About the MKC Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)

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

The MKC Current Awareness Bulletin is disseminated monthly and issues from the current and the past years are free to download from this page.

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

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IMO NEWS & EVENTS

WHAT’S NEW

IMO working group agrees guidelines to support new GHG measures

Guidelines to support new carbon intensity cutting measures agreed by working group ahead of MEPC.

An International Maritime Organization (IMO) working group has agreed a set of draft guidelines to support mandatory measures to cut the carbon intensity of all ships.

The proposed mandatory measures have already been approved by IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) and are expected to be adopted when the MEPC meets for its 76th session from 10-17 June, 2021.

The proposed amendments to the MARPOL Convention would require ships to combine a technical and an operational approach to reduce their carbon intensity. This is in line with the ambition of the Initial IMO GHG Strategy, which aims to reduce carbon intensity of international shipping by 40% by 2030, compared to 2008. More...

Autonomous ships: regulatory scoping exercise completed

IMO’s Maritime Safety Committee finalizes its analysis of ship safety treaties, to assess next steps for regulating Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS).

The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), at its 103rd session in May 2021, has completed a regulatory scoping exercise to analyze relevant ship safety treaties, in order to assess how Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) could be regulated.

The completion of the scoping exercise represents an all important first step, paving the way to focused discussions to ensure that regulation will keep pace with technological developments.

The scoping exercise was initiated in 2017 to determine how safe, secure and environmentally sound MASS operations might be addressed in IMO instruments. More...

IMO’s Kitack Lim urges fair vaccine distribution for seafarers

IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim has called on all IMO Member States to support a fair global distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, beyond fulfilling their national needs, to ensure seafarers can access vaccines.

In a statement, Mr. Lim reiterated his call for seafarers and marine personnel to be designated as “key workers” and noted that some key maritime labour supply countries are reliant on the COVAX initiative of the World Health Organization (WHO) to access vaccines.

“To ensure access to vaccines of those countries, I call on all IMO Member States to work together towards a fair global distribution, beyond fulfilling their national needs. No seafarers should be left behind or forced to forgo their careers because of limited resources in their home country”, Mr. Lim said. More...
Programme of Meetings for 2021 (issued 8 December 2020) can be downloaded here

Previous Meetings (REMOTE)

Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 103) – 5-14 May
Intersessional Working Group on the Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships (8) – 24-28 May
Facilitation Committee (FAL 45) – 1-7 June

Forthcoming Meetings (REMOTE)

Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 76) – 10-17 June
IMO Council (C 125) – 28 June – 2 July

LATEST PRESS BRIEFINGS

IMO calls for further action to address Gulf of Guinea piracy
19 May 2021

IMO encourages priority vaccination for seafarers
18 May 2021

Supply chains firms urged to protect seafarers’ rights
6 May 2021

RECENT SPEECHES BY IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL KITACK LIM

Facilitation Committee, 45th session (FAL 45), (Opening remarks) 1-7 June

P4G Seoul Summit Green Future Sessions: Oceans 26 May

Petersberg Climate Dialogue series - Turning the tides: Setting shipping on course 6 May

Maritime Safety Committee, 103rd session (MSC 103), (Opening and Closing remarks) 5-14 May

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UNITED NATIONS


CASUALTIES

NTSB Finds Speed an Issue in 2019 Houston Ship Channel Collision; Liquefied Gas Carrier Genesis River and Voyager Tow. US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). 30 March 2021. Available from: https://www.ntsb.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/NR20210330.aspx Vessel speed was a factor in the 2019 collision between a liquefied propane gas tanker and a barge in the Houston Ship Channel that resulted in the release of 11,000 barrels of petrochemicals, the National Transportation Safety Board said Tuesday. Summary Full Report

Investigator boards ship at start of probe into Suez Canal blockage. Reuters. 31 March 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/3vETgew Divers inspected the hull of the Ever Given on Wednesday as the man tasked with investigating how the giant container ship ran aground, choking off international trade through the Suez Canal for almost a week, boarded the vessel.


No fatalities, oil leak in tanker-ship collision off Cavite: PCG. Philippine News Agency (PNA). 8 April 2021. Available from: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1136167 The mariners aboard a tanker and merchant ship that collided Wednesday off the coast of Cavite are “in good condition” while no oil leaks have so far been detected Wednesday, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said.


Missing Indonesian submarine has 72 hours of oxygen left, navy says. BBC News. 22 April 2021. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-56829278 The KRI Nanggala-402 vessel is thought to have disappeared about 60 miles (100km) off the coast of Bali early on Wednesday morning.


Fire extinguished on oil tanker off Syria after suspected drone attack. Reuters. 25 April 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/3cbvQWM Syria’s oil ministry said firefighters on Saturday put out a fire on an oil tanker off the Baniyas refinery after a suspected attack by a drone coming from the direction of Lebanese waters.
Attack or accident? Events unclear as Syria reports three killed in attack on tanker. *TradeWinds*. 26 April 2021. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/attack-or-accident-events-unclear-as-syria-reports-three-killed-in-attack-on-tanker/2-1-1001133 Syrian authorities have reported a fatal attack on an Iranian tanker off its coast, but Iranian sources have claimed the incident was a welding accident.


Work to remove oil from stricken tanker in China set to start on Friday. Muyu Xu and Martin Quin Pollard. *Reuters*. 29 April 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/3vHArr1 Work to siphon off the remaining cargo from a stricken tanker was expected to commence on Friday, the vessel’s manager said on Thursday, two days after hundreds of tonnes of oil spilled into the Yellow Sea following a collision in dense fog.


**ENVIRONMENT**

Climate change top challenge over the next decade, UNESCO global survey finds. *UN News*. 31 March 2021. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/03/1088812 Climate change and loss of biodiversity is seen as the most pressing challenge over the decade, according to the World in 2030 Survey report published on Wednesday by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).


ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION


36 carriers reported to the police by Denmark’s EPA for emitting too much sulfur. Dag Holmstad. ShippingWatch. 9 April 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article1288500.ece 36 shipping companies have been reported to Danish police in the past five years because one of their vessels were violating the Danish sulfur directive by emitting too much sulfur.


Illegal driftnet use widespread in Indian Ocean, Greenpeace says. Katharine Hourled. Reuters. 11 April 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/3yTFo23 Greenpeace has uncovered widespread use of illegal driftnets in the northwest Indian Ocean, which it says are decimating marine life in what is one of the world’s most ecologically vulnerable fishing grounds.
Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-56735508 Recent eruptions at Europe’s most active volcano, Mt Etna, have led to a spike in sulphur dioxide (SO2) emissions across the Mediterranean.

Decades after the oil spill that inspired Earth Day, are we prepared for the next one? Lindsay Key. *Phys.org*. 21 April 2021. Available from: https://phys.org/news/2021-04-decades-oil-earth-day.html A blow-out from Union Oil’s offshore platform six miles from the city of Santa Barbara leaked an estimated 80,000 to 100,000 barrels of crude oil into the Santa Barbara Channel, killing approximately 3,500 sea birds and marine animals such as dolphins, elephant seals, and sea lions.


IOMSR joins Eyssea ocean clean up campaign. *Isle of Man Ship Registry (IOMSR)*. 28 April 2021. Available from: https://www.iomshipregistry.com/news/2021/apr/iomsr-joins-eysea-ocean-clean-up-campaign/ The Isle of Man Ship Registry (IOMSR) is formally backing the Eyssea initiative, the not for profit organisation formed last year to map marine pollution.

