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.

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IMO NEWS & EVENTS

WHAT’S NEW

Day of the Seafarer - 25 June

Seafarers, we are listening

Leading up to the 25 June, seafarers are being invited to answer questions on what a fair future for seafarers looks like. The answers will be shared afterwards and will provide a soundboard to help guide our actions moving forward. Polls are available on all IMO social media platforms. More...

Further shipping GHG emission reduction measures adopted

International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopts key mandatory measures to reduce ships’ carbon intensity; establishes ship rating system.

New mandatory measures to cut the carbon intensity of international shipping have been adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), setting shipping on a course to meet greenhouse gas reduction targets established in the 2018 Initial IMO Strategy for Reducing GHG Emissions from Ships.

IMO’s Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 76), meeting in a remote session from 10 to 17 June 2021, adopted amendments to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Annex VI that will require ships to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. These amendments combine technical and operational approaches to improve the energy efficiency of ships, also providing important building blocks for future GHG reduction measures. More...

100th State joins ship air pollution and emissions treaty

Argentina becomes 100th State Party to MARPOL Annex VI regulations for the prevention of air pollution from ships.

Argentina has become the 100th Contracting State to the mandatory International Maritime Organization (IMO) regulations on cutting air pollution from shipping.

The regulations in Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) address air pollution from ships and include energy efficiency and fuel quality requirements designed to reduce harmful emissions from shipping. 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)** – 1-4 June
- **Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 76)** – 10-17 June

**Forthcoming Meetings (REMOTE)**

- IMO Council (C 125) – 28 June – 2 July
- Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments (III 7) – 12-16 July
- Legal Committee (LEG 108) – 26-30 July

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

- Marine Environment Protection Committee, 10-17 June (Opening and Closing remarks)
- Capital Link 11th Annual Operational Excellence in Shipping Forum – keynote 8-9 June

**IMO NEWS MAGAZINE**  Summer 2021

**IMO PUBLISHING**  Just Published 2021

The head of the World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday said the commitment announced by the United States administration to lift vaccine patent protections to help boost global supply, was a “monumental moment” in the battle to end the deadly pandemic.


All countries should commit to zero carbon emissions by 2050 if the world is to avoid a disastrous 2.4 degree Celsius temperature rise by the end of this century, UN Secretary General António Guterres said on Thursday.


Methane emissions caused by human activity can be reduced by up to 45 per cent this decade, thus helping to keep global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius in line with the Paris Agreement on climate change, according to a UN-backed report published on Thursday.


A COVID-19 vaccine produced in China has been given the green light for global rollout, potentially paving the way for its use in underserved countries, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced on Friday.


Although the outlook for global growth has improved, the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as inadequate progress on vaccination in poorer countries, are putting recovery at risk, according to the latest UN economic forecast, published on Tuesday.  

World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2021


A prestigious World Health Organization (WHO) appointed panel on Wednesday urged bold action to end the COVID-19 crisis, while also calling for the UN agency to be given greater authority to respond more quickly to future threats.


Odds are increasing that the annual average global temperature will rise beyond 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, in at least one of the next five years, the UN weather agency warns in a new report issued on Thursday.


UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on Wednesday urged Libya’s unity government and European Union (EU) countries to act to protect migrants making the dangerous crossing in the central Mediterranean Sea.
**CASUALTIES**

**Mystery over cause of blast on oil tanker off Syria.** Declan Bush. *Lloyd’s List*. 10 May 2021. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136715/Mystery-over-cause-of-blast-on-oil-tanker-off-Syria](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136715/Mystery-over-cause-of-blast-on-oil-tanker-off-Syria). Two explosions were reported on a Lebanese-owned tanker carrying Iranian crude to Syria after a similar incident on the same ship two weeks ago prompted fears of a drone strike.

**A Rusting Oil Tanker Off the Coast of Yemen Is an Environmental Catastrophe Waiting to Happen. Can Anyone Prevent It?** Joseph Hincks. *Time*. 14 May 2021. Available from: [https://time.com/6048436/fso-safer-yemen-oil-tanker-disaster/](https://time.com/6048436/fso-safer-yemen-oil-tanker-disaster/) The year he joined the Hunt Oil Co. as a loading master back in 1988 was the same year the Dallas-based oil producer installed a former oil tanker it had just converted into a floating oil storage and off-loading vessel (FSO) a few miles off the coast of Yemen.

**Container Ship That Caught Fire Off Monterey Coast, to Be Towed to Bay Area.** *NBC Bay Area News (US)*. 16 May 2021. Available from: [https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/california/container-ship-that-caught-fire-off-monterey-coast-to-be-towed-to-bay-area/2546369](https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/california/container-ship-that-caught-fire-off-monterey-coast-to-be-towed-to-bay-area/2546369). A container ship that caught fire last week off the Monterey coast is being towed to the Bay Area with the goal of eventually berthing the burned vessel at the Port of Oakland after an inspection, the U.S. Coast Guard said Sunday.


