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

WHAT’S NEW

Seafarers and aircrew need priority COVID-19 vaccination

UN organizations issue joint call for seafarers and aircrew to be prioritized for COVID-19 vaccination.

The heads of five UN organizations have called for maritime and air transport workers to be prioritized for COVID-19 vaccination, given their key role in supporting global trade and mobility, which is essential for a sustainable socio-economic recovery. Maritime and air transport rely on seafarers and aircrew. They are key workers, required to travel across borders, which may – though contrary to WHO recommendations – result in the need for them to present proof of a COVID-19 vaccination as a condition for entry in some countries. More...

COVID-19 crew change crisis still a challenge - IMO Secretary-General

Crew change crisis is far from over and issues around vaccination need to be resolved.

The crew change crisis caused by COVID-19 restrictions continues to cause challenges, despite some improvement in the numbers, the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has warned.

In a statement, Secretary-General Kitack Lim said that based on industry analysis, the numbers of seafarers requiring repatriation after finishing their contracts had declined - from a high of around 400,000 in September 2020 - to around 200,000 as of March 2021, with a similar number waiting to join ships. However, this number could rise again. But the crew change crisis is far from over. Importantly, issues around vaccination need to be resolved. More...

Calling for a Fair Future for Seafarers

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, seafarers have faced difficult working conditions including uncertainties about port access, re-supply, crew changeovers and repatriation. Seafarers' rights to be treated fairly remain at the forefront of IMO’s work.

The 2021 Day of the Seafarer campaign is calling for a fair future for seafarers. The campaign will discuss issues that will still be relevant to seafarers after the pandemic, such as fair treatment of seafarers, fair working conditions, fair training, fair safety, etc. More...

Gender equality and leadership in a COVID-19 maritime world

IMO celebrates role of women in maritime on International Women's Day 2021 and highlights pathways to a more inclusive future.


This important message aligns with the various activities undertaken by IMO over the years to make the maritime sector more gender inclusive and to enhance the contribution of women as key maritime stakeholders. More...
Programme of Meetings for 2021 (issued 8 December 2020) can be downloaded [here](#).

**Previous Meetings (REMOTE)**

- Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW 7) – 15-19 February
- Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR 8) – 22-26 March
- IOPC Funds – 29 March – 1 April

**Forthcoming Meetings (REMOTE)**

- IMO Council (Extraordinary Session 33) – 8 April
- Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR 8) – 19-23 April

**LATEST PRESS BRIEFINGS**

- Digital ship clearance project seeks pilot port
  17 March 2021

- GreenVoyage2050: States accelerate action to decarbonize shipping
  5 March 2021

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

- 9th International Maritime Conference - Development of Blue Economy under a Secure and Sustainable Environment, Pakistan, 13–15 February 2021

**IMO NEWS MAGAZINE** *(Autumn/Winter 2020)*

**IMO PUBLISHING**  Just Published 2021
UNITED NATIONS

Key workers in 145 countries to receive COVID vaccines under UN-backed initiative. UN News. 3 February 2021. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/02/1083722 The aim of Wednesday’s announcement by the World Health Organization and partners, is to help Governments to prepare their vaccine distribution programmes, by providing details about which vaccine they can expect to receive, between now and the end of June.

2021 a ‘crucial year’ for climate change, UN chief tells Member States. UN News. 8 February 2021. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/02/1084132 António Guterres was speaking to Member States meeting as part of the preparations towards the latest annual UN climate conference, known as COP26, which will be held in Glasgow, Scotland, in November.

CASUALTIES


Seafarers killed in separate incidents during storms. Nidaa Bakhsh. Lloyd’s List. 3 February 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1135659/Seafarers killed in separate incidents during storms At least five seafarers have perished in two separate incidents over the past few weeks. Both incidents were related to rough weather.


A black day for Pembrokeshire - Sea Empress oil disaster recalled 25 years on. Paul Evans. Tenby Observer (UK). 12 February 2021. Available from: https://www.tenbytoday.co.uk/article.cfm?id=130527 Twenty-five-years-ago, Pembrokeshire was at the heart of one of the worst environmental disasters to hit Britain’s coastline.


DRC: Dozens killed, hundreds missing in Congo River boat disaster. Alain Uaykani. Al Jazeera. 15 February 2021. Available from: https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/2/15/scores-killed-in-dr-congo-boat-accident At least 60 people have died and hundreds are missing after a boat capsized in the Congo River in western Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), according to a government official.


**Wakashio master: ‘I was under the influence of alcohol’.** Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com.* 19 February 2021. Available from: [https://splash247.com/wakashio-master-i-was-under-the-influence-of-alcohol/](https://splash247.com/wakashio-master-i-was-under-the-influence-of-alcohol/) Further bombshells have been unearthed in the ongoing court proceedings looking into the *Wakashio* grounding off Mauritius.


**CSSC Cape Town Explosion.** *Gibraltar Port Authority.* 20 February 2021. Available from: [https://www.gibraltarport.com/node/967](https://www.gibraltarport.com/node/967) The Gibraltar Port Authority is now able to provide the following additional information in relation to the incident involving the *CSSC CAPE TOWN*.

**Two CSSC Cape Town crew members taken to Seville hospital with 40% and 25% burns following explosion.** *Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation (GBC).* 20 February 2021. Available from: [https://www.gbc.gi/news/two-cssc-cape-town-crew-members-taken-to-seville-hospital-40-and-25-burns-following-explosion](https://www.gbc.gi/news/two-cssc-cape-town-crew-members-taken-to-seville-hospital-40-and-25-burns-following-explosion) Two crew members aboard the CSSC Cape Town have been taken to Seville hospital burns unit suffering from 40% and 25% burns following an explosion aboard the vessel on Friday night.

**Two seafarers remain critical as repairs to damaged cargo ship are completed.** Priya Gulraj. *Gibraltar Chronicle.* 22 February 2021. Available from: [https://www.chronicle.gi/two-seafarers-remain-critical-as-repairs-to-damaged-cargo-ship-are-completed/](https://www.chronicle.gi/two-seafarers-remain-critical-as-repairs-to-damaged-cargo-ship-are-completed/) Repairs to the Hong Kong-flagged cargo ship damaged by an explosion on Friday night are now completed, the Gibraltar Government confirmed on Monday, as two seafarers injured in the blast remained in critical condition in Seville.


Damage being assessed after fire on Torm tanker in France. Gary Dixon. TradeWinds. 25 February 2021. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/damage-being-assessed-after-fire-on-torm-tanker-in-france/2-1-970034 No injuries or pollution have been reported after a fire hit a Torm tanker in France.

ENVIRONMENT

Why the UN Decade of Ocean Science is for all of us. Marine Professional (IMarEST). 5 February 2021. Available from: https://www.imarest.org/themarineprofessional/interactions/item/5954-why-the-un-decade-of-science-is-for-all-of-us We ask IMarEST Ambassador for the UN Decade of Ocean Science, Professor Stephen de Mora, how IMarEST is getting involved – and what you can do.