Cruise ships’ fix for dirty smoke led to water pollution in South Florida ports, study finds. Alex Harris and Taylor Dolven. *Miami Herald (US)*. 29 April 2021. Available from: https://www.miamiherald.com/news/business/tourism-cruises/article250980394.html In an effort to curb their air pollution, cargo and cruise ships have been forced to reduce the sulfur in their emissions since January 2020.

**HEALTH & SAFETY**


Vaccination lottery for the dry bulk sector. *INTERCARGO*. 31 March 2021. Available from: https://www.intercargo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/INTERCARGO-MEDIA-RELEASE_31_03_2021.pdf Once again seafarers are falling victim to the lack of focus and joined up thinking from leaders of governments and the maritime industry, which has become apparent during the current on-going crew change crisis.


One year from Ruby Princess incident, the Illawarra community reflects on the role it played. Ainslie Drewitt-Smith. ABC (Australia). 6 April 2021. Available from: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-06/one-year-since-ruby-princess-arrived-in-the-illawarra/100050194 A New South Wales community is marking one year since the cruise ship at the centre of one of Australia’s largest coronavirus outbreaks docked in the region.

Health authorities in Seychelles to vaccinate foreign seafarers against COVID-19 following 2 deaths. Seychelles News Agency. 7 April 2021. Available from: http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/14630/Health+authorities+in+Seychelles+to+vaccinate+foreign+seafarers+against+COVID-19+following+2+deaths Health authorities in Seychelles are working with local shipping agencies to vaccinate foreign seafarers on vessels fishing in the island nation’s waters, said a top official.


Oil tanker stops unexpectedly off Cape Breton, 8 crew members sick with COVID-19.

MARINO hails inclusion of seafarers in vaccine priority list. Philippine Information Agency (PIA). 14 April 2021. Available from: https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1072242.amp. MARINO Party-list, the only seafarer representative in Congress, on Tuesday thanked the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases for the upgrade in the status of seafarers in the vaccination program of the government, as the party-list earlier urged in House Resolution 1473.


Union Once Again Presses the Case to Close Biosecurity Loophole to Prevent Covid Spread. Handy Shipping Guide. 23 April 2021. Available from: https://www.handyshippingguide.com/shipping-news/union-once-againpresses-the-case-to-close-biosecurity-loophole-to-prevent-covid-spread_13646 The Maritime Union of Australia (MUA), probably not the most favoured group amongst the country’s politicians, is clearly running out of patience with the government over its inaction when it comes to dealing with the Covid pandemic in maritime matters.

Seafarers & COVID-19: INTERCARGO Statement of concern. INTERCARGO. 23 April 2021. Available from: https://www.intercargo.org/seafarers-covid-statement-of-concern/ INTERCARGO is deeply saddened to hear reports of recent incidents on vessels where a significant number of crew members have been suffering from COVID and in some tragic cases, this has resulted in loss of life.


InterManager vows to source vaccinations for seafarers. InterManager. 27 April 2021. Available from: https://www.intermanager.org/2021/04/intermanager-vows-to-source-vaccinations-for-seafarers/ Frustrated by the lack of progress and slow pace of international efforts, InterManager has vowed to work separately to obtain much-needed Covid-19 vaccines to protect the world’s more than one and a half million seafarers and thereby keep international trade routes open.


**IMO**

Shipping has seven months to show decarbonisation progress. Anastassios Adamopoulos. *Lloyd’s List*. 1 April 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136228/ The next Marine Environment Protection Committee in June is the last opportunity for the IMO to demonstrate intentions to satisfy delegates and critics ahead of November’s COP26.

IMO on notice about expedition of Iranian merchant ship attacked: Spox. *Islamic Republic News Agency - IRNA (Iran)*. 7 April 2021. Available from: https://en.irna.ir/news/84287396/IMO-on-notice-about-expedition-of-Iranian-merchant-ship-attacked Speaking to reporters, Khatibzadeh said that Iran’s cargo ship named *Saviz* was damaged by an explosion on Tuesday 6 a.m. local time in the Red Sea near Djibouti coast.


Lloyd’s Register says IMO’s new CO2 calculator penalizes efficiency. Idha Toft Valeur. *ShippingWatch*. 12 April 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12891367.ece Lloyd’s Register says that it does not yet know what kind of impact the new Carbon Intensity Indicator (CII) will have.

Changes of MARPOL Regulation may be needed to facilitate widespread use of biofuels, says IMO. *Manifold Times (Singapore)*. 14 April 2021. Available from: https://www.manifoldtimes.com/news/changes-of-marpol-regulation-may-be-needed-to-facilitate-widespread-use-of-biofuels-says-imo/ Modifications of Regulation 18 under MARPOL Annex VI Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships will need to be considered in order to promote more shipowners to adopt biofuels as a bunker fuel, says the Head, Air Pollution and Energy Efficiency at the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
Oldendorff thinks IMO’s carbon calculator is cause for a great deal of confusion. Tomas Kristiansen. ShippingWatch. 15 April 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Bulk/article12904261.ece The world’s biggest dry bulk operator, Germany’s Oldendorff, thinks the IMO’s upcoming CO2 regulations for how to measure an individual ship’s efficiency are incoherent, incomprehensible and cause for a great deal of confusion.


BIMCO asks the IMO to improve the ballast water record book Ashok Srinivasan. BIMCO. 20 April 2021. Available from: https://www.bimco.org/news/environment-protection/20210420-ballast-water-record-book Due to conflicting interpretation of the records in the ballast water record book (BWRB) by external parties, ships’ crew are faced with a dilemma when filling out the information in the BWRB. In response to this, BIMCO has co-sponsored a paper for the upcoming 76th Marine Environment Protection Committee meeting (MEPC 76) with the aim to improve the existing IMO guidance on the topic.


US stance on CO2 could radically change the IMO’s climate agenda. Tomas Kristiansen, Daniel Logan and Idha Toft Valeur. ShippingWatch. 21 April 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12919066.ece Nordic carriers are positively attuned to the announcement from the White House to make the shipping sector CO2-free by 2050, believing it will change the IMO’s agenda, while others are more hesitant.


Virtual meetings offer silver lining to Covid cloud. Johan Roos. Cruise & Ferry. 23 April 2021. Available from: https://www.cruiseandferry.net/articles/virtual-meetings-offer-silver-lining-to-covid-cloud-1 The pandemic has forced the International Maritime Organization to change its processes, but this has bought vital time in the race to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**BIMCO: Discussion on MBMs should be ‘kickstarted at IMO as soon as possible’**. Lesley Bankes-Hughes. *Bunkerspot*. 28 April 2021. Available from: https://www.bunkerspot.com/global/53069-bimco-discussion-on-mbms-should-be-kickstarted-at-imosoon-as-possible We are not suggesting the model for [a market-based measure] because it is a political minefield to have this discussion - the discussion we had earlier at IMO is proof of this and we know the ambition of member states is certainly different from one member state to another - but we need to have this done,' Lars Robert Pedersen, BIMCO Deputy Secretary General, said during a recent webinar on shipping’s decarbonisation hosted by the London Shipping Law Society.

**A global CO2 tax on shipping could be years into the future**. Tomas Kristiansen. *ShippingWatch*. 29 April 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12941133.ece The first concrete proposal for a global CO2 tax is in the works at the IMO, just as three of the world’s major shipping organizations have turned on a dime and now call for a tax on emissions.

**Lookout on the I.M.O. Sailing Up the Clyde to Glasgow**. Barry Parker. *gCaptain*. 29 April 2021. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/lookout-on-the-i-m-o-sailing-up-the-clyde-to-glasgow/ The greening of shipping, as well as other transport modes, is a major theme for the first half of 2021, happily - stealing headlines from 2020’s steady diet of bad news.

