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.

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IMO NEWS & EVENTS

WHAT’S NEW

A humanitarian crisis at sea: all United Nations Member States must resolve the crew change crisis

UN agencies and programmes involved in the maritime sector, human rights, trade, travel and transportation have called on all UN Member States, through a joint statement, to take urgent action to resolve the humanitarian crew change crisis faced by the world’s seafarers.

Trapped on their ships due to travel restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 300,000 seafarers cannot be repatriated, and an equal number of unemployed seafarers ashore cannot work, because they are unable to board ships. More...

Allow crew changes to resolve humanitarian crisis, insists IMO Secretary-General

A humanitarian crisis is taking place at sea and urgent action is needed to protect seafarers’ health and ensure the safety of shipping, the IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim has warned. In a strong statement issued ahead of the General Assembly of the United Nations, he called on governments to take swift action to resolve the crew change crisis.

It is estimated that more than 300,000 seafarers and marine personnel are currently stranded at sea and unable to be repatriated despite the expiry of their contracts. A similar number of seafarers have been unable to join ships and relieve them. This is due to restrictions imposed by several governments in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, including restrictions on travel, embarkation and disembarkation in ports, quarantine measures, reductions in available flights and limits on the issuing of visas and passports. More...
The (Revised) Programme of Meetings for 2020 can be downloaded here

Previous Meeting (REMOTE)

Extraordinary Session of the Committees (ALCOM/ES) - 16-21 September.

Current Meetings (REMOTE)

Facilitation Committee (FAL 44) - 28 September - 2 October.

Forthcoming Meetings (REMOTE)

Council (C 124) - 12-14 October.

ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group on Search and Rescue - 12-16 October.

7th meeting of the Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships - 19-23 October.

Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 102) - 4-11 November.

LATEST PRESS BRIEFINGS

400,000 seafarers stuck at sea as crew change crisis deepens
Briefing: 32, September 25, 2020

World Maritime Day 2020 – sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet
Briefing: 31, September 24, 2020

Facilitate crew changes to resolve crisis - IMO resolution calls for Government action
Briefing: 29, September 22, 2020

2021 World Maritime theme – "Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future"
Briefing: 25, August 21, 2020

IMO helping to mitigate the impacts of MV Wakashio oil spill in Mauritius
Briefing: 24, August 17, 2020

RECENT SPEECHES BY IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL KITACK LIM

IMO NEWS MAGAZINE  (Spring/Summer 2020)

IMO PUBLISHING  Just Published 2020  September 2020 Newsletter
UNITED NATIONS

No end in sight to COVID crisis, and its impact will last for ‘decades to come’. *UN News.*
1 August 2020. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/08/1069392](https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/08/1069392) Expressing “appreciation for WHO and partners’ COVID-19 pandemic response efforts”, the emergency committee convened by the UN health agency’s chief, made it clear that there is not yet an end in sight to the public health crisis that has so far infected more than 17 million and killed over 650,000 people.

‘You are not alone, we are in this together’, declare UN staffers in Lebanon. *UN News.*
10 August 2020. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/08/1069932](https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/08/1069932) Last Saturday was another scorching August day in Lebanon’s shattered capital of Beirut, but UN staff members who had gathered outside UN House – itself damaged during the deadly port explosion - were determined to get straight to work, and stand in solidarity with the country they call home.

Use COVID lessons to ‘do things right’ for the future, urges UN chief. *UN News.*
CASUALTIES


The salvage team and the first tug, PSV Stanford Hawk, are currently in Mauritius since July 30 for the salvage exercise of the Wakashio Ship of the Okiyo Maritime Corporation / Nagashiki Shipping Co. Ltd, that has been grounded on 25 July 2020 at Pointe d’Esny after having left China for Brazil with the last port of stop at Singapore.


The early morning hours of 23 March, the laden bulk carrier, KAAMI grounded in bad weather in the Little Minch channel between the islands of Skye and Lewis off Scotland.


The Indian Ocean island nation of Mauritius is suddenly facing an environmental disaster after the grounded Wakashio began leaking bunker fuel.

Oil leaked from Japanese bulk carrier grounded on reef off Mauritius. The Mainichi (Japan). 7 August 2020. Available from: https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20200807/p2g/00m/0in/115000c

A Japanese-owned bulk carrier stranded on a reef off the coast of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean since last month has started leaking oil, the cargo vessel’s owner said Friday.


Government is taking all necessary actions so as to contain the oil spill from the MV Wakashio and some 400 sea booms have been deployed to secure the sensitive areas, said the Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, Mr Kavydass Ramano.


A new paper exploring maritime accidents and how they can be prevented if regulations are followed has been entered into the Congressional Record.


Details have emerged of at least six vessels which were in the Port of Beirut at the time of the explosion and which have all sustained damage.


France on Saturday dispatched aircraft and technical advisers from Reunion to Mauritius after the prime minister appealed for urgent assistance to contain a worsening oil spill polluting the island nation’s famed reefs, lagoons and oceans.
Oil spill threatens ecological disaster as Mauritius declares emergency. Omar Mohammed, Richard Lough and Tim Kelly. Reuters. 8 August 2020. Available from: https://reut.rs/2FXaPSF Fuel spilling from a Japanese bulk carrier that ran aground on a reef in Mauritius two weeks ago is creating an ecological disaster, endangering corals, fish and other marine life around the Indian Ocean island, officials and environmentalists say.


Scale of Mauritius oil spill visible from above. Sky News. 9 August 2020. Available from: https://news.sky.com/video/16-9-video-mauritius-oil-001-mp4-12045625 🇲🇳. Drone footage shows the extent of the spillage, which has been declared "an environmental disaster".


**MV Wakashio**: Site visit effected by President Roopun at the Blue Bay Marine Park. Government of Mauritius. 11 August 2020. Available from: http://www.govmu.org/English/News/Pages/MV-Wakashio-Site-visit-effected-by-President-Roopun-at-the-Blue-Bay-Marine-Park.aspx A site visit was effected, yesterday, by the President of the Republic, Mr Prithviraj Roopun, and the Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, Mr Kavydass Ramano, at the Blue Bay Marine Park and at Rivière des Créoles, following the shipwreck of the Japanese bulk carrier MV Wakashio at Pointe-d’Esny.

Sea life around Mauritius dying as Japanese ship oil spill spreads. Duncan Miriri, Kiyoshi Takenaka and Kaori Kaneko. Reuters. 11 August 2020. Available from: https://reut.rs/2S5Ofto Mauritain volunteers fished dead eels from oily waters on Tuesday as they tried to clean up damage to the Indian Ocean island’s most pristine beaches after a Japanese bulk carrier leaked an estimated 1,000 tonnes of oil.

New Satellite Analysis Shows Mauritius Oil Slick Growing Ten Times In Size Over Past Five Days. Nishan Degnarain. Forbes. 11 August 2020. Available from: https://www.forbes.com/sites/nishandegnarain/2020/08/11/new-satellite-analysis-shows-mauritius-oil-slick-growing-ten-times-in-size-over-past-five-days/ The latest satellite data and analysis of the oil spill caused by the stricken Japanese bulk carrier, MV Wakashio off the coast of Mauritius, taken on Tuesday 11 August at 3.12 pm Mauritain time, shows that the area directly impacted by the oil slick has expanded to almost ten times its original size since the vessel first started leaking heavy oil into the coastal waters five days ago.