**More than 100 missing, feared dead after Nigeria boat sinks.** Sam Olukoya. *Associated Press.* 25 May 2021. Available from: [https://apnews.com/article/nigeria-africa-niger-bdc9d4769e23929ea1a7b4a62a90d935](https://apnews.com/article/nigeria-africa-niger-bdc9d4769e23929ea1a7b4a62a90d935). More than 100 people were missing and feared dead after a boat with more than 165 passengers, including women and children, broke up and sank as it was traveling in Nigeria’s northern Kebbi state, officials said Wednesday.


**X-Press Pearl was not allowed to offload leaking box in India and Qatar prior to Sri Lanka call.** Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com.* 26 May 2021. Available from: [https://splash247.com/x-press-pearl-was-denied-entry-in-india-and-qatar-before-catching-fire-off-colombo/](https://splash247.com/x-press-pearl-was-denied-entry-in-india-and-qatar-before-catching-fire-off-colombo/). The ship, which caught fire while offloading at Colombo before being caught off Qatar, was not allowed to offload its leaking box in India and Qatar prior to Sri Lanka call.


**Navy assists dousing of fire onboard container ship at anchorage off Colombo harbour on 25th May 2021.** *Sri Lanka Navy.* 26 May 2021. Available from: [https://news.navy.lk/oporation-news/2021/05/26/202105261315/](https://news.navy.lk/oporation-news/2021/05/26/202105261315/). The fire that broke out in the forecastle area of the MV X-PRESS PEARL, a container ship anchored 9.5 nautical miles northwest of the Port of Colombo, has now extended to the quarterdeck where the bridge is stationed.
Seafarer rescued from burning boxship *X-Press Pearl* tests positive for Covid-19. 


**Japanese cargo ship collides with foreign vessel off Ehime, 3 missing.** *Kyodo News (Japan)*. 28 May 2021. Available from: [https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/05/4e3ce0eab8e9-japanese-cargo-ship-collides-with-foreign-vessel-off-ehime-3-missing.html](https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/05/4e3ce0eab8e9-japanese-cargo-ship-collides-with-foreign-vessel-off-ehime-3-missing.html) Three people are missing after a Japanese cargo ship sank early Friday following a collision with a foreign vessel in the Seto Inland Sea, western Japan, coast guard officials said.

**MV X-Press Pearl vessel: Distressed ship should not have allowed to enter Sri Lankan waters?** – Environmentalist. *Colombo Times (Sri Lanka)*. 28 May 2021. Available from: [http://colombotimes.net/mv-x-press-pearl-vessel-distressed-ship-should-not-have-allowed-to-enter-sri-lankan-waters-environmentalist/](http://colombotimes.net/mv-x-press-pearl-vessel-distressed-ship-should-not-have-allowed-to-enter-sri-lankan-waters-environmentalist/) Environmentalist Dr. Ajantha Perera yesterday questioned why the MV X-Press Pearl vessel that was refused entry into the waters of India and Qatar was given permission by local authorities to enter Sri Lankan waters.

**ENVIRONMENT**


This is how climate change is impacting the ocean - and what we can do about it. *World Economic Forum*. 11 May 2021. Available from: [https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/05/climate-change-ocean-damage-action/](https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/05/climate-change-ocean-damage-action/) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says that by 2100, sea levels will be between 0.26 metre and 0.77 metres higher than today.


EPA Relaunches Climate Indicators Website Showing How Climate Change is Impacting Peoples’ Health and Environment. *US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*. 12 May 2021. Available from: [https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-relaunches-climate-indicators-website-showing-how-climate-change-impacting-peoples](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-relaunches-climate-indicators-website-showing-how-climate-change-impacting-peoples) This comprehensive resource presents compelling and clear evidence of changes to our climate reflected in rising temperatures, ocean acidity, sea level rise, river flooding, droughts, heat waves, and wildfires, among other indicators.


‘Millions lost’ to cruise ships’ reef damage, says UWI research. Randy Bennett. Barbados Today. 21 May 2021. Available from: https://barbadostoday.bb/2021/05/21/millions-lost-to-cruise-ships-reef-damage-says-uwi-research/ Barbados’ generosity in allowing cruise ships to dock in its waters during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic last year has resulted in significant damage to the island’s coral reefs.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Stand.earth hails stunning new ICCT ship dumping report as a wake up call to U.S., Canada. Stand.earth. 30 April 2021. Available from: https://www.stand.earth/latest/protect-arctic/canadian-shipping/standearth-hails-stunning-new-icct-ship-dumping-report-wake Around the world, oceans and coastal communities face major threats from a growing and unnecessary ship pollution wastestream from systems called scrubbers, and the risks posed to human health and marine ecosystems will only continue to increase unless pollution-generating technologies are banned.