**LAW & POLICY**

**World trade primed for strong but uneven recovery after COVID-19 pandemic shock.** *World Trade Organization (WTO)*. 31 March 2021. Available from: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres21_e/pr876_e.htm Prospects for a quick recovery in world trade have improved as merchandise trade expanded more rapidly than expected in the second half of last year.


**Italy approves new decree to keep cruise ships out of Venice lagoon.** Angelo Amante. *Reuters*. 1 April 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/3p7WUEB Italy’s government has ruled that large cruise ships and container vessels must not pass close to Venice’s historic centre and should instead dock in a different location to preserve the famed lagoon.

CDC updates guidance to cruise ship industry, urges vaccinations. David Shepardson. Reuters. 3 April 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/3c8PPF4  The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday issued new guidance to the cruise ship industry, including the need for COVID-19 vaccinations, a necessary step before passenger voyages can resume.

Fish eye lenses: UK launches world’s largest ocean monitoring system to protect wildlife and biodiversity. UK Government. 3 April 2021. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fish-eye-lenses-uk-launches-worlds-largest-ocean-monitoring-system-to-protect-wildlife-and-biodiversity  The UK will pioneer the world’s largest ocean wildlife monitoring system to help protect life below water as part of the UK Government Blue Belt programme. The Blue Belt programme


Linking ESG performance to the shipping industry. Safety 4 Sea. 6 April 2021. Available from: https://safety4sea.com/cm-linking-esg-performance-to-the-shipping-industry/  The recent trends in sustainability, thus the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance, are now impacting the decisions of all maritime stakeholders, along with the emerging contractual and regulatory requirements.

IMF boosts global growth forecast, warns of diverging rebound. Eric Martin. ShippingWatch. 6 April 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12881300.ece  The International Monetary Fund upgraded its global economic growth forecast for the second time in three months, while warning about widening inequality and a divergence between advanced and lesser-developed economies.


Iran releases seized S. Korean ship, captain. Yonhap News Agency (South Korea). 9 April 2021. Available from: https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210409003951325 Iran released a South Korean oil tanker and its captain, Seoul’s foreign ministry said Friday, about three months after they were seized over alleged oil pollution.

Iran releases South Korean ship considering backgrounds: FM spox. Islamic Republic News Agency - IRNA (Iran). 9 April 2021. Available from: https://en.irna.ir/news/84289181/Iran-releases-South-Korean-ship-considerring-backgrounds-FM-spx Saeed Khatibzadeh, Spokesman for Iran’s Foreign Ministry, told reporters on Friday that after finalizing the investigation into violation of regulations by the tankers, an Iranian prosecutor reached the conclusion that the ship can be released at the request of its owner and the Seoul government.

Iran frees S. Korean ship, captain after promise to help with frozen funds. Hyonhee Shin. Reuters. 9 April 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/3fYLIL1 Iran released on Friday a South Korean ship and its captain detained since January after South Korea promised to try to secure the release of Iranian funds frozen in South Korean banks under U.S. sanctions, a South Korean official said.


Experts lay out their case against carbon pricing. Bruce Lieberman. Yale Climate Connections. 9 April 2021. Available from: https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2021/04/experts-lay-out-their-case-against-carbon-pricing/ The authors of ‘Making Climate Policy Work’ argue that market-based approaches to the problem aren’t working and point to a potential course correction.

Transport Ministry proposes prioritizing Covid-19 vaccination for sailors. Saigon Times (Vietnam). 12 April 2021. Available from: https://en.thesaigontimes.vn/tinbaichitiet/81403/ The Ministry of Transport has written to the Government proposing directing the Ministry of Health to add Vietnamese sailors, navigators and those who work directly with ships to the priority list for the Covid-19 vaccination to facilitate their procedures for vaccine passports and thus make life easier for them to travel to other countries.


Turkey, Libya committed to eastern Mediterranean maritime accord. Reuters. 12 April 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/3yQJesJ Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday that Turkey and Libya were committed to a 2019 maritime demarcation accord in the eastern Mediterranean, after meeting Libya’s Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibeh in Ankara.

Turkey proposes ban against the use of open-loop scrubbers. Trine Vestergaard. ShippingWatch. 13 April 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12897673.ece It should no longer be permitted for ships sailing in Turkey to discharge their open-loop scrubber wash water into the sea.


Egypt’s Suez Canal Authority impounds Ever Given ship pending $900 million in compensation for blockage losses. Ahram Online (Egypt). 13 April 2021. Available from: https://english.ahram.org.eg/News/409138.aspx Egypt’s Suez Canal Authority (SCA) has provisionally impounded the giant Ever Given ship that had blocked the canal for nearly a week as per an Egyptian court’s order pending payment of $900 million in compensation for the losses incurred by the blockage.


MSC Gayane Crew Member Sentenced to 5+ Years for Conspiracy to Smuggle $1 Billion Worth of Cocaine into the United State. US Department of Justice. 13 April 2021. Available from: https://www.justice.gov/usao-edpa/pr/msc-gayane-crew-member-sentenced-5-years-conspiracy-smuggle-1-billion-worth-cocaine Acting United States Attorney Jennifer Arbittier Williams announced today that Vladimir Penda, 27, of Montenegro, was sentenced to five years and ten months in prison, and two years of supervised release by United States District Court Judge Harvey Bartle III, on charges of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute 5 kilograms or more of cocaine on a vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

Danish Maritime Authority turns case about Norden’s false logbooks over to the police. Tomas Kristiansen and Dag Holmstad. *ShippingWatch*. 14 April 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Tanker/article12899078.ece The case concerning Norden’s fabricated, false logbooks, aimed at covering up voyages to Israel, has now been turned over to Danish police, informs the Danish Maritime Authority.


EU move will harm shipping sector’s climate fight. Simon Bennett. *China Daily*. 19 April 2021. Available from: http://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202104/19/WS607ccb27a31024ad0bab6516.html As China’s trading partners contemplate economic recovery in the post-pandemic period, the last thing the world needs are new barriers to trade.


UK government sets in law world’s most ambitious target for reducing emissions. *UK Chamber of Shipping*. 20 April 2021. Available from: https://ukchamberofshipping.com/latest/uk-government-sets-law-worlds-most-ambitious-target-reducing-emissions/ The UK government is to set in law the world’s most ambitious climate change target, cutting emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels.

Climate change: UK to speed up target to cut carbon emissions. Roger Harrabin. *BBC News*. 20 April 2021. Available from: [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-56807520](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-56807520) Radical new climate change commitments will set the UK on course to cut carbon emissions by 78% by 2035, the UK government has announced.


U.S. to join effort to curb climate-warming emissions from shipping. Valerie Volcovici. *Reuters*. 21 April 2021. Available from: [https://reut.rs/3g3C7EG](https://reut.rs/3g3C7EG) The US will join an international effort to achieve zero emissions by 2050 in the global shipping industry, climate envoy John Kerry announced ahead of a summit of world leaders President Joe Biden will host this week.


Giant Container Ship Bogged Down Again. This Time By Egyptian Authorities. Jackie Northam. National Public Radio (US). 23 April 2021. Available from: https://www.npr.org/transcripts/990088429-The giant container ship that was stuck in the Suez Canal a few weeks ago is stuck again - hasn’t run aground this time, but has run agoul of Egyptian authorities.

Shipping emissions incorporated into UK’s Carbon Budget for the first time. Ship Management International. 26 April 2021. Available from: https://shipmanagementinternational.com/shipping-emissions-incorporated-into-uks-carbon-budget-for-the-first-time/ The UK’s share of international shipping emissions has been incorporated into the country’s Carbon Budget for the first time as part of a wider effort to cut national emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels.

