)*.

20 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/05/un-ocean-conference-human-rights-must-be-heart-ocean-governance-urges-un> The Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, Astrid Puentes Riaño, today urged world leaders to anchor ocean policy in human rights.

EU and UK slap new sanctions on Russian 'shadow fleet' illicitly transporting oil. *France 24*.

20 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20250520-eu-and-uk-slap-new-sanctions-targeting-russia-s-shadow-fleet-illicitly-transporting-oil> The European Union on Tuesday agreed to impose fresh sanctions on Russia, notably targeting almost 200 ships from the shadow fleet illicitly transporting oil to skirt Western restrictions put in place over Moscow's war in Ukraine.

Provisional agreement between Council and Parliament makes European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) more future-proof. *Council of the European Union*. 20 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/05/20/provisional-agreement-between-council-and-parliament-makes-european-maritime-safety-agency-emsa-more-future-proof/> A provisional political agreement struck between the Council and European Parliament aims at aligning more accurately the mandate of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA).

Green policies can restore stability to global trade, UN climate chief says. Rachel Kelly.

The National (UAE). 20 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/climate/2025/05/20/green-policies-can-restore-stability-to-global-trade-un-climate-chief-says/> Global trade is under strain due to the effects of climate change and a failure to act risks worsening food insecurity, economic instability and humanitarian crises, the UN's senior climate official has warned.

Turning the tide on ocean conservation. *Nature*. 20 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-01545-7> Ocean conservation is the 14th of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the world's plan to end poverty and achieve sustainability by 2030.

UN Ocean Conference must inspire global ambition. Peter Thomson. *Inter Press Service (IPS)*.

21 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.ipsnews.net/2025/05/un-ocean-conference-must-inspire-global-ambition> The United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) takes place every three years and in just a few weeks, the international community will gather in Nice, France, at a time when the International Science Council has called for the world to address the new reality of a disrupted Earth system.

France pushes for action as high seas treaty hangs in the balance. Amanda Morrow. *Radio France Internationale (RFI)*. 21 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.rfi.fr/en/environment/20250521-france-pushes-for-action-as-high-seas-treaty-hangs-in-the-balance> The High Seas Treaty, adopted in June 2023 by 193 countries, aims to protect international waters that cover nearly half the planet.

Norway introduces zero-emissions requirement from 2026 to world heritage fjords. *Nautilus International*. 21 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.nautilusint.org/en/news-insight/telegraph/norway-introduces-zero-emissions-requirement-from-2026-to-world-heritage-fjords/> The Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA) has decided to introduce a zero-emissions requirement for vessels visiting its five world heritage fjords from next year.

Groups Sue to Protect Critically Endangered Gulf Rice's Whale from Oil and Gas Impacts. *Friends of the Earth*. 21 May 2025. Available from: <https://foe.org/news/lawsuit-species-gulf-impacts/> Four conservation groups filed suit today in U.S. District Court to challenge a government plan that fails to properly protect rare species, including Rice's whales and Kemp's ridley sea turtles, from being harmed or killed by fossil fuel drilling and exploration in the Gulf of Mexico.

Advancing the Blue Economy through Gender Equality. *World Maritime University (WMU)*. 22 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.wmu.se/news/advancing-the-blue-economy-through-gender-equality> From 19-21 May, the World Maritime University (WMU) hosted the International Conference on Advancing the Blue Economy through Gender Equality, bringing together global leaders, researchers, policymakers, and industry professionals to explore how gender equality drives sustainable growth in ocean-based sectors.

Changing legal obligations on climate action. Nic Maclellan. *Islands Business (Fiji)*. 27 May 2025. Available from: <https://islandsbusiness.com/news-break/changing-legal-obligations-on-climate-action/> Pacific Small Island Developing States and other developing nations are mobilising to call for new international legal norms, to ensure that industrialised nations meet their obligations on climate, development and oceans protection.

CSA and AAPA Latam Sign MoU to Strengthen Maritime Cooperation Across the Region. *Shipping Association of Jamaica*. 27 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.jamports.com/csa-and-aapa-latam-sign-mou-to-strengthen-maritime-cooperation-across-the-region/> The Caribbean Shipping Association (CSA) and Latin American Division of the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA Latam) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), formalising a strategic partnership to promote closer collaboration between the Caribbean and Latin American port and shipping sectors.

EU and six member states take 'historic step' by ratifying UN treaty to protect the high seas. Rosie Frost. *Euronews*. 29 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.euronews.com/green/2025/05/29/eu-and-six-member-states-take-historic-step-by-ratifying-un-treaty-to-protect-the-high-sea> The European Union and six of its member states formally ratified the United Nations treaty to protect the high seas on Wednesday in New York.

MARINE TECHNOLOGY

MCA customer process for alternative fuels - electric. *UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency.*

16 April 2025. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mca-customer-process-for-alternative-fuels-electric> An overview of the advantages, challenges, regulations and guidance associated with using lithium-ion.

MCA customer process for alternative fuels - ammonia. *UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency.*

16 April 2025. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mca-customer-process-for-alternative-fuels-ammonia> An overview of the advantages, challenges, regulations and guidance associated with using ammonia as fuel.

UK project trials carbon capture at sea to help tackle climate change. Jacopo Prisco. *CNN.*

29 April 2025. Available from: <https://edition.cnn.com/climate/carbon-capture-sea-seacure-spc/index.html> The world is betting heavily on carbon capture — a term that refers to various techniques to stop carbon pollution from being released during industrial processes, or removing existing carbon from the atmosphere, to then lock it up permanently.

Artificial intelligence in maritime transport. Sergey Karianskyi. *Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST).* 30 April 2025. Available from:

<https://www.imarest.org/resource/mp-artificial-intelligence-in-maritime-transport.html> The maritime transport sector is currently experiencing a seismic shift, driven by the rapid evolution of digital technologies.

Global shipping firms roll out emissions-cutting tech. Todd Woody. *Malaysian Reserve.*

1 May 2025. Available from: <https://themalaysianreserve.com/2025/05/01/global-shipping-firms-roll-out-emissions-cutting-tech/> Across the far reaches of the ocean, hundreds of yellow, beach ball-sized buoys called Spotters bob in the swell, silently measuring surface temperature, wind speed, atmospheric pressure and wave height.

StormGeo: Weathering complex bunkering challenges from ECAs through digital solutions.

Manifold Times (Singapore). 2 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.manifoldtimes.com/news/stormgeo-weathering-complex-bunkering-challenges-from-ecas-through-digital-solutions/> Julie Nielsen, Global Head of Bunker Sales, shares with Manifold Times on implications of new and upcoming ECAs to the bunker market and recommendation to navigate new ECAs in a digital era.

Smart Shipping: Maersk upgrades IoT connectivity across its fleet. *Maersk.* 5 May 2025.

Available from: <https://www.maersk.com/news/articles/2025/05/05/maersk-upgrades-iot-connectivity-across-its-fleet> A.P. Moller - Maersk (Maersk) is taking a significant step in digital innovation with the deployment of its next-generation IoT connectivity platform, OneWireless, across 450 vessels.

GCMD's life cycle study quantifies net GHG emissions savings for pathways with Onboard Carbon Capture and Storage (OCCS). *Global Centre for Maritime Decarbonisation (GCMD).*

6 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.gcformd.org/gcmds-life-cycle-study-quantifies-net-ghg-emissions-savings-for-pathways-with-onboard-carbon-capture-and-storage-occs/> A comprehensive life cycle assessment (LCA) conducted by the Global Centre for Maritime Decarbonisation (GCMD) quantifies OCCS's potential to provide GHG emissions savings.

Emission performance of ammonia-fuelled, two-stroke marine engines. Kevin Rouwenhorst. *Ammonia Energy Association*. 6 May 2025. Available from:

<https://ammoniaenergy.org/articles/emission-performance-of-ammonia-fueled-two-stroke-marine-engines/> In the lead up to its historic 83rd meeting this April, the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee published a "Review of current literature on tank-to-wake nitrous oxide emissions from ammonia-fuelled engines".

DNV: Methanol and LNG go 'head-to-head' in April alternative-fuelled vessel orders.

Manifold Times (Singapore). 6 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.manifoldtimes.com/news/dnv-methanol-and-lng-go-head-to-head-in-april-alternative-fueled-vessel-orders/> Latest figures from classification society DNV's Alternative Fuels Insight (AFI) platform saw a total of 49 new orders for alternative-fuelled vessels were placed in April 2025.

New sensor measures ship's particle emissions in real time. *SWZ Maritime (Netherlands)*.

12 May 2025. Available from: <https://swzmaritime.nl/news/2025/05/12/new-sensor-measures-ships-particle-emissions-in-real-time/> For the first time, a ship has been fitted with a pioneering sensor that measures emissions of particles in real time.

Cashew nut shell biofuel: 'just don't do it'. Gary Howard. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 13 May 2025.

Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/alternative-fuels/cashew-nut-shell-biofuel-just-don-t-do-it-> During a conference session at Seatrade Maritime Logistics Middle East last week, a panel of bunkering experts warned shipowners to be cautious when considering the use of biofuels based on novel feedstocks.

Europe's biggest 'green' methanol plant opens in Denmark. *France 24*. 13 May 2025. Available

from: <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20250513-europe-s-biggest-green-methanol-plant-opens-in-denmark> Sitting next to northern Europe's biggest solar panel field and a large transformer station in the Danish countryside, the site will produce e-methanol, a synthetic fuel made from renewable energy and carbon dioxide.

Saildrone Closes \$60M Financing to Bring Maritime Autonomy to Europe. *Saildrone*.

13 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.saildrone.com/media-room/press-releases/saildrone-closes-60m-funding-maritime-autonomy-europe> Saildrone, the global leader in maritime autonomy, today announced the closing of a \$60 million investment round led by EIFO, the Export and Investment Fund of Denmark.

Green booster: UECC sees huge emissions reduction in 2024 with high-impact LBM fuel with high-impact LBM fuel. *United European Car Carriers (UECC)*. 19 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.uecc.com/news/2025/jan/green-booster-uecc-sees-huge-emissions-reduction-in-2024-with-high-impact-lbm-fuel/> United European Car Carriers (UECC) achieved a massive reduction in well-to-wake CO₂ emissions in 2024 mainly through bunkering high-impact liquefied biomethane (LBM) on LNG-fuelled vessels under its Sail for Change initiative supported by major European vehicle manufacturers.

What agentic AI at sea promises. Manish Singh. *Splash 247.com*. 22 May 2025. Available from:

<https://splash247.com/what-agentic-ai-at-sea-promises/> As businesses and societies are getting hands on with early applications of agentic artificial intelligence, I am increasingly being asked about what it means for the maritime world.

GCMD Sees Evidence of Widespread Biofuel Mislabelling. *Ship & Bunker*. 22 May 2025.

Available from: <https://shipandbunker.com/news/world/265586-gcmd-sees-evidence-of-widespread-biofuel-mislabelling> The Global Centre for Maritime Decarbonisation (GCMD) has seen potential evidence of widespread mislabelling of biofuels that are used in marine blends.

IOPC and lawyers at odds over preparations for potential ‘Torrey Canyon of ammonia’ disaster. Bob Rust. *TradeWinds*. 23 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.tradewindsnews.com/opinion/iopc-and-lawyers-at-odds-over-preparations-for-potential-torrey-canyon-of-ammonia-disaster/2-1-1823557> Lawyers focused on environmental disasters at sea are warning that no international liability and compensation system is in place to handle an ammonia disaster as alternative fuels gain acceptance.