Stricken bulk carrier off Mauritius tipped to break up in the coming hours. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 12 August 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/stricken-bulk-carrier-off-mauritius-tipped-to-break-up-in-the-coming-hours/ With the cracks widening along the buckled hull of the giant Wakashio bulk carrier, locals are bracing for the 203,000 dwt to break up as early as today.

Mauritius oil spill: Almost all fuel oil pumped out of MV Wakashio. BBC News. 12 August 2020. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-53750151 Almost all the fuel oil from the Japanese-owned ship that has caused a huge oil spill off the coast of Mauritius has been pumped out, Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth has said.


Mauritius says almost all oil removed from damaged Japanese ship. Omar Mohammed. Reuters. 12 August 2020. Available from: [https://reut.rs/3cFb4NP](https://reut.rs/3cFb4NP)  Mauritius’ Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth said on Wednesday nearly all remaining oil had been removed from a damaged Japanese ship, which leaked about 1,000 tonnes in a threat to tourism already hurt by the coronavirus pandemic.


MV Wakashio: Only 166 tonnes of fuel oil left to be pumped out, says PM. Government of Mauritius. 13 August 2020. Available from: [http://www.govmu.org/English/News/Pages/MV-Wakashio-Only-166-tonnes-of-fuel-oil-left-to-be-pumped-out,-says-PM.aspx](http://www.govmu.org/English/News/Pages/MV-Wakashio-Only-166-tonnes-of-fuel-oil-left-to-be-pumped-out,-says-PM.aspx)  Government is taking all necessary measures so as to prevent any additional oil spill from the Japanese bulk carrier MV Wakashio and, only 166 tonnes of fuel oil remains to be pumped out, said the Prime Minister, Mr Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, yesterday, during a Press Conference, held at the Blue Bay Marine Park.


Birthday party and quest for wifi revealed in lead up to Wakashio grounding off Mauritius. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 14 August 2020. Available from: [https://splash247.com/birthday-party-and-quest-for-wifi-revealed-in-lead-up-to-wakashio-grounding-off-mauritius/](https://splash247.com/birthday-party-and-quest-for-wifi-revealed-in-lead-up-to-wakashio-grounding-off-mauritius/)  The 56-year-old captain of the ill-fated newcastlemax Wakashio could face negligence charges after it emerged the crew were celebrating a crewmember’s birthday and had headed nearer towards the Mauritius coastline to get a wifi signal just prior to the bulk carrier’s grounding on a reef off the island’s south coast.


The Panama Ship Registry And Japanese Experts Cooperate With Mauritius Island Authorities In The Case Of The Wakashio Ship. Panama Maritime Authority. Hellenic Shipping News. 17 August 2020. Available from: [https://bit.ly/3i7if6N](https://bit.ly/3i7if6N) The Minister of Maritime Affairs, Naval Architect Noriel Araúz, accompanied by the General Director of Merchant Marine of the Panama Maritime Authority, Engineer Rafael Cigarruista, lead the Panamanian delegation that will travel to Mauritius in the next few days to strengthen collaboration with the authorities of that insular country affected by an oil spill from the Wakashio ship, registered in Panama by a Japanese company.


Mauritius to scuttle oil-spill tanker, Japanese owner apologises. George Obulutsa. Reuters. 19 August 2020. Available from: [https://reut.rs/3ic9K6p](https://reut.rs/3ic9K6p) Mauritius said on Wednesday it planned to scuttle the Japanese-owned bulk carrier that ran aground off its shores and spilled oil over pristine waters and fragile coral reefs.


Four Missing, Six Injured After Dredge Strikes a Pipeline in Corpus Christi. Eric Haun. MarineLink. 21 August 2020. Available from: https://www.marinelink.com/news/four-missing-six-injured-dredge-strikes-a-481140 Four people are missing and six have been hospitalized for injuries caused by a pipeline explosion in the Corpus Christi Ship Channel on Friday, officials said.


Two Dead, Two Missing in Corpus Christi Dredge Fire. MarineLink. 23 August 2020. Available from: https://www.marinelink.com/news/two-dead-two-missing-corpus-christi-481146 The bodies of two of four workers missing after a dredging vessel caught fire and sank in Corpus Christi, Texas, were recovered on Saturday, the U.S. Coast Guard said.


Mauritius: Anger and questions as 17 dead dolphins wash ashore. Yasine Mohabuth. *BBC News*. 26 August 2020. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/africa-53917793. At least 17 dead dolphins have been found on the coast of Mauritius, prompting debates about whether a recent oil spill was to blame.


**ENVIRONMENT**


15 Rare Species In Danger From The *Wakashio* Vessel Oil Disaster In Mauritius. Nishan Degnarain. *Forbes*. 12 August 2020. Available from: https://www.forbes.com/sites/nishandegnarain/2020/08/12/15-rare-species-in-danger-from-the-wakashio-oil-disaster-in-mauritius/. The country was plunged into a major environmental crisis when Panama-flagged, Japanese bulk carrier, the *Wakashio* ploughed straight into one of Mauritius’ pristine barrier reefs in the South East of the country on 25 July 2020, and started leaking heavy fuel oil last Thursday 6 August.

Why the Mauritius oil spill is so serious. Navin Singh Khadka. *BBC News*. 13 August 2020. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/africa-53754751. The amount of oil spilled from the Japanese-owned ship nearby the lagoons and coastal areas of south-east Mauritius is relatively low compared to the big oil spills the world has seen in the past, but the damage it will do is going to be huge and long-lasting, experts say.

Turkey finds 320 bcm of natural gas in Black Sea, Erdoğan announces. Daily Sabah (Turkey). 21 August 2020. Available from: https://www.dailysabah.com/business/energy/turkey-finds-320-bcm-of-natural-gas-in-black-sea-erdogan-announces In a historic announcement closely watched by millions in Turkey and followed from many capitals worldwide, Erdoğan said some 320 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas was discovered in the Black Sea’s Tuna-1 zone where Turkey has been carrying out exploration activities, noting “the newly discovered reserves are only a piece of a larger resource,” and the country “will continue to discover more in the near future.”

The Hunt for the Modern-Day Pirates Who Steal Millions of Tons of Fish From the Seas. Tristram Korten. Smithsonian Magazine. August 2020. Available from: https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/modern-day-pirates-steal-millions-tons-fish-seas-180975496/ The seas were calm and the winds were light when the Andrey Dolgov, a cargo ship flying the Cambodian flag, motored in from the South Atlantic Ocean toward Walvis Bay, Namibia, one March day in 2016.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Oil slick washes up on western Venezuelan coast -lawmakers. Tibisay Romero and Luc Cohen. Reuters. 3 August 2020. Available from: https://uk.reuters.com/article/venezuela-oil-environment/oil-slick-washes-up-on-western-venezuelan-coast-lawmakers-idUKL1N2F51JL An oil slick washed up over the weekend on the coastline of Venezuela’s western Falcon state, known for pristine beaches and nature preserves, two opposition lawmakers said on Monday, though there was no official comment on the spill’s provenance.

Abandoned fibreglass boats are releasing toxins and microplastics across the world. Corina Ciocan. The Conversation. 4 August 2020. Available from: https://theconversation.com/abandoned-fibreglass-boats-are-releasing-toxins-and-microplastics-across-the-world-143857 Where do old boats go to die—the cynical answer is they are put on eBay for a few pennies in the hope they become some other ignorant dreamer’s problem.