US seizes Cameroon-flagged tanker for North Korea sanctions evasion. Michelle Wiese Bockmann. Lloyd’s List. 27 April 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136600 Legal tactic has also been used to seize crude and refined products cargo on foreign-flagged vessels accused of breaking US sanctions on Venezuela and Iran over the past two years.


The European Parliament is today voting on a proposal from the European Commission for an EU coronavirus passport.

Cruising could restart in midsummer in American waters, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said late Wednesday in a letter to the cruise industry that USA TODAY obtained.

MARINE TECHNOLOGY

The use of exhaust gas cleaning systems, also known as scrubbers, on board vessels, is likely to get a leg-up as the global marine fuel sector works through potential solutions to decarbonize, industry sources said.

Korean Register has developed a web-based EEXI/CII calculation program to help shipping companies comply with the Energy Efficiency Index (EEXI) and Carbon Intensity (CII) decarbonization regulations which will come into effect in 2023.

Rapid developments in artificial intelligence have convinced leading navies that unmanned surface vessels must be at the heart of their future strategies.

Shell said April 21 it would collaborate on a feasibility study to trial the use of hydrogen fuel cells for ships, the first of its kind for both Shell and in Singapore, paving the way for cleaner and hydrogen-powered shipping.

Grahaeme Henderson, the global head of shipping and maritime at Shell, also reiterated the oil and gas company’s support for LNG as a fuel to meet medium-term climate goals and hydrogen to meet longer-term goals at the Singapore Maritime Technology Conference.

Hyundai Heavy Industries Group independently has developed an Artificial Intelligence (AI) based safety management/monitoring system (HiCAMS) and obtained classification and flag Approval-in-Principal (AIP) for the first time in the shipbuilding industry.

The use of e-Bills of Lading has the potential to save the maritime industry billions of dollars, according to an estimate by the Digital Container Shipping Association (DCSA), as documents are exchanged digitally rather than by costly and slow postal services.
Shipping turns to digital technology to meet demand for ESG. Max Tingyao Lin. TradeWinds. 29 April 2021. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/business-focus/shipping-turns-to-digital-technology-to-meet-demand-for-esg/2-1-999316 Growing focus on environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria is driving demand in shipping for digital technologies, according to industry experts.

**MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING**


Transforming Philippine maritime education. Brenda V. Pimentel. Manila Times. 7 April 2021. Available from: https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/04/07/business/maritime-business/transforming-philippine-maritime-education/860752/ If there is anything which a good majority of the maritime stakeholders would agree on, it would be that maritime education is primarily focused on developing competent seafarers according to international and national standards.


MAAP women grads better prepared to thrive in seafaring. Manila Times. 14 April 2021. Available from: https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/04/14/business/maritime-business/maap-women-grads-better-prepared-to-thrive-in-seafaring/863674/ Alumnae of the Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP) in Mariveles, Bataan have a greater chance to overcome the challenges in their gender and thrive in the traditionally male-dominated seafaring profession.

Skilled crews are key to shipping’s decarbonisation aims, says Synergy chief. Inderpreet Walia. Lloyd’s List. 20 April 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136514/Skilled-crews-are-key-to-shippings-decarbonisation-aims-says-Synergy-chief The shipping industry will be reliant on skilled crews to safely manage emerging fuels and technologies, said Mr Unni.

Joint Release by MPA and SMF: MPA and SMF step up efforts for maritime workforce transformation. Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and Singapore Maritime Foundation. 22 April 2021. Available from: https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/media-centre/news-releases/detail/e441e601-6021-466f-a47a-ed4348768534 The announcement was made at the Maritime Manpower Forum, jointly organised by MPA and the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF), which was held in conjunction with the Singapore Maritime Week 2021.
**MARITIME SAFETY**


**More Than 65% Of All Ships Are Operating With Systems Containing Asbestos.** *Hellenic Shipping News.* 7 April 2021. Available from: [https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/more-than-65-of-all-ships-are-operating-with-systems-containing-asbestos/](https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/more-than-65-of-all-ships-are-operating-with-systems-containing-asbestos/) Despite the introduction ten years ago of regulations prohibiting the use of asbestos materials onboard ship, a significant number of existing and newbuild vessels continue to operate systems and machinery containing the hazardous substance.


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**MARITIME SECURITY**


**Iran cargo ship attacked in Red Sea - Al Arabiya TV.** *Reuters.* 6 April 2021. Available from: [https://reut.rs/3pabYs6](https://reut.rs/3pabYs6) An Iranian cargo ship has come under attack in the Red Sea, Al Arabiya TV reported on Tuesday, quoting unnamed sources, and semi-official Iranian news agency Tasnim said the vessel was targeted by a limpet mine.

Iran ship said to be Red Sea troop base off Yemen attacked. Jon Gambrell. Associated Press. 7 April 2021. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/dubai-iran-united-arab-emirates-persian-gulf-tensions-yemen-9c89b8a55714681f12be535e8825212 An Iranian ship believed to be a base for the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard and anchored for years in the Red Sea off Yemen has been attacked, Tehran acknowledged Wednesday.

Armed private security for Dutch merchant vessels on the horizon. SWZ Maritime 7 April 2021. Available from: https://www.swzmaritime.nl/news/2021/04/07/armedinprivate-security-for-dutch-merchant-vessels-on-the-horizon/ Dutch merchant vessels that sail through the pirate-infested Gulf of Aden, but cannot be guarded by Defence, will be allowed to use armed private security as of 1 January.


Ship owned by Israeli firm attacked off UAE coast: media. Reuters. 13 April 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/3g3XTID A commercial vessel owned by an Israeli firm was attacked off the coast of the United Arab Emirates in Gulf waters, pro-Iran media and an Israeli television channel said on Tuesday.

Alleged Attack Against Israeli Owned Vessel 19.4nm East Fujairah. Dryad Global. 13 April 2021. Available from: https://channel16.dryadglobal.com/alleged-attack-against-israeli-owned-vessel-19.4nm-east-fujairah Unconfirmed media reporting has indicated that the MV HYPERION RAY (IMO9690559), has been involved in an incident off the coast of Fujairah.


Angry Contships in plea for armed guards after boxship bridge smashed up. Gary Dixon. TradeWinds. 26 April 2021. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/angry-contships-in-plea-for-armed-guards-after-boxship-bridge-smashed-up/2-1-1001023 The crew of a Contships Management boxship attacked by pirates off Nigeria have thwarted the attack, but the manager is calling for armed guards to be allowed on board to save lives.


**MIGRANTS**


'It’s a day off': wiretaps show Mediterranean migrants were left to die. Lorenzo Tondo. The Guardian. 16 April 2021. Available from: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/16/wiretaps-migrant-boats-italy-libya-coastguard-mediterranean At 8.18am on Friday 16 June 2017, the Libyan coastguard Col Massoud Abdalsamad received a long-distance phone call from an Italian coastguard official who told him that 10 migrant dinghies were in distress, many in Libyan territorial waters.


130 migrants are feared dead after their dinghy capsized en route to Europe. France 24. 24 April 2021. Available from: https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210424-130-migrants-are-feared-dead-after-their-dinghy-capsized-en-route-to-europe More than 100 Europe-bound migrants are feared dead in a boat wreck off Libya, independent rescue groups and the UN migration agency said, as attempts to cross the Mediterranean increase during the warmer months.