**HEALTH & SAFETY**

**Port Canaveral First Port in U.S. to Support COVID-19 Vaccinations for Seafarers.** *Port Canaveral.* 30 April 2021. Available from: https://www.portcanaveral.com/About/Recent-News/Port-Canaveral-First-Port-in-U-S-to-Support-COVID-19? Port Canaveral is the first U.S. port to sponsor COVID-19 vaccine distribution to port workers and vessel crew members in response to a Florida Public Health Advisory approved by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and Surgeon General Scott A. Rivkees, MD issued on April 29 expanding vaccine eligibility to include individuals who are in the state for purpose of providing goods or services for the benefit of residents and visitors to Florida.


**MSC Cruises strengthens its industry-leading health & safety protocol with roll-out of fleet-wide COVID-19 vaccination programme for crew as more of its ships prepare to return to sea.** *MSC Cruises SA.* 5 May 2021. Available from: http://www.mscpressarea.com/en_INT/press-releases/3940 This becomes an additional core element of the Company’s industry-leading health & safety protocol that has already supported MSC Cruises operations since its first ship returned to service in August last year.

**In shock move, US backs waiving patents on COVID vaccines.** Amy Maxmen. *Nature.* 6 May 2021. Available from: https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-01224-3 In a historic move, the US government has announced that it supports waiving patent protections for COVID-19 vaccines, a measure aimed at boosting supplies so that people around the world can get the shots.

**Cruising’s next challenge: Vaccinating thousands of crew before ships relaunch.** Johanna Jainchill. *Travel Weekly.* 6 May 2021. Available from: https://www.travelweekly.com/Cruise-Travel/Cruising-challenge-vaccinating-crew With the CDC’s recent commitment to a mid-July cruise restart from U.S. ports, cruise lines are facing what is predicted to be a daunting challenge: vaccinating their tens of thousands of crew members.
12 Filipino seafarers from India positive for COVID-19 evacuated, to be moved to quarantine center. CNN Philippines. 7 May 2021. Available from: https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/5/7/MV-Athens-Bridge-India-Filipino-crew-COVID-19.html An all-Filipino crew onboard a container vessel from India is receiving emergency medical help after 12 members tested positive for COVID-19, including two seafarers in critical condition.

DOTr Maritime sector in full force in assisting COVID-19 positive Filipino crew members aboard vessel from India. Government of the Philippines. 7 May 2021. Available from: https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1074493 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 agency members of the One-Stop Shop (OSS) Port of Manila, are currently in full force in assisting all Filipino crew members aboard a COVID-19 positive vessel “MV Athens Bridge” from India.


Dutch vaccination programme for seafarers starts mid-June. SWZ Maritime (Netherlands). 12 May 2021. Available from: https://www.swzmaritime.nl/shipping/2021/05/12/vaccination-programme-for-seafarers-starts-mid-june/ A Dutch vaccination programme for seafarers is to start mid-June. All seafarers who work on ships under Dutch flag or management are eligible.


Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Roadmap for Vaccination of International Seafarers


ISWAN And V. Group team up to support mental wellbeing of the industry. *International Seafarers’ Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN).* 13 May 2021. Available from: [https://www.seafarerswelfare.org/news/2021/iswan-and-v-group-team-up-to-support-mental-wellbeing-of-the-industry](https://www.seafarerswelfare.org/news/2021/iswan-and-v-group-team-up-to-support-mental-wellbeing-of-the-industry) The current situation in terms of the health and wellbeing of seafarers and office support staff around the world is a serious concern, and something we won’t realise the full impact of for months, even years to come.

InterManager seals deal for 1m Johnson & Johnson shots, seeks government approval. Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com.* 14 May 2021. Available from: [https://splash247.com/intermanager-seals-deal-for-1m-johnson-johnson-shots-seeks-government-approval](https://splash247.com/intermanager-seals-deal-for-1m-johnson-johnson-shots-seeks-government-approval) InterManager, the association for third party managers, has come good on its vow at the end of last month to solve the riddle of how to vaccine the world’s seafarers.


Shipping companies have a duty of care to prepare their crew psychologically and physically before letting them board a vessel, according to the head of Mental Health Support Solutions (MHSS), a Hamburg-based startup which provides a 24/7 hotline for crewmembers to speak confidentially to clinical psychologists.

Major public figures such as the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in the UK have engaged in campaigns to promote mental wellbeing, an effort that has been supported by government and non-governmental authorities around the world.

China’s single-dose Covid-19 vaccine from CanSino Biologics (CanSinoBIO) will be available at 11 Chinese ports for to provide more efficient and convenient vaccination to Chinese seafarers.

The first port of call for mariners in the US is now the nearest pharmacy as 25 states offer free immunisation.

While the COVID-19 situation is improving in many countries, the number of cases is still increasing in many parts of the world, making vaccines more important than ever.