Navigating net-zero: Biofuels promise cleaner shipping, but supply is limited. Junlin Yu and Laura R. Skaug. *Rystad Energy*. 27 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.rystadenergy.com/news/biofuels-promise-cleaner-shipping-supply-is-limited> Biofuels could be a more cost-effective alternative to traditional marine fuels such as very low-sulfur fuel oil (VLSFO), particularly when aligned with the low-emission thresholds established by the International Maritime Organization’s Greenhouse Gas Fuel Intensity (GFI) standard.

Clarifying the environmental impacts of ammonia as a shipping fuel: A call for deeper understanding and effective management. Sofia Esquivel Elizondo. *Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)*. 28 May 2025. Available from:

<https://blogs.edf.org/energyexchange/2025/05/28/clarifying-the-environmental-impacts-of-ammonia-as-a-shipping-fuel-a-call-for-deeper-understanding-and-effective-management/> The International Maritime Organization has approved a global fuel standard that accounts for greenhouse gas emissions across a fuel’s full lifecycle—including production, distribution, storage, and end use.

Goods delivered by nuclear power? UN agency chief meets Greek shipowners to discuss the idea. *Associated Press*. 29 May 2025. Available from: <https://apnews.com/article/greece-nuclear-shipping-grossi-4dd6cc70e28b9f00446390696d106d58>

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Mariano Grossi, met with Greek shipowners on Thursday to discuss the potential use of nuclear power in future global goods transportation.

MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING

A New Chapter for Maritime Education in Kenya. Andrew Mwangura. *The Coast (Kenya)*.

30 April 2025. Available from: <https://www.thecoast.co.ke/2025/04/30/a-new-chapter-for-maritime-education-in-kenya/12/39/opinion-commentary/thecoast/8785/05/> The recent developments at Bandari Maritime Academy signal important shifts in Kenya’s approach to maritime education and training.

Why Bangladesh must rethink its maritime education. Ghulam Suhrawardi. *Financial*

Express (Bangladesh). 7 May 2025. Available from: <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/views-reviews/why-bangladesh-must-rethink-its-maritime-education-1746551557> With over 700 kilometres of pristine coastline and jurisdiction over a vast and resource-rich Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh stands on the threshold of huge maritime opportunity.

Seafarer training framework for future alternative fuels. *Craig Jallal. Riviera Maritime.*

9 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/training-framework-for-future-alternative-fuel-seafarers-84714> The International Chamber of Shipping's (ICS) proposal for a new training framework to prepare seafarers for the operational demands of ships using methanol, ammonia, and hydrogen fuels was updated at the International Chemical and Product Tanker Conference 2025, held at the Millennium Gloucester Hotel in London 23-24 April 2025.

Human Element: Understanding the importance of seafarers' soft skills. *Safety4Sea.*

13 May 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/cm-human-element-understanding-the-importance-of-seafarers-soft-skills/> As we move toward a more automated future, it's not just about new tools; it's about ensuring the human element stays strong, pinpointed Capt. Nicolo Terrei, Director, I.M.A. Assessment and Training Center, at the 2025 SAFETY4SEA Manila Forum.

Strategic partnership to advance sustainable maritime research. *Chalmers University of Technology (Sweden).*

14 May 2025. Available from: <https://news.cision.com/chalmers/r/strategic-partnership-to-advance-sustainable-maritime-research,c4149760> The partnership combines Chalmers' academic excellence with Greencarrier's industry knowledge to tackle environmental challenges and support the shift to more responsible and resilient maritime practices.

Beyond the certificate: using technology to build and assess competence.

Jennifer Harrison. *Splash 247.com.* 16 May 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/beyond-the-certificate-using-technology-to-build-and-assess-competence/> Decarbonisation and digitalisation present a decades-long challenge to the shipping industry and there is a growing realisation that their impact will be felt most keenly by the people on whom we already rely on the most.

Class societies prepare for marine ammonia fuel: safe operations, crew training, and risk management. *Julian Atchison. Ammonia Energy Association.*

18 May 2025. Available from: <https://ammoniaenergy.org/articles/class-societies-prepare-for-marine-ammonia-fuel-safe-operations-crew-training-and-risk-management/> ClassNK's new Guidelines for Safety Operation for Ammonia-Fuelled Vessels cover aspects for the daily operation of ammonia-fuelled vessels, including accident response measures, PPE requirements, how to define hazardous areas, and bunker transfer processes.

Manage not only retention but also fluctuation. *Splash 247.com.*

21 May 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/manage-not-only-retention-but-also-fluctuation/> Young people are happy to move about a lot and crewing managers and shipowners need to bear this in mind, writes Henrik Jensen, the CEO of Danica Crewing Specialists. It isn't a reflection on their crewing services but just a reality of modern life.

MARITIME SAFETY

Transport Minister, European Experts Discuss Maritime Safety Strategy Development.

Jordan News Agency. 12 May 2025. Available from:

https://petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=71389&lang=en&name=en_news&cat=en_news

Minister of Transport Wissam Tahtamouni on Monday held talks with European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) experts Fabrizio Pirelli and Erik Noor on advancing the national maritime strategy, aimed at enhancing the efficiency of Jordan's maritime sector and supporting the Kingdom's implementation of international maritime safety standards and agreements.

Enclosed spaces remain risky areas onboard. *Safety4Sea*. 13 May 2025. Available from:

<https://safety4sea.com/cm-enclosed-spaces-remain-risky-areas-onboard/> Tragic incidents in enclosed spaces often stem from decisions made under pressure—whether due to time constraints, operational demands, or misplaced confidence.

Digital Distractions at Sea: Issues with Smartphones and Smartwatches for Seafarers.

Emma Forbes-Gearey. *West of England P&I Club*. 13 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.westpandi.com/news-and-resources/news/may-2025/digital-distractions-at-sea-issues-with-smartphone/>

As the maritime industry embraces digital transformation, smartphones and smartwatches have become common companions for seafarers. While these devices offer convenience and connectivity, their use during working hours at sea raises several operational, safety, and psychological concerns.

Maritime safety must be strengthened – Denmark calls on the UN to act. *Mette Grube Condrup*.

ShippingWatch. 20 May 2025. Available from:

<https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article18201113.ece> Threats have increased and restrictions have been placed on freedom of navigation on the world's oceans.

The State of Maritime Safety in the Virgin Islands Discussed at Meeting. *Government of the Virgin Islands*. 22 May 2025. Available from: <https://bvi.gov.vg/media-centre/state-maritime-safety-virgin-islands-discussed-meeting> The Premier's Office hosted a critical Maritime Safety Meeting, bringing key stakeholders together to discuss the state of maritime safety in the Virgin Islands.

Geopolitical tensions lead to increasing risks for shipping sector globally. *Allianz Commercial*.

27 May 2025. Available from: <https://commercial.allianz.com/news-and-insights/news/safety-shipping-review-2025.html> The fast-changing geopolitical landscape is creating new risks and challenges for a shipping industry already juggling the energy transition and the legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic, according to Allianz Commercial's Safety and Shipping Review.

[Safety and Shipping Review 2025 Report](#) 

MARITIME SECURITY

Greece Sets Maritime Security as Central Focus of Its UN Security Council Agenda.

Kowalenko Charlie. *Greek City Times*. 2 May 2025. Available from:

<https://greekcitytimes.com/2025/05/02/greece-maritime-security/> Following Greece's assumption of the United Nations Security Council presidency for May, the country's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Evangelos Sekeris, held a press briefing outlining key priorities for the month—with maritime security topping the agenda.

Houthi threaten shipowners carrying US crude in the Red Sea. Marcus Hand. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 4 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/security/houthi-threaten-shipowners-carrying-us-crude-in-the-red-sea> The Houthi's Humanitarian Operations Coordination Center (HOCC) said that it was prohibiting the movement of US exports of crude oil in response to attacks on Houthi controlled territory in Yemen, including oil ports.

DG Shipping increases maritime security for Indian ports, terminals. *Economic Times (India)*. 10 May 2025. Available from:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/shipping/-/transport/dg-shipping-increases-maritime-security-for-indian-ports-terminals/articleshow/121057508.cms> In response to the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan, the Directorate General of Shipping has elevated maritime security to MARSEC Level 2 for Indian ports, terminals, and vessels.

Attacks on Sudan's Port Sudan threaten Red Sea safety, ministry says, blaming UAE.

Sudan Tribune. 12 May 2025. Available from: <https://sudantribune.com/article300795/> Sudan's Foreign Ministry said on Monday that recent drone attacks on the eastern city of Port Sudan threaten Red Sea navigation safety and accused the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of backing the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) allegedly behind them.

Marlink SOC report finds maritime users facing increasingly sophisticated cyber threats.

Marlink. 20 May 2025. Available from: <https://marlink.com/news/news-resources/marlink-soc-report-finds-maritime-users-facing-increasingly-sophisticated-cyber-threats/> Marlink, a leader in managed services for business-critical IT solutions, has published its Security Operations Centre (SOC) report for the second half of 2024.

90 days to economic collapse: UN and experts sound alarm over security at sea. Vibhu Mishra.

UN News. 20 May 2025. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/05/1163491> 🗣️

Addressing a high-level debate of the Security Council, António Guterres said that oceans and seas are “sending a clear SOS,” as maritime spaces face escalating pressure from both traditional threats and new dangers – including piracy, armed robbery, trafficking, terrorism, cyberattacks and territorial disputes.

Why shipping can't wait for another cybersecurity crisis. Julian Panter. *Splash 247.com*.

20 May 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/why-shipping-cant-wait-for-another-cybersecurity-crisis/> With recent cyberattacks crippling major retailers and exposing the personal data of millions, cybersecurity is once again front-page news.

EU plans new 'maritime security hub' in Black Sea region. *Deutsche Welle (Germany)*. 28 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.dw.com/en/eu-plans-new-maritime-security-hub-in-black-sea-region/a-72704500> The European Commission intends to increase the EU's clout in the strategically important Black Sea region, countering Russian influence through closer collaboration with Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Turkey, Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Safe Seas Africa Programme to strengthen regional maritime security architecture. *Government of Mauritius*. 28 May 2025. Available from: <https://govmu.org/EN/Pages/NewsDetails.aspx?n=Safe-Seas-Africa-Programme-to-strengthen-regional-maritime-security-architecture.aspx> Mauritius will establish a maritime coordination centre and the Safe Seas Africa programme will provide support through capacity-building and equipment to respond to maritime threats, said the Secretary for Home Affairs at the Prime Minister's Office, this morning, at the Caudan Arts Centre in Port Louis.

MIGRANTS

One dead, more than 60 rescued, after migrant boat sinks off French coast. *Sky News*. 19 May 2025. Available from: <https://news.sky.com/story/one-dead-more-than-60-rescued-after-migrant-boat-sinks-off-french-coast-13370799> One person has died after a boat carrying migrants sank while attempting to cross the English Channel, according to French officials.

People smuggler who organised Mediterranean crossings on 'death trap' boats threatened to throw migrants in the sea. *UK National Crime Agency (NCA)*. 20 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/people-smuggler-who-organised-mediterranean-crossings-on-death-trap-boats-threatened-to-throw-migrants-in-the-sea> A man arrested by the National Crime Agency for masterminding the smuggling of thousands of people across the Mediterranean from north Africa into Europe has been jailed for 25 years.

UNHCR fears extreme desperation led to deaths of 427 Rohingya at sea. *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*. 23 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.unhcr.org/uk/news/press-releases/unhcr-fears-extreme-desperation-led-deaths-427-rohingya-sea> UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is gravely concerned about reports of two boat tragedies off the coast of Myanmar earlier this month, with estimates that 427 Rohingya perished at sea.