'Massive poisonous shock': Scientists fear lasting impact from Mauritius oil spill.
Duncan Miriri, Omar Mohammed and Matthew Green. Reuters. 13 August 2020. Available from: https://reut.rs/3mXkGZ3 Satellite images also show the 1,000 tonnes of spilled oil spreading northward along the coastline from the spill site in the turquoise waters of Blue Bay Marine Park.


Mauritius oil clean-up team turns focus from sea to mangroves. Yuka Obayashib. Reuters. 18 August 2020. Available from: https://reut.rs/346ISzO A Japanese disaster relief team helping to clean up a devastating oil spill off the Indian Ocean island nation of Mauritius is focusing on mangroves, beaches and wetlands after most of the oil at sea had been collected, it said on Tuesday.


Mauritius reels from ecological damage caused by the MV Wakashio bunker oil spill. John Stevenson. City University of London. 19 August 2020. Available from: https://www.city.ac.uk/news/2020/august mauritius-reels-from-ecological-damage-caused-by-the-mv-wakashio-bunker-oil-spill Thousands of local volunteers are making frantic efforts to protect Mauritius’s beaches and marine life, after 1000 tonnes of bunker fuel from the MV Wakashio spilled into the sea when the vessel ran aground on a reef off the island’s coastline.


HEALTH & SAFETY


Norway suspends cruise ship arrivals with 100+ people on board after virus outbreak. Terje Solsvik and Nora Buli. *Reuters.* 3 August 2020. Available from: https://reut.rs/3io3LM4 Norway stopped all cruise ships with more than 100 people on board from disembarking at its ports from Monday, after an outbreak of COVID-19 was reported late last week on a ship that had already disembarked at the port of Tromsoe.


Crew Tested Positive for COVID-19 in Singapore. *Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA).* 15 August 2020. Available from: https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/mediacentre/news-releases/detail/818cfbc5-4bf5-45b3-a6b8-697b93514d76 14 other crew members on board the same ship were later confirmed to have COVID-19. All 15 are Filipinos.


5 new cases of COVID-19 found among Spanish seafarers in Seychelles. Betymie Bonnelame. Seychelles News Agency. 18 August 2020. Available from: http://www.seychellesnewsgency.com/articles/13402 Five Spanish seafarers on the fishing fleet operating in the Seychelles’ waters who were already at sea have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the total to six active cases in the island nation, a top health official said on Tuesday.


Four cargo ships off Queensland may have COVID-19 onboard, but what of the thousands of others? Owen Jacques. ABC (Australia). 22 August 2020. Available from: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-22/four-cargo-ships-being-monitored-for-covid/12582802 Along Queensland's 7,000 km coastline, four cargo ships have confirmed five COVID-19 cases among them, with each crew being tested and re-tested by authorities before being allowed to sail on.


New protocols offer effective tools to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 onboard ships. *International Chamber of Shipping (ICS).* 26 August 2020. Available from: [https://bit.ly/36fbxrp](https://bit.ly/36fbxrp) Today, the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), along with the International Maritime Health Association (IMHA) and the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO), have issued new protocols to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 cases on board. *Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Protocols to Mitigate the Risks of Cases On Board Ships* ©


Italian Telemedicine Service doubles support to seafarers during pandemic. *Seafarers’ Trust.* August 2020. Available from: [https://seafarerstrust.org/italian-telemedicine-service-doubles-support-to-seafarers-during-pandemic/](https://seafarerstrust.org/italian-telemedicine-service-doubles-support-to-seafarers-during-pandemic/) Double the number of seafarers have access to vital medical assistance from the Centro Internazionale Radio Medico (C.I.R.M.) the Italian maritime telemedicine service (TMAS) thanks to a grant from the ITF Seafarers’ Trust, which increases their capacity to provide medical advice to seafarers aboard ship anywhere in the world.

**IMO**

Co-author on much-awaited IMO report: This is extremely alarming. Katrine Grønvald Raun and Seren Pico. *ShippingWatch.* 4 August 2020. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12322733.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12322733.ece) It is extremely alarming that shipping’s carbon footprint has increased, researcher and co-author of the much-awaited IMO climate report Tristan Smith tells ShippingWatch.


National governments found to have a much greater responsibility for shipping emissions than previously thought. University Maritime Advisory Services (UMAS). 5 August 2020. Available from: [https://u-mas.co.uk/Latest/Post/427](https://u-mas.co.uk/Latest/Post/427) GHG emissions of global shipping are increasing, and expected to continue to increase, under current policy, according to the 4th IMO GHG Study.


Researcher describes the IMO’s climate target for 2030 as inadequate. Katrine Grønvald Raun. ShippingWatch. 6 August 2020. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12325604.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12325604.ece) IMO’s target for 2030 is inadequate if the shipping industry’s greenhouse gases are to be halted, says climate researcher Tristan Smith and NGO Transport & Environment.


Coalition behind CO2-free ships: Climate study is a landmark reminder. Katrine Grønvald Raun. ShippingWatch. 11 August 2020. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12332281.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12332281.ece) The Getting to Zero Coalition, which is working to develop CO2-free ships, describes the latest IMO climate study as alarming reading.


InterManager publishes open letter to IMO amid Singapore’s restrictions on crew changes. Georgia Seaward. InterManager. 19 August 2020. Available from: https://www.intermanager.org/2020/08/intermanager-publishes-open-letter-to-imo-amid-singapore-sts-on-crew-changes/ InterManager – the international trade association for ship and crew managers – has today published an open letter addressed to Mr Kitack Lim, the Secretary-General of the IMO on behalf of its members and associates.


IMO study shows action on greenhouse gases has gone into reverse gear. Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST). 19 August 2020. Available from: https://www.imarest.org/policy/news/technical-leadership/item/5761imo-study-shows-action-on-greenhouse-gases-has-gone-into-reverse-gear The IMarEST is alarmed to learn from IMO’s latest official study that greenhouse gas emissions from shipping have increased by almost 10% from 2012 levels - and are expected to rise further - at a time when action on climate change is needed more urgently than ever.


LAW & POLICY


To Protect Seabed, Countries Should Thoroughly Review Proposed Mining Projects. Andrew Friedman. Pew Charitable Trusts. 3 August 2020. Available from: https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2020/08/05/to-protect-seabed-countries-should-thoroughly-review-proposed-mining-projects As governments around the world begin to sketch out plans for mining the ocean floor, it’s vital that they thoroughly analyze and account for the environmental harm that mining could cause.


The Shipping Laws That Could Have Averted Two Catastrophes This Week. Nishan Degnarain. Forbes. 8 August 2020. Available from: https://www.forbes.com/sites/nishandegnarain/2020/08/08/the-shipping-laws-that-could-have-averted-two-catastrophes-this-week/ On Tuesday, Beirut was struck by the huge explosion of seized ammonium nitrate in the port, killing over 150 people, injuring 5000, with 300,000 made homeless, causing over $15 billion of damage including critical port infrastructure needed for food security.

Home Secretary appoints small boat commander. UK Government. 9 August 2020. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-appoints-small-boat-commander Dan O’Mahoney has been appointed to collaborate with the French to tackle Channel crossings.

Ecuador navy surveys huge Chinese fishing fleet near Galapagos. Santiago Arcos and Alexandra Valencia. *Reuters.* 10 August 2020. Available from: [https://reut.rs/2HL89rJ](https://reut.rs/2HL89rJ) Ecuador’s navy is conducting surveillance of a massive Chinese fishing fleet that is operating near the protected waters of the Galapagos Islands, amid concerns about the environmental impact of fishing in the area of the ecologically sensitive islands.