A blockage on supplies and financial challenges are delaying Africa’s rollout of COVID-19 vaccines and risk curtailing plans to significantly expand the continent’s rollout later this year.

While it is unknown where the crew members became infected, data shows the vessel called at Mundra and Jawaharlal Nehru in India, where the public health crisis has become critical in recent weeks.

Seafarers working aboard several Maersk vessels have, according to business daily Børsen, been vaccinated against the coronavirus in the US as part of an American vaccination program for seafarers.

Royal Caribbean: We expect all cruise guests to be vaccinated. Jonathan Josephs. BBC News. 23 May 2021. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-57202890. One of the world’s biggest cruise companies says coronavirus vaccinations will be needed to get on its ships.


Royal Caribbean crew members test positive for coronavirus, disembark in Spain as passengerless ship sails to US. Morgan Hines. USA Today. 24 May 2021. Available from: https://eu.usatoday.com/story/travel/cruises/2021/05/24/royal-caribbean-cruise-ship-drops-off-covid-19-crew-spain/7414599002. Royal Caribbean’s newest ship, Odyssey of the Seas, disembarked several crew members who have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus in Spain as the ship makes its way to the United States after cancelling cruises in Israel amid unrest this month.


IMO


Shipping majors want the IMO to raise its 2050 ambition. Tomas Kristiansen and Idha Toft Valeur. ShippingWatch. 18 May 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12987591.ece. Several of the world’s largest shipping companies think the IMO should hurry up and raise its long-term target to halve CO2 emissions by 2050, including ONE and its chief executive, Jeremy Nixon. Stena Bulk, Maersk, Hapag-Lloyd and Odfjell all agree.

IMO is trying to introduce CO2 rules that virtually everyone in shipping disagrees with. ShippingWatch. 18 May 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12986162.ece. It is difficult to find anyone who thinks the IMO’s upcoming CO2 calculator AER will benefit the environment.


Investigative documentary into shipping emissions premiers. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 24 May 2021. Available from: https://splash247.com/investigative-documentary-into-shipping-emissions-premiers/ Many famous names in world shipping including the secretary-general of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Greece’s minister for shipping and a host of well known shipowners have been left red-faced with the release of new European documentary looking at shipping emissions.

Black Trail. European Investigative Collaborations (EIC Network). May 2021. Available from: https://vimeo.com/543693909 Black Trail is an agenda-setting collaborative investigation into the environmental impacts of the shipping industry — a sector that is all but untouchable as it receives eye-watering subsidies and stashes its profits in tax havens, all the while polluting with impunity.

Legal worries are unnecessary roadblocks for climate action at the IMO. Aoife O’Leary and Michael Prehn. Lloyd’s List. 24 May 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136883 The road to progressive shipping climate policy at the International Maritime Organization ultimately comes down to political will.

UN agency ‘is holding back the decarbonisation of global shipping’, says industry expert. Recharge. 24 May 2021. Available from: https://www.rechargenews.com/energy-transition/un-agency-is-holding-back-the-decarbonisation-of-global-shipping-says-industry-expert/2/1-1014792 The UN agency responsible for regulating global shipping is holding back the industry’s decarbonisation, according to one of the world’s leading experts on reducing maritime emissions.

One small step for MASS. Gard. 26 May 2021. Available from: https://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/31771486/one-small-step-for-mass One of the key highlights of the 103rd session of IMO’s Maritime Safety Committee was the completion of the MSC regulatory scoping study for maritime autonomous surface ships (MASS).

IMO mandate raises the stakes for cyber protection. Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA). May 2021. Available from: https://www.rina.org.uk/IMO_mandate_raises_the_stakes_for_cyber_protection.html Maritime cyber crime is a problem that’s growing exponentially; one US-based consultancy estimated in 2020 that cyber attacks on the maritime industry’s operational technology (OT) systems had increased by 900% in the previous three years.

**LAW & POLICY**


Cargill steps up push to cut carbon emissions from shipping fleet. Jonathan Saul. Reuters. 30 April 2021. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/business/sustainable-business/cargill-steps-up-push-cut-carbon-emissions-shipping-fleet-2021-04-30/ Cargill, one of the world’s biggest charterers of ships, has cut nearly 1.5 million tonnes of gross carbon emissions from its fleet since 2017, a top company executive said, as it steps up efforts to go green.

All options still on table for cutting shipping CO2 emissions: EC official. S&P Global Platts. 30 April 2021. Available from: https://bit.ly/3qeJFcY The comments come ahead of an expected legislative proposal by the EC in June to address shipping emissions using carbon pricing policy, which could include expanding the EU Emissions Trading System to include the sector.


Egyptian court upholds decision to prevent *Ever Given* ship from leaving Suez Canal pending compensation payment. Menna Alaa El-Din. *Ahram Online (Egypt).* 4 May 2021. Available from: https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/410530/Egypt/Politics/-/Egyptian-court-upholds-decision-to-prevent-Ever-Gi.aspx The court rejected a legal appeal by the ship owner against a ruling that granted the Suez Canal Authority the request to impound the mega container ship as ongoing compensation talks lingered.