Pylos Shipwreck: Naval Court Files Charges Against 17 Coast Guard Officers. *Tovima.com (Greece)*. 23 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.tovima.com/society/pylos-shipwreck-naval-court-files-charges-against-17-coast-guard-officers/> Greek Naval Court has filed charges against 17 officers of the Hellenic Coast Guard, including the captain and crew of the patrol vessel *PPLS 920*, over their alleged roles in the deadly shipwreck of the migrant vessel *Adriana* off the coast of Pylos in June 2023.

Italy Puts NGO Rescuers of Migrants on *Maersk Etienne* on Trial. *Maritime Executive*. 29 May 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/italy-puts-ngo-rescuers-of-migrants-on-maersk-etienne-on-trial> A court in Italy has ordered six activists with the organization *Mediterranea Saving Humans* to stand trial related to the 2020 rescue of 27 migrants who were stranded in the Mediterranean on the product tanker *Maersk Etienne*.

NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS

Finnish Coast Guard Reports Dangerous Incident with Shadow Fleet Tanker. *Maritime Executive*. 29 April 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/finnish-coast-guard-reports-dangerous-incident-with-shadow-fleet-tanker> Finland joined its neighbour Estonia in reporting a continuing increase in the number of suspicious vessels sailing in the Gulf of Finland and the waterways of the Baltic to and from Russia.

Shadow fleet plays name game in Arctic waters. Atle Staalesen. *Barents Observer (Norway)*. 1 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.thebarentsobserver.com/news/nbspshadow-fleet-plays-name-game-in-arctic-waters/429028> The owners of the LNG tankers that have lied idle in the Russian part of the Barents Sea for almost five months suddenly decided to give the ships new names and flag states.

Large group of critically endangered North Atlantic right whales seen in shipping lanes south of Massachusetts. *New England Aquarium*. 1 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.neaq.org/about-us/press-room/press-releases/north-atlantic-right-whales-seen-in-shipping-lanes/> The New England Aquarium is drawing attention to the presence of more than 75 North Atlantic right whales sighted in the shipping lanes south of Massachusetts, prompting NOAA Fisheries to designate a voluntary Slow Zone.

SCA Discusses the Impact of the Improved Situation in the Red Sea on Navigation. *Robban Assafina*. 9 May 2025. Available from: https://assafinaonline.com/news_details.php?language=en&id=23990&news_name=SCA-Discusses-the-Impact-of-the-Improved-Situation-in-the-Red-Sea-on-Navigation Adm. Rabiee: “The security developments in the Red Sea region are a good sign and a positive indicator that can be built upon for the return of navigation to the region.”

The UK remains committed to restoring freedom of navigation and maritime security in the Red Sea: UK statement at the UN Security Council. *UK Government*. 14 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-uk-remains-committed-to-restoring-freedom-of-navigation-and-maritime-security-in-the-red-sea-uk-statement-at-the-un-security-council> First, the UK remains committed to restoring freedom of navigation and maritime security in the Red Sea.

Denmark First to Launch Data-Driven Remote Pilotage. *DanPilot*. 14 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.danpilot.dk/news/denmark-first-to-launch-data-driven-remote-pilotage/> After six years of development, Denmark is taking a historic step towards a more efficient and digital maritime infrastructure.

Beyond Panama and Suez: The new trade routes in a bid to reshape global shipping. Selwyn Parker. *Lowy Institute (Australia)*. 14 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpretor/beyond-panama-suez-new-trade-routes-bid-reshape-global-shipping> After a combined 265 years in operation, the domination of the two great artificial waterways – the Panama and Suez canals – in global trade is under threat from alternative routes for shipping.

Carriers reroute in response to India-Pakistan dispute. Katja Beaula. *ShippingWatch*.

15 May 2025. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article18186572.ece>

The escalation of trade restrictions between India and Pakistan has led several international shipping companies to bypass Pakistani ports.

Guidance for good practice for ships using ECDIS & electronic nautical publications.

Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA). 15 May 2025. Available from:

[https://www.mpa.gov.sg/media-centre/details/no.-3-of-2025---guidance-for-good-practice-for-ships-using-electronic-chart-display-and-information-system-\(ecdis\)---electronic-nautical-publications](https://www.mpa.gov.sg/media-centre/details/no.-3-of-2025---guidance-for-good-practice-for-ships-using-electronic-chart-display-and-information-system-(ecdis)---electronic-nautical-publications)

The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the IMO, at its 106th session approved the revised MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev.2, The ECDIS – Guidance for Good Practice – which is annexed to the MSC Circular.

Security or Safety: What is AIS Really For? Jessie Caldwell. *Center for International Maritime Security (CIMSEC)*.

19 May 2025. Available from: <https://cimsec.org/security-or-safety-what-is-ais-really-for/> The proliferation of spoofing techniques has diminished the value of Automatic Identification System (AIS) in the context of maritime law enforcement.

Mysterious GPS signals mislead ships: Three areas are particularly vulnerable. Liv Almer.

ShippingWatch. 21 May 2025. Available from:

<https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article18204687.ece> A week and a half ago, a black and red painted container ship named *MSC Antonia* began moving in a mysterious and abnormal pattern that was completely off its planned route.

“Breaking the ice” on safer and more efficient Arctic navigation. *National Research Council*

Canada. 23 May 2025. Available from: <https://nrc.canada.ca/en/stories/breaking-ice-safer-more-efficient-arctic-navigation>

In 1914, only 2 years after *RMS Titanic* collided with an iceberg and sank off the Grand Banks of Newfoundland, the International Ice Patrol was established to monitor iceberg danger and warn ships about the presence of icebergs.

Europe’s Shipping Bottlenecks Expected to Persist Into July. Brendan Murray. *gCaptain*.

25 May 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/europes-shipping-bottlenecks-expected-to-persist-into-july/>

Port congestion is worsening at key gateways in northern Europe and other hubs, according to a new report which suggests trade wars could spread maritime disruptions to Asia and the US and push up shipping rates.

Suez Canal chief signals gradual navigation resumption amid Red Sea security improvements. *Ahram Online (Egypt)*.

25 May 2025. Available from:

<https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/1235/546899/Egypt/Urban--Transport/Suez-Canal-chief-signals-gradual-navigation-resump.aspx>

Chairman of the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) Osama Rabie affirmed Sunday that the security situation has become conducive for the gradual return of ships to navigate through the Suez Canal.

PIRACY

Police arrests four people in connection with pirate attack. *GhanaWeb*. 6 May 2025.

Available from: <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Police-arrests-four-people-in-connection-with-pirate-attack-1982799> The Ghana Police Service has arrested four individuals of different nationalities in connection with a pirate attack that led to the abduction of three Chinese nationals, who were crew members aboard the targeted vessel.

Dryad Global: Underreported incidents mask the scale of piracy. *Safety4Sea*. 7 May 2025.

Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/dryad-global-underreported-incidents-mask-the-scale-of-piracy/> According to Dryad Global, maritime crime continues to plague Mexico's oil-rich Bay of Campeche, with offshore platforms and support vessels facing increasing threats.

CNA Explains: Why are sea robberies spiking in the Singapore Strait? Natasha Ganesan.

Channel News Asia. 19 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/singapore/sea-robberies-singapore-strait-piracy-maritime-security-cna-explains-5135076> Since the start of 2025, a total of 50 sea robbery incidents have been reported in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

PORT STATE CONTROL

UKMTO Warns of Commercial Vessels Being Detained at Houthi-Controlled Ras Isa Port.

Mike Schuler. *gCaptain*. 1 May 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/ukmto-warns-of-commercial-vessels-being-detained-at-houthi-controlled-ras-isa-port/> Multiple commercial vessels anchored at Yemen's Ras Isa port are being forcibly detained by Houthi forces despite having proper UN clearance, according to a UKMTO warning issued May 1, 2025.

Annual Report on Port State Control in the Asia-Pacific Region 2024. *Tokyo MoU on Port*

State Control. 1 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.tokyo-mou.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/ANN24.pdf> In 2024, member Authorities of the Tokyo MOU conducted 32,054 inspections, which is four times the number of inspections undertaken three decades ago.

Port State Control inspection campaign promotes fair crew conditions at sea. *Maritime New*

Zealand. 6 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/public/news/2025/may/port-state-control-inspection-campaign-promotes-fair-crew-conditions-at-sea/> New Zealand recently led an inspection campaign to assess seafarers' employment conditions on board ships of various flag states subject to Port State Control.

Experts: Estonia's failed shadow fleet tanker operation reveals shortcomings. Vahur Lauri.

ERR News (Estonia). 17 May 2025. Available from: <https://news.err.ee/1609697184/experts-estonia-s-failed-shadow-fleet-tanker-operation-reveals-shortcomings> This week's failed attempt to detain the crude oil tanker *Jaguar* — part of Russia's shadow fleet — uncovered the level of political decision-making and military capability in Estonia.

Russian authorities release *Green Admire* tanker seized after leaving Sillamäe. Veronika Uibo. *ERR News (Estonia)*. 19 May 2025. Available from: <https://news.err.ee/1609698948/russian-authorities-release-green-admire-tanker-seized-after-leaving-sillamae> The vessel, which is Liberian-flagged, had not responded to repeated warnings when it entered an area Russia has described as dangerous for shipping.

PORTS & HARBOURS

Indonesia to develop Makassar Port as new export hub. *Antara News (Indonesia)*. 30 April 2025. Available from: <https://en.antaranews.com/news/353529/indonesia-to-develop-makassar-port-as-new-export-hub> Antoni Arif Priadi, Director General of Sea Transportation at the Ministry of Transportation, said Makassar—one of the largest urban centers in eastern Indonesia—is strategically positioned to serve as a transit point for trade with Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

India's 1st transshipment hub inaugurated by PM in Kerala. *Times of India*. 3 May 2025. Available from: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/indias-1st-transshipment-hub-inaugurated-by-pm-in-kerala/articleshow/120834462.cms> Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that the capacity of the Vizhinjam deepwater port will triple in three years, allowing some of the world's largest cargo ships to dock here smoothly.

Port Esbjerg significantly expands its capacity: Fairway deepened to 12.8 metres. *Port Esbjerg*. 6 May 2025. Available from: <https://port esbjerg.dk/en/news/port-esbjerg-significantly-expands-its-capacity> After years of preparation and large-scale construction work, the fairway to Port Esbjerg has now been fully deepened.

Houthi-Held Ras Isa Port Becomes New Flashpoint in Red Sea Shipping Crisis. Mike Schuler. *gCaptain*. 7 May 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/houthi-held-ras-isa-port-becomes-new-flashpoint-in-red-sea-shipping-crisis/> Seafarers at Yemen's Ras Isa Port face escalating safety concerns amid reports of vessels being forcibly detained and armed confrontations, according to maritime authorities.

Hydrogen generator connected to shore power facility in pilot test at Gothenburg port. Ajsa Habibic. *Offshore Energy*. 7 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.offshore-energy.biz/hydrogen-generator-connected-to-shore-power-facility-in-pilot-test-at-gothenburg-port/> During the two-week trial, a generator running on 100% green hydrogen had been connected to Stena Line's existing shore power facility at the Port of Gothenburg.

Liberia signs landmark Port Deal with Morocco's Tanger Med. *New Dawn (Liberia)*. 7 May 2025. Available from: <https://thenewdawnliberia.com/liberia-signs-landmark-port-deal-with-moroccos-tanger-med/> The government of Liberia has signed a landmark port modernization agreement with Tanger Med Engineering, the technical subsidiary of Morocco's globally renowned Tanger Med Port Authority.