Don’t cry Unclos! South China Sea dispute legalese likely to focus at delayed Asean meeting. Bhavan Jaipragas. *South China Morning Post.* 14 August 2020. Available from: [https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/opinion/article/3097202/dont-cry-unclos-south-china-sea-dispute-legalese-likely-focus](https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/opinion/article/3097202/dont-cry-unclos-south-china-sea-dispute-legalese-likely-focus) The annual Asean Regional Forum, which convenes foreign ministers of the 10-nation bloc and key global partners, is considered so important that it is highly irregular for a major power’s top diplomat to skip the security meeting, no matter their domestic crises.

Mauritius oil spill: Was the government unprepared? Christian Bueger. SafeSeas. 14 August 2020. Available from: http://www.safeseas.net/mauritius-oil-spill-was-the-government-unprepared/ The devastating oil spill that wreaked havoc on Mauritius’ coastline raises the question of whether the response by the government was appropriate.


How China’s Expanding Fishing Fleet Is Depleting the World’s Oceans. Yale Environment 360. 17 August 2020. Available from: https://e360.yale.edu/features/how-chinas-expanding-fishing-fleet-is-depleting-worlds-oceans After exhausting areas close to home, China’s vast fishing fleet has moved into the waters of other nations, depleting fish stocks.


**Summary for Decision-Makers**


**Villanueva urges reopening of more airports and seaports for faster seafarers’ movement, avert a two-year deployment drought.** *Government of the Philippines.* 22 August 2020. Available from: [http://legacy.senate.gov.ph/press_release/2020/0822_villanueva1.asp](http://legacy.senate.gov.ph/press_release/2020/0822_villanueva1.asp) A two-year drought in deployment of Filipino seafarers looms large on the horizon unless the government makes drastic interventions such as the reopening of more airports and seaports to expedite the movement of Filipino seafarers while minimizing their risk of being infected of COVID-19, according to Senator Joel Villanueva.


**The nuclear option.** *Splash 247.com.* 25 August 2020. Available from: [https://splash247.com/the-nuclear-option/](https://splash247.com/the-nuclear-option/) Finding a ‘magic bullet’ that will provide shipping with dramatically reduced GHG and CO2 emissions, looks like a long and tortuous road, as pressure increases from governments and environmental groups.


U.S. targets Chinese individuals, companies amid South China Sea dispute. Susan Heavy, Daphne Psaledakis and David Brunnstrom. Reuters. 26 August 2020. Available from: [https://reut.rs/3jmF17S](https://reut.rs/3jmF17S) The United States on Wednesday blacklisted 24 Chinese companies and targeted individuals it said were part of construction and military actions in the South China Sea, its first such sanctions move against Beijing over the disputed strategic waterway.

**MV Wakashio:** Environmental, social and legal aspects discussed. Government of Mauritius. 27 August 2020. Available from: [http://www.govmu.org/English/News/Pages/MV-Wakashio-Environmental-social-and-legal-aspects-discussed.aspx](http://www.govmu.org/English/News/Pages/MV-Wakashio-Environmental-social-and-legal-aspects-discussed.aspx) An informative meeting about the evolution of the forthcoming phases englobing the environmental, social and legal aspects associated with the grounding of MV Wakashio and the subsequent oil spillage that occurred, was held, today, at Newton Tower, in Port Louis.


**MARINE TECHNOLOGY**


**Surface clean-up technology won’t solve ocean plastic problem.** University of Exeter (UK). 4 August 2020. Available from: [https://www.exeter.ac.uk/news/homepage/title_808374_en.html](https://www.exeter.ac.uk/news/homepage/title_808374_en.html) Researchers compared estimates of current and future plastic waste with the ability of floating clean-up devices to collect it – and found the impact of such devices was “very modest”.


Finland joins the international pioneering network of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) in ports. Government of Finland. 19 August 2020. Available from: https://bit.ly/2G5Oi66 Finland, Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Japan, China, Korea and Singapore have launched a cooperation network to develop the Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships in ports (MASSPorts).


Building an infrastructure for autonomous systems. Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA). September 2020. Available from: https://www.rina.org.uk/Building_an_infrastructure_for_autonomous_systems.html Long before the disruption of Covid-19, 2020 was intended to be the year in which IMO would complete its scoping exercise to determine how safe operation of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) could be regulated.

**MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING**


Marine Society launches new online English language course for seafarers. 

Bernard Schulte collaborates with RMU to create jobs. Morkporkpor Anku. *Ghana News Agency.* 16 August 2020. Available from: [https://www.gna.org.gh/1.18651999](https://www.gna.org.gh/1.18651999)  The Management of Bernhard Schulte (BS), a Maritime Solutions Provider is collaborating with the Regional Maritime University (RMU) to provide Shipboard Training and create jobs for graduates of the University.


**MARITIME SAFETY**


How did the ammonium nitrate make it to Beirut? Euronews. 5 August 2020. Available from: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=88&v=QLeJzK-9JRA&feature=emb_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=88&v=QLeJzK-9JRA&feature=emb_logo) The deadly explosion in Lebanon’s capital has been blamed on the 2750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate that was transported and kept in the port.

Beirut explosion: the disaster was exceptional but events leading up to it were not – researchers. Scott Edwards and Christian Bueger. *The Conversation*. 5 August 2020. Available from: [https://theconversation.com/beirut-explosion-the-disaster-was-exceptional-but-events-leading-up-to-it-were-not-researchers-144011](https://theconversation.com/beirut-explosion-the-disaster-was-exceptional-but-events-leading-up-to-it-were-not-researchers-144011) At the time of writing at least 100 people have lost their lives and a further 4,000 have been wounded following an explosion in the Port of Beirut.


Established safety methodologies key to implementing IMO cyber requirements onboard. Gabriella Twining. *Safety at Sea.* 12 August 2020. Available from: [https://safetyatsea.net/news/2020/established-safety-methodologies-key-to-implementing-imo-cyber-requirements-onboard/](https://safetyatsea.net/news/2020/established-safety-methodologies-key-to-implementing-imo-cyber-requirements-onboard/) Incorporating cyber security management into ship’s safety management systems (SMS) is not as complicated as the industry fears, using established safety methodologies are key to its implementation, discussed cyber security experts.


**MARITIME SECURITY**


How prepared is shipping for a cyber attack, really? Daniel Ng and Siraj Shaikh. *Splash 247.com.* 11 August 2020. Available from: [https://splash247.com/how-prepared-is-shipping-for-a-cyber-attack-really/](https://splash247.com/how-prepared-is-shipping-for-a-cyber-attack-really/) Daniel Ng and Professor Siraj Shaikh from CyberOwl question whether shipping executives really know if they are prepared to handle a cyber attack and suggest a cyber drill to find out.


MIGRANTS

71 migrants rescued by Maltese armed forces. Jessica Arena. Times of Malta. 2 August 2020. Available from: https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/migrants-at-sea-lose-contact-with-ngo-prompting-fears-of-a-lybia.809142 A group of 71 migrants that had been drifting in the Maltese search and rescue zone were picked up by the Armed Forces of Malta on Sunday afternoon.


MPs launch inquiry into increase in Channel migrant crossings. BBC News. 7 August 2020. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-53685918 MPs have launched an inquiry into the rising number of people trying to enter the UK using small cross-Channel boats.