Now-resolved Suez Canal blockage shows value of Arctic shipping route, Russia says. Bellona Foundation. 31 March 2021. Available from: https://bellona.org/news/arctic/2021-03-now-resolved-suez-canal-blockage-shows-value-of-arctic-shipping-route-russia-says While hundreds of ship and tankers were blocked from passing through the Suez Canal by a stranded container ship, Russia’s Energy Ministry wasted no time reminding the world of the Northern Sea Route, the 6,000-kilometer sea artery joining Europe and Asia through the Arctic said to lop days off conventional cargo passages.

Traffic Jam on the Suez Canal. NASA. 31 March 2021. Available from: https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/148114/traffic-jam-on-the-suez-canal One of the world’s most important shipping lanes—the Suez Canal—is reopening this week.


Suez Canal may expand southern channel, chairman says. Patrick Werr. Reuters. 7 April 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/3wOdRgF The Suez Canal Authority is considering expanding the southern section of the waterway where the container ship Ever Given became stranded, its chairman said on Tuesday.


Emissions research tracks effects of increased Arctic shipping. Rod Boyce. University of Alaska Fairbanks. 15 April 2021. Available from: https://www.gi.alaska.edu/news/emissions-research-tracks-effects-increased-arctic-shipping The March blockage of the Suez Canal by a grounded massive cargo ship and the ensuing backlog of more than 300 other vessels brought attention once again to the alternative of shipping through Arctic waters.

Dividends of the space race. Nautilus International. 16 April 2021. Available from: https://www.nautilusint.org/en/news-insight/telegraph/dividends-of-the-space-race/ Since the first satellite was launched in 1978, global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) have become indispensable to the shipping industry—not to mention a host of other industries which are reliant on GNSS for position, navigation, or timing applications.

Iran’s ‘rogue armada’ of sanctions-skirting tankers revealed. Michelle Wiebe Bockmann. Lloyd’s List. 19 April 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136511/ Over 100 tankers and gas carriers said to be part of Iran’s “rogue armada” of sanctions-skirting ships have been identified by a US non-government organisation.

Ship movements on the world’s oceans dropped in the first half of 2020 as Covid-19 restrictions came into force, a new study shows.

**PIRACY**


The Gulf of Guinea accounted for nearly half (43%) of all reported piracy incidents in the first three months of 2021, according to the latest figures from the ICC International Maritime Bureau (IMB).

Almost half of all pirate attacks take place in Gulf of Guinea. Astrid Sturlason. *ShippingWatch.* 15 April 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12902377.ece The majority of pirate attacks are still happening in the Gulf of Guinea, estimates the IMB with the release of new numbers on attacks that have been reported in 2021.


Piracy makes Gulf of Guinea world’s most dangerous shipping route. *Al Jazeera.* 25 April 2021. Available from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUzBJFQL2Wo The Gulf of Guinea looks set to maintain its notorious status as one of the most dangerous maritime areas in the world because of pirate attacks.


PORT STATE CONTROL

Repatriated seamen freed from hotel quarantine after being forced to isolate despite exemption. Beth Murray. The Scotsman. 31 March 2021. Available from: https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/repatriated-seamen-freed-from-hotel-quarantine-after-being-forced-to-isolate-despite-exemption-3185049 Two repatriated seamen have been allowed to leave the quarantine hotel at Edinburgh Airport after being forced to check-in, despite being legally exempt according to Scottish government guidance.


DOTr Maritime Sector assists 1,078 disembarking seafarers of Norwegian vessel. Government of the Philippines. 20 April 2021. Available from: https://dotr.gov.ph/55-dotrnews/3391-dotr-maritime-sector-assists-1-078-disembarking-seafarers-of-norwegian-vessel.html The maritime sector of the Department of Transportation (DOTr), consisting of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), together with the members of the One-Stop Shop (OSS) Port of Manila has assisted the disembarkation of the 1,078 repatriated crew members of MV “Norwegian Encore”.


The Port of Valencia reduces its carbon footprint by 30%. Port of Valencia. 12 April 2021. Available from: https://www.valenciaport.com/en/the-port-of-valencia-reduces-its-carbon-footprint-by-30/ Between 2008 and 2019, Valenciaport’s activity has grown by 42%, while CO2 emissions per tonne managed have been reduced by 30%.


Climate emergency boosts ports’ ambition on sustainability. Jack Donnelli. Port Technology International. 16 April 2021. Available from: https://www.porttechnology.org/news/climate-emergency-boosts-ports-ambition-on-sustainability/ In a bid to reach the IMO’s target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 70% by 2050, ports and maritime stakeholders around the globe have been making progress on sustainable initiatives to reduce their respective carbon footprint.


Waterways Are Drying Up Making Navigation Difficult In Key South American Crop-Shipping Ports. Fabiana Batista and Jonathan Gilbert. gCaptain. 27 April 2021. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/south-america-waterways-navigation/ The South American drought that’s helping push Wheat, Corn, and Soybean prices to multiyear highs isn’t just threatening crops, but also the ability to haul them on waterways that are drying up.
Explosive-laden ‘drone’ boat targets Saudi port of Yanbu. Jon Gambrell and Isabel Debre. Associated Press. 27 April 2021. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/middle-east-iran-persian-gulf-tensions-b1486a6e3d0b48f52ea676904999d2. A remotely piloted boat packed with explosives targeted the Saudi port of Yanbu in the Red Sea on Tuesday, the kingdom said, with the blast sending black smoke into the sky off the coast.


REGULATIONS

Golden Ocean and Odfjell work towards new CO2 rules, without knowing what they entail. Idha Toft Valeur. ShippingWatch. 8 April 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12886495.ece. Although the upcoming climate requirements for shipping still remain unclear, including how to measure the efficiency of a ship, shipping majors such as Odfjell and Golden Ocean are well on their way to prep their fleets for the upcoming regulations, they tell ShippingWatch.


IMO 2020 and IMO 2030 implementation: comparisons and differences from African, Asian and European perspectives. Andre October, Sharmila Naidoo and Lebogang Maragelo. International Bar Association (IBA). 22 April 2021. Available from: https://www.ibanet.org/article/359ec1b7-570a-4a3f-a936-11b01c6ef757. Since 1 January 2020, ships have had to operate outside designated emission control areas using fuels of 0.5 per cent m/m (mass by mass) sulphur oxide or less, and within emission control areas to 0.1 per cent m/m or less, in order to comply with the regulations set out in Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).

Stronger enforcement seen as key to accelerate shipping’s decarbonisation. Lloyd’s List. 27 April 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136590. A tighter regulatory framework was identified as the key to the success of environmentally friendly efforts in shipping by Transport Capital founder Philip Clausius.
SALVAGE


The Norwegian Coastal Administration is working on salvaging Eemslift Hendrika. Norwegian Coastal Administration. 6 April 2021. Available from: https://www.kystverket.no/en/News/eemslift-hendrika/ There is still a risk that the ship may capsize and pose an environmental hazard.

Cargoship in tow as salvors avert grounding off Norway. Declan Bush. Lloyd’s List. 8 April 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136374/ The listing Eemslift Hendrika will be towed to safe anchor and stabilised to allow further transport to a port of refuge.

SEAFARERS


The Suez Canal ship is free, but the shipping industry’s ‘humanitarian crisis’ isn’t over. Antonia Noori Farzan. Seattle Times (US). 1 April 2021. Available from: https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/the-suez-canal-ship-is-free-but-the-shipping-industrys-humanitarian-crisis-isnt-over/ For nearly a week, the world was fixated on the spectacle of a mammoth cargo carrier blocking the Suez Canal, causing billions of dollars of damage to the global economy with every passing day.