Port situation in India and Pakistan. *Gard*. 8 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.gard.no/insights/port-situation-in-india-and-pakistan/> Escalating tensions between India and Pakistan following the recent military exchanges, have led to trade disruptions between the two countries. Both countries have also implemented port restrictions.

Cameroon's 2nd phase of deep seaport opens for operation. *Xinhuanet (China)*. 9 May 2025. Available from: <https://english.news.cn/20250509/c589211ad7d748fab0c726b4ab74f6bd/c.html> Cameroon authorities on Friday inaugurated the second phase of Kribi Deep Seaport in the southern part of the country, noting that the new maritime facility opens a new vista of economic development for the Central African nation.

For 12 hours, zero ships left China bound for California's top ports. That hasn't happened since the pandemic. Vanessa Yurkevich. *CNN*. 10 May 2025. Available from: <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/05/10/business/zero-ships-china-trade-ports-pandemic> On Friday morning, West Coast port officials told CNN about a startling sight: Not a single cargo vessel had left China with goods for the two major West Coast ports in the past 12 hours.

First-ever cruise ship bunkered with LNG at the Port of Vancouver. Naida Hakirevic Prevljak. *Offshore Energy*. 12 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.offshore-energy.biz/first-ever-cruise-ship-bunkered-with-lng-at-the-port-of-vancouver/> Seaspan Energy, part of the Canadian Seaspan Group, provided LNG bunkering services to Silversea Cruises' cruise vessel *Silver Nova* with its bunker vessel *Seaspan Garibaldi*, which was delivered in August last year.

Port of Vancouver: bunkering cruise ships with LNG is nothing to be proud of. *Stand.earth*. 12 May 2025. Available from: <https://stand.earth/press-releases/port-of-vancouver-bunkering-cruise-ships-with-lng-is-nothing-to-be-proud-of/> Reacting to the news about the first cruise ship fuelling up with LNG in at the Port of Vancouver, Anna Barford, Oceans campaigner with Stand.earth, said: "A lie repeated, is still a lie. LNG, from fracking to burning, emits methane which is 84 times more harmful to the climate than CO2."

Customs seize 720 kgs of cocaine from container ship in Busan Port. *Korea JoongAng Daily (South Korea)*. 12 May 2025. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/59e8jjaz> Authorities discovered 720 kilograms (1,587 pounds) of cocaine on a container ship docked at Busan Port, an amount reportedly equivalent to 24 million doses of the drug.

Sweden's second OPS for cruise ships inaugurated in Stockholm. *Ports of Stockholm*. 13 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.portsofstockholm.com/about-us/news/2025/swedens-second-ops-for-cruise-ships-inaugurated-in-stockholm/> Ports of Stockholm has taken another important step towards more sustainable shipping by inaugurating Sweden's second electricity connection for international cruise ships.

NPA moves to sanitize ports corridor for ease of doing business. *Nigerian Ports Authority*. 16 May 2025. Available from: <https://nigerianports.gov.ng/2025/05/16/10787/> Determined to clear the port corridor of congestion, eliminate security threats, and environmental hazards which have long plagued the Nigerian ports, the Management of Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), in collaboration with the Lagos State Government and relevant security agencies, has embarked on a three-day full-scale clean-up and sensitization operation at the Lagos port corridors.

Cold Ironing Takes Hold: Ports Achieve Cleaner Air by Electrifying Ship Berths. Michael Barnard. *Clean Technica*. 18 May 2025. Available from: <https://cleantechnica.com/2025/05/18/cold-ironing-takes-hold-ports-achieve-cleaner-air-by-electrifying-ship-berths/> Decarbonizing maritime operations presents one of the more challenging—but also most impactful—frontiers in global sustainability efforts.

Celebrating the docking of giant ships in West Africa’s ports: Indeed, size matters, but utility matters more. Stanley R. K. Ahorlu. *Business & Financial Times (Ghana)*. 19 May 2025. Available from: <https://thebftonline.com/2025/05/19/celebrating-the-docking-of-giant-ships-in-west-africas-ports-indeed-size-matters-but-utility-matters-more/> A few weeks ago, the ultra-large container ship *MSC Diletta* docked at Ghana’s Tema Port to much fanfare.

Houthis Reboot Red Sea Crisis With “Blockade” on Port of Haifa. *Maritime Executive*. 19 May 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/houthis-reboot-red-sea-crisis-with-remote-blockade-on-port-of-haifa> Resolving any ambiguity about whether Yemen’s Houthi rebels may have agreed to a shipping ceasefire, the group announced Monday that it will begin targeting shipowners who serve the port of Haifa, effective immediately.

Japan’s Carbon Neutral Ports (CNP) Initiative Presented at ICHCA AGM. *ICHCA International*. 20 May 2025. Available from: <https://ichca.com/japans-carbon-neutral-ports-cnp-initiative-presented-at-ichca-agm> Yusuke Suemune of Japan’s Ports and Harbours Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) today outlined in detail his Government’s plans to achieve carbon net zero by 2050 at all Japanese ports via its Carbon Neutral Ports (CNP) initiative backed by a CNP certification process. [Full Press Release](#) 📄

Shanghai tops list of the world’s most polluting ports. Liv Almer. *ShippingWatch*. 22 May 2025. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/Ports/article18211868.ece> Shanghai was by far the port with the highest greenhouse gas emissions in the first quarter, writes tech platform Vesselbot in a report on port CO2 emissions.

Climate Litigation: Key Risks and Liabilities Surrounding Ports and Terminals. *Watson Farley & Williams LLP*. 23 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.wfw.com/articles/climate-litigation-key-risks-and-liabilities-surrounding-ports-and-terminals/> Just like the industries already considered in this series (including oil and gas, mining, shipping and aviation), ports and terminals are likely to be impacted by changes in the regulatory landscape of the countries in which they are located as governments consider how best to comply with their international obligations and any political promises.

Top Chinese cargo port partners with 3 European hubs for low-carbon maritime cooperation. *People’s Daily Online (China)*. 28 May 2025. Available from: <https://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0528/c90000-20320518.html> The Ningbo-Zhoushan Port, the world’s busiest port in terms of cargo throughput, on Tuesday announced three initiatives it has undertaken with three major European ports—Hamburg and Wilhelmshaven in Germany, and Valencia in Spain—to construct green shipping corridors and advance low-carbon port cooperation between China and Europe.

REGULATIONS

NABU: Mediterranean Sea ECA to improve many lives. *Safety4Sea*. 30 April 2025.

Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/nabu-mediterranean-sea-eca-to-improve-many-lives/>

Starting May 1, 2025, the Mediterranean Sea will become an Emission Control Area for Sulphur (SECA), significantly reducing harmful ship emissions and improving air quality for millions of people, with NABU leading efforts to push for stronger environmental regulations.

Cleaner shipping fuel mandatory as Mediterranean becomes low-emissions zone. *Radio France Internationale (RFI)*. 1 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.rfi.fr/en/international/20250501-ships-switch-to-cleaner-fuel-as-mediterranean-becomes-low-emissions-zone> Ferries, container and cruise ships are now required to use fuel with a lower sulphur content, under rules designed to improve air quality around the Mediterranean Sea.

Industry must not lose sight of human factor behind new regulations. Claudia Paschkewitz.

Splash 247.com. 13 May 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/industry-must-not-lose-sight-of-human-factor-behind-new-regulations/> Regulatory compliance is a crucial aspect of the maritime industry that ensures the safety and efficiencies of crews and vessels.

Danish Shipping Warmly Welcomes new EU Regulation to Enhance the Safe Transport of Plastic Pellets by Sea. *Danish Shipping*. 13 May 2025. Available from:

<https://danishshipping.dk/en/latest-news/2025/danish-shipping-warmly-welcomes-new-eu-regulation-to-enhance-the-safe-transport-of-plastic-pellets-by-sea/> It is a major problem if large amounts of tiny plastic beads, known as plastic pellets, end up in the sea.

Bureau Veritas calls for standardized safety regulations to accelerate adoption of electrification technology. *Bureau Veritas*. 14 May 2025. Available from:

<https://marine-offshore.bureauveritas.com/newsroom/bureau-veritas-calls-standardized-safety-regulations-accelerate-adoption-electrification> Bureau Veritas Marine & Offshore (BV), , has called for greater clarity regarding standardized safety regulations that will advance the development of maritime electrification technologies, following the publication of a new technology report. [Maritime Electrification: Maritime Battery Systems and Onshore Power Supply](#)

New report simplifies complex regulatory landscape. *Lloyd's Register*. 16 May 2025.

Available from: <https://www.lr.org/en/knowledge/insights-articles/new-report-simplifies-complex-regulatory-landscape/> A comprehensive suite of new IMO and International Labour Organization regulations come into force over the next few months, reshaping environmental standards, safety protocols, and seafarer welfare. [Future IMO and ILO Legislation](#)

Creating a maritime nuclear rulebook. *Nuclear Engineering International*. 21 May 2025.

Available from: <https://www.neimagazine.com/analysis/creating-a-maritime-nuclear-rulebook/>

While interest in nuclear shipping grows questions remain regarding the development of appropriate regulatory frameworks.

How IMO and EU regulations align on shipping decarbonisation. Craig Jallal. *Riviera Maritime*.

26 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/news-content-hub/two-roads-to-zero---fueleu-vs-imo-84747> With IMO's Net-Zero Framework approved in draft form at MEPC 83, and the EU's FuelEU Maritime Regulation scheduled to come into force in 2025, both systems pursue reductions in GHG intensity using closely aligned methodologies.

India to revamp maritime rules for emission goals; shipping costs to rise. Rimjhim Singh. *Business Standard (India)*. 31 May 2025. Available from: https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/india-maritime-emission-rules-imo-compliance-costs-2025-125053100453_1.html The Indian government is drafting new rules to align the maritime sector with the IMO's upcoming emission regulations, Mint reported on Saturday.

Columbia Group welcomes UK-EU alignment on ETS but warns it is not a silver bullet for emissions cuts. Philippos Ioulianos. *Hellenic Shipping News*. 31 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/columbia-group-welcomes-uk-eu-alignment-on-ets-but-warns-it-is-not-a-silver-bullet-for-emissions-cuts/> Columbia Group has welcomed the UK government's announcement to link its emission trading system with the EU and is urging other countries to follow suit.

SALVAGE

ATSB issues recommendations to government agencies, salvage operator, following near stranding of bulk carrier near Sydney. *Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB)*. 15 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.atsb.gov.au/media/news-items/2025/atsb-issues-recommendations-government-agencies-salvage-operator-following-near-stranding-bulk-carrier-near-sydney> "The stranding on pristine national park coastline of a 170-metre ship carrying 950 tonnes of heavy fuel oil would have had internationally significant environmental and economic consequences, and as such this was one of the ATSB's most comprehensive marine occurrence investigations in nearly two decades," ATSB Chief Commissioner Angus Mitchell said.
[Final Report: Propulsion failure and near stranding of Portland Bay, ...](#)

MSC sets out to salvage toxic containers after shipwreck. Liv Almer. *ShippingWatch*. 27 May 2025. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article18225582_ece The container ship *MSC Elsa 3*, which sank off the southern Indian port city of Kochi at the end of last week, is at risk of spilling large quantities of oil into the surrounding marine environment.