More than 4,000 have crossed Channel to UK in small boats this year. Jamie Grierson and Kim Willsher. The Guardian. 9 August 2020. Available from: https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/09/number-migrants-crossing-channel-uk-passes-4000-this-year Tensions are mounting between the UK and France over migrant crossings in the Channel after the number of people who have reached UK shores in small boats this year surpassed 4,000.

Why are more small boats crossing the English Channel – and why are border forces struggling to stop them? Scott Edwards and Timothy Edmunds. The Conversation 14 August 2020. Available from: https://theconversation.com/why-are-more-small-boats-crossing-the-english-channel-and-why-are-border-forces-struggling-to-stop-them-144466 The number of migrants crossing the English Channel in small boats has increased significantly – up to 4,343 this year compared with 857 in the same period last year.

Interception no solution to address migrants crossing English Channel. UN News. 14 August 2020. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/08/1070202 Intercepting boats full of migrants attempting to cross the English Channel, is not the solution to deter them from attempting to reach the United Kingdom, UN agencies have stressed, warning that deployment of large naval vessels to block small, flimsy dinghies could lead to fatal incidents.


NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS


Voluntary ship slowdown through Swiftsure Bank begins August 1. Port of Vancouver. 4 August 2020. Available from: https://www.portvancouver.com/news-and-media/news/voluntary-ship-slowdown-through-swiftsure-bank-begins-august-1/ Beginning August 1, the commercial shipping industry is encouraged to participate in a new voluntary ship slowdown trial through Swiftsure Bank as part of transboundary efforts to reduce underwater noise and support the recovery of southern resident killer whales.

Intentional or unintentional? US reliance on AIS creates pitfalls for shipping. Matt Coyne. TradeWinds. 6 August 2020. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/intentional-or-unintentional-us-reliance-on-ais-creates-pitfalls-for-shipping/2-1-851817 If there is one thing US authorities have been absolutely clear on their communications with shipping, it is their desire for vessels to have their AIS turned on just about all the time.

Navigating safer means working smarter. Martyn Wingrove. Maritime Optimisation & Communications. 6 August 2020. Available from: https://www.rivieramm.com/opinion/being-smarter-means-navigating-safer-60465 Although the maritime world is becoming safer, there are still multiple ship groundings and collisions every month, many due to poor navigation and communications.


Here’s Why So Much World Trade Passes Mauritius. Julian Lee and Adeola Eribake. gCaptain. 11 August 2020. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/heres-why-so-much-world-trade-passes-mauritius/ The bulk carrier Wakashio was 11 days into a month-long voyage to Brazil when it hit a reef off Mauritius causing it to spill fuel into the island’s crystal clear waters, endangering baby turtles and unique plants in a nearby nature reserve.

Marine Pilots: Unsung Heroes Of The Shipping Industry. The Gleaner (Jamaica). 11 August 2020. Available from: http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/shipping/20200811/marine-pilots-unsung-heroes-shipping-industry Every time we see a ship entering or leaving a Jamaican port, we can rest assured that no matter how massive that cargo or cruise ship may be, there is a Jamaican marine pilot at the helm.

Tankers de-flagged for using Iranian sanctions-busting tactic. Michelle Wiese Bockmann. Lloyd’s List. 13 August 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1133518/Tankers-deflagged-for-using-Iranian-sanctionsbusting-tactic Four tankers among 16 discovered manipulating AIS to show a vessel is in one place while it is actually at another loading Iranian crude.
Melting ice is a gift to the fossil fuel tankers navigating the Arctic. Maria Gallucci. *Grist.* 17 August 2020. Available from: [https://grist.org/energy/climate-change-is-a-gift-to-the-fossil-fuel-tankers-navigating-the-arctic/](https://grist.org/energy/climate-change-is-a-gift-to-the-fossil-fuel-tankers-navigating-the-arctic/)  A stocky blue 980-foot-long tanker named *Christophe de Margerie* sailed from Russia’s far-north Yamal Peninsula to the Bering Strait near Alaska in May, two months before such ships usually pass through a major Arctic sea route.


**PIRACY**


PORT STATE CONTROL

COVID-19 aviation caps must exempt seafarers – Government review. Shipping Australia Ltd. 31 July 2020. Available from: https://shippingaustralia.com.au/government-review-of-covid-19-aviation-caps/ Shipping Australia has filed a submission to government officials in which we advocate for maritime crew to be excluded from the caps on international passengers arriving into Australia by air.


Australia listing towards clogged ports as over-contract seafarers stop two new ships. 
https://www.itfglobal.org/en/news/australia-listing-towards-clogged-ports-over-contract-seafarers-stop-two-new-ships The International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) says Australia is facing economic carnage from clogged ports as a result of rapidly worsening crew change crisis around its coasts, as the crews of two further ships in Western Australia and Victoria refused to keep sailing today in bids for repatriation.

French Union CGT calls on government to facilitate crew changes and garners support from 
Member of the French National Assembly, Sophie Panonacle. European Transport Workers’ Federation. 7 August 2020. Available from: https://bit.ly/33981up As ETF and ECSA continue to call on governments to immediately take coordinated steps to facilitate crew changes and ensure that seafarers can return home, national trade unions are also taking action. 
Letter to President of the French Republic

Jamaica Opens for Crew Changes and Repatriations. Maritime Authority of Jamaica. 7 August 2020. Available from: https://maritimejamaica.com/News-Events/jamaica-opens-for-crew-changes-and-repatriations In order to enable crew changes, the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) has listed seafarers among the class of “essential workers” under its Disaster Risk Management Act and has put in place measures to speed up the transit of registered seafarers through its borders.


Coronavirus: Abu Dhabi Ports helps seafarers to return home as restrictions ease. 


DOTr conducts test run on crew change protocols in Subic. Liza Almonce. PortCalls Asia. 18 August 2020. Available from: https://www.portcalls.com/dotr-conducts-test-run-on-crew-change-protocols-in-subic/ The Department of Transportation (DOTr) has conducted a dry run for the point-to-point embarkation and debarkation of seafarers in preparation for a proposal to activate the Port of Subic as a crew-change hub.

ITF seeks more flights to ease crew change woes. Genivi Factao. Manila Times. 19 August 2020. Available from: https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/08/19/business/maritime-business/itf-seeks-more-flights-to-ease-crew-change-woes/757404/ The International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) said the global maritime industry continued to deal with crew change problems and has renewed calls for the government to ensure that the airline industry remains open to carry seafarers for their deployment.

Amid COVID-19 pandemic, DOTR activates 3 ports as crew change hubs in one month: Subic Bay freeport zone starts as hub today, August 22. Government of the Philippines. 24 August 2020. Available from: https://bit.ly/342Wx10 Facing restrictions imposed by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) on the country’s maritime industry, the Department of Transportation (DOTr), through its Maritime Sector, is now activating crew change hubs to address the global need for fresh crew of ships operated by around 1.5 million seafarers, 378,000 or 25% of which are Filipinos.


St. Kitts Provides Place Of Refuge For The AIDA Luna. Ziz Online (St. Kitts and Nevis). 25 August 2020. Available from: https://zizonline.com/st-kitts-provides-place-of-refuge-for-the-aida-luna/ The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis has come to the assistance of a ship in distress, and will be providing the cruise vessel, AIDA Luna, with a place of refuge at the furthest approved anchorage point in the Basseterre harbour, as mandated by the guidelines of the International Maritime Organization for vessels in distress.