‘We are not sure when we will get home’: the stranded seafarers who kept world trade afloat during Covid. Dean Kirby. iNews (UK). 2 April 2021. Available from: https://inews.co.uk/news/long-reads/stranded-seafarers-who-kept-world-trade-afloat-during-covid-facing-crisis-keyworkers-941391 Hundreds of thousands of hidden keyworkers are still enduring what has been described as a humanitarian crisis as they continue to move essential supplies across the globe.

Wind ... or worse: was pilot error to blame for the Suez blockage? Rose George. The Guardian. 3 April 2021. Available from: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/apr/03/wind-or-worse-was-pilot-error-to-blame-for-the-suez-blockage Most marine accidents involve human error, but the real story of how Ever Given came to block global shipping is not so easily explained away.
Marwa Elselehdar: ‘I was blamed for blocking the Suez Canal’. Joshua Cheetham. BBC News. 4 April 2021. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-56615521. News had broken about a huge container ship, the Ever Given, that had become wedged across the Suez Canal, bringing one of the world’s major shipping routes to a halt.


Seafarers and Frontline Maritime Personnel Thanked for Keeping Port of Singapore Open during COVID-19 Pandemic. Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA). 7 April 2021. Available from: https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/media-centre/news-releases/detail/4101f992-ec2c-48be-968d-b70d2a9ae323. To thank seafarers, port workers and other frontline maritime personnel for keeping the Port of Singapore open during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), together with PSA Corporation Limited (PSA) and Jurong Port (JP), have commissioned two mural art displays.


Liberian Registry Introduces New Online Services for Seafarers. Liberian Registry. 8 April 2021. Available from: https://www.liscr.com/blog/liberian-registry-introduces-new-online-services-seafarers. The Liberian Registry announced the unveiling of two new online platforms for seafarers to have easier access for applying for documents and credentials, and for taking Liberian license and upgrade examinations.

Plight of abandoned seafarers is ‘very critical’. Nidaa Bakhsh. Lloyd’s List. 9 April 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136368/. The crew on board a bulker, which has been abandoned since July 2019, have been on hunger strike for three months as a resolution to their plight has yet to be found.

The LL view: End the scandal of seafarer abandonment, now and forever. Lloyd’s List. 9 April 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136414. Something is seriously wrong when crews are regularly stranded thousands of miles from home for years on end.


Filipino seafarers included in the priority list of the nat’l COVID-19 vaccination program. Philippine Information Agency (PIA). 12 April 2021. Available from: https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1072068.amp Filipino seafarers get a closer shot at getting vaccines against COVID-19 as the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases approves the recommendation of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to include them in the priority recipients listed in the government’s national vaccination rollout.

Crew kidnapped from De Poli tanker in Gulf of Guinea released. Matt Coyne. TradeWinds. 15 April 2021. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/crew-kidnapped-from-de-poli-tanker-in-gulf-of-guinea-released/2-1-995795 The seafarers, abducted off the 19,800-dwt Davide B (built 2016) on 11 March, are free, safe and in good condition given the circumstances, the Dutch company said on Wednesday.

15 kidnapped seafarers from De Poli chemical tanker in Gulf of Guinea are now released. Dag Holmstad. ShippingWatch. 15 April 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12903404.ece After a month in captivity, 15 seafarers kidnapped by pirates in the Gulf of Guinea in mid-March have now been released, informs a spokesperson from De Poli Tankers to ShippingWatch.

Abandoned crew of 14 months desperately plead for supplies off Iranian coast. Human Rights at Sea (HRAS). 15 April 2021. Available from: https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/2021/04/15/abandoned-crew-of-14-months-desperately-plead-for-supplies-off-iranian-coast/ Human Rights at Sea has been contacted by the 19 abandoned crew of the Bulk Carrier MV AIZDIHAR (IMO 8906846) flagged to Tanzania anchored of Bander Abbas, Iran, (27°06′32.8″N 56°17′47.6″E) who report that they are rapidly running out of food, water and fuel and are urgently requesting support in their ordeal.

A seafaring future. Michael Grey. Seatrade Maritime News. 16 April 2021. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/opinions-analysis/seafaring-future One recurring feature of this pandemic has been the demand that when it is all over, we do not just return to “business as usual”, with earnest exhortations to greater environmental zeal, diversity and inclusion.
"See the World," They Said. Erik Kravets. *Maritime Executive*. 16 April 2021. Available from: https://www.maritime-executive.com/magazine/see-the-world-they-said A 2018 paper in the International Journal of Shipping and Transport Logistics by a four-author team determined that the global average turnaround for a docked ship was 25.5 hours, peaking in South Africa at 64.6 hours and the lowest in East Asia at 17.2 hours.

10 freed Pinoy seafarers kidnapped in Gulf of Guinea to arrive April 19. *ABS-CBN (Philippines)*. 16 April 2021. Available from: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/04/16/21/10-freed-pinoy-seafarers-kidnapped-in-gulf-of-guinea-to-arrive-april-19 A total of 10 Filipino seafarers freed from a reported kidnapping in the Gulf of Guinea are expected to arrive in the Philippines on April 19, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has announced.


Seafarer found dead on *CM Lemos* capsize as 10 crew test positive in Crete. Gary Dixon. *TradeWinds*. 19 April 2021. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/seafarer-found-dead-on-cm-lemos-capsize-as-10-crew-test-positive-in-crete/2-1-997703 A Greek bulker has been quarantined in Crete after a crewman was found dead in his cabin, while 10 others later tested positive for Covid-19.


NZ Seafarers Are Essential. Scoop *(New Zealand)*. 20 April 2021. Available from: https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO2104/S00139/nz-seafarers-are-essential.htm Kiwi Seafarers working internationally have been forgotten by the New Zealand government, their request for support keeps being ignored and their status as essential workers continues to be overlooked.

Seafarers’ Union Warns of Total Shutdown to Canadian Shipping Industry, if Vaccination Plan is not Developed Immediately. *Seafarers’ International Union of Canada.* 20 April 2021. Available from: [https://www.seafarers.ca/seafarers-union-warns-of-total-shutdown-to-canadian-shipping-industry-if-vaccination-plan-is-not-developed-immediately/](https://www.seafarers.ca/seafarers-union-warns-of-total-shutdown-to-canadian-shipping-industry-if-vaccination-plan-is-not-developed-immediately/) The Seafarers’ International Union of Canada (SIU) is demanding a meeting with the federal Minister of Health and an immediate action plan to vaccinate Canadian seafarers’ against COVID-19 or risk a total stoppage to the Canadian shipping industry.


Stranded Pakistani seafarer to return home from UAE after four years. *Daily Times (Pakistan).* 22 April 2021. Available from: [https://dailytimes.com.pk/748151/](https://dailytimes.com.pk/748151/) Seafarers including one Pakistani stranded at the port of Ummul Quwein, UAE, will be repatriated back to their homes after four years.

Seafarer Mohammad Aisha is going home thanks to ITF, ending four years on abandoned ship. *International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF).* 22 April 2021. Available from: [https://www.itfglobal.org/en/news/seafarer-mohammad-aisha-going-home-thanks-itf-ending-four-years-abandoned-ship](https://www.itfglobal.org/en/news/seafarer-mohammad-aisha-going-home-thanks-itf-ending-four-years-abandoned-ship) Seafarer Mohammad Aisha is tonight boarding an airplane to return to his home in Syria, ending a four-year battle where he was forced to live on an abandoned ship in the Suez Canal while the vessel waited to be sold.

Stranded sailor allowed to leave abandoned ship after four years. Paul Adams. *BBC News.* 22 April 2021. Available from: [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-56842506](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-56842506) Today, after spending almost four years on board stranded off the Egyptian coast, he was freed and flown home to Syria.