SEAFARERS

From habit to hazard: Personal electronic devices can be a workplace distraction. *Gard*. 30 April 2025. Available from: <https://gard.no/insights/from-habit-to-hazard-personal-electronic-devices-can-be-a-workplace/> Despite being known risks factors in safety-critical industries like shipping, the constant use of mobile phones and other personal devices persists due to ingrained connectivity habits, the urge for instant responses, and the mistaken belief that individuals can effectively multitask while operating personal devices and performing critical duties.

Advocacy in action: Seafarers' rights advance at international maritime meeting. Phil Schiffin. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 2 May 2025. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/apcs67yw> At the Seamen's Church Institute (SCI), we've spent over a century advocating for the dignity, safety, and welfare of the world's seafarers.

Is there a mental health crisis among seafarers? Keri Allan. *ShipTechnology*. 5 May 2025.

Available from: <https://www.ship-technology.com/features/is-there-a-mental-health-crisis-among-seafarers/> Issues such as isolation, extended periods of time away from family and friends, and demanding work conditions have always been a part of seafaring.

Seafarer Statistics in the EU - Statistical review (2023 data STCW-IS). *European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)*. 6 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.emsa.europa.eu/newsroom/latest-news/item/5472-seafarer-statistics-in-the-eu-statistical-review-2023-data-stcw-is.html> The statistical review presented in this report is based on data extracted from certificates and endorsements registered by EU Member States, Iceland and Norway until 31 December 2023. [Statistical Review](#) 

Stranded on a ship near Sharjah for 3 months, Egyptian sailors call for help. Al-Masry Al-Youm. *Egypt Independent*. 7 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.egyptindependent.com/stranded-on-a-ship-near-sharjah-for-3-months-egyptian-sailors-call-for-help/> An Egyptian crew on board the oil ship “Petro 1,” owned by Petrofleet, a free zone limited liability company, appealed to the Foreign Ministry and the Egyptian Consulate in Dubai to intervene quickly and rescue them, after being stranded at sea for three months near the port of Sharjah.

Aging vessels push crew to the limit as Seafarers Happiness Index hits 10-year milestone. *Mission to Seafarers*. 8 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/news/seafarers-happiness-index-quarter-1-2025>; The Mission to Seafarers’ latest edition of its quarterly Seafarers Happiness Index has revealed a steadying in seafarer satisfaction, marking a small rise as the survey enters its 10th year. [Q1 2025 Report](#) 

Kidnapped Chinese sailors rescued, brought to Ghana. *Ghanaian Times*. 8 May 2025. Available from: <https://ghanaiantimes.com.gh/kidnapped-chinese-sailors-rescued-brought-to-ghana/> The Chinese sailors, who were kid-napped during a pirate attack on a registered Ghana-ian vessel named *MENGXIN 1* on sea, have been rescued in Nigeria and conveyed to Ghana.

Ship captain remanded in custody in Hong Kong over damaging Baltic Sea pipeline. Brian Wong. *South China Morning Post*. 8 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-and-crime/article/3309618/ship-captain-remanded-custody-hong-kong-over-damaging-baltic-sea-pipeline> The captain of a Hong Kong-flagged container ship has been remanded in custody on suspicion of severing a critical Baltic Sea gas pipeline running between Estonia and Finland two years ago.

Seafarers stranded off Yemen port eye exit after US-Houthi ceasefire deal. Jonathan Saul and Mohammed Ghobari. *Reuters*. 8 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/seafarers-stranded-off-yemen-port-eye-exit-after-us-houthi-ceasefire-deal-2025-05-08/> Some 200 seafarers aboard more than 15 ships stuck for weeks off Yemen’s port of Ras Isa are preparing to offload cargoes and leave thanks to a ceasefire deal between Houthi militia and the U.S., maritime and labour union sources said on Thursday.

New Ship WiFi Support Program set to boost seafarer wellbeing. *Pilbara Ports*. 12 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.pilbaraports.com.au/about-pilbara-ports/news,-media-and-statistics/news/2025/may/new-ship-wifi-support-program-set-to-boost-seafare> Pilbara Ports has today launched a new initiative aimed at enhancing seafarer welfare by improving onboard WiFi connectivity in the Port of Port Hedland.

CMA CGM Group launches own seafarer recruitment website. Daniela De Lorenzo.

ShippingWatch. 13 May 2025. Available from:

<https://shippingwatch.com/logistics/article18179479.ece> The French logistic and shipping company CMA CGM Group launches today its very own seafarer recruitment platform, amid its expansion in the maritime logistic solution side.

Seafarers at the helm: European Shipping Summit hears unions' concerns on sustainable careers. *Nautilus International*. 13 May 2025. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/mjpx3tr>

From March 19-20 2025, Nautilus officials took part in the European Shipping Summit at the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium in Brussels.

DMW: 4 Filipino seafarers still under probe after S. Korea drug bust. Marita Moaje.

Philippine News Agency (PNA). 14 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1250099> Four Filipino seafarers are still being investigated in South Korea, while 16 have already been repatriated to the Philippines following a record breaking drug bust by the Korea Coast Guard.

21 Pakistani crew barred from disembarking crude oil tanker at Odisha's Paradip port.

Amarnath Parida. *New Indian Express*. 14 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2025/May/14/21-pakistani-crew-barred-from-disembarking-crude-oil-tanker-at-odishas-paradip-port> Amid the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan, security agencies have barred 21 Pakistani crew members from disembarking a crude oil tanker that arrived at Paradip Port on Wednesday.

ITF exposes sham union endangering seafarers everywhere. *International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)*. 15 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.itfseafarers.org/en/news/itf-exposes-sham-union-endangering-seafarers-everywhere>

A coordinated scheme between a fake union registered in Slovenia, calling itself the International Seafarers' Union (ISU), and a for-profit company named Lanibra, has been exposed as a global scam.

New guidance puts seafarers at centre of decarbonisation. *International Seafarers' Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN)*. 20 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.iswan.org.uk/news/new-guidance-puts-seafarers-at-centre-of-decarbonisation/>

In the rapid pursuit of decarbonisation and technological change, the fundamental burden for implementation of new technologies falls squarely on the seafarer. [Taking a seafarer-centred approach to decarbonisation: Guidance for seafarers and maritime stakeholders](#) 

Seafarers urged to remember their rights when transiting warlike areas, following renewed threat of Houthi attacks in the Red Sea. *Nautilus International*. 21 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.nautilusint.org/en/news-insight/news/seafarers-urged-to-remember-their-rights-when-transiting-warlike-areas-following-renewed-threat-of-houthi-attacks-in-the-red-sea/> Nautilus is reminding seafarers of their rights when working onboard vessels due to transit the warlike operations area covering the Red Sea, following an announcement by Yemen's Houthi movement that it is imposing a 'maritime blockade' on the Israeli port of Haifa.

Indian seafarers in danger of leaving their careers at sea after first contract, warns Mental Health Support Solution (MHSS). *Hellenic Shipping News*. 23 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/indian-seafarers-in-danger-of-leaving-their-careers-at-sea-after-first-contract-warns-mental-health-support-solution-mhss/> Indian seafarers are in danger of walking away from their careers at sea after their first contracts end, with MHSS reporting nearly 80% struggle with issues of isolation and loneliness.

Fake seafarer document scam probe launched in Netherlands. Paul Peachey. *TradeWinds*. 27 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/fake-seafarer-document-scam-probe-launched-in-netherlands/2-1-1824852> The Netherlands has launched a criminal investigation into fraudulent applications for seafarers' papers.

ITF: Seafarer abandonment in 2025 poised to shatter 2024 record. *ITF Seafarers*. 28 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.itfseafarers.org/en/news/itf-seafarer-abandonment-2025-poised-shatter-2024-record> By May this year, 158 cases of vessel abandonment had been recorded, up from 119 at the same point in 2024.

Fatigue, anxiety and no access to medical care: The experiences of cargo ship workers around the world. *Cardiff University (UK). Seafarers International Research Centre (SIRC)*. 28 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/news/view/2916816-fatigue,-anxiety-and-no-access-to-medical-care-the-experiences-of-cargo-ship-workers-around-the-world> The analysis, from the Seafarers International Research Centre, derives from anonymous questionnaires and interviews with 1,240 cargo ship workers and 1,202 cruise sector workers.

North Sea crash captain denies crew member manslaughter. Eleanor Maslin. *BBC News*. 30 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c331mpxm626o> Vladimir Motin was captain of the Portuguese-flagged cargo ship *Solong* which crashed into the US tanker *Stena Immaculate* off the East Yorkshire coast on 10 March.

SEARCH & RESCUE

Royal Navy joins international rescue exercise in Northern Gulf. *Royal Navy*. 13 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news/2025/may/13/20250513-solas-kuwait> What would happen if an aircraft was forced to ditch not in the waters of the River Hudson – as depicted in the true Hollywood blockbuster *Sully* – but the open sea of Northern Gulf?

Cruise ship saves passengers, pets from disabled catamaran in South Pacific. Doc Louallen. *ABC News (US)*. 23 May 2025. Available from: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/cruise-ship-saves-passengers-pets-disabled-catamaran-south/story?id=122116139> A Carnival Cruise Line ship rescued four people and three dogs from a disabled catamaran caught in treacherous conditions in the South Pacific on Thursday morning, marking the second rescue operation by the cruise line in a week, according to a press release from Carnival Cruise Line.

SHIP RECYCLING

Platform publishes South Asia Quarterly Update #41. *NGO Shipbreaking Platform*. 5 May 2025. Available from: <https://shipbreakingplatform.org/platform-publishes-south-asia-quarterly-update-41/> In this quarterly publication, the NGO Shipbreaking Platform informs about the shipbreaking industry in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. [Report](#) 📄

Rendsburg Court acknowledges environmental harm caused by shipbreaking, but acquits shipowners. *NGO Shipbreaking Platform*. 6 May 2025. Available from: <https://shipbreakingplatform.org/german-court-acquits-shipowners/> The NGO Shipbreaking Platform welcomes the Public prosecutor's appeal of the Rendsburg District Court's decision to acquit the shipowners involved in the illegal export and scrapping of the ship *WESTERHAMM*.

HKC and Basel Convention implementation challenges exposed. Edwin Lampert. *Riviera Maritime*. 16 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/hkc-and-basel-convention-implementation-challenges-exposed-84869> "This important international legal document is on the market now," executive director at GMS, Nikos Mikelis stated as he highlighted the imminent entry into force of the Hong Kong Convention on 25 June.

Green light for German ship recycling. Robin Latchem. *Recycling Today*. 19 May 2025. Available from: <https://recyclinginternational.com/business/business-news/green-light-for-german-ship-recycling/60890/> EWD Benli Recycling has received the required official approval documents to operate on the site of its parent company Emden Werft und Dock at Emden on the north coast.

GMS: Multiple disruptions shaping an uncertain landscape. *Safety4Sea*. 19 May 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/gms-multiple-disruptions-shaping-an-uncertain-landscape/> According to GMS' latest report, global geopolitical tensions, economic volatility, and shifting dynamics in the ship recycling markets are collectively shaping an increasingly complex and uncertain landscape.

SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR

The Role of Shipbuilding in Maritime Decarbonisation. *OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)*. 28 April 2025. Available from: https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/the-role-of-shipbuilding-in-maritime-decarbonisation_0c8362c0-en.html Maritime transport underpins global trade, moving around 80% of goods worldwide. At the same time, it accounts for nearly 3% of global greenhouse gas emissions. [Full Report](#) 📄

World's largest '100 per cent electric' ship launched by Tasmanian builder Incat. Susan Ooong and Katri Uibu. *ABC (Australia)*. 2 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-05-02/incat-launches-worlds-largest-battery-electric-ship-hull096/105243498> 📺 At 130 metres long, Hull 096 is the largest electric vehicle of its kind ever built, with its maker Incat saying it represents a "giant leap forward in sustainable shipping".

