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

IMO launches a year of action for seafarers

The World Maritime Theme for 2021 is dedicated to seafarers, highlighting their central role in the future of shipping.

IMO has chosen to make 2021 a year of action for seafarers, who are facing unprecedented hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic, despite their vital role as key workers for global supply chains. The World Maritime Theme for 2021, “Seafarers: at the core of shipping’s future” seeks to increase the visibility of seafarers by drawing attention to the invaluable role they play now and will continue to play in the future.

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed extraordinary demands on seafarers, with hundreds of thousands of men and women stranded on ships for months beyond their original contracts, unable to be repatriated due to national travel restrictions. A similar number of seafarers are unable to join ships and earn a living. This crew change crisis, which has been ongoing for nearly a year, is a humanitarian emergency that threatens the safety of shipping.

World Maritime Theme 2021  Message from IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim  More...

IMO and WISTA International launch first Women in Maritime Survey

IMO and WISTA International survey will obtain baseline data on number of women and their positions in maritime and oceans fields

The International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the Women's International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA International) have launched the Women in Maritime – IMO and WISTA International Survey 2021 to examine the proportion and distribution of women working in the maritime sector, from support roles to executive level positions.

The survey is part of a series of activities aimed at laying the groundwork for further discussions on how to build a more diverse workforce within the maritime sector, essential for a sustainable future. The data obtained by the survey will help build a picture of diversity and gender equality in the industry.  Member State survey  NGOS/Companies survey  More...

Covid, “white list” and training in focus at Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping Sub-Committee

The adverse effects of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic on seafarers, is one of the safety issues being discussed at the seventh session of the International Maritime Organization Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW 7), which runs from 15 - 19 February 2021. Digitalization of certificates and documents of seafarers; training quality issues; and potential measures to facilitate mandatory seagoing service under the Convention are matters the session will also be considering.

The Sub-Committee is slated to examine the challenges faced by Parties in the implementation of the STCW Convention, which should set the foundations for the work on this area at the next comprehensive review of the Convention. In particular, it will discuss the so called “white list” of confirmed STCW Parties and explore means to ensure that Parties submit the relevant information at the appropriate time, which will support full implementation and ensure the issued lists fully reflect the current status.  More...
Programme of Meetings for 2021 (issued 8 December 2020) can be downloaded [here](#).

**Previous Meetings (REMOTE)**

Technical Cooperation Committee (TC 70) – 7-11 December


**Forthcoming Meetings (REMOTE)**

Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW), 7th session 15-19 February

Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR), 8th session – 22-26 March

IOPC Funds – 29 March – 1 April

IMO Council, 33rd extraordinary Session – 8 April

**LATEST PRESS BRIEFINGS**

IMO symposium highlights pathways to shipping’s decarbonization

15 February 2021

IMO urges action to deter piracy in Gulf of Guinea

14 February 2021

**RECENT SPEECHES BY IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL KITACK LIM**

IMO Symposium on alternative low-carbon and zero-carbon fuels, ([Opening](#) remarks)

9-10 February 2021

**IMO NEWS MAGAZINE**  ([Autumn/Winter 2020](#))

**IMO PUBLISHING**  ([Just Published](#))

Questions and answers about the UN mission to the SAFER oil tanker in Yemen. *UN News*. 30 December 2020. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/12/1081162](https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/12/1081162) SAFER is a Floating Storage and Offloading (FSO) oil vessel moored off Yemen’s west coast, approximately 8 kilometers (4.8 nautical miles) South West of the Ras Isa peninsula on the West coast of Yemen, permanently anchored at the same location for more than 30 years without any dry-docking or shipyard repairs.


UN chief highlights need for climate action, pandemic response, in commemorating 75th anniversary of the General Assembly. *UN News*. 10 January 2021. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/01/1081752](https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/01/1081752) In his first major speech of the year, the UN Secretary-General underlined the need for global cooperation to address today’s challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

UN Secretary-General confirmed on Monday that he will be seeking a second five-year term as UN Secretary-General, which would begin in January 2022.


Secretary-General welcomes US return to Paris Agreement on Climate Change. *UN News*. 20 January 2021. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/01/1082602](https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/01/1082602) Following the inauguration of United States President Joe Biden on Wednesday, the UN Secretary-General said he looks forward to an era of new leadership towards accelerating climate action, with the US back inside the landmark Paris Agreement.

CASUALTIES


**ENVIRONMENT**

**Maritime Environmental Reports.** *Gliese Foundation (Poland).* 31 December 2020. Available from: [https://www.gliesefoundation.org/environmental-reports](https://www.gliesefoundation.org/environmental-reports) We are assessing the quality of the environmental reporting presented by the twelve largest container carriers in the world in their sustainability reports. The leading cruise companies on environmental reporting


**NOAA, The Ocean Foundation team up to advance ocean science.** *US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).* 5 January 2021. Available from: [https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/noaa-ocean-foundation-team-up-to.advance-ocean-science](https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/noaa-ocean-foundation-team-up-to.advance-ocean-science) NOAA today announced a partnership with The Ocean Foundation to cooperate on international and national scientific efforts to advance research, conservation and our understanding of the global ocean.

Warming Arctic at the frontier of climate insight and risk, experts say. Clare Baldwin and Kate Abnett. *Reuters.* 11 January 2021. Available from: [https://reut.rs/3bw1SLx](https://reut.rs/3bw1SLx) The environmental transformation happening in the Arctic is key to understanding the potential global impacts of climate change, an Alaska Native leader and a polar explorer told the Reuters Next conference on Monday.

‘Ocean 100’: Small group of companies dominates ocean economy. *EurekAlert!* 13 January 2021. Available from: [https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2021-01/3101100-what-can-corporations-do-to-help-save-the-ocean](https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2021-01/3101100-what-can-corporations-do-to-help-save-the-ocean) Most of the revenues extracted from use of the world’s oceans is concentrated among 100 transnational corporations, which have been identified for the first time by researchers at Duke University and the Stockholm Resilience Centre at Stockholm University.