Shipping groups have condemned states for claiming to support seafarers’ rights under the Maritime Labour Convention, while continuing to bar them entry because of new waves of coronavirus infections.

How shipping firms ought to focus on crews’ wellbeing. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 26 April 2021. Available from: https://splash247.com/how-shipping-firms-ought-to-focus-on-crews-wellbeing/ The mental and physical wellbeing of crewmembers at sea and on dry land should be one of the key priorities for shipping companies amid the Coronavirus pandemic, according to Mark O’Neill, president of InterManager and CEO of Columbia Shipmanagement.

Seafarers Happiness Index Quarter 1 2021: Special Covid-19 edition


Legal and practical guidance published for the hundreds of seafarers abandoned across the globe. Human Rights at Sea (HRAS). 27 April 2021. Available from: https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/2021/04/27/legal-and-practical-guidance-published-for-the-hundreds-of-seafarers-abandoned-across-the-globe/ Charity Human Rights at Sea has partnered with global law firm Reed Smith to help tackle the growing problem known as seafarer abandonment; an issue that has seen cases rise dramatically over the last 12 months.
Abandonment of Seafarers: Background, Legal Status, Remedies & Practical Advice

After nearly 4 years stranded on cargo ship in Egypt, a Syrian crew member finally goes home. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). 27 April 2021. Available from: https://www.cbc.ca/radio/asithappens/as-it-happens-monday-edition-1.6002269/after-nearly-4-years-stranded-on-cargo-ship-in-egypt-a-syrian-crew-member-finally-goes-home-1.6002473 Legal dispute left Mohammad Aisha stuck aboard the MV Aman; his crewmates were allowed to leave in 2019.


**SEARCH & RESCUE**

Coast Guard recovers 1 unresponsive, continues searching for 12 missing people from capsized vessel 8 miles south of Port Fourchon. *United States Coast Guard.* 14 April 2021. Available from: [https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/2ccf3a6](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/2ccf3a6) The Coast Guard recovered one unresponsive person and continues to search for 12 missing people, Wednesday from a capsized commercial lift boat 8 miles south of Port Fourchon.

**SHIP RECYCLING**


Danish minister regrets carriers’ and Maersk’s need to scrap vessels outside EU. Dag Holmstad. *ShippingWatch.* 23 April 2021. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12923695.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12923695.ece) Capacity at the EU-approved recycling yards only sits a 40 percent utilization, while ships are being recycled on beaches in India under poor conditions for both the environment and employees.

Platform publishes South Asia Quarterly Update #25. NGO Shipbreaking Platform. 28 April 2021. Available from: [https://shipbreakingplatform.org/platform-publishes-south-asia-quarterly-update-25/](https://shipbreakingplatform.org/platform-publishes-south-asia-quarterly-update-25/) In this quarterly publication, the NGO Shipbreaking Platform informs about the shipbreaking industry in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. *South Asia Quarterly Update #25*

**SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR**


Korea Shipbuilding wins 566 bln won in orders for 7 ships. Nam Kwang-sik. *Yonhap News Agency (South Korea).* 1 April 2021. Available from: [https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210401004000320](https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210401004000320) Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering Co. (KSOE) said Thursday it has signed deals worth 566 billion won (US$502 million) with companies from Asia, Europe and Africa to build seven ships.


Will battery-powered ships take over the industry? Frankie Youd. ShipTechnology. 22 April 2021. Available from: https://www.ship-technology.com/features/will-battery-powered-ships-take-over-the-industry/ A new 60m-long tanker, named the e5, is the first of its kind to be powered solely by lithium-ion batteries.


S. Korea to spend 36 bln won to build test bed for green ships. Kang Yoon-seung. Yonhap News Agency (South Korea). 28 April 2021. Available from: https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210428003300320?section=news South Korea said Wednesday it plans to invest 36.4 billion won (US$32.3 million) to build a new test bed to speed up the development of carbon-neutral ships.

SHIPPING

The Suez Canal blockage – lessons to be learned. Rahul Khanna. Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty. 31 March 2021. Available from: https://www.agcs.allianz.com/news-and-insights/expert-risk-articles/suez-canal-lessons-learned.html Insurers have been warning for years that the increasing size of vessels is leading to a higher accumulation of risk when something goes wrong.


Is carbon capture the solution shipping has been waiting for? Nidaa Bakhsh. Lloyd’s List. 31 March 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.infoforma.com/LL1136169/ Carbon capture could be a speedier solution for the shipping industry to cut greenhouse gas emissions while alternative fuels are being developed.

Never let a good crisis go to waste. Neville Smith. Splash 247.com. 1 April 2021. Available from: https://splash247.com/never-let-a-good-crisis-go-to-waste/ For lots of people the week that Ever Given spent stuck in Suez was just that, an opportunity to speak, to spout, opine and editorialise.

It took the Suez Canal crisis to highlight the scale of the polluting shipping sector. Madeline Rose. Climate Home News. 1 April 2021. Available from: https://climatechangenews.com/2021/04/01/tokk-suez-canal-crisis-highlight-scale-polluting-shipping-sector/ The growing global shipping fleet is increasing the sector’s climate and environmental impacts.


Italy may be in Easter lockdown, but the party’s on at sea. Maria Grazia Murru. Associated Press. 2 April 2021. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/italy-easter-lockdown-cruise-ships-64294f5587f6ee286884d5182696bd7d In one of the anomalies of lockdowns that have shuttered hotels and resorts around the world, the Grandiosa has been plying the Mediterranean this winter with seven-night cruises, a lonely flag-bearer of the global cruise industry.

Overcoming the EEXI challenge for LNG carriers. DNV GL. 6 April 2021. Available from: https://www.dnv.com/expert-story/maritime-impact/Overcoming-the-EEXI-challenge-for-LNG-carriers.html Under the Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index (EEXI) regime, LNG carriers will be assigned a reference line of their own because of certain properties that would otherwise put them at a severe disadvantage.

Fact Check-Suez Canal-blocking ship was not trafficking people or raided by Navy SEALs. Reuters. 8 April 2021. Available from: https://reut.rs/3ICF8w! Social media users have been sharing articles which claim that dead bodies, trafficked children and weapons were found by the U.S. Navy SEALs, a special operations force, on the Ever Given container ship that was stranded in Egypt’s Suez Canal for almost a week.

CMA CGM launches the first low-carbon shipping offer by choosing biomethane. CMA CGM. 8 April 2021. Available from: https://cma-cgm-group.com/en-news-media/CMA-CGM-launches-the-first-low-carbon-shipping-offer-by-choosing-biomethane Ahead of the UN Global Compact and as part of the first high-level preparatory talks for the COP26 summit, Rodolphe Saadé, Chairman and CEO of the CMA CGM Group, a world leader in shipping and logistics, has put forward solutions that are immediately available and that contribute to achieving the Group’s objective of being carbon-neutral by 2050.


Make the UK an international seafarer vaccination hub, urge Nautilus and UK Chamber of Shipping. Nautilus International. 9 April 2021. Available from: https://bit.ly/3vACb5v Nautilus International and the UK Chamber of Shipping have urged Maritime Minister Robert Courts MP to support establishing the UK as an international seafarer vaccination hub, where seafarers of all nationalities can access Covid-19 vaccines while their vessels are in ports around the UK.


Camilla is what the shipping world wants to attract more of. Idha Toft Valeur. ShippingWatch. 9 April 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12891266.ece Camilla Vambeseth is third mate on a chemical tanker and believes that the environment on board would benefit from more women at sea.


Unexpected alliance between shipowners and NGO wants expanded EU CO2 quota system. Dag Holmstad. ShippingWatch. 12 April 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12895457.ece An unexpected alliance between Greek shipowners and an environmental NGO wants EU’s CO2 quota system ETS to be more far-reaching.