Deep Seabed Mining Must Benefit All Humankind. Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (Germany). 18 February 2021. Available from: https://www.iass-potsdam.de/en/news/deep-seabed-mining-must-benefit-all-humankind As investors set their sights on the mineral resources of the deep seabed, the International Seabed Authority is developing regulations that will govern their future exploration and possible exploitation. A Comprehensive Approach to the Payment Mechanism for Deep Seabed Mining 🌊


Fin, blue whales getting tangled in fishing gear in Gulf of St. Lawrence more often than thought: study. Paul Withers. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). 22 February 2021. Available from: https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/drones-gear-entanglement-blue-fin-whales-1.5920713 🌊 Between 41 and 57 per cent of fin whales in the Gulf of St. Lawrence are getting entangled in fishing gear, a problem previously identified mainly in right whales and humpbacks, according to new research that relied on drones.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION


Canada’s shipping laws weaker than neighbouring jurisdictions, leading to massive pollution dumping. Stand.earth. 3 February 2021. Available from: [Link] From California to Alaska, coastal jurisdictions are leading the way protecting Pacific waterways from cruise ship pollution—except Canada, where cruise ships annually dump more than 31 billion litres of ocean pollution. Regulating the West Coast cruise industry: Canada at the low water mark

Noise pollution is penetrating further into our oceans, endangering marine animals. Nick Kilvert. ABC (Australia). 4 February 2021. Available from: [Link] Human-generated noise pollution is increasingly dominating our oceans and drowning out marine life, with potentially negative consequences for our marine ecosystems.

The devastation of the Mauritius oil spill is still unaddressed. Al Jazeera. 6 February 2021. Available from: [Link] Mauritius is known to most people as the world’s largest coral reef. An estimated 1 in 5 deaths (18 to 21.5%) every year can be attributed to fossil fuel pollution, a figure much higher than previously thought, according to research co-authored by UCL.

Fossil fuel air pollution responsible for 1 in 5 deaths worldwide. University College London. 9 February 2021. Available from: [Link] An estimated 1 in 5 deaths (18 to 21.5%) every year can be attributed to fossil fuel pollution, a figure much higher than previously thought, according to research co-authored by UCL.


Clean-up underway as oil spill drifts into harbour. Eyleen Gomez. Gibraltar Chronicle. 13 February 2021. Available from: [Link] A clean-up operation was under way inside the harbour on Saturday morning after an oil spill from a cargo ship drifted into the basin, threatening wildlife and boats inside marinas.

Oil spill ship detained as clean-up continues. Gibraltar Chronicle. 15 February 2021. Available from: [Link] The ship that caused an oil spill last Friday will be detained in Gibraltar waters until the Gibraltar Government can recover the costs of a clean-up operation over the bank holiday weekend.

Vanuatu a lead partnering country in international project to prevent and reduce marine plastic litter from ships. Daily Post (Vanuatu). 16 February 2021. Available from: [Link] The International Maritime Organization (IMO), with the funding support of Norway, and in partnership with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization will implement a Global Programme entitled GloLitter Partnerships Project which aims to assist developing countries prevent and reduce marine plastic litter from the maritime transport and fisheries sectors.


Most of the oil from weekend spill now collected. Jonathan Sacramento. Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation (GBC). 17 February 2021. Available from: https://www.gbc.gi/news/most-oil-weekend-spill-now-collected Most of the oil from the weekend spill in the Bay has been cleaned up, with the Port and Environmental Agency now moving to clean up harbour walls and revetments.

For whales, underwater noise is pollution too. WWF. 19 February 2021. Available from: https://wwf.ca/stories/for-whales-underwater-noise-is-pollution-too/ Far from being the “silent world” of Jacques Cousteau’s famed documentary, the ocean actually abounds with natural sound.

Israel’s beaches blackened by tar after offshore oil spill. Ari Rabinovitch. Reuters. 21 February 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/31eNoLq Israel is trying to find the ship responsible for an oil spill that drenched much of its Mediterranean shoreline with tar, an environmental blow that will take months or years to clean up, officials said.


**HEALTH & SAFETY**


**Unless COVID is suppressed everywhere, we’ll be ‘back at square one’, Tedros warns.** *UN News.* 5 February 2021. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/02/1084002 The number of people who have received a COVID-19 vaccination now exceeds those reportedly infected, the head of the UN’s health agency said on Friday, while warning that after inoculating their own health workers and older people, countries must share doses with others, to eradicate the deadly coronavirus.


**Cyprus calls for global approach to seafarer vaccinations.** David Glass. *Seatrade Cruise News.* 10 February 2021. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/shipping-operations/cyprus-calls-for-global-approach-seafarer-vaccinations With the need to class seafarers as key workers gaining support, Cyprus has gone one step further in suggesting the foundation of a feasible solution to inoculations.

**How high levels of sugar can impact seafarers’ behaviour and productivity.** *Splash 247.com.* 10 February 2021. Available from: https://splash247.com/how-high-levels-of-sugar-can-impact-seafarers-behaviour-and-productivity/ Poor nutrition is not about how much food we are consuming but more about what food we are putting into our bodies.

**Feeling at sea, sailors clutch on to helplines.** *Times of India.* 11 February 2021. Available from: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/feeling-at-sea-sailors-clutch-on-to-helplines/articleshow/80799048.cms A fortnight ago, Indian seaman Bhupendra reportedly died by suicide on a ship in the Middle Eastern waters because he was upset over not being able to go home despite completing a year on board.

**IOSH joins calls to better protect seafarers.** *Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH).* 15 February 2021. Available from: https://iosh.com/more/news-listing/seafarers-mental-health-iosh-calls/ Concerns have been raised about hundreds of thousands of seafarers – who have been “pivotal” in keeping trade flowing during the Covid-19 pandemic – being stranded at sea and unable to return home.

**Manning group seeks priority vaccination for seafarers.** Genevi Factao. *Manila Times.* 17 February 2021. Available from: https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/02/17/business/maritime-business/manning-group-seeks-priority-vaccination-for-seafarers/841735/ The country’s manning agencies and seafarer groups have asked President Rodrigo Duterte to prioritize the seafarers in the administration’s coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) vaccination program.
COVID-19 vaccination ‘wildly uneven and unfair’: UN Secretary-General. UN News. 17 February 2021. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/02/1084962 International partners working to achieve equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines appealed on Wednesday for the UN Security Council to ensure people caught in conflict have access to these lifesaving treatments.


Calls for vets to be sent to cattle ships stranded at sea since December. Sophie Kevany. The Guardian. 20 February 2021. Available from: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/feb/20/calls-for-vets-to-be-sent-to-cattle-ships-stranded-at-sea-since-december-italy-cyprus Thousands of cattle remain stranded at sea on two livestock ships that left Spain in mid-December, as campaigners desperately seek veterinary support for the animals.


Cattle stranded at sea ‘face immediate slaughter’ if ship docks in Spain, says manager. Sophie Kevany. The Guardian. 25 February 2021. Available from: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/feb/25/cattle-stranded-at-sea-face-slaughter-if-ship-docks-in-spain-says-manager The manager of a ship that has spent months at sea with hundreds of cattle on board has accused Spanish officials of failing to answer his call for help and of threatening to kill all the livestock if the ship enters port.

The Mission launches new WeCare e-learning modules for seafarers. Mission to Seafarers. 25 February 2021. Available from: https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/news/the-mission-to-seafarers-launches-new-e-learning-modules-for-seafarers The goal of this ambitious new initiative was to address an issue at the very heart of seafarers’ mental health and wellbeing: relationships and emotions. WeCare Programme


IMO


Maersk pushes IMO to take lead on green regulations. Anastassios Adamopoulos. Lloyd’s List. 10 February 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1135738/Maersk-pushes-IMO-to-take-lead-on-green-regulations Maersk has called on IMO to begin talks on market-based measures for shipping in 2021 as it considers accelerating its own decarbonisation strategy.


IMO’s norms on cutting carbon in merchant ships likely from Oct 2022. Sameer C Mohindru. S&P Global Platts. 18 February 2021. Available from: https://bit.ly/3fdA1TY The draft amendments to the International Maritime Organization’s mandatory rules on reducing carbon emissions in all ships globally, if adopted, are likely to be implemented from October next year and will be applicable to the world’s entire commercial fleet, the IMO said Feb. 18.