Climate change is a ‘global emergency’, people say in biggest ever climate poll. UN News. 27 January 2021. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/01/1083062 Almost two-thirds of over 1.2 million people surveyed worldwide say that climate change is a global emergency, urging greater action to address the crisis, results from a new UN climate survey revealed on Wednesday.


Heavy industry, transport sectors to align on net-zero climate plans. Valerie Volcovici. Reuters. 27 January 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/2MgkfM8 Over 400 companies across some of the world’s biggest greenhouse gas emitting industries – from shipping to steelmaking - have agreed to work together on plans to decarbonize by 2050, according to a coalition of climate advocacy groups that set up the partnership.


ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION


A.P. Møller- Maersk, The Ocean Cleanup extend relationship with new three-year partnership. Maersk. 13 January 2021. Available from: https://www.maersk.com/news/articles/2021/01/13/ocean-clean-up-relationship-three-year-partnership In addition to Maersk Supply Services providing marine offshore support to rid the oceans of plastic, Maersk will also give to the Dutch non-profit organization end- to -end supply chain management services for both ocean and river clean up systems.


International race to avert catastrophic Gulf oil-spill. *Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST).* 22 January 2021. Available from: https://www.imarest.org/themarineprofessional/on-the-radar/item/5937-international-race-to-avert-catastrophic-gulf-oil-spill Moored five miles (8km) off the Yemeni coast, the ironically-titled *FSO Safer* – an abandoned 362m (1,188 ft) floating storage and offloading unit – hasn’t been properly inspected or maintained for almost six years.


**HEALTH & SAFETY**

Measures Taken to Safeguard Health and Safety of Shore-Based Personnel in Maritime Sector. *Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA).* 2 January 2021. Available from: https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/media-centre/news-releases/detail/5809f71d-1e02-4f47-a05b-00f6214f6064 The Ministry of Health (MOH) had earlier reported that a marine surveyor and a harbour pilot had tested positive for COVID-19 infection on 30 and 31 December 2020 respectively.


Diplomats trying to help two corona-positive Ukrainians stuck on bulk carrier off Malaysia coast. *UNIAN Information Agency (Ukraine).* 11 January 2021. Available from: https://www.unian.info/world/two-corona-positive-ukrainians-stuck-on-ship-off-malaysia-coast-11281430.html Malaysian authorities have not been helpful in providing medical assistance to the ill crew members.


Urgent advice as cases of suicide at sea continue to climb. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 13 January 2021. Available from: https://splash247.com/urgent-advice-as-cases-of-suicide-at-sea-continue-to-climb/ Suicide among today’s seafarers is on the increase and is being fuelled as much by the negative aftermath of the Covid pandemic as it is by a lack of mental health awareness in the industry.


Captain Lloyd writes to UK Secretary of State for Transport over Seafarer Vaccinations. Human Rights at Sea (HRAS). 22 January 2021. Available from: https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/2021/01/22/captain-lloyd-writes-to-uk-secretary-of-state-for-transport-over-seafarer-vaccinations/ Human Rights at Sea Advisory Board member, Captain Michael Lloyd RD**,MNM, CMMar, FNI has followed up an earlier correspondence to the IMO Secretary General, with a new letter directed to the Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, the UK Secretary of State for Transport requesting engagement on the issue of inoculating seafarers as frontline key workers who are keeping world maritime trade flowing during the global pandemic.


**IMO**


**LAW & POLICY**


South Korea asks Iran to release seized tanker, mobilises anti-piracy troops. Gary Dixon and Max Tingyao Lin. TradeWinds. 4 January 2021. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/south-korea-asks-iran-to-release-seized-tanker-mobilises-anti-piracy-troops/2-1-938334. Seoul has reportedly called on Iran to release a South Korea-flagged tanker that was seized by the country’s navy forces in the Strait of Hormuz.

Gulf States End Three-Year Embargo on Qatar. Maritime Executive. 4 January 2021. Available from: https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/gulf-states-end-three-year-embargo-on-qatar. In a deal brokered by the Trump administration, the Saudi and Qatari governments have agreed to stand down from a three-year diplomatic dispute that disrupted the flow of regional trade.


New Arctic Strategy Calls for Regular Presence as a Way to Compete With Russia, China. Megan Eckstein. US Naval Institute News. 5 January 2021. Available from: https://news.usni.org/2021/01/05/new-arctic-strategy-calls-for-regular-presence-as-a-way-to-compete-with-russia-china. The Navy and Marine Corps released a new Arctic strategy today, calling to extend their new focus on day-to-day competition with Russia and China into the Arctic as it becomes more navigable and therefore more congested in the coming decades.

Department of the Navy Releases Strategic Blueprint for a Blue Arctic. United States Navy. 5 January 2021. Available from: https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/Press-Releases/display-pressreleases/Article/2463000/. The Department of the Navy released its strategic blueprint for the Arctic titled a Blue Arctic Jan. 5, delivering a regional outline spanning the next two decades as the Department continues to prepare for an increasingly accessible and navigable Arctic Region.

S. Korea sees no evidence of marine pollution by seized S. Korean ship: official. Kim Seung-yeong. Yonhap News Agency (South Korea). 6 January 2021. Available from: https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210106007151325. The government believes there is no evidence Iran’s claim that a South Korean tanker polluted the ocean when it was seized by Tehran troops early this week over such allegations, a senior Seoul official was quoted as saying Wednesday.
Tanker seizure case may be prolonged. Kang Seung-woo. Korea Times. 7 January 2021. Available from: http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2021/01/120_302109.html Despite the government’s efforts to get an early release of a Korean-flagged oil tanker and its crewmembers seized by Iran, including sending senior officials for negotiations, it remains to be seen if the move will pay dividends as Tehran is negative about the diplomatic visit, insisting the seizure was a technical matter related to marine pollution.