Language changes in job postings to attract more women at Odfjell. Idha Toft Valeur. ShippingWatch. 13 April 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12896975.ece Chemical tanker carrier Odfjell has found that easy-to-miss details in job postings can be crucial in getting more women to apply.

Ship management firm predicts growing political pressure to achieve climate goals before 2050. Jens Thomsen. ShippingWatch. 14 April 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12901163.ece The shipping industry would be frivolous to believe it has another 30 years to halve CO2 emissions.

Shipping green fuel levy faces opposition from developing nations. Anastassios Adamopoulos. Lloyd’s List. 14 April 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136468/ After the proposal gained support from major shipping nations, developing countries have hit back, officially objecting to a mandatory levy based on fuel consumption.


ALL ABOARD: How the Biden-Harris Administration Can Help Ships Kick Fossil Fuels


BHP, Oldendorf and GoodFuels successfully complete first trial with sustainable biofuel supplied in Singapore. BHP. 15 April 2021. Available from: https://bit.ly/3gmdtIZ Global resources company BHP, German shipping company Oldendorf Carriers, and advanced biofuels pioneer GoodFuels, with the support of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), conducted the first marine biofuel trial involving an ocean-going vessel bunkered in Singapore on 4 April 2021.


Wärtsilä thinks hydrogen will only play a “niche role” in shipping. Astrid Sturlason. ShippingWatch. 15 April 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article12902617.ece Finnish engine manufacturer Wärtsilä does not see great potential in hydrogen as one of the shipping industry’s future fuels, says Juha Kytölä, director of R&D and engineering at Wärtsilä, in an interview with ShippingWatch.
**Ever Given casualty places crisis communications under the spotlight.** Jane Porter. *Lloyd’s List.* 15 April 2021. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136466](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136466) When a major shipping casualty occurs that attracts the attention of the mainstream media and general public, top executives from the key companies involved should be prepared to personally comment, and appear on television or radio, rather than rely on press releases in this era of rolling news and social media, in order to show leadership to the outside world.

**S$3.4tn investment to modernise fleet by 2050, says Stopford.** Anastassios Adamopoulos. *Lloyd’s List.* 15 April 2021. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136483/34](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136483/34) The rough estimate from the renowned shipping economist comes as he warns that ships built before 2020 could account for around 50% of all emissions form today until 2050 and that collaboration between owners and charterers will be necessary to get the money in.


**The Potential of Zero-Carbon Bunker Fuels in Developing Countries.** Dominik Englert, Andrew Losos, Carlo Raucci and Tristan Smith. *World Bank.* 16 April 2021. Available from: [https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35437](https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35437) To meet the climate targets set forth in the International Maritime Organization’s Initial GHG Strategy, the maritime transport sector needs to abandon the use of fossil-based bunker fuels and turn toward zero-carbon alternatives which emit zero or at most very low greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions throughout their lifecycles. *Report* 📈


**SMTC 2021: Political will and time the missing components from shipping’s transition away from fossil fuels.** *Manifold Times (Singapore).* 16 April 2021. Available from: [https://www.manifoldtimes.com/news/smtc-2021-political-will-and-time-the-missing-components-from-shippings-transition-away-from-fossil-fuels/](https://www.manifoldtimes.com/news/smtc-2021-political-will-and-time-the-missing-components-from-shippings-transition-away-from-fossil-fuels/) The following interview arranged by Informa Connect is part of pre-event coverage for the upcoming Singapore Maritime Technology Conference 2021 (SMTC 2021), where Manifold Times is an official media partner.


**World Bank rejects LNG as usable fuel to reach climate goal by 2050.** Dag Holmstad. *ShippingWatch.* 16 April 2021. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12907966.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12907966.ece) In a new statement, the World Bank rejects liquefied natural gas, LNG, as a usable ship fuel to reduce CO2 emissions in shipping and meet the IMO’s climate targets by 2050.

Shipping majors bet on different paths in decarbonizing shipping. Idha Toft Valeur. ShippingWatch. 16 April 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12904731.ece Hydrogen, LNG, ammonia, electricity and then there is methanol and LPG – the bids are many and so are the answers when you ask big shipping companies such as Maersk, Ardmore, Exmar and Shell about the fuel solution of the future.


The shipping industry needs to move in line with the Paris Agreement. Janis Searles Jones. The Hill (US). 19 April 2021. Available from: https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/548926-the-shipping-industry-needs-to-move-in-line-with-the-paris With his administration set to announce its new Paris Agreement climate commitments soon, now is the time for President Biden to be more ambitious than ever on climate action here at home.


Global centre focused on reducing shipping emissions to be set up in Singapore. Clement Yong. Straits Times. 20 April 2021. Available from: https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/global-centre-focused-on-reducing-shipping-emissions-to-be-set-up-in-singapore A global centre where those in the maritime industry can coordinate, research and make reducing shipping emissions a reality will be set up in Singapore, as part of recommendations by an international body to make shipping more environmentally friendly.
Canadian shipping emits 8 million tons of carbon dioxide a year. There’s a better way.

Shipping bodies call on world leaders to bring forward discussions on global market-based measures. International Chamber of Shipping (ICS). 21 April 2021. Available from: https://www.ics-shipping.org/press-release/shipping-bodies-call-on-world-leaders-to-expedite-global-market-based-measures/. Ahead of President Biden’s Leaders’ Summit on Climate, the world’s major shipping organisations have called on world leaders to urgently examine the role of market-based measures to ensure ambitious decarbonisation targets are met across the entire global shipping industry.


EU to define whether shipping can be called sustainable. Tomas Kristiansen. ShippingWatch. 21 April 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12918027.ece It will become more difficult for the maritime industry to self-govern whether or not the sector can call itself environmentally sustainable.


Shipping leaders agree that collaboration on CO2-reduction trumps competition. Idha Toft Valeur. ShippingWatch. 22 April 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12922298.ece Industry players such as BW Group, Danish Maritime Industry and the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore agree that collaboration on decarbonization trumps competition.


Costing the earth: Shipping. BBC Radio. 27 April 2021. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000vgnt Lucy Siegle finds out about the environmental impact of shipping.


NGO considers EU’s 2030 target unrealistic for shipping. Louise Wendt Jensen. Shipping Watch. 28 April 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12938200.ece Transport & Environment does not find it realistic for shipping to meet the EU climate goal of reducing CO2 emissions by 55 percent by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.


Turkish exporters voice concern over trouble finding containers, ships. Daily Sabah (Turkey). 29 April 2021. Available from: https://www.dailysabah.com/business/economy/turkish-exporters-voice-concern-over-trouble-finding-containers-ships Turkish exporters have once again expressed their concerns at not being able to find containers and ships available for transport, a crunch that has been hampering trade recovery.

Container shipping could go carbon neutral right now. Lars Jensen. Splash 247.com. 30 April 2021. Available from: https://splash247.com/container-shipping-could-go-carbon-neutral-right-now The container shipping sector is clearly beginning to take step towards the IMO 2050 goals of reducing carbon emissions by 50% – and that is 50% of the total emissions, not unit emissions per teu*mile.

RESEARCH


An J, Lee K, et al. Effects of a Vessel Speed Reduction Program on Air Quality in Port Areas: Focusing on the Big Three Ports in South Korea. Journal of Marine Science and Engineering. 11 April 2021. Available from: https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1312/9/4/407 As the seriousness of air pollution from ports and ships is recognized, the Korean Port Authority is implementing many policies and instruments to reduce air pollution in port areas.


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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.