LAW & POLICY


Sea to plate: how the EU is stopping any fishy business in our oceans. Denis Loctier. Euronews. 26 January 2021. Available from: https://www.euronews.com/2021/01/26/sea-to-plate-how-the-eu-is-stopping-fishy-business-in-our-fishing-industry On a fine winter day in the Vigo estuary in Galicia, Spain, José Manuel Sotelo Durán, a local fisherman, will spend most of his time on a fishing boat with his coworkers.

Probe into seized vessels to continue for one more week. MEHR News Agency (Iran). 30 January 2021. Available from: https://en.mehrnews.com/news/169231/Probe-into-seized-vessels-to-continue-for-one-more-week The Indonesian Maritime Security Agency said on Friday that it will take seven more days to prove a series of alleged violations committed by two international oil tankers in the country’s waters.


UMF Ministers commit to strengthen the blue economy sector and promote sustainable growth in the Mediterranean. Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). 2 February 2021. Available from: https://ufmsecretariat.org/news-ministerial-meeting-blue-economy-2021/ Ministers from the 42 Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) countries have agreed to intensify their efforts towards a sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean. UfM Ministerial declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy


U.S. seeks to seize suspected Iranian oil aboard foreign tanker. Reuters. 3 February 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/3vSmCqI The United States has filed a lawsuit to seize a cargo of oil it says came from Iran rather than Iraq, as stated on the bill of lading, and contravene U.S. terrorism regulations.

Complaint Seeks Forfeiture of Iranian Oil Aboard Tanker Based on Connection to Terror Group. US Department of Justice. 3 February 2021. Available from: https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/complaint-seeks-forfeiture-iranian-oil-aboard-tanker-based-connection-terror-group The United States filed a forfeiture complaint in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia alleging that all oil aboard a Liberian-flagged vessel, the M/T Achilleas is subject to forfeiture based on U.S. terrorism forfeiture laws.
Government of Canada announces one-year ban for pleasure craft and cruise vessels.  

António Guterres calls for preparatory UN climate negotiations to be held online.  
Chloé Farand. *Climate Home News.* 8 February 2021. Available from: [https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/02/08/antonio-guterres-calls-preparatory-un-climate-negotiations-held-online/](https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/02/08/antonio-guterres-calls-preparatory-un-climate-negotiations-held-online/) Critical negotiations to prepare for November’s Cop26 climate summit will need to take place virtually as the coronavirus pandemic is still not allowing in-person meetings and further delay is not an option, according to UN chief António Guterres.


U.S. sells illicit Iranian fuel, another seized cargo on the way. Timothy Gardner and Jonathan Saul. *Reuters.* 10 February 2021. Available from: [https://reut.rs/3lNdLkY](https://reut.rs/3lNdLkY) The United States has sold more than a million barrels of Iranian fuel seized under its sanctions program last year, a Department of Justice official said, as another ship with intercepted Iranian crude oil sails to a U.S. port.


Greener pastures: Shell plans steady drop in oil business. Danica Kirka. *Associated Press.* 11 February 2021. Available from: [https://apnews.com/article/shell-plans-steady-drop-oil-business-ab6647b370ed1420862b457847274395](https://apnews.com/article/shell-plans-steady-drop-oil-business-ab6647b370ed1420862b457847274395) Royal Dutch Shell, one of the multinationals that has defined the oil industry, is slowly turning away from the fossil fuel that made its fortune over the decades but also worsened a global climate crisis.


Iran says U.S. move to seize oil shipment is ‘act of piracy’. *Reuters*. 15 February 2021. Available from: [https://reut.rs/3fdzMs2](https://reut.rs/3fdzMs2) Iran said on Monday that a U.S. move this month to seize a cargo of oil on the grounds that it came from Tehran was an act of piracy, adding that the shipment did not belong to the Iranian government.


Maritime Knowledge Centre (MKC)


Reversing restrictive maritime trade policies would boost global economic recovery. Richard Meade. Lloyd’s List. 23 February 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1135894/Reversing-restrictive-maritime-trade-policies-would-boost-global-economic-recovery COVID-19 may have given politicians a chance to overtly indulge their protectionist instincts, but open markets have been under attack from trade wars and tariffs in various guises for several years.


**MARINE TECHNOLOGY**


Bearing and MOL team up to bring Artificial Intelligence to the maritime shipping industry - GHG Reduction, Shipping meets Artificial Intelligence. Mitsui O.S.K. Lines (MOL). 9 February 2021. Available from: https://www.mol.co.jp/en/pr/2021/21009.html Through various trials and intensive discussions concerning ship modelling, a range of products including a newly announced AI-powered Smart Routing Engine, has been developed by combining MOL’s maritime expertise and Bearing’s artificial intelligence (AI) technology infrastructure.


Boston-based Sea Machines Robotics, a leading developer of autonomous command and control systems for commercial vessels, announced today that it has entered a strategic alliance with Damen Shipyards Group, of the Netherlands, to incorporate the company’s autonomous and wireless-helm systems as standard features in Damen’s global vessel build catalogue.


In partnership with SeaBot XR, a leading agency for next-generation cutting-edge learning products and services, and the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Fugro has launched MASSPeople, the Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) International Training Standards Working Group.


LR’s Principal Specialist, Assurance of Autonomy, Tony Boylen examines some of the opportunities and challenges in assuring autonomous systems as the technology develops.


A new startup run by former employees of the payment processor Stripe Inc. will help companies analyse the full range of their carbon emissions and figure out the best way to reduce and offset them.


Our bulletin published in September 2020 last year considered the developments of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) as the shipping industry continued to suffer the impacts of the global spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING


The Regional Maritime University (RMU) has commenced a six-week Support for West Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy (SWAIMS) training programme on Maritime Affairs and Security in Accra.

Laurea is co-or-di-nat-ing a notable EU project for Arctic shipping. Laurea University of Applied Sciences (Finland). 11 February 2021. Available from: https://www.laurea.fi/en/current-topics/news/laurea-is-coordinating-a-notable-eu-project-for-arctic-shipping/

AI-ARC, a project related to maritime security in the Arctic region, coordinated by Laurea University of Applied Sciences, has received funding from the EU programme Horizon 2020.


The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has launched in Bacolod City a training institute that aims to provide global leadership training to all maritime professionals.
Project seeks to cut crew on coastal ship as young reject on-board jobs. Paul Berrill. TradeWinds. 16 February 2021. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/technology/project-seeks-to-cut-crew-on-coastal-ship-as-young-reject-on-board-jobs/2-1-963871 Seafar, a Belgian ship manager for remotely controlled inland vessels, has started a semi-autonomous shortsea service between Zeebrugge and Antwerp that aims to progressively reduce the number of crew on board.


MARITIME SAFETY

UN inspection of abandoned oil tanker off Yemen delayed until March. France 24. 28 January 2021. Available from: https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210127-un-inspection-of-abandoned-oil-tanker-off-yemen-delayed-until-march A UN mission to inspect a long-abandoned fuel tanker off the coast of Yemen, which threatens to rupture and cause a massive oil spill, has been pushed to March, the body said Wednesday.

Is box shortage at root of overboard loss increase? Malcolm Latarche. ShipInsight. 1 February 2021. Available from: https://shipinsight.com/articles/is-box-shortage-at-root-of-overboard-loss-increase/ In describing its methodology of compiling statistics, the WSC says it used to class losses as either catastrophic involving 50 or more boxes, or non-catastrophic where smaller numbers were involved.