Small island developing states: Maritime transport in the era of a disruptive pandemic - empower states to fend against disruptions to maritime transportation systems, their lifeline to the world. *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).* 4 May 2021. Available from: https://unctad.org/webflyer/small-island-developing-states-maritime-transport-era-disruptive-pandemic-empower-states The coronavirus disease of 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic may have had less noticeable impacts on small island developing states (SIDS). However, the impacts may be longer lasting and more critical. *Policy Brief No. 85* 📖

Philippines-Netherlands maritime cooperation. Brenda V. Pimentel. *Manila Times.* 5 May 2021. Available from: https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/05/05/business/maritime-business/philippines-netherlands-maritime-cooperation/869963/ The establishment of the JCMA came about to serve as the vehicle by which the maritime agreement (MOU) signed between the Minister of Water Transportation and Infrastructure of the Netherlands and the Secretary of Transportation of the Philippines in the late 1990s, could be implemented and the cooperation thus agreed, could be sustained.


EU proposes new regulation to stem Chinese state aid. Louise Wendt Jensen. *ShippingWatch.* 5 May 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12956078.ece Following several Chinese acquisitions in European ports in recent years, among other things, the EU Commission is now playing out an instrument to ensure that foreign state aid does not undermine competition among European companies.


Jersey officials hold talks with French fishermen over rights dispute. George Bowden and Emma Harrison. *BBC News.* 6 May 2021. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-57003069 Two Royal Navy ships and two French vessels are patrolling near Jersey while about 60 French and Jersey boats are at the island’s St Helier port.

UN task force should probe why governments failed to fulfil obligations to seafarers during pandemic. International Transport Workers’ Federation. 6 May 2021. Available from: https://www.itfglobal.org/en/news/un-task-force-should-probe-why-governments-failed-fulfill-obligations-seafarers-during SHipowners and seafarers’ representatives have asked the United Nations to establish an interagency task force to examine the implementation and practical application of the MLC, 2006 during the pandemic, including its impact on seafarers’ fundamental rights and on the shipping industry.


EU takes up Malta’s idea for shared database of crime-linked ships. Ivan Martin. Times of Malta. 12 May 2021. Available from: https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/eu-takes-up-malta-s-idea-for-shared-database-of-crime-linked-ships.870886 EU member states are to share a database of ships believed to be involved in criminal activity after taking on board the idea first proposed by Malta.

Decarbonisation in the shipping and trading industry – can climate-conscious drafting help provide a solution? Hatty Sumption, Stuart Jackson and Nick Rayner. Clyde & Co LLP. 12 May 2021. Available from: https://www.clydeco.com/en/insights/2021/05/decarbonisation-in-the-shipping-and-trading-industry Decarbonisation is an issue that affects all areas of the shipping industry, as stakeholders work towards the ambitious targets set by the IMO.

U.S. waives shipping restrictions to ease fuel crunch after pipeline hack. *Reuters*. 3 May 2021. Available from: [https://news.trust.org/item/20210513101648-ezo2g/](https://news.trust.org/item/20210513101648-ezo2g/) The U.S. government relaxed a long-standing maritime law protecting domestic shipping commerce to allow an undisclosed company to transport gasoline and diesel to ports in the East Coast after a cyberattack crippled the nation’s largest fuel pipeline network.


InterManager frustration at finding government body to authorise vaccine purchase. Marcus Hand. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 17 May 2021. Available from: [https://bit.ly/3gOM22R](https://bit.ly/3gOM22R) InterManager has so far drawn a blank in finding a recognised government body with which it can work to complete a purchase of 1m vaccine shots from Johnson & Johnson for seafarers.


Arctic Council Ministers Must Act To Protect Arctic from Shipping Impacts. *Clean Arctic Alliance*. 18 May 2021. Available from: [https://www.hfofreearctic.org/en/2021/05/18/arctic-council-ministers-must-act-to-to-protect-arctic-from-shipping-impacts/](https://www.hfofreearctic.org/en/2021/05/18/arctic-council-ministers-must-act-to-to-protect-arctic-from-shipping-impacts/) Ahead of this week’s Arctic Council gathering in Iceland, an international coalition of 22 non-profit organisations is calling on Arctic foreign ministers to demonstrate global leadership by agreeing to cut black carbon emissions from shipping and to take effective action on Arctic-wide elimination of heavy fuel oil.


Why COP26 is our best opportunity to strengthen the ocean’s role in fighting climate change. Peter Thomson. *World Economic Forum*. 18 May 2021. Available from: [https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/05/cop26-best-opportunity-ocean-finance-climate-change-mitigation-adaptation/](https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/05/cop26-best-opportunity-ocean-finance-climate-change-mitigation-adaptation/) The hope of the global community working to reverse the ongoing decline in the ocean’s health is that the ocean’s critical contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation will be integral to COP26 considerations in Glasgow this November; and that the conference’s outcomes will include greatly enhanced commitments and resources to meet the challenges presented by the ocean-climate nexus.