Super-sized cruise ships are becoming the norm. Is there an end in sight? Terry Ward. *CNN*. 7 May 2025. Available from: <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/05/07/travel/mega-cruise-ships-coming-soon> If you thought the simultaneous buzz and uproar that accompanied the January 2024 launch of the world's biggest cruise ship — Royal Caribbean's 1,196-foot-long Icon of the Seas — was the last you'd hear about super-sized cruise ships for a while, think again.

Marshall Islands trials out new first low carbon cargo ship, ADB interested in the RMI ground-breaking initiative. Makereta Komai. *Pacific Islands News Association (PINA)*. 8 May 2025. Available from: <https://pina.com.fj/2025/05/08/marshall-islands-trials-out-new-first-low-carbon-cargo-ship-adb-interested-in-the-rmi-ground-breaking-initiative/> One of the world's ground-breaking low carbon sailing cargo ship, the SV *Juren Ae*, is now operating in the Republic of Marshall Islands, after the government took delivery of the vessel in July last year.

Welding robots to replace humans in HD Hyundai's shipyards by 2027. Kim Ju-Yeon. *Korea JoongAng Daily (South Korea)*. 8 May 2025. Available from: <https://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/2025-05-08/business/industry/Welding-robots-to-replace-humans-in-HD-Hyundais-shipyards-by-2027/2302697> HD Hyundai will help two AI startups develop humanoid robots to work in shipyards, aiming to take the industry's most dangerous tasks out of human hands.

S. Korea to build world's largest liquefied hydrogen carrier by 2027. Kim Na-young. *Yonhap News Agency (South Korea)*. 9 May 2025. Available from: <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20250509002000320?section=search> South Korea plans to build the world's largest liquefied hydrogen carrier (LHC) for demonstration purposes by 2027 as part of efforts to develop future growth engines for the local shipbuilding industry, the industry ministry said Friday.

Class assistance for proactive green owners and builders. Martin Conway. *Naval Architect*. 12 May 2025. Available from: <https://rina.org.uk/publications/the-naval-architect/class-assistance-for-proactive-green-owners-and-builders/> The global shipping fleet must adopt low- and zero-emission fuels to meet the climate goals set by IMO, writes Tore Stensvold.

Russia to pump over \$6B into shipbuilding as part of big plan to revitalize its maritime industry. Naida Hakirevic Prevljak. *Offshore Energy*. 13 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.offshore-energy.biz/russia-to-pump-over-6b-into-shipbuilding-as-part-of-big-plan-to-revitalize-its-maritime-industry/> As informed, Russia intends to spend over RUB 500 billion (about \$6.2 billion) in federal funding in the next six years to support the shipbuilding sector.

Global maritime regulations and future of the Korean shipbuilding industry. Kim Sung-woo. *Korea Times (South Korea)*. 19 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/amp/opinion/20250518/global-maritime-regulations-and-future-of-the-korean-shipbuilding-industry> The Korean shipbuilding industry is bracing for a hit from the IMO's new greenhouse gas regulations and the United States Trade Representative's (USTR) targeted actions to restore American shipbuilding.

SHIPPING

Petrobras and Vale signs renewable fuel bunkering partnership. Oliver Kleinschmidt. *Hydrocarbon Engineering*. 28 April 2025. Available from: <https://www.hydrocarbonengineering.com/clean-fuels/28042025/petrobras-and-vale-signs-renewable-fuel-bunkering-partnership/> In collaboration with the company Oldendorff Carriers, the bulk carrier *Luise Oldendorff* was fuelled in Singapore on 22 April 2025, for testing.

Carriers slap on surcharges as Mediterranean becomes next low-emission zone. Ian Lewis. *TradeWinds*. 30 April 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/containers/carriers-slap-on-surcharges-as-mediterranean-becomes-next-low-emission-zone/2-1-1813326> Container liner operators have begun rolling out new surcharges for shipments to and from the Mediterranean Sea to offset higher costs tied to stricter fuel regulations.

Dozens of tankers refuse to reveal insurance while passing EU waters. Paul Peachey. *TradeWinds*. 1 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/insurance/dozens-of-tankers-refuse-to-reveal-insurance-while-passing-eu-waters/2-1-1813723> The European Union has introduced rules to force ships passing through its waters to report their insurance status after more than one-fifth of those asked refused during an eight-month trial.

Green frustrations: Dry bulk shipping eyes no easy climate solutions ahead. Liv Almer. *ShippingWatch*. 1 May 2025. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Bulk/article18141312.ece> There are no easy solutions for how dry bulk shipping companies can become more climate-friendly.

Global Maritime Forum releases its inaugural Impact Report, showcasing progress on shipping decarbonisation and human sustainability. *Global Maritime Forum*. 1 May 2025. Available from: <https://globalmaritimeforum.org/news/global-maritime-forum-releases-its-inaugural-impact-report-showcasing/> The Global Maritime Forum has published its first-ever Impact Report, detailing the organisation's contributions to shaping a greener, fairer, and more resilient maritime industry in 2024. [Global Maritime Forum: Impact Report](#) 📄

Danish Shipping: Activation of War Insurance Institute Is Perfectly Timed. *Danish Shipping*. 1 May 2025. Available from: <https://danishshipping.dk/en/latest-news/2025/danish-shipping-activation-of-war-insurance-institute-is-perfectly-timed/> In an extraordinary situation where Denmark and Danish shipping are severely impacted by war – and the commercial insurance market has collapsed – there is a need for a war insurance scheme that guarantees the Danish merchant fleet remains insured and operational.

Drewry World Container Index - 01 May. *American Journal of Transportation (AJOT)*. 1 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.ajot.com/news/drewry-world-container-index-01-may> For many years, World Container Index has been the go-to, independent, global reference for index-linked contracts.

Gulf has critical role to play in decarbonisation, say IMO, DP World and UAE govt. Gary Howard. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 6 May 2025. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/2m5pu6sx> The Middle East Gulf region has a critical role to play in addressing a range of high-profile issues facing the maritime industry in the short-, medium- and long-term, the UAE Ministry of Energy & Infrastructure (MOEI), the IMO, and DP World told the audience at Seatrade Maritime Logistics Middle East in their keynote addresses.

Global trade complexity drives innovation in maritime solutions. Philip Cherian. *Zawya*. 6 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.zawya.com/en/business/transport-and-logistics/global-trade-complexity-drives-innovation-in-maritime-solutions-bj8mz18q> As maritime transportation continues to be a key propeller of global trade, it has an indispensable position in the global economy.

Advancing Data Sharing Practices: BIMCO's Energy Efficiency Data Sharing Clause 2025. *BIMCO*. 6 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.bimco.org/news-insights/bimco-news/2025/05/06-data-sharing/> The main essence of the clause is that the charterers are granted the right to use existing onboard sensors and, subject to the owners' agreement, install additional sensors at any time during the charter party period.

Global Maritime Forum releases landmark report on shipping decarbonisation progress. *Global Maritime Forum*. 7 May 2025. Available from: <https://globalmaritimeforum.org/news/global-maritime-forum-releases-landmark-report-on-shipping-decarbonisation/> One of the most comprehensive snapshots of industry action towards shipping decarbonisation was published today. [Getting to Zero Coalition Action Framework: Documenting actions towards decarbonising shipping](#) 

MSI Predicts 80% Spike in Bunker Costs Under IMO's Midterm Plans. *Ship & Bunker*. 7 May 2025. Available from: <https://shipandbunker.com/news/world/229341-msi-predicts-80-spike-in-bunker-costs-under-imos-midterm-plans> New analysis by consultancy firm Maritime Strategies International (MSI) suggests the IMO's recently agreed measures could raise bunker costs by 82% by 2035, potentially adding \$100 billion annually in penalties for conventionally-fuelled ships.

Houthi Red Sea truce could have profound impact on shipping. Nick Savvides. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 7 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/containers/houthi-red-sea-truce-could-have-profound-impact-on-shipping?linkId=813970154> Diversions via the Cape of Good Hope to avoid attacks since November 2023 have had a major positive impact on freight rates, in particular container shipping, and if the ceasefire leads to vessels returning to the Suez Canal this would be reversed.

Shippers unlikely to return quickly to Red Sea after ceasefire. *S&P Global*. 7 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.spglobal.com/commodity-insights/en/news-research/latest-news/shipping/050725-shippers-unlikely-to-return-quickly-to-red-sea-after-ceasefire> Major shipping companies are likely to take their time before fully resuming transits through the Red Sea, waiting to see if a ceasefire announced May 6 results in an end to attacks by Houthis on ships in the region over a prolonged period.

Call for New Arctic Council Chair to Take Lead on Controlling Super Pollutants From Shipping. *Clean Arctic Alliance*. 8 May 2025. Available from: <https://cleanarctic.org/2025/05/08/call-for-new-arctic-council-chair-to-take-lead-on-controlling-super-pollutants-from-shipping/> Ahead of the Kingdom of Denmark taking over the Arctic Council Chairship from Norway next week, the Clean Arctic Alliance is calling on government ministers and Senior Arctic Officials from Arctic Council member and observer states to commit to curbing the rise of black carbon and methane pollution from shipping in the Arctic.

Chat about Geopolitics & Trade with Stinne Taiger Ivø from BIMCO. Marcus Hand. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 8 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/maritime-transportation/chat-about-geopolitics-trade-with-stinne-taiger-iv-from-bimco> ©
The latest chat about geopolitics and trade episode of the Seatrade Maritime Podcast features Stinne Taiger Ivø Deputy Secretary General & Director of Contracts of BIMCO.

The shadow fleet was bad — now the renegade fleet has arrived. Elisabeth Braw. *POLITICO*. 8 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.politico.eu/article/shadow-fleet-russia-oil-spills-baltic-ports/>
The shadow fleet is a scourge. And ever since Western governments capped the price of Russian oil, it's been growing incessantly, presenting the coastal states along its route with the omni-peril of accidents and oil spills.

Ageing Fleets, Cleaner Fuels and the AIS Data Ecosystem – Reflections from the International Maritime Statistics Forum. Zak Shapurau. *Xeneta*. 8 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.xeneta.com/blog/reflections-from-the-international-maritime-statistics-forum-in-oslo>
As the industry enters a period of accelerating digitalization, it was invaluable to spend time amongst the professionals dedicated to improving the accuracy and availability of maritime data.

INTERVIEW: Vale stays fuel, technology agnostic amid sustainable shipping push. Surabhi Sahu. *S&P Global*. 8 May 2025. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/4ckdpzdn>
Vale is fuel and technology agnostic in its commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions from the value chain and support the IMO's decarbonization targets, the Brazilian miner's Global Director of Shipping and Distribution Rodrigo Bermelho said in an interview.

Ageing Global Fleet a Challenge Throughout the Shipping Industry. Nikos Roussanoglou. *Hellenic Shipping News*. 9 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/ageing-global-fleet-a-challenge-throughout-the-shipping-industry/>
The challenge of an ageing tonnage across most ship classes, together with an increase in newbuildings, will create a new landscape when it comes to the characteristics of the global shipping fleet.

New system of digital certificates for ships and yachts registered in Malta. *TVM News (Malta)*. 10 May 2025. Available from: <https://tvmnews.mt/en/news/new-system-of-digital-certificates-for-ships-and-yachts-registered-in-malta/>
The Maritime sector in Malta has continued to strengthen its position on an international level as the Ship Registry of 2024 increased by almost 10%.