What happens to containers lost overboard? How long do they float? Gard. 8 February 2021. Available from: https://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/31171690/what-happens-to-containers-lost-overboard-how-long-do-they-float We reviewed the typical causes and legal aspects of container collapse cases in June.


Making tanks cleaner and safer. Craig Jallal. Tanker Shipping & Trade. 9 February 2021. Available from: https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/making-tanks-cleaner-and-safer-63442 In many areas of tanker operation, dangerous practices on board have gradually been replaced or made significantly safer, but tank cleaning and inspection remain something of an anomaly.

Is lifeboat accessibility being taken seriously enough? Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA). 10 February 2021. Available from: https://www.rina.org.uk/is_lifeboat_accessibility_being_taken_seriously_enough.html Lifeboat and liferaft provision has been at the heart of the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) convention ever since the first treaty was signed in 1914, in the aftermath of Titanic.


**MARITIME SECURITY**


Warning the maritime industry against digital attacks. Dag Inge Århus. Norwegian Maritime Authority. 3 February 2021. Available from: https://www.sdir.no/en/news/news-from-the-nma/warning-the-maritime-industry-agains-digital-attacksitim-naring-mot-digitale-angrep/ After a number of virus attacks on Norwegian companies, including maritime companies, the Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA) would like to warn against the various digital threats out there, and give a reminder of the importance of being well prepared when an attack comes.
Greek tanker escapes attack in Gulf of Guinea. Lloyd's List. 5 February 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1135702/Greek-tanker-escapes-attack-in-Gulf-of-Guinea  Pirate attacks in the Gulf of Guinea are continuing, with this latest attack being the fourth recorded offshore boarding this year.

NATO Focused Security Patrols in Western Mediterranean. NATO. 8 February 2021. Available from: https://mc.nato.int/media-centre/news/2021/nato-focused-security-patrols-in-western-mediterranean  Spanish offshore patrol vessel Meteoro, supported by maritime patrol aircrafts from Portugal and Spain, has deployed to the Western Mediterranean as part of NATO’s maritime security operation, Operation Sea Guardian (OSG).


ECSA welcomes pilot launch of new security concept in Gulf of Guinea but highlights continuing severity of piracy threat. European Community Shipowners’ Associations (ECSA). 8 February 2021. Available from: https://www.ecsa.eu/index.php/news/ecsa-welcomes-pilot-launch-new-security-concept-gulf-of-guinea-highlights-continuing-severity  The European shipping industry welcomes the EU’s political commitment to a first pilot of the new Coordinated Maritime Presences concept in the Gulf of Guinea off the coast of West Africa, but cautions that the situation remains very precarious for European and international merchant vessels and more needs to be done urgently.


‘Bridge Cards’ for use in high-risk areas. Gard. 10 February 2021. Available from: https://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/31182529/bridge-cards-for-use-in-high-risk-areas  A set of quick reference ‘Bridge Cards’ can be a useful safety aide memoir for masters and crews on vessel transiting a high-risk area - particularly during times of tension caused by piracy attacks or other security threats.


**MIGRANTS**


Europe’s vain attempt to monitor migration routes at sea. Ben Heubl. *Engineering & Technology (E&T)*. 5 February 2021. Available from: https://eandt.theiet.org/content/articles/2021/02/europe-s-vain-attempt-to-monitor-migration-routes-at-sea/ 2020 gave ample cause for concern about the re-emergence of one of the most lethal at-sea migration crossings between Africa and Europe, via the Alboran Sea which makes up the westernmost portion of the Mediterranean between the Iberian Peninsula and the north of Africa.


EU expects to hold first meeting in migrant contact group in March. Trine Vestergaard. *ShippingWatch.* 24 February 2021. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12783790.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12783790.ece) It is up to the member states themselves to come up with a long-term solution to ensure that migrants do not end up stranded on board merchant vessels, but the Commission is working to create a contact group to help with the work.


**NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS**


LNG carrier Christophe de Margerie completing her experimental round trip voyage. *Port News.* 19 February 2021. Available from: [https://en.portnews.ru/news/309116/](https://en.portnews.ru/news/309116/) During an official meeting with the government of the Russian Federation, Igor Tonkovidov, President and CEO of PAO Sovcomflot, reported to Yury Trutnev, Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, on progress with the experimental round trip voyage of the LNG carrier *Christophe de Margerie* from Sabetta (Russia) to Jiangsu (China) and back, using the Northern Sea Route.


**PIRACY**


MEA should make sincere efforts to enhance global cooperation on maritime piracy: Parl panel. *Times of India*. 11 February 2021. Available from: [https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/mea-should-make-sincere-efforts-to-enhance-global-cooperation-on-maritime-piracy-parl-panel/articleshow/80867248.cms](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/mea-should-make-sincere-efforts-to-enhance-global-cooperation-on-maritime-piracy-parl-panel/articleshow/80867248.cms) The Ministry of External Affairs should make sincere efforts to enhance international cooperation on maritime piracy and ensure the welfare of Indian seafarers captured by pirates, a parliamentary panel said on Thursday.


Dolls on deck is one of Teekay’s measures to keep pirates away. Idha Toft Valeur. ShippingWatch. 18 February 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Tanker/article12772486.ece Teekay Tankers has opted to employ surprising measures on board its vessels to ensure that pirates leave its crew, cargo and vessels in peace when traveling in areas in Western Africa.

Top diplomat wants network of ships in the Gulf of Guinea to fight piracy. Dag Holmstad. ShippingWatch. 19 February 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12773793.ece Pirates attack international commercial vessels several times a week in the waters in the Gulf of Guinea off the coast of West Africa.

Why is piracy increasing on the Gulf of Guinea? Deutsche Welle (Germany). 21 February 2021. Available from: https://www.dw.com/en/why-is-piracy-increasing-on-the-gulf-of-guinea/a-56637925 Nowhere on Earth do pirates strike more often than the Gulf of Guinea, where more than 130 sailors were taken hostage last year.


PORT STATE CONTROL


Crew change hubs could address seafarer crisis, says MAJ. Hellenic Shipping News. 2 February 2021. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/crew-change-hubs-could-address-seafarer-crisis-says-maj/ A global network of crew change hubs would help alleviate the humanitarian crisis seafarers face at present, according to the Maritime Authority of Jamaica (MAJ).
Crew trapped without pay on Xihe Group FPSO following arrest. Adam Corbett and Irene Ang. TradeWinds. 3 February 2021. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/insurance/crew-trapped-without-pay-on-xihe-group-fpso-following-arrest/2-1-955643. Seafarers onboard a Xihe Group-controlled ship under arrest at a Malaysian anchorage are becoming increasingly agitated after a three-month ordeal that has seen them trapped on the vessel without pay.


China conveys their clearance on transfer of crew of MV Anastasia, says MEA. Asian News International (ANI) 4 February 2021. Available from: https://aninews.in/news/world/asia/china-conveys-their-clearance-on-transfer-of-crew-of-mv-anastasia-says-mea20210204201823/. After a sustained follow-up by the Indian embassy in Beijing, China has conveyed their clearance on transfer of the crew of cargo ship MV Anastasia, said the Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday.


China suspends crew changes for two shipmanagers. Jason Jiang. Splash 247.com. 8 February 2021. Available from: https://splash247.com/china-suspends-crew-changes-for-two-shipmanagers/. China’s Ministry of Transport has announced a decision to suspend the crew change operations for all the vessels of two shipmanagers due to group coronavirus infections on vessels managed by the companies.


Crew changes cross 100,000 at Port of Singapore. Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA). 16 February 2021. Available from: https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/media-centre/news-releases/detail/6b4bc075-43c3-406dbaa61-50b52f8576f1 The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) has crossed the 100,000 mark for crew change carried out in Singapore during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.