**US House passes bill allowing large cruise ships to visit Alaska this summer; Biden expected to sign.** James Brooks. *Anchorage Daily News (US).* 21 May 2021. Available from: [https://www.adn.com política/2021/05/20/us-house-passes-measure-allowing-large-cruise-ships-to-visit-alaska-this-summer/](https://www.adn.com política/2021/05/20/us-house-passes-measure-allowing-large-cruise-ships-to-visit-alaska-this-summer/) The U.S. House of Representatives has unanimously approved a measure that could allow large cruise ships to bypass Canada and visit Alaska this year.


**G7 commits to end unabated coal finance in 2021 to ‘keep 1.5C within reach’.** Chloé Farand and Isabelle Gerretsen. *Climate Home News.* 21 May 2021. Available from: [https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/05/21/g7-commits-end-unabated-coal-finance-2021-keep-1-5c-within-reach/](https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/05/21/g7-commits-end-unabated-coal-finance-2021-keep-1-5c-within-reach/) The G7 group of rich nations has agreed to start phasing out fossil fuel finance overseas and end support for unabated coal power to keep the 1.5C goal in sight.
Egyptian court says has no jurisdiction to look into appeal against impounding *Ever Given.*
El-Sayed Gamal El-Din. *Ahram Online (Egypt).* 23 May 2021. Available from: https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/0/412688/Egypt/0/Egyptian-court-says-has-no-jurisdiction-to-look-in.aspx An Egyptian court ruled on Sunday that hearing an appeal against the impounding of the *Ever Given* ship, which had blocked Egypt’s Suez Canal in March, does not fall within its jurisdiction.

Egypt offers to cut compensation claim of impounded *Ever Given* vessel to $550 million.
Mohamed Soliman. *Ahram Online (Egypt).* 24 May 2021. Available from: https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/412730/Egypt/Politics/-Egypt-offers-to-cut-compensation-claim-of-impound.aspx This is the second reduction after a $916 million compensation was first demanded for the losses incurred from the six-day blockage of the Suez Canal.

Timmermans: EU countries need to face the consequences of higher climate goals.

Indonesia, Australia agree on joint operation against illegal fishing.
Antara News (Indonesia). 24 May 2021. Available from: https://en.antaranews.com/news/175114/indonesia-australia-agree-on-join-operation-against-illegal-fishing The governments of Indonesia and Australia have concurred on conducting joint maritime patrol called Operation Gannet 5 to safeguard the sea borders between both nations, including from illegal fishing activities.

Biden signs Alaska cruise ship bill, US has no view on Florida vaccine passport ban.
Anne Kalosh. *Seatrade Cruise News.* 24 May 2021. Available from: https://bit.ly/3h2QABv Their Alaska Tourism Recovery Act is ‘a positive, in our view, because it helps reinvigorate industry that accounts for a great number of jobs, and jobs that have been on hold for the past year plus,’ White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said during her earlier daily news conference.

China is setting up its first marine national parks.

Suez Canal Authority says ‘door still open to negotiate with *Ever Given* ship’ over compensation dispute.
Mohamed Soliman. *Ahram Online (Egypt).* 25 May 2021. Available from: https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/412831/Egypt/Politics/-Suez-Canal-Authority-says-door-still-open-to-negot.aspx Head of the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) Osama Rabie said that the door is still open to negotiations with the owner of the *Ever Given* vessel, which blocked the Suez Canal in March, despite being impounded at a court order.

‘The climate has won today’ - Shell ordered to cut CO2 emissions by 45% in landmark climate case.

Shell ordered to slash emissions 45% by 2030 in historic court ruling.
Shell given court order to cut emissions by 45% by 2030. Anastassios Adamopoulos. Lloyd’s List. 26 May 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136911/Shell-given-court-order-to-cut-emissions-by-45-by-2030 Dutch court rules that Shell must reduce its CO2 emissions by 45% by 2030, compared with the company’s target to cut the carbon intensity of its energy products by 20% over the same time period.


Shipping companies risk court battle on CO2 emissions following Shell ruling. Dag Holmstad, Idha Toft Valeur and Jens Thomsen. ShippingWatch. 27 May 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article13011039.ece After the surprise court win Wednesday, Friends of the Earth Netherlands sees shipping companies as potential targets for future court cases, the NGO informs ShippingWatch.


MARINE TECHNOLOGY


MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING


Maritime Companies Committed to Nurturing Young Talents Despite COVID-19 Challenges. Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA). 10 May 2021. Available from: https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/media-centre/news-releases/detail/42e2f5fc-78ac-4466-ab4e-ca0e41fdea51 21 maritime companies will host 30 undergraduates from local institutes of higher learning under the 12-week Global Internship Award (GIA) from May to July 2021.