Hong Kong welcomes heads of major shipping organizations. Michael Grinter. *Hong Kong Maritime Hub*. 12 May 2025. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/5hxxmvsn>
Heads of both the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and INTERCARGO have been in Hong Kong in the past few days.

TUI Cruises pioneers digital behaviour platform to cut carbon emissions. Holly Payne. *Seatrade Cruise News*. 12 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-cruise.com/environmental-health/tui-cruises-pioneers-digital-behavior-platform-to-cut-carbon-emissions>
TUI Cruises is the cruise industry's first adopter of a digital behaviour change platform from Signol aimed at reducing fuel consumption and carbon emissions.

Global LNG fleet's annual CO₂e emissions soar past 12 billion tonnes while orderbooks shrug off overcapacity warning, study finds. *Solutions for Our Climate (SFOC)*. 13 May 2025. Available from: <https://forourclimate.org/newsroom/1080> A new report by Solutions for Our Climate (SFOC) reveals that the global fleet of liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers is responsible for enabling approximately 12.7 billion metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions every year, rivalling China's total annual emissions of 15.9 billion tonnes.

[No Room for More: Why LNG Carriers Are a Climate and Financial Risk Report](#) 

LNG shipping capacity growth risks climate and financial failure, warns report. Nick Savvides. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 13 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/lng/lng-shipping-capacity-growth-risks-climate-and-financial-failure-warns-report> According to climate research group Solutions For Our Climate (SFOC), the capacity on the water aggregated with newbuilding tonnage will, if operated at 12 voyages a year, enable the release of more CO₂e emissions, of mainly the potent greenhouse gas methane annually than the US.

Pricing carbon: Developments and hurdles. Carole Nakhle. *Geopolitical Intelligence Services*. 14 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.gisreportsonline.com/r/pricing-carbon/> At a time when climate change appears to have lost its pole position in the global debate, a major development took place.

A historic course correction: How the world's shipping sector is setting sail for net zero. Laura Quinones. *UN News*. 14 May 2025. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/05/1163241> Every day, tens of thousands of massive ships criss-cross the world's oceans, transporting grain, clothing, electronics, cars, and countless other products.

Dutch students launch hydrogen boat to 'inspire shipping industry'. *Tech Xplore*. 14 May 2025. Available from: <https://techxplore.com/news/2025-05-dutch-students-hydrogen-boat-shipping.html> Dutch scientists on Wednesday unveiled a boat powered by liquid hydrogen that they hope will offer lessons to the shipping industry as it eyes new fuel sources to reduce its significant greenhouse gas emissions.

Peak coal and energy security dominate discussion at Geneva conference. *Splash 247.com*. 14 May 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/peak-coal-and-energy-security-dominate-discussion-at-geneva-conference/> The future of coal was one of the dominant topics crystal balled at this year's Geneva Dry conference, with some panellists believing that last year saw the peak in seaborne trades.

Shipping companies and EU politicians want stricter rules for livestock shipping. Mette Grube Condrup. *ShippingWatch*. 15 May 2025. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article18186703.ece> Current EU rules on the transport of live animals are too lax, to the detriment of both animal welfare and competition.

Gender Ministry Applauds WiMAC'S 10 Years of Driving Maritime Growth and Regional Integration.

Peta-Gay Hodges. *Jamaica Information Service*. 15 May 2025. Available from: <https://jis.gov.jm/gender-ministry-applauds-wimacs-10-years-of-driving-maritime-growth-and-regional-integration/> The Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport has commended the Women in Maritime Association, Caribbean (WiMAC), on its 10th anniversary, for its contributions to development and reform, support for regional integration, commitment to professionalism and promotion of sustainable industry growth.

From Nurse to Navigator: Captain Beate Stelzer's Journey at Sea. *Maersk*. 15 May 2025.

Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKTz8z3-AnA> 📺 A magazine article about the first female captains sparked a dream when she was just 15 and years later, she made it her reality.

Africa's future seafarers? Not if women keep being shut out, says Nigeria LNG adviser.

Sandra Boga. *TradeWinds*. 16 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/interviews/africa-s-future-seafarers-not-if-women-keep-being-shut-out-says-nigeria-lng-adviser/2-1-1818399> From deck officer to advocate, Koni Duniya takes up the battle for gender equality in West Africa's maritime industry.

Tanker market report - Aging fleet. *Gibson Shipbrokers*. 16 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.gibsons.co.uk/report/aging-fleet/> The last couple of years have seen few deliveries and little scrapping as a strong market and a growing dark fleet has kept many vessels from being beached.

Gender diversity moving backwards in the maritime sector. Nidaa Bakhsh. *ShippingWatch*.

16 May 2025. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article18191029.ece> Gender disparity in the maritime sector is growing, according to new data.

Wavelength podcast special: On women, and men. Craig Eason. *TradeWinds*. 16 May 2025.

Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/opinion/wavelength-podcast-special-on-women-and-men/2-1-1819979> 🎧 In this Wavelength special, Holly Birkett and Craig Eason invite representatives from two heavyweight shipowners into the virtual studio to coincide with the IMO Women in Maritime Day on Sunday.

International Day for Women in Maritime: A Malaysia's perspective. Izyan Munirah Mohd

Zaideen and Suzanna Razali Chan. *Maritime Fairtrade*. 16 May 2025. Available from: <https://maritimefairtrade.org/international-day-for-women-in-maritime-a-malysias-perspective/> As the world celebrates International Day for Women in Maritime on May 18, Malaysia stands proud in recognizing the invaluable contributions of women in the maritime sector.

Kartini's Spirit in Action: PIS Promotes Women's Representation in the National Maritime Industry. Yovanda Noni. *Jakarta Globe*. 16 May 2025. Available from:

<https://jakartaglobe.id/special-updates/kartinis-spirit-in-action-pis-promotes-womens-representation-in-the-national-maritime-industry> Kartini's legacy of expanding opportunities for women is being realized by PIS through the increasing proportion of women in managerial leadership roles, which reached 18.7 percent in 2024, surpassing the company's target of 17.4 percent.

Maritime sector conference draws over 190 stakeholders from across the globe.

Times of Malta. 16 May 2025. Available from: <https://timesofmalta.com/article/maritime-sector-conference-draws-190-researchers-across-global.1109774> More than 190 researchers and experts from 19 countries gathered in Malta last week to tackle some of the most urgent sustainability challenges facing the marine and maritime sectors, during a high-level international conference hosted by the University of Malta Maritime Platform.

Confronting gender imbalance in Maritime Security through European Union–Caribbean Cooperation.

Caribbean News Global (CNG). 17 May 2025. Available from: <https://caribbeannewsglobal.com/confronting-gender-imbalance-in-maritime-security-through-european-union-caribbean-cooperation/> As the world prepares to mark the International Day for Women in Maritime on 18 May, the European Union’s Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP) organised a high-level seminar in Bridgetown to focus attention on the lack of gender equality in the maritime sector—particularly in areas like security and law enforcement, where women remain significantly underrepresented.

Women in Maritime Today: Anemol Marine’s Clare Urmston is on a mission to clean up shipping.

John Snyder. *Riviera Maritime*. 17 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/women-in-maritime-today-anemol-marines-clare-urmston-is-on-a-mission-to-clean-up-shipping-84882> Anemol Marine Technologies’ chief executive believes in pushing the boundaries and wants to save 1,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions per day from shipping by installing 500 rotor sails by 2030.

International Women’s Day at Sea celebrated for the first time in Montenegro: “The sea knows no prejudice”.

Siniša Luković. *Vijesti (Montenegro)*. 18 May 2025. Available from: <https://en.vijesti.me/news-b/society/759074/International-Women-in-Maritime-Affairs-Day-celebrated-for-the-first-time-in-Montenegro---the-sea-knows-no-prejudices> The first celebration of International Women in Maritime Affairs Day, held in Montenegro, was attended by numerous representatives of the maritime industry, administration, maritime schools and faculties, as well as other companies and institutions that cooperate with the maritime industry and seafarers in general.

As shipping honours women, data shows women less inclined to work in maritime.

Jamey Bergman. *Riviera Maritime*. 18 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/as-shipping-honours-women-data-shows-women-less-inclined-to-work-in-maritime-84885> A survey of the shipping sector, timed to coincide with a day that aims to showcase the maritime trades as an attractive employment sector for women, has revealed that the proportion of women in maritime-related roles has fallen in recent years.

From deck to desk: Women and the future of shipping.

Monica Kohli. *Gard*. 18 May 2025. Available from: <https://gard.no/insights/from-deck-to-desk-women-and-the-future-of-shipping/> As the maritime world faces rapid change and critical talent shortages, it is time to confront enduring stereotypes.

Women in maritime: Jeanne Grasso’s ‘serendipitous’ journey to maritime attorney.

John Snyder. *Riviera Maritime*. 18 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/news-content-hub/women-in-maritime-jeanne-grassos-serendipitous-journey-to-maritime-attorney-84863> Driven by a passion for the ocean, Ms Grasso has forged a 30-plus year career in maritime law, keeping maritime companies in compliance and out of trouble.

Women in maritime still face rough seas despite louder voices. Souzana Psara. *Cyprus Mail*. 19 May 2025. Available from: <https://cyprus-mail.com/2025/05/19/women-in-maritime-still-face-rough-seas-despite-louder-voices> Each year, the International Day for Women in Maritime Affairs promises celebration, but behind the speeches and social media tributes, the sector's gender gap remains deeply entrenched.

Inclusive workforce will be 'a matter of sustainability'. Gary Howard. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 19 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/crewing/inclusive-workforce-will-be-a-matter-of-sustainability-> Women accounted for just under 19% of the 945,161 employees in the maritime workforce identified by the Women in Maritime Survey 2024, produced by the IMO and WISTA International.

Shipping's critical juncture. *Lloyd's List*. 19 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1153507/Shipping%E2%80%99s-critical-juncture> In 2021, the IMO, together with the Women's International Shipping & Trading Association, launched a survey to collect some hard data on female representation in the global maritime industry.

WIMAC President Celebrates Women Creating Waves in Maritime Sector. *Antigua News Room*. 19 May 2025. Available from: <https://antiguanewsroom.com/wimac-president-celebrates-women-creating-waves-in-maritime-sector/> International Day for Women in Maritime is celebrated annually on the 18th May.

23rd Caribbean Shipping Executives' Conference opens in Fort Lauderdale. *The Gleaner (Jamaica)*. 20 May 2025. Available from: <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/shipping/20250520/23rd-caribbean-shipping-executives-conference-opens-fort-lauderdale> The Caribbean Shipping Association (CSA) officially opened the 23rd Caribbean Shipping Executives' Conference (CSEC) today at the Hilton Fort Lauderdale Marina, bringing together maritime leaders and stakeholders from across the region for two days of high-level engagement and strategic discussion.

Kenya Starts Green Shipping Transition. Victoria Tuva and Michelle Wanga. *The Coast (Kenya)*. 20 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.thecoast.co.ke/2025/05/20/kenya-starts-green-shipping-transition/01/31/business-news/thecoast/9141/16/> Kenya Maritime Authority, the IMO GreenVoyage2050 Project, the International PtX Hub, and the Global Maritime Forum held a national workshop on accelerating the green shipping transition on May 13, 2025 in Nairobi.

Somalia celebrates the International Day for Women in Maritime. *Africanews*. 20 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.africanews.com/2025/05/20/somalia-celebrates-the-international-day-for-women-in-maritime/> Somali officials announced the launch of a new initiative to empower women through education and job creation.