Egypt steps up efforts to maintain Suez Canal’s transport advantage. Mohammed Abu Zaid. Arab News (Saudi Arabia). 30 January 2021. Available from: https://arab.news/mqv6t. The head of the Egyptian Suez Canal Authority, Osama Rabie, has said that new incentives, projects, and services are being provided to ensure the canal remains superior to its alternatives.


80% of ports missing out on the benefits of digitalisation, creating last mile risks. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 4 February 2021. Available from: https://splash247.com/80-of-ports-missing-out-on-the-benefits-of-digitalisation-creating-last-mile-risks/. Of the 4,900 ports in the world, the majority are not yet using digital technology for even the most basic processes; 80% of ports continue to rely on manual, legacy solutions such as whiteboards or spreadsheets to manage critical marine services such as towage, pilotage and launch boats, Innovez-One claims.


IBIA welcomes Port of Rotterdam bunker fuel transporter licence. International Bunker Industry Association (IBIA). 5 February 2021. Available from: https://ibia.net/2021/02/05/ibia-welcomes-port-of-rotterdam-bunker-fuel-transporter-licence/ As of 1 February 2021, bunkering vessels operating in Europe’s biggest bunkering port, and one of the top three in the world, are required to have a license.


REGULATIONS

MARINA sets rules, regulations for ballast water management. Government of Philippines. 1 February 2021. Available from: https://marina.gov.ph/2021/02/01/marina-sets-rules-regulations-for-ballast-water-management/ The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), through its Circular No. SR-2020-05, has set rules and regulations for the control and management of ships’ ballast water and sediments to ensure that all Philippine Registered Ships plying in the international trade, as well as international ships plying Philippine waters, are compliant with the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships’ Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention).

Up to 30,000 vessels may be non-compliant with the new EEXI regulation. Thomas Kristiansen. ShippingWatch. 4 February 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12735769.ece Although the so-called EEXI index is not yet adopted and is still much debated in some shipping communities, tonnage providers have embarked on the rather complicated journey to qualify their vessels to comply with the rules.


Maersk Tankers steps up calls for regional carbon levies. Janet Porter. Lloyd’s List. 18 February 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1135832/Maersk-Tankers-steps-up-calls-for-regional-carbon-levies Maersk Tankers is stepping up pressure for immediate action to reduce ship emissions, even if that requires regional measures while waiting for a global decarbonisation strategy to be agreed.

Lack of regulatory framework holding up decarbonisation progress. Lloyd’s Register. 19 February 2021. Available from: https://www.lr.org/en/latest-news/lack-of-regulatory-framework-holding-up-decarbonisation-progress/ Despite the need for speed, the shipping industry does not have the tools to decarbonise quickly enough to meet its own targets.


SALVAGE


SEAFARERS


Crumbs of comfort for crew. Steven Jones. *Splash 247.com.* 29 January 2021. Available from: [https://splash247.com/crumbs-of-comfort-for-crew/](https://splash247.com/crumbs-of-comfort-for-crew/) It is a good sign for seafarers and the industry that there is so much rallying around behind the Neptune Declaration and pressure is being applied to ensure the messages about the importance of seafarers are being heard.

[Updated] Tragic seafarer suicide on asphalt tanker vessel off UAE coast. Human Rights at Sea (HRAS). 30 January 2021. Available from: https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/2021/01/30/updated-tragic-seafarer-suicide-on-asphalt-tanker-vessel-off-uae-coast/ With express permission, it is with great sadness that we report the tragic and premature death of a young seafarer onboard the MT SEA PRINCESS (IMO 8607634), an asphalt bitumen tanker owned by Global tanker Pvt Ltd India and operated by Prime Tankers (UAE), which occurred on the afternoon of 28 January 2021 off the UAE coast.


Crew trapped at sea due to China’s ban on Australian coal reunite with family after seven months. Kai Feng. ABC (Australia). 1 February 2021. Available from: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-02-03/crew-caught-in-china-ban-on-australian-coal-returns-home/13111622 Forced to anchor in China’s Bohai Sea for more than seven months, Indian seafarers on a cargo ship loaded with 160,000 tons of Australian coal have finally arrived home.

Iran frees crew members of seized South Korean oil tanker. MEHR News Agency (Iran). 2 February 2021. Available from: https://en.mehrnews.com/news/169422/Iran-frees-crew-members-of-seized-South-Korean-oil-tanker Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Tuesday that the decision to release the members of the crew aboard the South Korean ship was taken “on humanitarian grounds” and the released crew are now allowed to leave the country.


Iran agrees to release sailors of seized S. Korean oil tanker except for captain for ship management. Song Sang-ho. Yonhap News Agency (South Korea). 3 February 2021. Available from: https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210202009752315?section=national/diplomacy Iran has agreed to release all sailors of a seized South Korean oil tanker except for the captain for its management, the foreign ministry confirmed Tuesday, capping weeks of tough negotiations between the two countries.


Transport Secretary urged to exempt seafarers from ‘red list’ travel restrictions. Nautilus International. 3 February 2021. Available from: https://www.nautilusint.org/en/news-transport-secretary-urged-to-exempt-seafarers-from-red-list-travel-restrictions/ Nautilus International and the Chamber of Shipping have urged UK Transport Secretary Grant Shapps to exempt seafarers from quarantine when returning to the UK from ‘red list’ countries.

Father tells of pain after son’s death on tanker off Sharjah coast. Human Rights at Sea (HRAS). 1 February 2021. Available from: https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/transport/father-tells-of-pain-after-son-s-death-on-tanker-off-sharjah-coast-1.1158799 A family appealed for answers as to how their son died on board a shipping tanker, anchored off Khor Fakkan, days before he was expected to arrive home in India.

Father tells of pain after son’s death on tanker off Sharjah coast. Nick Webster. The National (UAE). 3 February 2021. Available from: https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/transport/father-tells-of-pain-after-son-s-death-on-tanker-off-sharjah-coast-1.1158799 A family appealed for answers as to how their son died on board a shipping tanker, anchored off Khor Fakkan, days before he was expected to arrive home in India.


Runaway aframax crew sees relief after owner abandons ship. Bob Rust. TradeWinds. 5 February 2021. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/law/runaway-aframax-crew-sees-relief-after-owner-abandons-ship/2-1-957430 A humanitarian crisis on board a formerly fugitive aframax has been lifted but crew members, lenders, and creditors are still seeking financial relief from the High Court of Sri Lanka.


South Africa joins the world in declaring seafarers ‘essential workers’; IMO. *South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA)*. 9 February 2021. Available from: https://blog.samsa.org.za/2021/02/09/south-africa-joins-the-world-in-declaring-seafarers-essential-workers-imo/ With the siege by the Covid-19 pandemic still gripping firmly most parts of the world and disrupting world trade since its outbreak more than a year ago, South Africa has joined more than 50 countries globally in formally ratifying a resolution that declares seafarers as essential workers.

Four years into voyage and metres from land, tanker crew still stuck aboard. Jacob Greaves, Tarek Fahmy and Raya Jalabi. *Reuters*. 9 February 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/3sjrhjg Nearly four years into their odyssey at sea, the five-member crew of oil tanker *MT Iba* is tantalisingly close to shore, yet still unable to set foot on dry land.