Crew change credentials of the Philippines analysed. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 27 August 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/crew-change-credentials-of-the-philippines-analysed/ News carried earlier this week that the Philippines is trying to position itself as one of the world’s top crew change hubs has been welcomed by many, but crew specialists have voiced concern at the hurdles that need ironing out in the Southeast Asian republic.

PORTS & HARBOURS


COVID-19 to stifle container port investment. Hellenic Shipping News. 4 August 2020. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/covid-19-to-stifle-container-port-investment/ The pace of container port capacity expansion is forecast to contract at least 40% over the next five years in the wake of the COVID-19 induced slowdown in port throughput, according to the latest Global Container Terminal Operators Annual Review and Forecast report published by global shipping consultancy Drewry.


Lebanon: UN ‘actively assisting’ in response to huge explosions at Beirut port. UN News. 4 August 2020. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/08/1069542 The United Nations has said that it is “actively assisting” in the response to the horrific explosions that ripped through the port area of Beirut on Tuesday, reportedly leaving dozens dead and thousands wounded, among them some UN naval peacekeepers.

Beirut’s port closed after huge blast; death toll at least 100. Eric Watkins. Lloyd’s List. 4 August 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1133389 Two huge explosions in the port area of Beirut, Lebanon, have killed at least 100 people and wounded more than 4,000 — explosions so powerful they were heard in Cyprus.

Update: Two Killed on Orient Queen Cruise Ship Docked Near Explosion, Ship Sinks. Mike Schuler. gCaptain. 5 August 2020. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/beirut-blast-two-killed-on-orient-queen-cruise-ship-docked-near-explosion-ship-sinks/ An update on Thursday from the Philippines’ Department of Foreign Affairs said that all 13 Filipino crew members from on board the Orient Queen have been accounted for and are safe.


Beirut explosion: Port officials under house arrest as rescue efforts continue. BBC News. 6 August 2020. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-53670839 A number of Beirut port officials are being placed under house arrest pending an investigation into Tuesday's huge explosion, Lebanon’s government says.

African ports need to learn the lessons of Beirut. Christian Bueger and Scott Edwards. African Business Magazine. 6 August 2020. Available from: https://africanbusinessmagazine.com/in-the-news/african-ports-need-to-learn-the-lessons-of-beirut The disastrous explosion in Beirut on 4 August 2020, which was reported to have taken at least 135 lives at the time of writing, was fuelled by 2,750 tonnes of the highly reactive chemical ammonium nitrate that had been held in the port for nearly seven years.

Region’s ports must review security in wake of Beirut disaster. Dr Theodore Karasik. Arab News (Saudi Arabia). 6 August 2020. Available from: https://www.arabnews.com/node/1715591 The detonation of more than 2,700 tons of ammonium nitrate in Beirut’s port on Tuesday proves that shoddy management practices brought about by poor governance can be deadly.


Ports of Auckland gets consent to deepen Auckland’s shipping channel. Ports of Auckland. 11 August 2020. Available from: http://www.poal.co.nz/media-publications/Pages/Ports-of-Auckland-gets-consent-to-deepen-Auckland%E2%80%99s-shipping-channel.aspx The consent allows the channel to be deepened from 12.5 metres to between 14 metres and 14.2 metres.

Work going on to remove Ctg Port’s hazardous products. Business Standard (Bangladesh). 13 August 2020. Available from: https://tbsnews.net/bangladesh/probe-committee-working-remove-hazardous-products-chattogram-port-118948 Chattogram port and customs authorities have taken initiative to remove hazardous products including chemicals that have been piled up at the port in the last 28 years.

Vanguard (Nigeria). 19 August 2020. Available from: https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/08/port-security-officers-forum-warn-fg-on-beirut-port-experience/ The Lagos Maritime Security Zone of the Port Facility Security Officers of Nigeria forum has said the recent explosion experienced at the Port of Beirut, Lebanon, should be a lesson to Nigeria and called for the urgent relocation of tank farms in and around the Apapa ports areas.

South Korea implements additional emission reduction initiatives in major port areas. GARD. 19 August 2020. Available from: http://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/29847462/south-korea-implements-additional-emission-reduction-initiatives-in-major-port-areas From 1 September 2020 all ships anchored or at berth in the Korean ports of Incheon, Pyeongtaek-Dangjin, Yeosu-Gwangyang, Busan and Ulsan must burn fuel with a maximum sulphur content of 0.10%.


Beirut port blast puts Tianjin lessons to the test. Antony Ireland. Lloyd's List. 25 August 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1133646/Beirut-port-blast-puts-Tianjin-lessons-to-the-test Comparisons are inevitably being drawn to the 2015 Tianjin port explosion in China, which resulted in insured losses of more than $3 bn, according to Swiss Re.

REGULATIONS


Industry survey shows switch to low-sulphur fuel has not been without problems.
Mette Kronholm Fraende. BIMCO. 20 August 2020. Available from: https://www.bimco.org/news/priority-news/20200819-industry-survey The maritime industry’s transition to the sulphur regulation from the International Maritime Organization (IMO) which came into force on 1 January 2020 has not been without problems.

Shipping associations want regulations on hazardous materials postponed for a year.
Tomas Kristiansen. ShippingWatch. 21 August 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12360301.ece International shipping associations such as Bimco and ICS want the EU to postpone the requirement that all ships must carry a list of hazardous materials on board from the turn of the year.

The IMO 2020 story so far. Charles L Daly. Petroleum Economist. 25 August 2020. Available from: https://www.petroleum-economist.com/articles/midstream-downstream/transport/2020/the-imo-2020-story-so-far It is easy to forget that, pre-Covid, new International Maritime Organization (IMO) 2020 regulations reducing the maximum sulphur content in much of the world’s bunker fuels from 3.5 pc to 0.5 pc were expected to be one of the dominant narratives in the year’s oil price dynamics.

SALVAGE

MV Wakashio: Daily progress reports submitted by salvage master says, Minister Maudhoo.
Government of Mauritius. 11 August 2020. Available from: http://www.govmu.org/English/News/Pages/MV-Wakashio-Daily-progress-reports-submitted-by-salvage-master-says-Minister-Maudhoo.aspx The Minister of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping, Mr Sudheer Maudhoo, underlined that regarding the grounding of the MV Wakashio and the oil spill, daily progress reports also called situation reports were submitted by the salvage master to the Director of Shipping in cases of maritime casualties.

SEAFARERS

Kenya is positioning itself in the maritime industry after it was given a go ahead to allow Kenyan 27 youths to go back to work as seafarers.

As the world slowly reopens from the pandemic shutdown, a large number of crew sailing on both merchant ships and yachts find themselves far away from home.

As the global cruise industry and seafarers’ unions near completion of the repatriation of almost 250,000 seafarers, the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) warns that there are challenging times ahead for the industry and its workforce.

Ten of the 11 Filipino missing seafarers have been found "safe and accounted for" following the deadly explosion that struck the Lebanese capital of Beirut on August 4.

Complaints are surfacing on private social media platforms that some shipowners are failing to make enough effort to repatriate seafarers working beyond the end of their contracts.

On Tuesday, the Port of Beirut erupted in fire and became engulfed in thick white smoke. As the inferno raged, sharp flashes that many mistook for fireworks appeared at its base.

**Andrew’s monthly blog highlights the difficulties seafarers are still facing and the efforts being made to support them as some ports begin to open.** *Mission to Seafarers*. 5 August 2020. Available from: https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/news/andrews-july-blog  
In some countries, there has been a hint of normality. I think some had the feeling that “it might be all over”.