Bank lending to plastics industry faces scrutiny as pollution concerns mount. Matthew Green. Reuters. 7 January 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/3ql3Fnb Banks have provided $1.7 trillion of finance to 40 companies in the plastics supply chain without imposing any requirements to tackle plastic pollution pouring into the world’s rivers and oceans, according to a report published on Thursday.


Isle of Wight oil tanker ‘hijacking’ case dropped against seven men. BBC News. 8 January 2021. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-55586418 Seven men, including two who had already been charged, will face no action over a suspected hijacking of an oil tanker off the Isle of Wight.


House bill sets Philippines archipelagic sea lanes. Edu Punay. Philippine Star. 9 January 2021. Available from: https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/01/09/2069185/house-bill-sets-philippines-archipelagic-sea-lanes As the territorial dispute with China over areas in the West Philippine Sea remains unresolved, a measure setting limits on the entry and passage of foreign vessels and aircraft in the country’s territorial seas has been filed at the House of Representatives.


New report shows difficulty in hitting EU's 2030 climate goals. Louise Wendt Jensen. ShippingWatch. 11 January 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12680182.ece The EU must triple the speed of cuts to achieve its CO2 emissions reduction target by “at least 55 percent” before 2030, according to a new think tank report sceptical of whether the objectives are feasible.


The Lloyd’s List Podcast: Why shipping still needs to focus on human rights at sea. Lloyd’s List. 15 January 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1135414/ David Hammond, the founder and chief executive of Human Rights at Sea, explains why the crewing crisis has helped highlight wider abuses in the maritime sector and why we can’t let that attention fade along with coronavirus once the vaccination programme kicks in.


Qatar suspends WTO dispute with UAE as Gulf conflict thaws. Emma Farge. Reuters. 19 January 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/3qIsvDB Qatar has suspended its case at the World Trade Organization against the United Arab Emirates over measures it said were designed to isolate Qatar economically.


The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the UN’s flagship plan to end poverty and protect the environment.

Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation Backs Arctic Shipping Heavy Fuel Oil Ban. Clean Arctic Alliance. 21 January 2021. Available from: https://www.hfotfreearctic.org/en/2021/01/21/prince-albert-ii-of-monocon-foundation-backs-arctic-shipping-heavy-fuel-oil-ban/ The Clean Arctic Alliance welcomes the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation as the latest illustrious signatory of the Arctic Commitment, joining more than 165 companies, explorers, politicians and NGOs who have pledged their support for a ban on the use and carriage of heavy fuel oil (HFO) from Arctic shipping.


Indonesia seizes Iran, Panama-flagged tankers over alleged illegal oil transfer. Agustinus Beo Da Costa. Reuters. 25 January 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/2MgjIHC Indonesia said its coast guard seized the Iranian-flagged MT Horse and the Panamanian-flagged MT Freya vessels over suspected illegal oil transfer in the country’s waters on Sunday.

Iran asks Indonesia to explain seizure of tanker accused of illegal oil transfer. Parisa Hafezi and Agustinus Beo Da Costa. Reuters. 25 January 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/3umrK5m Iran has asked Indonesia to provide details about the seizure of an Iranian-flagged vessel, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Monday, a day after Jakarta said it had seized Iran and Panama-flagged tankers in its waters.


China seeks details about Chinese crew after tankers seized by Indonesia. Yew Lun Tian and Fathin Ungku. Reuters. 27 January 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/3qJFTHD China said on Wednesday it was seeking details about 25 of its nationals who were among 61 crew on two supertankers seized by Indonesia on suspicion of illegally transferring oil.

Neptune response to crew crisis needs to work for seafarers and global trade. Paul Berrill. TradeWinds. 27 January 2021. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/opinion/neptune-response-to-crew-crisis-needs-to-work-for-seafarers-and-global-trade/2-1-950835 Another massive effort by the shipping industry to get the world’s leaders to act on the crew-change crisis was unveiled this week at the World Economic Forum’s Davos Dialogues.

Indonesia’s Omnibus Bill on Maritime Security: the Making of a Global Maritime Hub? Joseph Tertia. The Diplomat. 27 January 2021. Available from: https://thediplomat.com/2021/01/indonessias-omnibus-bill-on-maritime-security-the-making-of-a-global-maritime-hub/ As part of its efforts to cut red tape and develop the country’s maritime sector, the Indonesian government is preparing an “omnibus bill” that will integrate the various laws and regulations that govern its law enforcement at sea.

Switzerland’s irresponsible reign on the sea. Mark Pieth. SWI swissinfo.ch. 27 January 2021. Available from: https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/switzerland-s-irresponsible-reign-on-the-sea/46314724 Though Switzerland is a landlocked country, it is the seat of some of the most prominent shipping companies in the world, including the Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), the second largest container shipper and the third biggest cruise ship operator.

China coast guard law can be challenged if used ‘unlawfully’. Joyce Ann L. Rocamora. Philippine News Agency (PNA). 27 January 2021. Available from: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1128715 The new Chinese law allowing the China Coast Guard to fire on foreign vessels found to be infringing on their sovereignty or jurisdictions can be challenged before the international community if the use of force is found “unlawful”, a Filipino security and Chinese studies expert said Wednesday.

John Kerry: UK climate summit is world’s ‘last best chance’. Justin Rowlatt. BBC News. 28 January 2021. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-55836163 US climate envoy John Kerry has told the BBC a UN climate summit in the UK this November is "the last best chance" to avert the worst environmental consequences for the world.

UN court rejects UK claim to Chagos Islands in favour of Mauritius. Patrick Wintour. The Guardian. 28 January 2021. Available from: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/28/un-court-rejects-uk-claim-to-chagos-islands-in-favour-of-mauritius. The UK has been urged to end its “unlawful occupation” of the Chagos Islands by the prime minister of Mauritius, after Britain’s claim to sovereignty over the strategically important islands in the Indian Ocean was comprehensively rejected by the United Nation’s special international maritime court in Hamburg.