Seafarers Crisis: Shipping Workers Trapped, What Needs To Be Done? *BFM 89.9* (Malaysia). 11 February 2021. Available from: https://www.bfm.my/podcast/morning-run/morning-brief/seafarers-crisis-shipping-workers-trapped-what-needs-to-be-done© A disaster is at hand In the seas as the fate of seafarers who play a crucial role in keeping global trade flowing is being labelled a “humanitarian crisis at sea,” as hundreds of thousands of crew are spending extended periods at sea, far beyond the expiry of their contracts.

Crew on suicide tanker had gone two months unpaid. Bob Rust. *TradeWinds*. 11 February 2021. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/law/crew-on-suicide-tanker-had-gone-two-months-unpaid/2-1-960127 Dubai-based Prime Tankers had not paid an inadequately provisioned crew on one of its vessels for two months at the time a seafarer took his own life late last month, an official at the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) told TradeWinds.


Kidnapped Turkish sailors rescued after pirate attack. Yunus Turk, Mehmet Sah Yilmaz and Gokhan Varan. *Anadolu Agency (Turkey).* 12 February 2021. Available from: https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/kidnapped-turkish-sailors-rescued-after-pirate-attack/2143025 All 15 remaining crew members of the Liberian-flagged ship the Mozart were rescued Friday after the cargo vessel had fallen victim to a pirate attack off Nigeria, two involved maritime companies announced.


16 seafarers, including three from Mumbai, stuck at Chinese anchorage reached India. V Narayan. *Times of India.* 14 February 2021. Available from: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/16 seafarers, including three from Mumbai, stuck at Chinese anchorage reached India/articleshow/80911921.cms The 16 Indian seafarers of “MV Anastasia” merchant ship, who were stuck at the Chinese anchorage for more than six months, have finally reached Mumbai after they sailed to Japan on February 10.

Sailors kidnapped off Nigeria return to Turkey, describe death threats and forest captivity. *Reuters.* 14 February 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/3f8d5Wj Fifteen Turkish sailors kidnapped by pirates last month in the Gulf of Guinea arrived back in Turkey on Sunday and the ship’s captain described how they faced death threats and were held in a forest during their three-week ordeal.


MSC Salutes ANASTASIA Seafarers on Safe Return Home. *Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC).* 15 February 2021. Available from: https://www.msc.com/mrt/news/2021-february/msc-salutes-anastasia-seafarers-on-safe-return The reunions are overdue, but we are glad to finally see the courageous crew of the cargo ship ANASTASIA repatriated to India after an extraordinarily challenging stint at sea.


Maritime consortium launch CrewCare App to improve seafarer well-being. *Container Shipping Supporting Seafarers (CSSS)*. 17 February 2021. Available from: [https://www.containershippingsupportingseafarers.org/maritime-consortium-launch-crewcare-app-to-improve-seafarer-wellbeing](https://www.containershippingsupportingseafarers.org/maritime-consortium-launch-crewcare-app-to-improve-seafarer-wellbeing)  Marking a significant step forward in seafarer welfare, a group of established maritime entities have joined forces to build a digital platform aimed at improving the emotional well-being of the world’s 1.7 million seafarers.
Abandoned Palmali crew are caught in an inhumane trap - Turkey can free them. ITF Seafarers. 18 February 2021. Available from: https://www.itfseafarers.org/en/news/feature-abandoned-palmali-crew-are-caught-inhumane-trap-turkey-can-free-them The humanitarian effort to feed, repatriate and fight for the seafarers’ outstanding wages has been spearheaded by the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) and its inspectors.

Eleven new cases of crew abandonment in opening weeks of 2021. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 19 February 2021. Available from: https://splash247.com/eleven-new-cases-of-crew-abandonment-in-opening-weeks-of-2021/ While this week has seen some hard fought crew abandonment cases come to a merciful close there’s no sign that this terrible shipping scourge is relenting.


After 3 years abandoned at sea without pay, this oil tanker crew is on cusp of going home. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). 23 February 2021. Available from: https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/the-current-for-feb-22-2021-1.5922712/after-3-years-abandoned-at-sea-without-pay-this-oil-tanker-crew-is-on-cusp-of-going-home-1.5923521 When a shipping company from the United Arab Emirates hit financial trouble in 2017 and abandoned an oil tanker off the coast of Dubai, it left a small crew still aboard, stranded at sea without pay or a way home.

Spike in ships abandoned at sea during the pandemic. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. 23 February 2021. Available from: https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1864412739810 The crew of the MT Iba — an oil tanker abandoned by its owners — are set to return home after years stranded aboard.


Fiji government must step in over ferries scam, rights violations. International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF). 24 February 2021. Available from: https://www.itfglobal.org/en/news/fiji-government-must-step-in-over-ferries-scam-rights-violations Seafarers have been made homeless and left stranded thousands of kilometres from their loved ones after a major Fijian ferry company scammed and underpaid them, and then fired the workers when they spoke to the union.

70 days held hostage by pirates. International Seafarers’ Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN). 24 February 2021. Available from: https://www.seafarerswelfare.org/stories/70-days-held-hostage-by-pirates In 2019, five Indian seafarers were kidnapped from their vessel in the Gulf of Guinea by Nigerian pirates and held hostage for more than two months.

The World Tonight: Seafarers stranded at sea BBC Radio. 25 February 2021. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000s9j1 Interview with Frederick Kenney, Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO. The interview starts at @38 minutes.

Available from: https://www.itfglobal.org/en/news/fiji-government-must-step-in-over-ferries-scam-rights-violations Seafarers have been made homeless and left stranded thousands of kilometres from their loved ones after a major Fijian ferry company scammed and underpaid them, and then fired the workers when they spoke to the union.


**SEARCH & RESCUE**


**SHIP RECYCLING**


**Frustrated Maersk wants EU speed up approval of shipbreaking in India.** Astrid Sturlason. *ShippingWatch.* 3 February 2021. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12734185.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12734185.ece) It is incomprehensible and surprising that the 25-year-old Basel Convention suddenly poses a challenge in terms of approving ship recycling in India.
Scrap yards disagree with Maersk: Plenty of space at approved EU shipbreakers.
Astrid Sturlason. ShippingWatch. 4 February 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article12738523.ece There is far from a shortage of space at European yards to scrap large vessels from, among others, Maersk at shipbreaking facilities that are included on the EU’s list of approved yards, says Peter Wyntin, chairman of association European Ship Recyclers and head of ship recycling at Belgian yard Galloo.

Ship recycling in Alang: What is its capacity, and can it attract more ageing ships from Europe & Japan? Avinash Nair. Indian Express. 5 February 2021. Available from: https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/ship-recycling-alang-capacity-ageing-ships-europe-japan-7174436/ In her Budget speech on Monday, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman spoke about doubling the ship recycling capacity by 2024 and attracting more ships to India from Europe and Japan.

First certified ‘EU-equivalent’ shipbreaking facility in Africa. Craig Jallal. Tanker Shipping & Trade. 5 February 2021. Available from: https://www.riverramm.com/news-content-hub/the-first-certified-Isquouequi-equivalentrsquo-shipbreaking-facility-in-africa-63315 The 34South facility will target larger Panamax-sized vessels, and once approved, will be the first green, compliant, ship recycling centre in Africa, making South Africa one of the first non-OECD countries able to accept these end-of-life vessels.

Turkish EU-listed yards shaken by two fatal accidents. Ingvild Jenssen. NGO Shipbreaking Platform. 9 February 2021. Available from: https://shipbreakingplatform.org/accidents-turkish-eu-listed-yards/ In the last four months, the Turkish ship recycling industry has been hit by two serious accidents.

Video: Fire and Explosion in Indonesian Shipyard Kills Three Workers. Maritime Executive. 12 February 2021. Available from: https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/video-fire-and-explosion-in-indonesian-shipyard-kills-three-workers The fire appears to have broken out on the dock or a fuel barge that was astern of an LPG tanker that was at the PT Barokah Galangan Perkasa shipyard, Mahakam River in Samarinda, province of East Kalimantan in western Indonesia.


SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR

Corvus Energy awarded battery for the world’s first zero-emission tanker project. Corvus Energy. 28 January 2021. Available from: https://corvusenergy.com/corvus-energy-awarded-battery-for-the-worlds-first-zero-emission-tanker-project/ Corvus Energy is pleased to announce that Kawasaki Heavy Industries has selected Corvus Energy to supply the energy storage system (ESS) for the first zero-emissions electric “e5 tanker” currently under construction for Asahi Tanker Co., Ltd. of Tokyo, Japan.

Korean shipbuilders forecast to suffer decline in 2nd half order backlogs. Nam Kwang-sik. Yonhap News Agency (South Korea). 2 February 2021. Available from: https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210202008400320 South Korean shipbuilders, led by top player Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., are expected to undergo a temporary shortage of order backlogs in the second half of the year due to a decline in new orders last year.

Quick thinking needed as clock ticks down on EEXI compliance. Adam Corbett. *Trade Winds.* 4 February 2021. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/technology/quick-thinking-needed-as-clock-ticks-down-on-eexi-compliance/2-1-954616 Shipowners have less than two years to decide if they want to slow down, invest in technology or scrap their vessels to meet upcoming rules on emissions.


Samsung Heavy to demonstrate remote ship control system for large vessel. Nam Kwang-sik. *Yonhap News Agency (South Korea).* 10 February 2021. Available from: https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210210005600320 Samsung Heavy Industries Co. said Wednesday that it will demonstrate whether its remote autonomous navigation system can automatically steer a large ship in August.


The First Battery-Powered Tanker is Coming to Tokyo. Maria Galucci. *IEEE Spectrum.* 14 February 2021. Available from: https://spectrum.ieee.org/energywise/energy/batteries-storage/first-battery-powered-tanker-coming-to-tokyo A new ship powered only by lithium-ion batteries is coming to Japan’s coastline.


French boat hauls luxury cargoes across Atlantic with sail power. *Reuters*. 25 February 2021. Available from: https://tmsnrt.rs/3sjINIG In a return to the age of the clipper, a French company is using a sailing boat to ply the trade routes that pre-dated steam power - and delivering wine and chocolate to environmentally conscious customers on either side of the Atlantic.


**SHIPPING**


Shipowners split their fleets up in two according to new carbon efficiency requirements. Tomas Kristiansen. *ShippingWatch*. 2 February 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12731584.ece Some shipowners have already started to review their fleets in order to categorize ships according to new international rules, as the IMO’s Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index, EEXI, is expected to receive final approval this summer.

A “beggar-thy-neighbour” approach keeps seafarers stranded. Sandra Tsui. Lowy Institute (Australia), 3 February 2021. Available from: https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/beggar-thy-neighbour-approach-keeps-seafarers-stranded When a business manager is willing to spend US$200,000 to send home five employees whose contracts have expired and bring five colleagues to replace them on the spot, later telling a reporter the cost was the least of their worries, you can be sure a crisis is involved.


Why should new crew change alliance make a difference in 2021 when politicians remained mute in 2020? Idha Toft Valeur. ShippingWatch. 3 February 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12729658.ece Does the unity of some of the most influential global companies to secure the wellbeing of seafarers matter, when the world’s politicians heard their pledges loud and clear in 2020 and still did little to resolve it?

Liberia Becomes The First Ship Registry To Join Neptune Declaration. Liberian Registry. 3 February 2021. Available from: https://www.liscr.com/blog/liberia-becomes-first-ship-registry-join-neptune-declaration The Liberian Registry joins over 300 owners, operators, and maritime organizations in this very important worldwide call to action to end the unprecedented crew change crisis caused by COVID-19.


The Chinese/Australian trade wars and implications for shipping. Ian Goulson and Kelly Wagland. Gard. 3 February 2021. Available from: https://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/31144594/the-chineseaustralian-trade-wars-and-implications-for-shipping In this article, we will take a brief look at some of the complications that can arise with respect to both voyage and time charterparties when there is significant delay, such as that experienced to laden vessels off shore China.

Will the pandemic open new doors? David Loosley. Lloyd’s Register. 4 February 2021. Available from: https://www.lr.org/en/insights/articles/will-the-pandemic-open-new-doors/ If our industry can adapt and innovate like we have done throughout COVID-19, imagine what we can do to accelerate decarbonisation efforts if we apply the right thinking and the right resources, says David Loosley, BIMCO Secretary General & CEO.

Shipping decarbonisation lacks ambition and urgency, claim NGOs. Gary Howard. Seatrade Maritime News. 4 February 2021. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/environmental/shipping-decarbonisation-lacks-ambition-and-urgency-claim-ngos Representatives from the shipping industry and environmental NGOs exposed the gaps between their understandings of where the shipping industry currently stands on decarbonising and where it needs to get to.


Industry Standard on In-water Cleaning with Capture. International Chamber of Shipping (ICS). February 2021. Available from: https://bit.ly/3f8bQGD  This industry standard helps to ensure that the in-water cleaning of a ship’s hull, and niche areas including the propeller, can be carried out safely, efficiently and in an environmentally sustainable way. Industry Standard on In-water Cleaning with Capture v1.0 🎯


The Lloyd’s List Podcast: Is the crewing crisis getting worse? Graham Westgarth. Lloyd’s List. 5 February 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1135695/The-Lloyds-List-Podcast-Is-the-crewing-crisis-getting-worse 🎧 A year into the coronavirus pandemic and we are still reminding everyone that hundreds of thousands of seafarers from across the globe have been left stranded working on board ships beyond the expiry of their initial contracts.

The EU is about to push the first-ever fuel carbon intensity measure on shipping. Anastassios Adamopoulos. Lloyd’s List. 5 February 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1135688/The-EU-is-about-to-push-the-first-ever-fuel-carbon-intensity-measure-on-shipping  Ships calling at European ports may soon have to source and operate on less carbon-intensive fuels under a new plan that actors across the board are warning will have major impacts while receiving insufficient attention.

The oceans are becoming a large container terminal. Javier Madiedo. Splash 247.com. 6 February 2021. Available from: https://splash247.com/the-oceans-are-becoming-a-large-container-terminal/  We continually read, see and hear news of hundreds of containers fallen into the sea from large containerships with their huge decks full of crumpled teu and feu.

Business Daily - Stormy seas for global shipping. BBC World Service. 8 February 2021. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3csz7kn  We explore the twin crises affecting the shipping industry.

Diversity, Inclusion and Hope. A Reality Check in 2021. Human Rights at Sea (HRAS). 8 February 2021. Available from: https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/2021/02/08/diversity-inclusion-and-hope-a-reality-check-in-2021/  Human Rights at Sea today publishes a case study by Advisory Board member and maritime professional, Joanne Rawley, providing a personal insight and commentary as a reality check to the issue of diversity and inclusion in the shipping industry. We are All someone’s Daughter. We chose to be Seafarers 🎯


Japan aims to boost ammonia fuel demand to 3 mln tonnes a year by 2030. Reuters. 8 February 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/3sht347

Exclusive: women occupy 5% of maritime leadership roles. Spinnaker Global Ltd. 9 February 2021. Available from: https://spinnaker-global.com/0_09-02-2021-women-in-maritime-leadership-salaries

Major container line deflates hopes of imminent resolution to container shortage. Søren Pico. ShippingWatch. 9 February 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article12748816.ece


Ocean Network Express (ONE) is pleased to announce the successful trial use of biofuel to power the M/V MOL Experience.
Container shipping locked in a ‘significant bottleneck’ as demand surges back. Elliot Smith. 
*CNBC (US)*. 10 February 2021. Available from: [https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/10/maersk-q4-2020-earnings.html](https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/10/maersk-q4-2020-earnings.html) Container shipping firms are locked in a “significant bottleneck” as resurgent global demand stretches capacity and drives up freight rates, Maersk CEO Soren Skou told CNBC.