Increased diversity can help solve many of shipping's challenges, Kenya's Nancy Karigithu says. Gary Dixon. *TradeWinds*. 21 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/people/increased-diversity-can-help-solve-many-of-shipping-s-challenges-kenya-s-nancy-karigithu-says/2-1-1820130> Maritime administrator Nancy Karigithu is urging shipping to tackle its looming challenges through the prism of diversity and inclusion.

MOL Hosts 1st Online Event for Women Seafarers to Mark IMO International Day for Women in Maritime. *Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd.* 21 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.mol.co.jp/en/info/article/2025/0521b.html> It aimed at deepening understanding of the environment and issues surrounding women seafarers and creating a workplace environment where they can work with peace of mind, through talk sessions with MOL Group in-house ship management companies, manning companies, and the newly established Welfare Officers this year.

Removal of gender barriers in maritime industry pushed. Ma. Teresa Montemayor. *Philippine News Agency (PNA)*. 21 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1250562> The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) said Wednesday there is an urgent need to dismantle gender barriers across all aspects of the maritime industry.

Addressing the gender problem in shipping. Samantha Andrews. *Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST)*. 21 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.imarest.org/resource/mp-addressing-the-gender-problem-in-shipping.html> According to the 2021 BIMCO/ICS Seafarer Workforce Report, women comprised just 1.2% of the global seafaring workforce, and the concerns of many over safety are unfortunately all too real.

Investigation Into Flags of Convenience and Unfavourable Conditions Created by Certain Flagging Practices. *US Federal Register*. 22 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/22/2025-09236/investigation-into-flags-of-convenience-and-unfavorable-conditions-created-by-certain-flagging> The Federal Maritime Commission is initiating a nonadjudicatory investigation into whether the vessel flagging laws, regulations, or practices of foreign countries, including so-called flags of convenience, or competitive methods employed by the owners, operators, agents, or masters of foreign-flagged vessels, are creating unfavourable shipping conditions in the foreign trade of the United States.

FMC Investigating Flagging Practices. *US Federal Maritime Commission (FMC)*. 21 May 2025.

Available from: <https://www.fmc.gov/articles/fmc-investigating-flagging-practices/> The Federal Maritime Commission is conducting a nonadjudicatory investigation to examine whether the vessel flagging laws, regulations, or practices of certain foreign governments create unfavourable shipping conditions in the foreign trade of the United States.

IMO's net-zero plan poised to pressure ageing fleet with rising costs. Georgios Georgiou.

Riviera Maritime. 22 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/imos-net-zero-plan-poised-to-pressure-ageing-fleet-with-rising-costs-84902> In its latest weekly report, Hartland Shipping Services noted if the proposed measures come into force in 2028, they would effectively introduce direct charges on vessels burning conventional fuel oil.

A flagless fleet is threatening the seas. Michelle Wiese Bockmann. *Financial Times*.

22 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.ft.com/content/7a89f7ae-cf3b-4e53-88bb-b87916f3eeef> Western governments must tackle the maritime lawlessness their sanctions helped create.

Maritime Cook Islands Seeks Clarification for Removal from RISC Information Sharing

Platform. *Maritime Cook Islands (MCI)*. 22 May 2025. Available from:

<https://maritimecookislands.com/maritime-cook-islands-seeks-clarification-for-removal-from-risc-information-sharing-platform/> Maritime Cook Islands (MCI), the Cook Islands Ship Registry, is seeking clarification regarding its abrupt removal from the Registry Information Sharing Compact (RISC) database.

Cook Islands registry removed from flag states' information-sharing compact.

Tomer Raanan. *Lloyd's List*. 20 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1153506/Cook-Islands-registry-removed-from-flag-states%E2%80%99-information-sharing-compact> The Cook Islands flag registry has been removed from the Registry Information Sharing Compact, an agreement signed by leading registries to help curb sanctions-busting ploys such as 'flag hopping'.

Tense shipping situation in the Baltic as Russia hits out at neighbours.

Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*. 22 May 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/tense-shipping-situation-in-the-baltic-as-russia-hits-out-at-neighbours/> The shipping situation in the Baltic is tense with Russia trading barbs with its neighbours and militaries getting involved.

Pressure builds in Baltic Sea as EU targets Russia's 'shadow fleet' of oil tankers.

Cain Burdeau. *Courthouse News Service*. 22 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.courthousenews.com/pressure-builds-in-baltic-sea-as-eu-targets-russias-shadow-fleet-of-oil-tankers/> With tensions rising in the Baltic Sea, the European Union is seeking to tighten the screws on Moscow with a move to block the passage of oil tankers deemed to be part of Russia's sanctions-evading "shadow fleet."

Panama Registry Cracks Down on STS Actions to Stop Shadow Fleet.

Maritime Executive. 23 May 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/panama-registry-cracks-down-on-sts-actions-to-stop-shadow-fleet> The Panama Maritime Authority (PMA) is taking further actions to crack down on suspicious tankers by establishing new rules for ship-to-ship oil transfers for vessels in its registry.

Europe's long, arduous battle against Russia's 'shadow fleet' is far from over.

Jorge Liboreiro. *Euronews*. 24 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2025/05/24/europes-long-arduous-battle-against-russias-shadow-fleet-is-far-from-over> "The longer Russia wages war, the tougher our response," High Representative Kaja Kallas declared this week after foreign ministers of the European Union formally adopted a new round of sanctions against Russia for its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Women in Maritime Today: ZEMBA CEO Ingrid Irigoyen offers a 'bold new approach'.

Rebecca Moore. *Riviera Maritime*. 26 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/international-woman-in-maritime-zemba-ceo-ingrid-irigoyen-offers-a-bold-new-approach-84901> My initial interest in oceans and sustainability began when I was a teenager living on the eastern coast of Florida.

Pertamina International Shipping Presents Its Innovations at 2025 IMW.

Jakarta Globe. 27 May 2025. Available from: <https://jakartaglobe.id/special-updates/pertamina-international-shipping-presents-its-innovations-at-2025-imw> Pertamina International Shipping (PIS), the marine subholding of the state-run oil company, is taking part at the 2025 Indonesia Maritime Week (IMW) in Jakarta.

Shipping takes centre stage in Cyprus' EU presidency. Souzana Psara. *Cyprus Mail*.

28 May 2025. Available from: <https://cyprus-mail.com/2025/05/28/shipping-takes-centre-stage-in-cyprus-eu-presidency> Cyprus is stepping up efforts to bolster its maritime sector, with President Nikos Christodoulides reaffirming that shipping will be among the key priorities during the country's upcoming EU Council Presidency in 2026.

Black carbon emissions from EU shipping in the Arctic likely higher than assumed, ICCT study reveals. Liudmila Osipova and Ketan Gore. *International Council on Clean*

Transportation (ICCT). 28 May 2025. Available from: <https://theicct.org/pr-black-carbon-emissions-from-eu-shipping-in-the-arctic-might-be-higher-than-previously-assumed-icct-study-reveals/>

Previous assessments may have significantly underestimated the climate impact of EU shipping in the Arctic by focusing only on vessels flying EU flags, a new report from the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) finds. [Report](#) 

[Black carbon and CO2 emissions from EU-regulated shipping in the Arctic](#)

The floating dead: oversight lags behind the rise of zombie vessels. Sam Chambers.

Splash 247.com. 28 May 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/the-floating-dead-oversight-lags-behind-the-rise-of-zombie-vessels/> Maritime identity laundering and the rise of so-called zombie vessels have evolved from a niche tactic into a “systemic enabler of large-scale sanctions evasion” with global authorities unable to keep up, according to a new report from Kpler, a maritime analytics platform.

The FMC Announces Investigation into Flags of Convenience and Unfavourable Conditions Created by Flagging Practices. Matthew J. Thomas, Jeanne M. Grasso, Kierstan L. Carlson and

Natalie M. Radabaugh. *National Law Review*. 28 May 2025. Available from:

<https://natlawreview.com/article/fmc-announces-investigation-flags-convenience-and-unfavorable-conditions-created>

The U.S. Federal Maritime Commission (“FMC”) announced on May 21, 2025 that it is initiating a non-adjudicatory investigation into whether the: 1) vessel flagging laws, regulations, and/or practices of certain foreign governments, including the so-called flags of convenience (“FOC” or “open registries”), or 2) competitive methods employed by owners, operators, agents, or masters of foreign-flag vessels, are creating unfavourable shipping conditions in the foreign trade of the United States (the “Notice”).

A cheap and easy potential solution for lowering carbon emissions in maritime shipping.

Sonia Fernandez. *University of California, Santa Barbara*. 29 May 2025. Available from:

<https://news.ucsb.edu/2025/021895/cheap-and-easy-potential-solution-lowering-carbon-emissions-maritime-shipping>

Adopting new digital systems to help oceangoing container ships get in line to offload their cargo at busy ports appears to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 16-24%, according to researchers at UC Santa Barbara.

RESEARCH

Pazaver A and Kitada M. **Integrating twenty-first century skills into STCW competences: implications for maritime education and training.** *WMU Journal of Maritime Affairs*. 29 April 2025. Available from: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13437-025-00368-7> Twenty-first century and interpersonal skills have been identified as one of the initial 22 key areas for consideration in the ongoing comprehensive review of the International Convention for Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW).

Choi J and Lim S. **Re-evaluating particularly sensitive sea areas as an area-based management tool: advancing the implementation of the BBNJ agreement.** *Frontiers in Marine Science*. 1 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/marine-science/articles/10.3389/fmars.2025.1556856/full> Covering 64% of the ocean's surface and 43% of the Earth's surface, the high seas—areas beyond national jurisdiction—are essential for sustaining marine biodiversity.

Bell KLC, Johannes KN, et al. **How little we've seen: A visual coverage estimate of the deep seafloor.** *Science Advances*. 7 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adp8602> The deep ocean (200 m or deeper) covers 66% of Earth, encompasses the largest ecosystem on our planet, provides critical services and resources to humankind, and is the least explored and understood biome on Earth.

Lin Y, Li X, et al. **Machine learning applications for risk assessment in maritime transport: Current status and future directions.** *Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence*. 8 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0952197625009595> As the maritime transportation system is inherently complex and vulnerable to potential hazards, it is critical to conduct risk assessments via applicable methodologies.

Alger J, Green JF, et al. **The false promise of deep-sea mining.** *npj Ocean Sustainability*. 10 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s44183-025-00127-4> Deep-sea mining of the international seabed could begin soon, despite concerns about its ecological consequences.

Rhodes R, Leiphardt C, et al. **Investigation of a port queuing system on CO2 emissions from container shipping.** *Marine Pollution Bulletin*. 19 May 2025. Available from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0025326X25006265> The maritime shipping industry is pursuing a diversity of strategies to meet its decarbonization goals, yet inefficiencies like traditional “first-come, first-served” port arrival systems, which encourages vessels to race to port to wait offshore, remain largely unaddressed despite their significant emissions impact.

Sun Y, Deng J, et al. **Global distribution and warming effect of brown carbon from shipping emissions.** *Carbon Research*. 21 May 2025. Available from: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s44246-025-00212-w> Emissions of shipping have great influences on atmospheric environment and global climate with the growth of maritime trade.

Miao H, Feng X, et al. **Economic viability of arctic shipping under IMO environmental regulations: a well-to-wake assessment of different carbon tax scenarios.**

Frontiers in Marine Science. 23 May 2025. Available from:

<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/marine-science/articles/10.3389/fmars.2025.1575551/full>

The accelerated melting of Arctic sea ice has established the Northern Sea Route (NSR) as an emerging alternative for international shipping.

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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.