Regional, international pressure mounts on Venezuela to release Guyanese fishing boats, crew. Denis Chabrol. Demerara Waves (Guyana). 28 January 2021. Available from: https://demerarawaves.com/2021/01/28/regional-international-pressure-mounts-on-venezuela-to-release-guyanese-fishing-boats-crew/ Venezuela is coming under mounting international pressure to release two Guyanese fishing vessels and 11 crew members that were intercepted by the Venezuelan Navy in Atlantic waters that both neighbouring South American nations claim as theirs.

Greek shipowner linked to Venezuelan oil cargo transfer off Malaysia. Michelle Wiese Bockmann. Lloyd’s List. 28 January 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1135588/Greek-shipowner-linked-to-Venezuelan-oil-cargo-transfer-off-Malaysia A tanker owned by Greek shipowner Andreas Hadjiyiannis was tracked alongside a tanker laden with sanctioned Venezuelan crude off Malaysia that loaded oil from the South American country last month, according to Lloyd’s List Intelligence data.

Liberian oil tanker steals Palauan vessel’s identity. Adam Somers. Island Times (Palau). 29 January 2021. Available from: https://islandtimes.org/liberian-oil-tanker-steals-palauan-vessels-identity/ A crude oil tanker which loaded oil in Venezuela last month, in defiance of US sanctions, was flagged as a tanker from Palau– one which was scrapped two years ago.

MARINE TECHNOLOGY


False economy: Remote-controlled autonomous ships? [Offshore Accounts]. Baird Maritime. 7 January 2021. Available from: https://www.bairdmaritime.com/work-boat-world/offshore-world/column-false-economy-remote-controlled-autonomous-ships-offshore-accounts/ The news that the bulk carrier Wakashio grounded off Mauritius and broke in two in August last year because the crew were navigating dangerously close to the shore in order to – wait for it – be able to pick up a mobile phone signal, is probably the biggest argument in favour of autonomous ships.
RMI: Guidance on remote surveys for EU IHM. Safety 4 Sea. 7 January 2021. Available from: https://safety4sea.com/rmi-guidance-on-remote-surveys-for-eu-ihm/ The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator issued a Technical Circular conveying its exceptional agreement for remote surveys/sampling to be conducted onboard RMI-flagged vessels with respect to the Inventory of Hazardous Materials (IHM) required under EU Regulation 1257/2013, when, due to COVID-19 restrictions, onboard attendance is not possible.

Interview: WinGD Discusses New Engine Tech to Help Tackle Methane Slip. gCaptain. 8 January 2021. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/interview-wingd-discusses-new-tech-to-help-tackle-methane-slip/ With International Maritime Organization targeting a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from ships by 2050, focus is shifting to which alternative fuels will help the industry achieve the ambitious target.


MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING


Seamen duped into oil and gas training course. Guyana Times. 5 January 2021. Available from: https://guyanatimesgy.com/seamen-duped-into-oil-and-gas-training-course/ Several seamen, who were hoping to get employment in the oil sector are claiming that they were duped into doing an oil and gas training and have now been told that the certificate they received is fake.


From deck to bridge - training the next generation of seafarers. Tim Howse. Gard. 8 January 2021. Available from: https://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/31003685/from-deck-to-bridge-training-the-next-generation-of-seafarers If all goes well the 25-year old will graduate before the end of the year, becoming a fully licenced Merchant Navy Deck Officer.


Oceanography & Blue Economy Centre to be created at UWI Five Islands.
Loop News (St. Lucia). 20 January 2021. Available from: http://www.loopslu.com/content-oceanography-blue-economy-centre-be-created-uwi-five-islands-4 The Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, the Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles and the Chair of the Association of Commonwealth Universities, Professor Sir Ed Byrne signed a Memorandum of Understanding yesterday to formalise their collaboration in support of a Centre for Excellence for Oceanography and the Blue Economy at The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus.


MARITIME SAFETY


MARITIME SECURITY


Iraq defuses mine attached to Iraqi oil tanker. *Reuters*. 2 January 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/3umkgiH A mine that was attached to the hull of an Iraqi oil tanker was defused two days after it was discovered, Iraq’s military said in a statement on Saturday.


Maritime Information Cooperation and Awareness Center (MICA Centre) 2020 annual report on worldwide maritime piracy and robbery. *Government of France*. 11 January 2021. Available from: https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/salle-de-presse/communiques/press-release_mica-center-s-2020-annual-report-on-worldwide-maritime-piracy-and-robbery This annual report synthesizes the reports which are regularly transmitted to the maritime industry actors; its goal is to provide an analysis of the trends observed and to describe the evolution of the operating modes. MICA Centre 2020 Annual Report
Denmark assumes responsibility of European naval effort in Strait of Hormuz. Dag Holmstad. *ShippingWatch.* 13 January 2021. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12684990.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12684990.ece) For the next six months, Denmark will have the overall responsibility for the joint European naval effort in the Strait of Hormuz, which aims to protect international shipping in the troubled region.

Ship insurers primed to raise rates after Red Sea attacks. Jonathan Saul. *Reuters.* 13 January 2021. Available from: [https://reut.rs/3umnli](https://reut.rs/3umnli) Insurers are set to raise the cost of providing cover for merchant ships through the Red Sea after a series of incidents that have hit vessels around Saudi Arabian waters, industry sources said.


Iran fires long-range missiles into Indian Ocean in military drill - media. *Reuters.* 16 January 2021. Available from: [https://reut.rs/3dzWTMy](https://reut.rs/3dzWTMy) Iran’s Revolutionary Guards on Saturday fired long-range ballistic missiles into the Indian Ocean on the second day of a military exercise, state media reported.


Frontex to expand cooperation with Operation IRINI. FRONTEX European Border and Coast Guard Agency. 18 January 2021. Available from: https://frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news/news-release/frontex-to-expand-cooperation-with-operation-irini-IYCjyo Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI have agreed last Friday to expand their cooperation to address challenges and threats to EU security in the Central Mediterranean region.