Maritime workers are close to Pope Francis’s thoughts because “it is one of the peripheries” and they face “a series of issues that are dear to the Holy Father.”

**Over 600 Ghanaian seafarers stranded abroad.** GhanaWeb. 6 August 2020. Available from: https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/business/Over-600-Ghanaian-seafarers-stranded-abroad-1026772 Over 600 Ghanaian seafarers are stranded abroad due to the Coronavirus pandemic which has led to partial boarder closures globally, data from maritime services provider, Schulte Maritime Services Ghana – a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Schulte Group – has shown.


**Concern for merchant sailors stranded in NZ waters.** Radio New Zealand. 9 August 2020. Available from: https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/saturday/audio/2018/concern-for-sailors-stranded-in-nz-waters An estimated 300,000 crew on merchant ships have been left stranded at sea around the world by the coronavirus pandemic unable to go onshore - including thousands in New Zealand waters - in what advocates say it’s a ‘humanitarian crisis’.


**Nine Abducted FPSO Crewmembers Released by Pirates.** *Maritime Executive*. 10 August 2020. Available from: https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/nine-abducted-nigerian-fpso-crewmembers-safely-released Nine Nigerian crewmembers who were kidnapped from the FPSO *Sendje Berge* last month have been released, according to operator BW Offshore.


Master and crew of grounded bulker off Mauritius were not caught up in crew change crisis. Adam Corbett. *TradeWinds.* 11 August 2020. Available from: [https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/master-and-crew-of-grounded-bulker-off-mauritius-were-not-caught-up-in-crew-change-crisis/2-1-855542](https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/master-and-crew-of-grounded-bulker-off-mauritius-were-not-caught-up-in-crew-change-crisis/2-1-855542) Almost all crew on the bulker at the centre of an environmental crisis off Mauritius had not worked beyond their initial one-year contracts at the time of its grounding, according to the vessel’s owner.


Deaf ears to seafarers’ pleas. Michael Grey. *Seatrade Maritime News.* 11 August 2020. Available from: [https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/opinions-analysis/deaf-ears-seafarers-pleas](https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/opinions-analysis/deaf-ears-seafarers-pleas) In the way that the seafaring community continues to be treated by responsible governments, this would seem to sum up much of the collective attitude of the authorities around the world, faced with requests to land or exchange ships’ crews.


Groups seek more flights for stranded seafarers. William B. Depasupil. *Manila Times.* 13 August 2020. Available from: [https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/08/13/news/national/groups- seek-more-flights-for-stranded-seafarers/754640/](https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/08/13/news/national/groups-seek-more-flights-for-stranded-seafarers/754640/) The seafaring sector has asked the government to allow additional humanitarian flights to ferry in and out of the country an estimated 100,000 seafarers who are either stranded abroad or waiting for flights to board their ships.

Filipino crewing supremo calls for global digital quarantine pass to resolve the crew change crunch. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 14 August 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/filipino-crewing-supremo-calls-for-global-digital-quarantine-pass-to-resolve-the-crew-change-crunch/ The world’s manning hubs need to club together and come up with digital solutions to reassure other stakeholders and fix the crew change situation, one of the most important names in seafaring has told Splash.

Anglo-Eastern’s CEO on stranded seafarers: “Many vessels will be at a standstill”. Tomas Kristiansen. ShippingWatch. 17 August 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article12346742.ece It will likely not be long before officers and seafarers aboard vessels around the world start to refuse signing new contracts to extend their work for yet another month.


Plight Of Seafarers Highlighted In CSA/WiMAC Joint Webinar. Martine Bramwell. The Gleaner (Jamaica). 19 August 2020. Available from: http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/shipping/20200818/plight-seafarers-highlighted-csawimac-joint-webinar “The shipping industry and governments need to take better care of our ships’ crews, and today we are adding our voice to the call for immediate action,” stated Juan Carlos Croston, president of the Caribbean Shipping Association, in his welcome address to the most recent webinar jointly hosted by the Caribbean Shipping Association and the Women in Maritime Caribbean last Tuesday.


By refusing to work, more over-contract seafarers get off via Panama. International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF). 21 August 2020. Available from: https://www.itfseafarers.org/en/news/refusing-work-more-over-contract-seafarers-get-panama After recent success in helping the crew of the MV Contamines get off their vessel and be repatriated via Panama, the ITF has helped more seafarers get home to their families via the central American country.

Stranded seafarers make direct appeal for more action on crew changes. Michelle Wiese Bockmann. Lloyd’s List. 21 August 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com(LL1133163/Stranded-seafarers-make-direct-appeal-for-more-action-on-crew-changes ‘We don’t want sympathy, we just want recognition,’ seafarers tell Lloyd’s List as part of our campaign to give a voice to more than 300,000 crew unable to sign off and return home.


**SEARCH & RESCUE**

3 NGOs warn of escalation in Mediterranean if their vessels are not released for duty. Benjamin Bathke. *InfoMigrants.* 4 August 2020. Available from: [https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/26418/3-ngos-warn-of-escalation-in-mediterranean-if-their-vessels-are-not-released-for-duty](https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/26418/3-ngos-warn-of-escalation-in-mediterranean-if-their-vessels-are-not-released-for-duty) Three private humanitarian organizations—Sea-Eye, Sea-Watch and SOS Mediterranee—which operate rescue operations in the Mediterranean have called for the immediate release of their migrant rescue vessels, which are still blocked by Italian authorities.

Maersk oil tanker caught at sea off Malta after rescuing 27 migrants. Jacob Gronholt-Pedersen and Tim Barsoe. *Reuters.* 19 August 2020. Available from: [https://reut.rs/3n0FZJx](https://reut.rs/3n0FZJx) A Maersk oil tanker has been anchored off the coast of Malta for two weeks after rescuing 27 migrants, including a child and a pregnant woman, with authorities in Malta and Tunisia denying the vessel entry, the company said on Wednesday.

Maersk tanker anchored off Malta with migrants for 16 days: We need a solution now. Katrine Grønvald Raun and Trine Vestergaard. *ShippingWatch.* 20 August 2020. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Tanker/article12356922.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Tanker/article12356922.ece) A Maersk Tankers ship has been anchored off the coast of Malta for 16 days with migrants on board. The crew is unable to send the migrants ashore.
SHIP RECYCLING


EU recycling yard approval has become a 'political battle'. Chetan Patel. TradeWinds. 11 August 2020. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/opinion/eu-recycling-yard-approval-has-become-a-political-battle/2-1 Shree Ram Group managing director Chetan Patel outlines how his yard worked hard to meet European Union standards to recycle European-flag ships only to be left disappointed.


Green ship-breaking yards still a far cry. Shamsuddin Illius. Business Standard (Bangladesh). 17 August 2020. Available from: https://tbsnews.net/economy/industry/green-ship-breaking-yards-still-far-cry-120394 The government enacted the Bangladesh Ship Recycling Act in 2018 and asked owners of ship-breaking yards to adopt safe and environmentally friendly methods as per the Hong Kong International Convention, but only one of around 150 yards has turned green in these two years.