International Chamber of Shipping: Demand Level ‘Unexpected’. *Bloomberg*. 10 February 2021. Available from: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=sDrzRB_j1xs&ab_channel=BloombergMarketsandFinance](https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=sDrzRB_j1xs&ab_channel=BloombergMarketsandFinance) Esben Poulsson, chairman of the International Chamber of Shipping and executive chairman of ENESELC, a Singapore-based commercial management and ship owning entity, discusses the outlook for the industry amid the coronavirus pandemic.


Maersk points to four future fuels: Several barriers still need to be overcome. Christian Carlsen. *ShippingWatch*. 12 February 2021. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12758914.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12758914.ece) Maersk has now identified four fuels that will help the container line achieve its ambition of become carbon-neutral by 2050.

Covid-19: Cruise industry ‘in a very different place’ to a year ago. BBC News. 15 February 2021. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-56071052. The cruise industry is now “in a very different place” than it was a year ago, Brian Salerno, senior vice-president of Maritime Policy, Cruise Lines International Association has said.

Scope 3 emissions: how the freight industry will transition to net zero. Hellenic Shipping News. 16 February 2021. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/scope-3-emissions-how-the-freight-industry-will-transition-to-net-zero/. In February 2020, BP announced that it aims to be “net zero across its operations on an absolute basis by 2050 or sooner”.


Does shipping need its own ammonia rules? Lloyd’s List. 16 February 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1135800/Does-shipping-need-its-own-ammonia-rules. The safe development of alternative fuels and their supply chains should be a priority for everyone across their value chain, but when it comes to ammonia, reinventing the wheel may be unnecessary.


The Sustainability Imperative. *Watson Farley & Williams LLP*. 19 February 2021. Available from: [https://www.wfw.com/reports/the-sustainability-imperative/](https://www.wfw.com/reports/the-sustainability-imperative/) Sustainability concerns have rocketed up the shipping agenda over the past decade, with environmental, social and corporate governance issues already influencing financing decisions, fleet renewal and regulatory change across the industry.


As shipping delays continue, NZ Inc looks for alternatives. Dileepa Fonseka. *Stuff (New Zealand)*. 21 February 2021. Available from: [https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/124275306/as-shipping-delays-continue-nz-inc-looks-for-alternatives](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/124275306/as-shipping-delays-continue-nz-inc-looks-for-alternatives) Anybody who doubted the far-reaching effects of the supply chain disruptions on jobs and our economy only had to tag along to an employment subsidy announcement in South Auckland two weeks ago to be convinced otherwise.

Shipping looks set to escape Myanmar sanctions — for now. Dale Wainwright. *TradeWinds*. 22 February 2021. Available from: [https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/shipping-looks-set-to-escape-myanmar-sanctions-for-now/2-1-967097](https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/shipping-looks-set-to-escape-myanmar-sanctions-for-now/2-1-967097) Shipping companies trading with Myanmar look set to avoid the sanctions that have hampered similar activities in countries such as Venezuela and Iran.


Task force to ensure more women in Norway's maritime industry. Idha Toft Valeur. *ShippingWatch.* 22 February 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12779320.ece It has long been a stated wish from the maritime industry to get more women to join the industry in Norway, but so far there has not been much progress.

Large damages in shipping make Skuld and other insurers increase premiums. Dag Holmstad. *ShippingWatch.* 22 February 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article12777402.ece It will be more expensive to insure the world’s commercial vessels for the next twelve months.


DFDS and Maersk will use carbon-free ammonia from new huge facility. Maz Plechinger. *ShippingWatch.* 23 February 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12780268.ece Shipping companies DFDS and Maersk together with the agricultural sector are prepared to buy the production of up to 90,000 tons green ammonia from a large production facility, which could be ready in western Denmark five years from now.

ESG is forcing change, but some still have their heads in the sand. Julian Bray. *TradeWinds.* 24 February 2021. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/opinion/esg-is-forcing-change-but-some-still-have-their-heads-in-the-sand/2-1-968501 How fast-moving and deep-rooted are the changes to business practices apparently sweeping across the maritime sector today?

MPA joins industry in Ammonia Fuelled Tanker Joint Development Project. *Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA).* 24 February 2021. Available from: https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/media-centre/news-releases/detail/69113e8b-0d26-4e44-90d0-21ee387c58c0 Ammonia-fuelled tanker Joint Development Project (JDP) partners - MISC Berhad (MISC), Lloyd’s Register (LR), Samsung Heavy Industries (SHI) and MAN Energy Solutions (MAN) announced the entry of two new partners – the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and Yara International ASA (Yara) at a recent webinar focused on Ammonia as a Shipping Fuel which was organized by the Getting to Zero Coalition's Fuels & Technologies workstream.


Norwegian shipping wants money from carbon levy returned to the sector. Idha Toft Valeur. ShippingWatch. 24 February 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12783310.ece The many millions of dollars pouring into the Norwegian state coffers from a rising carbon levy should be used to facilitate the green transition, says the Norwegian shipping sector.


ESG survey confirms broad industry support for decarbonisation. Richard Clayton. Lloyd’s List. 24 February 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1135911/ESG-survey-confirms-broad-industry-support-for-decarbonisation Reducing shipping’s carbon footprint is the industry’s main challenge, according to a survey carried out on behalf of law firm Watson Farley & Williams.


Chief officer Joanne Rawley has turned a spotlight on the issue of discrimination in shipping by sharing her experiences of intimidation during her nine years at sea in an article entitled *We are all someone’s daughter. We chose to be seafarers.*


**RESEARCH**


Trucco S, Demartini MC, et al. **The reporting of sustainable development goals: is the integrated approach the missing link?** *SN Business & Economics.* 1 February 2021. Available from: [https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s43546-021-00046-9](https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s43546-021-00046-9) This commentary argues that the integrated thinking could support the simultaneous consideration of different stakeholders’ groups to ensure that the SDGs can be achieved as a whole.


Duarte CM, Chapuis L, et al. **The soundscape of the Anthropocene ocean.** *Science.* 5 February 2021. Available from: [https://science.sciencemag.org/content/371/6529/6529/eaba4658](https://science.sciencemag.org/content/371/6529/6529/eaba4658) Sound is the sensory cue that travels farthest through the ocean and is used by marine animals, ranging from invertebrates to great whales, to interpret and explore the marine environment and to interact within and among species.
Vagale A, Bye RT, et al. **Path planning and collision avoidance for autonomous surface vehicles II: a comparative study of algorithms.** *Journal of Marine Science and Technology.* 6 February 2021. Available from: [https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00773-020-00790-x](https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00773-020-00790-x) Artificial intelligence is an enabling technology for autonomous surface vehicles, with methods such as evolutionary algorithms, artificial potential fields, fast marching methods, and many others becoming increasingly popular for solving problems such as path planning and collision avoidance.

Grip K and Blomqvist S. **Marine spatial planning: Coordinating divergent marine interests.** *Ambio.* 7 February 2021. Available from: [https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-020-01471-0](https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-020-01471-0) Globally, ecosystem-based marine spatial planning has become a useful instrument to coordinate the planning of different authorities.


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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.