Ship attacked off Nigeria not Turkish-owned: Company. Sena Guler. Anadolu Agency (Turkey). 25 January 2021. Available from: https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/ship-attacked-off-nigeria-not-turkish-owned-company/2122106 Though almost all of its kidnapped crew were Turkish nationals, the cargo ship that was attacked off Nigeria over the weekend is not Turkish-owned or registered in Turkey, said a Turkish marine company executive on Monday.


MIGRANTS


Open Arms brings over 250 migrants to Sicily after 2nd rescue. InfoMigrants. 4 January 2021. Available from: https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/29421/open-arms-brings-over-250-migrants-to-sicily-after-2nd-rescue. After rescuing 265 migrants in two operations in the Mediterranean Sea within three days, Italy has allowed the Spanish flagged rescue ship Open Arms to bring its passengers to the Italian island of Sicily.


Migrant boat turned away, given supplies. Gina Agapiou. Cyprus Mail. 8 January 2021. Available from: https://www.cyprus-mail.com/2021/01/08/migrant-boat-turned-away-given-supplies/ Police said on Friday that a boat with migrants was refused landing while 19 other Syrian refugees were picked up in Peristerona later in the day.


Greek coastguard recovers one dead, rescues 27 on Lesbos island. Reuters. 19 January 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/3brYEJg Greek coastguard officials recovered the body of one man and rescued 27 people from a rocky beach on the island of Lesbos after they apparently arrived by boat from Turkey, authorities said on Tuesday.

IOM, UNHCR: Shipwreck off Libya Claims over 40 Lives. International Organization for Migration (IOM). 20 January 2021. Available from: https://www.iom.int/news/iom-unhcr-shipwreck-libya-claims-over-40-lives The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency are deeply saddened by a tragic shipwreck off the Libyan coast yesterday (19/01), the first of 2021 in the Central Mediterranean, which claimed the lives of at least 43 people.

Italy failed to rescue over 200 migrants in 2013 Mediterranean disaster, UN rights body finds. UN News. 27 January 2021. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/01/1083082 In a decision published on Wednesday, the Human Rights Committee – an independent expert body that monitors States’ compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – said that Italy failed to respond promptly to various distress calls from the sinking boat, which was carrying more than 400 adults and children.

Italy failed to rescue more than 200 migrants, UN Committee finds. United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). 27 January 2021. Available from: https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26691&LangID=E Italy failed to protect the right to life of more than 200 migrants who were on board a vessel that sank in the Mediterranean Sea in 2013, the UN Human Rights Committee has found.
NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS


A Bridge Across Two Oceans: The Arctic Challenge to Panama Canal Shipping. Adrian Piecyk. Arctic Institute. 7 January 2021. Available from: https://www.thearcticinstitute.org/bridge-across-two-oceans-arctic-challenge-panama-canal-shipping/?cn-reloaded=1 Panamax vessels, like the container ship pictured here, were built to the absolute limit of the Panama Canal’s dimensions.


**PIRACY**


**Norwegian shipowners want Nigeria to resolve piracy issues in the Gulf of Guinea.** Idha Toft Valeur. *Shipping Watch.* 8 January 2021. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12675855.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12675855.ece) Norway and Denmark are on the same page, says the Norwegian Shipowners’ Association, in terms resolving the growing issues of pirate attacks and kidnappings of ships and seafarers in the Gulf of Guinea.


**Maersk exec: “We have seafarers that are afraid of pirates – that shouldn’t be the case in 2021”.** Dag Holmstad. *Shipping Watch.* 21 January 2021. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article12705869.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article12705869.ece) Maersk, the world’s biggest container shipping company, has gone on the offensive to restore safety and security for merchant vessels in the Gulf of Guinea off the African west coast.

After pirate attack, ship with Turkish crew at port in Gabon. Fatma Esma Arslan. Anadolu Agency (Turkey). 24 January 2021. Available from: https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/after-pirate-attack-ship-with-turkish-crew-at-port-in-gaban/2121056 A cargo ship with a largely Turkish crew that was attacked off Nigeria on Saturday is now anchored off neighbouring Gabon, and the body of a slain Azeri sailor is due to be brought to shore, according to Turkish officials.


PORT STATE CONTROL


**No way home for thousands of Filipino seafarers as home country shuts the door.** Michael Grinter. *Hong Kong Maritime Hub*. 5 January 2021. Available from: http://www.hongkongmaritimehub.com/no-way-home-for-thousands-of-filipino-seafarers-as-home-country-shuts-the-door/ Just as seafarers, marooned on vessels for months beyond their contract, thought it couldn’t get any worse the Philippines, home to the largest contingent of marine crew in the world, has locked them out for the foreseeable future.

**71 dry bulkers remain idle off the coast of China with no prospect of offloading.** Trine Vestergaard. *ShippingWatch*. 7 January 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Bulk/article12673125.ece The conflict between China and Australia, which prevents dry bulkers from offloading their Australian coal cargoes in China, continues unabated with no solution in sight.


33 countries barred from crew change hubs. Raymond Carl Dela Cruz. Philippine News Agency (PNA). 13 January 2021. Available from: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1127275 The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) on Wednesday announced that five more countries have been added to the list of countries barred from conducting crew change activities in any Philippine port, bringing the total barred countries to 33.

Mutant virus makes resolving crew change crisis more difficult. Nidaa Bakhsh. Lloyd’s List. 13 January 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1135382 A group of international investors have written to the UN calling for a solution to the crew change crisis as the situation, exacerbated by a new strain of the coronavirus, poses health and safety risks.


OSM Maritime on new corona restrictions: We are close to the situation seen in the spring. Søren Pico and Idha Toft Valeur. ShippingWatch. 14 January 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Bulk/article12689243.ece Coronavirus restrictions are tightening across the world, and the situation is close to where it was in the spring last year, says ship management major OSM Maritime.