India to restart ship-recycling yards at Sachana. Inderpreet Walia. Lloyd's List. 26 August 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1133658/India-to-restart-ship-recycling-yards-at-Sachana India plans to restart the country’s second ship-recycling yard at Sachana in Gujarat after receiving clearances from the state’s forest and environment departments.
SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR

The ship of the future, 2020 edition. Andrew Craig-Bennett. Splash 247.com. 3 August 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/the-ship-of-the-future-2020-edition/ Since we no longer have shipping events with keynote speeches to tell us what the great issues of the day are, I have decided to start by making a list of them.


Hull Coatings - A Slippery Subject. Paul Andrew. West of England P&I Club. 11 August 2020. Available from: https://www.westpandi.com/publications/news/archive/hull-coatings-a-slippery-subject/ All manner of other substances, such as bitumen, mercury and arsenic have been used as hull antifouling coatings over subsequent centuries.


**SHIPPING**


Claudia Grant Making A Mark In The Maritime Industry. Peta-Gay Hodges. *Jamaica Information Service*. 31 July 2020. Available from: https://jis.gov.jm/features/claudia-grant-making-a-mark-in-the-maritime-industry/ When Claudia Grant began her career at the Port of Kingston in 1986 armed with a first degree and an eagerness to learn, little did she know that this would be her foray into a lifetime of service to the maritime industry.


COVID19: Cyprus shipping needs support. *Financial Mirror (Cyprus)*. 3 August 2020. Available from: https://www.financialmirror.com/2020/08/03/covid19-cyprus-shipping-needs-support/ Vasilis Demetriades, the Cyprus shipping minister said Monday he shares a common view with the communist party Akel on actions to further promote the maritime sector.


EU must act after study shows shipping pollution could increase by half. *Transport & Environment.* 4 August 2020. Available from: https://www.transportenvironment.org/press/eu-must-act-after-study-shows-shipping-pollution-could-increase-half  Shipping’s climate impact has grown 10% in just six years, according to a landmark study released today by the UN maritime agency.


Container ships sent to Tripoli to keep Lebanon supply lines running. Jonathan Saul. Reuters. 6 August 2020. Available from: https://reut.rs/3jdKQ7C. Leading container lines are diverting ships to Lebanon’s smaller terminal of Tripoli after the devastating explosion at Beirut’s port that killed 145 people also paralysed vital trade.

Ammonia could fuel a third of the global fleet. Tomas Kristiansen. ShippingWatch. 7 August 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article12321808.ece. It is realistic that a third of the world’s merchant fleet will sail on ammonia in the future, assesses a report by shipping company Hafnia together with Alfa Laval, Vestas, Siemens Gamesa and Haldor Topsøe.


V. Ships: Coronavirus outbreak has shut down more than 80 percent of Asia's ports. Tomas Kristiansen. ShippingWatch. 10 August 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/Services/article12331365.ece More than three fourths of the Asian ports are currently de facto closed for crew changes, says Franck Kayser, CEO of one of the world's largest ship management companies, V. Ships.


Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Additional cover for cargo liabilities arising from deviations for crew changes. Japan P&I Club. 11 August 2020. Available from: https://www.piclub.or.jp/news/ We are aware of the increase in the number of our entered vessels which deviate for crew changes due to the COVID-19 restrictions.


Shipowners call for billions of dollars for R&D instead of new climate targets. Søren Pico. ShippingWatch. 11 August 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12334312.ece The International Chamber of Shipping declines to comment on whether the sector's climate targets should be increased. Instead, the association, together with World Shipping Council, calls for billions of dollars to be used for research.


Shipping companies' bet on LNG as fuel is now reflected in environmental stats.


How data analytics can help prevent the next maritime disaster. Ami Daniel. Splash 247.com. 14 August 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/how-data-analytics-can-help-prevent-the-next-maritime-disaster/ From Beirut port – where a massive store of ammonium nitrate Unloaded from a detained ship in very poor condition exploded earlier this month, killing at least 171 people and leaving an estimated 300,000 homeless – to the coast of Mauritius, where the grounded bunker Wakashio has leaked 1,000 metric tons of bunker fuel into the Indian Ocean, the past few weeks have brought stark reminders of the risks of maritime disasters.


FOBAS Alert: Off-specification RMG 380 bunker fuels from Singapore. Manifold Times (Singapore). 14 August 2020. Available from: https://www.manifoldtimes.com/news/fobas-alert-off-specification-rmg-380-bunker-fuels-from-singapore/ In the last week, FOBAS has tested a number of samples from Singapore, which were ordered as ISO-F-RMG380 grades, that exceeded the ISO 8217 specification limit of 0.10% m/m for TSP.


PMA: The Truth About The Mauritius Island And The Ship Registry. Panama Maritime Authority. Hellenic Shipping News. 18 August 2020. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/pma-the-truth-about-the-mauritius-island-and-the-ship-registry/ The Panama Ship Registry wants to respond to an unfortunate video circulating on social media, which is slanderous, defamatory, disrespectful and evil intended not only for the Panama Ship Registry but also our country and the way we do corporate business.


Regional sulphur emission limits at a glance. Kristin Urdahl. GARD. 19 August 2020. Available from: http://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/29212584/regional-sulphur-emission-limits-at-a-glance Recent attention has been focused on the reduction of the global sulphur cap from 3.50% to 0.50% - but don’t forget there are lower sulphur level requirements in designated MARPOL emission control areas and areas defined by regional governmental entities.


Rising emissions are no surprise, but they need to focus attention on urgent action. Paul Berrill. TradeWinds. 19 August 2020. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/opinion/rising-emissions-are-no-surprise-but-they-need-to-focus-attention-on-urgent-action/2-1-859777 Sudden surge in melting ice sheets adds urgency to shipping industry’s response after failure to act with real measures to cut greenhouse gases.


Reefer shipping to outpace dry cargo trade despite container shortages. Drewry Shipping Consultants. 24 August 2020. Available from: https://www.drewry.co.uk/maritime-research-opinion-browser/reefer-shipping-to-outpace-dry-cargo-trade-despite-container-shortages Growth in seaborne perishable cargo slowed in 2019 but is forecast to better weather the COVID-19 induced economic storm than the dry cargo trade given the broader resilience of the food supply chain.


Women on the Watch at the FOC. Carnival Corporation & plc. 24 August 2020. Available from: https://carnival-news.com/2020/08/24/women-on-the-watch-at-the-foc/ When Carnival Cruise Line’s state-of-the-art Fleet Operations Center (FOC) opened a few years ago at the Miami headquarters, it brought all of the company’s port, marine and technical operations together, utilizing the latest technology and of course, staffed by the best and brightest personnel in cruising.


Charterers playing 'pass the parcel' with crew changes. Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*. 26 August 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/charterers-playing-pass-the-parcel-with-crew-changes/ Charterers are now discriminating against ships which have long-serving crew onboard rather than risk their cargo being delayed by crew change deviations, warns one crew manager today.


Shipping’s road to decarbonisation faces familiar obstacles. Anastassios Adamopoulos. *Lloyd's List*. 27 August 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1133676/Shippings-road-to-decarbonisation-faces-familiar-obstacles Shipping often likes to remind the world of its accolades: the undisputed engine of global trade; the most efficient mode of transport; and, most recently, its own global accord to reduce emissions over the next 30 years.
RESEARCH


Lau WWY, Shiran Y, et al. Evaluating scenarios toward zero plastic pollution. *Science*. 23 July 2020. Available from: http://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/07/22/science.aba9475.abstract To estimate the effectiveness of interventions to reduce plastic pollution, we modelled stocks and flows of municipal solid waste and four sources of microplastics through the global plastic system for five scenarios between 2016 and 2040.


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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.