Crew change for cargo ships in the Port of Singapore. Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore. 19 January 2021. Available from: https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/port-of-singapore/circulars-and-notices/detail/ae1134-c5a0-4743-b3de-dcca4960745f MPA will continue to consider the following circumstances for crew change applications...


PORTS & HARBOURS


He who pays the piper calls the tune. Malcolm Latarche. ShipInsight. 7 January 2021. Available from: https://shipinsight.com/articles/he-who-pays-the-piper-calls-the-tune/. Over the last year or two, I have written a number of articles on the subject of ‘Just in Time’ arrivals at ports (for example this one).


Massive congestion in Long Beach is the wild card in the container sector. Søren Pico. *ShippingWatch.* 27 January 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article1278.ece. The large build-up of container ships off Long Beach and Los Angeles is having a ripple effect throughout the container sector, where an alliance has recently heralded cancelled sailings.

New shoreside power system reduces carbon emissions at the Port of Gothenburg. *Port of Gothenburg.* 27 January 2021. Available from: https://bit.ly/3aQn6EP. The Gothenburg Port Authority has been working for a long time to encourage ships calling at the port to connect to the shoreside power system when at berth instead of keeping their engines running.

Panama Canal Helps Save the Planet More Than 13 Million Tons of CO2 in 2020. *Panama Canal Authority.* 27 January 2021. Available from: https://www.pancanal.com/eng/pr/press-releases/2021/01/27/pr703.html. By offering a shorter route for ships, the Panama Canal contributed to a reduction of more than 13 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) equivalent emissions in 2020, in comparison to the most likely alternative routes.


**REGULATIONS**


Charting the 2021 maritime regulatory landscape. Siddharth Mahajan. *Gard.* 7 January 2021. Available from: [https://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/30998197/](https://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/30998197/) 2021 ushers in a new cyber era for the shipping industry with the introduction of the requirement to address cyber risks in a vessel’s safety management system.


ABS debriefs EEXI regulations. *Safety 4 Sea.* 12 January 2021. Available from: [https://safety4sea.com/abs-debriefs-i-regulations/](https://safety4sea.com/abs-debriefs-i-regulations/) ABS issued a white paper discussing the new EEXI regulations that were approved by the recent MEPC, further explaining the amendments to MARPOL Annex VI, Chapter 4.


**SALVAGE**

**Capesizes Were The Most Scrapped Ship Class During 2020.** Nikos Roussanoglou. Hellenic Shipping News. 4 January 2021. Available from: [https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/capesizes-were-the-most-scrapped-ship-class-during-2020/](https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/capesizes-were-the-most-scrapped-ship-class-during-2020/) 2020 has been a turbulent year for shipping to say the least and weren’t that different when it comes to the shipbreaking industry as well.

SEAFARERS


**India weighs various options to evacuate sailors stranded in Chinese waters.** *Hellenic Shipping News.* 4 January 2021. Available from: [https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/india-weighs-various-options-to-evacuate-sailors-stranded-in-chinese-waters/](https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/india-weighs-various-options-to-evacuate-sailors-stranded-in-chinese-waters/) India said it is looking at several options to assist 39 Indian sailors stranded on two merchant vessels in Chinese waters for months, including a crew change at sea or at a Chinese port, so that the men could be brought home.


**Corona restrictions are unchanged and the new normal for Cpt Debie Morera and his crew.** Idha Toft Valeur. *ShippingWatch.* 5 January 2021. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12666454.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12666454.ece) The coronavirus has had large human and economic costs for crews and companies, and seafarers have probably suffered the most.


**Two Indonesians aboard S. Korean tanker seized by Iran are safe.** A. Muh. Ibnu Aqil. *Jakarta Post.* 6 January 2021. Available from: [https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/01/two-indonesians](https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/01/two-indonesians) The Foreign Ministry has announced that two Indonesian nationals who were working aboard a South Korean vessel when it was seized by Iranian authorities earlier this week are safe.


All at sea: half a million seafarers stranded by the pandemic – in pictures. The Guardian. 11 January 2021. Available from: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2021/jan/11/all-at-sea-half-a-million-seafarers-stranded-by-the-pandemic-in-pictures Up to 400,000 seafarers have been trapped on board cargo ships during the Covid pandemic, some for more than 18 months.

Global investors call for end to seafarers marooned at sea due to coronavirus. Jonathan Saul. Reuters. 13 January 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/2ZCrAse A group of leading investors on Wednesday called for an end to a crisis involving hundreds of thousands of seafarers stuck on ships for many months due to COVID-19, warning that the situation was creating bigger risks every day.


Opinion: The key sea workers who are forgotten in this pandemic. Paul Jennings. Northern Echo (UK). 15 January 2021. Available from: https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/19016112.opinion-key-sea-workers-forgotten-pandemic/ As vaccine roll-out accelerates, the time has come to recognise the economically vital work of maritime workers and ensure they receive their vaccinations as a matter of urgency.


Indian sailors stranded for months on Chinese coast reach Japan. Aljazeera. 19 January 2021. Available from: https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/1/19/indian-sailors-stranded-for-months-on-chinese-coast-reach-japan A group of Indian sailors stranded off the Chinese coast for seven months, caught up in a trade dispute between China and Australia, have been allowed to leave for Japan, union officials said.

Indonesian Fishers fight for Safe Working Conditions and Repatriation from the Marshall Islands. Human Rights at Sea (HRAS). 19 January 2021. Available from: https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/2021/01/19/indonesian-fishers-fight-for-safe-working-conditions-and-repatriation-from-the-marshall-islands/ “They have been directed to sign a statement letter of deduction of salary for five months amounting to USD 100 for administrative costs of registration and departure.”


Top global traders work to ease seafarer crisis due to coronavirus. Jonathan Saul. Reuters. 26 January 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/2ZDXmoR Over 300 leading companies said on Tuesday they would work together to help hundreds of thousands of merchant sailors stuck on ships for many months due to COVID-19 in a crisis that risks creating more dangers at sea.


Exploited Indonesian Fishers to be repatriated. Vessel de-listed from MSC-Certification. Human Rights at Sea (HRAS). 26 January 2021. Available from: https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/2021/01/26/exploited-indonesian-fishers-to-be-repatriated-vessel-de-listed-from-msc-certification/ Following the public highlighting on 16 January by Human Rights at Sea (HRAS) of the case of two exploited Indonesian fishers of the Chinese-owned, Fijian-flagged He Shun 38 (No.00359) vessel, both crew are reported as being repatriated to Indonesia on Thursday 28th January with some wages paid.


Cyprus Shipping Deputy Ministry prioritises crew welfare and decarbonisation. Cyprus Shipping News. 27 January 2021. Available from: https://cyprusshippingnews.com/2021/01/27/cyprus-shipping-deputy-ministry-prioritises-crew-welfare-and-decarbonisation/ The Cyprus Shipping Deputy Ministry (SDM) is a leading flag state and is well positioned to support the European and global shipping industry.


**SEARCH & RESCUE**


Search and rescue operation in Onega fishing boat’s wreck area completed. *TASS Russian News Agency*. 30 December 2020. Available from: [https://tass.com/emergencies/12414](https://tass.com/emergencies/12414) The *Onega* fishing boat sank on Monday due to icing in the Barents Sea near the Novaya Zemlya archipelago; only two sailors of the 19 on board were rescued.

The *Ocean Viking* is headed for the central Mediterranean after half a year of imposed blockade. *SOS Mediterranee*. 11 January 2021. Available from: [https://sosmediterranee.com/press/the-ocean-viking-is-headed-for-the-central-mediterranean-after-half-a-year-of-imposed-blockade/](https://sosmediterranee.com/press/the-ocean-viking-is-headed-for-the-central-mediterranean-after-half-a-year-of-imposed-blockade/) This morning, the rescue ship *Ocean Viking* of European search and rescue association SOS MEDITERRANEE is leaving Marseille, France, headed for the central Mediterranean for the first time in six months.


SHIPPING


25-year-old rule prevents permissions for shipbreaking in India. Thomas Kristiansen. ShippingWatch. 8 January 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article12.ece There are still no Indian yards on the list of approved shipbreaking facilities currently being completed by the EU.


Platform publishes South Asia Quarterly. NGO Shipbreaking Platform. 14 January 2021. Available from: https://shipbreakingplatform.org/platform-publishes-south-asia-quarterly-update-24/ In this quarterly publication, the NGO Shipbreaking Platform informs about the shipbreaking industry in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. Update #24


Unemployed supertankers are about to get junked on Asia’s beaches. Alex Longley and Alaric Nightingale. ShippingWatch. 25 January 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Carrier/article12712666.ece The coronavirus pandemic is paralyzing the market for VLCC supertankers, and the result is likely to be a surge in scrapping of the large vessels on the beaches in Southeast Asia.
**SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR**


**Ship Orders Slump 50% With Owners Unsure Which Green Fuel to Use.** Elizabeth Low and Jack Wittels. *gCaptain.* 8 January 2021. Available from: [https://gcaptain.com/ship-orders-slump-with-owners-unsure-which-green](https://gcaptain.com/ship-orders-slump-with-owners-unsure-which-green) Ship owners facing looming deadlines to use less-polluting fuels have slashed the number of new vessels on order because they don’t know which alternative technology to switch to.

**Can onboard rollercoasters save the cruise industry?** Tim McDonald. *BBC News.* 10 January 2021. Available from: [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-55496436](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-55496436) It has the world’s first rollercoaster at sea, a micro-brewery, restaurants from celebrity chefs and sports figures, and, in a sign of the times, a massive medical facility.


**SHIPPING**

**The Neptune Declaration on Seafarer Wellbeing and Crew Change.** *Global Maritime Forum.* December 2020. Available from: [https://www.globalmaritimeforum.org/content/2020/12/The-Neptune-Declaration-on-Seafarer-Wellbeing-and-Crew-Change.pdf](https://www.globalmaritimeforum.org/content/2020/12/The-Neptune-Declaration-on-Seafarer-Wellbeing-and-Crew-Change.pdf) The Covid-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented crew change crisis which has led to hundreds of thousands of seafarers being impacted and in many instances left stranded on ships, beyond the expiry of their contracts.


CURRENT AWARENESS BULLETIN | Vol. XXXIII | No. 1 | January 2021


Does biodiesel have a place in the marine fuel purchasing portfolio? Tim Wilson. Lloyd’s Register. 4 January 2021. Available from: https://www.lr.org/en/insights/articles/biodiesel-marine As the industry looks to prove the technical feasibility and commercial viability of fuels like ammonia, hydrogen and methanol – and ensure the safe application of electro-fuels – biodiesel is another option becoming more readily available that could provide short-term emission reductions.

What does 2021 hold for shipping? Malcolm Latache. ShipInsight. 4 January 2021. Available from: https://shipinsight.com/articles/what-does-2021-hold-for-shipping/ For each of us there are personal milestones to celebrate or look forward to but for the shipping industry as a whole this time of year is generally about attempting to foresee market conditions for the coming year and for wondering if the new regulations that come each year have been properly prepared for.


How would shipping function within the Europe’s emission trading system (ETS)? Paul Gunton. ShipInsight. 5 January 2021. Available from: https://shipinsight.com/articles/how-would-shipping-function-within-the-europes-emission-trading-system-ets/ Europe’s emission trading system (ETS) is “a cornerstone of the EU’s policy to combat climate change” according to the European Commission (EC).


The environmental, regulatory, digital and political factors that will help shape the maritime sector in 2021. Cyprus Shipping News. 5 January 2021. Available from: https://cyprusshippingnews.com/2021/01/05/the-environmental-regulatory-digital-and-political-factors-that-will-help-shape-the-maritime-sector-in-2021/ As we hesitantly enter 2021, it’s easy to remain pessimistic about what the new year brings for shipping after what has been a chaotic, challenging, and devastating year across the globe.

Welcome to 2021: 3 things on our radar this year. Kevin Daffey. Marine Professional (IMarEST). 6 January 2021. Available from: https://www.imarest.org/themarineprofessional/the-long-read-item-5913-welcome-to-2021 The growth of autonomy, improving seafarer safety and cyber security are three of the big issues we are facing – along with the ever present issue of climate change.

EU’s shipping carbon quotas may come into force as soon as January 2022. Idha Toft Valeur. ShippingWatch. 7 January 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12657668.ece Despite outspoken dissatisfaction from the shipping industry and suggestions of separate fees for the shipping industry, it looks like the EU will plough ahead with its plans to include the maritime industry in its Emissions Trading System, and it could even happen in just a years’ time.


LR unveils first members of Maritime Decarbonisation Hub advisory panel. Lloyd’s Register. 11 January 2021. Available from: https://www.lr.org/en/latest-news/first-members-of-decarbonisation-hub-advisory-panel/ LR has named the industry experts who have joined the advisory panel of its Maritime Decarbonisation Hub and will ensure that the Hub fulfils its mission of providing the right level of insight, collaboration and leadership to support the shipping industry address its decarbonisation challenges.


Empowering women in shipping. Cyprus Shipping News (CSN). 11 January 2021. Available from: https://cyprusshippingnews.com/2021/01/11/empowering-women-in-shipping/ Although shipping has been historically male-dominated, the number of women nowadays who belong in the maritime industry is about 23,000 worldwide.


IAPH, Green Award team up to improve Environmental Ship Index. Naida Hakirevic. Offshore Energy. 14 January 2021. Available from: https://www.offshore-energy.biz/iaph-green-award-team-up-to-improve-environmental-ship-index/ The International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH) has signed a contract with the Green Award Foundation to administer and expand the formula-based index which rewards vessels for improved energy efficiency and reduced emissions.


Maersk CEO: We expect to order first ships running on new fuels in three years. Jasmina Ovcina. Offshore Energy. 19 January 2021. Available from: https://www.offshore-energy.biz/maersk-ceo-we-expect-to-order-first-ships-running-on-new-fuels-in-three-years/ Maersk expects to resolve safety and all other issues faced by ammonia and fuel types based on alcohols in two to three years, clearing the way to order the first ships to run on these fuels in the next three years, the company’s CEO Søren Skou said in a podcast hosted by Global Optimism.


Facing green push on farm, fertilizer makers look to sea for growth. Rod Nickel and Victoria Klesty. Reuters. 20 January 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/3dAzLqZ. Two of the world’s biggest fertilizer producers, CF Industries Holdings Inc and Yara International ASA, are seeking to cash in on the green energy transition by reconfiguring ammonia plants in the United States and Norway to produce clean energy to power ships.

Costing the future – some unpleasant surprises in the offing. Malcolm Latarche. ShipInsight. 20 January 2021. Available from: https://shipinsight.com/articles/costing-the-future-some-unpleasant-surprises-in-the-offing/. Two separate and unconnected events last week may have a disconcerting message for ship operators who currently may have far more on their mind than preparing for a future that is still shrouded in fog.


Joint Media Release: “RightShip and INTERCARGO announce important new quality standard for dry bulk sector to be governed by new NGO”. International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners (INTERCARGO). 21 January 2021. Available from: https://www.intercargo.org/joint-media-release-on-drybms/. RightShip and INTERCARGO have today announced the launch of an important new quality standard for the dry bulk sector, DryBMS.


The Lloyd’s List Podcast: What are the shipping market tipping points for 2021? Peter Sand. Lloyd’s List. 22 January 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com-LL1135501. With the help of BIMCO’s chief shipping analyst Peter Sand we’re taking a quick run through the key tipping points that will shape the shipping markets in 2021 on the podcast this week.


Killing the Golden Goose – are liner operators going too far? Malcolm Latarche. *ShipInsight*. 27 January 2021. Available from: [https://shipinsight.com/articles/killing-the-golden-goose-are-liner-operators-going-too-far/](https://shipinsight.com/articles/killing-the-golden-goose-are-liner-operators-going-too-far/) When all ships were more or less the same from a technology point of view, the price of fuel was at stratospheric levels and ports were charging all operators the same for port dues and cargo handling, it stands to reason that freight levels were also going to be similar.


EU working with several models for including shipping in quota system. Christian Carlsen. *ShippingWatch*. 27 January 2021. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/regulation-article12-718651.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/regulation-article12-718651.ece) The shipping sector will be placed under the EU’s Emission Trading System, ETS, but how this will happen remains unknown.


Bimco sees imbalance in supply chains continuing into 2021. ShippingWatch. 29 January 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article12723105.ece Even though freight rates on container freight to Asia and the rest of the world last week went down for the first time in 15 weeks, which could indicate that the peak has been reached, the imbalance in the global logistics and supply chain will continue into 2021, says Peter Sand, chief shipping analyst at association Bimco.


**RESEARCH**


Martínez de Osés FX and Uyà Juncadella À. Global maritime surveillance and oceanic vessel traffic services: towards the e-navigation. WMU Journal of Maritime Affairs. 7 January 2021. Available from: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13437-020-0020 Vessel traffic services (VTS) operators can control the movements of ships in local coastal areas, and also have the technological ability to track vessels internationally, since all merchant vessels are currently equipped with global tracking systems.

Ocean governance is complex and influenced by multiple drivers and actors with different worldviews and goals.


The ocean economy is growing as commercial use of the ocean accelerates, while progress toward achieving international goals for ocean conservation and sustainability is lagging.


The research on innovation in the maritime sector has commonly focused on the implementation of innovation rather than on more complex issues such as the interplay between technological aspects, market conditions, and, particularly, regulatory regimes in shaping the emergence and growth of global systems involved with the development, production, and use of environmental innovation.


Shipping is an activity responsible for a range of different pressures affecting the marine environment, air quality and human welfare.

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

About the cover

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