DNV Certifies NYK’s Online Cargo-handling Training. Maritime Logistics Professional. 16 May 2021. Available from: https://www.maritimelogiprofessional.com/news/certifies-online-cargo-handling-training-367637 The DNV certification confirms that the training content follows the guidelines provided in the IMO model courses and that the training is conducted effectively.


Research supporting safer, stabler ships. Lloyd’s Register Foundation. 26 May 2021. Available from: https://www.lrfoundation.org.uk/en/impact-stories/supporting-research-into-safer-stabler-ships/. The international shipping community has long been searching for a set of rules and guidance on ship stability – the IMO has been developing the Second Generation Intact Stability Criteria (SGISC) and preparing to apply them to all vessels for over a decade.


This innovative project fuses journalism and music to highlight lawlessness at sea. Ian Urbina. World Economic Forum. 4 May 2021. Available from: https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/05/innovative-project-journalism-music-lawlessness-at-sea/. The Outlaw Ocean Project is a journalistic non-profit that raises awareness about these crimes using both traditional and original models of storytelling.

Ship operators at increased risk of drug smuggling. Are Solum. Gard. 4 May 2021. Available from: https://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/31640962/ship-operators-at-increased-risk-of-drug-smuggling. Commercial carriers are not willing participants in the trafficking of drugs, but they may be exposed to various losses including fines if drugs are found on-board.


**USS Monterey Seizes Illicit Weapons in the North Arabian Sea.** United States Navy. 8 May 2021. Available from: https://bit.ly/3cVBSuG. USS Monterey and its embarked U.S. Coast Guard Advanced Interdiction Team (AIT) discovered the illicit cargo during a routine flag verification boarding conducted in international water in accordance with customary international law.


**Pandemic curbs drive seaborne drugs smuggling.** Declan Bush. Lloyd's List. 13 May 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136779/Pandemic-curbs-drive-seaborne-drugs-smuggling. Greek authorities found more than 46kg of cocaine hidden behind a water intake grate on a ship from Brazil, while the French navy found six tonnes aboard a ship in the Gulf of Guinea.


MIGRANTS

More than 800 migrants rescued in Mediterranean head to Italy. *Al Jazeera*. 1 May 2021.
Available from: [https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/1/more-than-800-migrants-rescued-in-mediterranean-head-to-italy](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/1/more-than-800-migrants-rescued-in-mediterranean-head-to-italy). A charity ship has sailed towards Italy’s Sicilian port with 236 people rescued in the Mediterranean from traffickers’ boats, while Italian coastguard and border police brought 532 others to a tiny island.

UNHCR warns of mounting refugee and migrant deaths in the Central Mediterranean.
*United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*. 4 May 2021. Available from: [https://www.unhcr.org/uk/news/briefing/2021/5/609134f74/unhcr-warns-mounting-refugee-migrant-deaths-central-mediterranean.html](https://www.unhcr.org/uk/news/briefing/2021/5/609134f74/unhcr-warns-mounting-refugee-migrant-deaths-central-mediterranean.html) This is a summary of what was said by UNHCR spokesperson Carlotta Sami – to whom quoted text may be attributed – who joined the Palais press briefing from the port of Trapani in Sicily where some 450 persons were disembarking following rescue by the NGO vessel Sea Watch.

Revealed: 2,000 refugee deaths linked to illegal EU pushbacks. *The Guardian*. 5 May 2021. Available from: [https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/may/05/revealed-2000-refugee-deaths-linked-to-eu-pushbacks](https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/may/05/revealed-2000-refugee-deaths-linked-to-eu-pushbacks) EU member states have used illegal operations to push back at least 40,000 asylum seekers from Europe’s borders during the pandemic, methods being linked to the death of more than 2,000 people, the Guardian can reveal.


Greek authorities should investigate allegations of pushbacks and ill-treatment of migrants, ensure an enabling environment for NGOs and improve reception conditions. *Council of Europe*. 12 May 2021. Available from: [https://bit.ly/3cY0zqq](https://bit.ly/3cY0zqq) In a letter addressed to the Minister for Citizens’ Protection, the Minister of Migration and Asylum, and the Minister of Shipping and Island Policy of Greece, made public today, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Dunja Mijatović, urges the Greek authorities to put an end to pushback operations at both the land and sea borders with Turkey, and to ensure that independent and effective investigations are carried out into all allegations of pushbacks and of ill-treatment by members of security forces in the context of such operations.


More than 50 feared drowned after migrant boat sinks off Tunisia. *The Guardian.* 18 May 2021. Available from: [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/may/18/migrant-boat-sinks-off-tunisia-mediterranean](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/may/18/migrant-boat-sinks-off-tunisia-mediterranean) More than 50 people are feared to have drowned after their boat heading from Libya to Europe sank, Tunisia’s defence ministry has said.


**NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS**


Rosatom steps up efforts to open up Arctic’s Northern Sea Route. Lucy Hine. *TradeWinds.* 7 May 2021. Available from: [https://www.tradewindsnews.com/insight/rosatom-steps-up-efforts-to-open-up-arctic-s-northern-sea-route/2-1-1005591](https://www.tradewindsnews.com/insight/rosatom-steps-up-efforts-to-open-up-arctic-s-northern-sea-route/2-1-1005591) Russia’s state atomic energy corporation is on a mission to open up the Northern Sea Route (NSR) to year-round navigation between 2024 and 2030.


**Sisi approves plan to widen, deepen parts of Suez Canal after *Ever Given* crisis.** *Ahram Online (Egypt).* 11 May 2021. Available from: [https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/410940/Egypt/Politics-/UPDATE--Sisi-approves-plan-to-widen-deepen-parts-.aspx](https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/410940/Egypt/Politics-/UPDATE--Sisi-approves-plan-to-widen-deepen-parts-.aspx) Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi on Tuesday approved the Suez Canal Authority’s plan to widen and deepen 40 kilometres of the international waterway, including the part that witnessed the *Ever Given* crisis in March.


**Amid dispute, Suez Canal blames ship’s grounding on speed, rudder.** Aidan Lewis and Nadeen Ebrahim. *Reuters.* 27 May 2021. Available from: [https://www.reuters.com/world/amid-dispute-suez-canal-blames-ships-grounding-speed-rudder-2021-05-27/](https://www.reuters.com/world/amid-dispute-suez-canal-blames-ships-grounding-speed-rudder-2021-05-27/) The container ship that got stuck in the Suez Canal in March was struggling to steer because of its high speed and the size of its rudder, and could have chosen not to enter the waterway in bad weather, the canal authority’s head told Reuters.


**Tanker’s impossible voyage signals new sanction evasion ploy.** *Associated Press.* 28 May 2021. Available from: [https://apnews.com/article/europe-technology-business-1cd3714c9ce906b8fc931ebb95cb9e26](https://apnews.com/article/europe-technology-business-1cd3714c9ce906b8fc931ebb95cb9e26) The Cyprus-flagged oil tanker Berlina was drifting near the Caribbean island of Dominica earlier this year when the safety signals it is required to transmit showed it stopping in its tracks and in two minutes turning around 180 degrees.
PIRACY

So far, 99 maritime companies, organisations and flag states, including BIMCO, have signed the Gulf of Guinea Declaration on Suppression of Piracy, which was launched today.

Gulf of Guinea Declaration on the Suppression of Piracy BIMCO. 17 May 2021. Available from: https://www.bimco.org/GoGDeclaration In response to growing concerns and increasing attacks in the region, a taskforce of stakeholders from across the shipping industry drafted the Gulf of Guinea declaration on the Suppression of Piracy. Declaration

Only a few pirate groups are behind the many Gulf of Guinea kidnappings. Dag Holmstad. ShippingWatch. 19 May 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12991487.ece Last year, only four to six groups of pirates were behind 25 kidnappings of seafarers in the Gulf of Guinea off West Africa.


Shipping’s nightmare with the Gulf of Guinea pirates (Forum). Michael Grey, Maritime Magazine. 26 May 2021. Available from: https://maritimemag.com/en/shippings-nightmare-with-the-gulf-of-guinea-pirates/ There will be few seafarers today who sail off to the Gulf of Guinea with a light heart and cheerful demeanour, any more than they did a couple of hundred years ago, when disease was endemic along its shores.
PORT STATE CONTROL


Reimposing seafarer travel bans threatens global vaccination push. Natalie Shaw. *Lloyd’s List*. 30 April 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136644/ The International Chamber of Shipping says requiring proof of vaccination before letting crews leave ships to return home will put seafarers in a Catch-22 scenario — unable to disembark until they are vaccinated, but not able to get vaccinated without leaving the vessel.


Prohibition of crew change in Singapore for crew with recent travel history to Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. *Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore* (MPA). 6 May 2021. Available from: https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/port-of-singapore/circulars-and-notices/detail/e689cae8-46ab-4f22-8fe8-b30fab33beeef  The Ministry of Health (MOH) has announced that all long-term pass holders and short-term visitors with recent travel history (including transit) to Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka within the last 21 days will not be allowed entry into Singapore, or transit through Singapore.


Crew change crisis far from over warn leading ship managers. Marcus Hand. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 6 May 2021. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/ship-operations/crew-change-crisis-far-over-warn-leading-ship-managers  The new Neptune Declaration Crew Change Indicator surveying 10 leading ship managers presents what on the face of it a situation that looks to be far improved over last year, however, as border restrictions are reinstated with the Covid crisis in India and the spread of new variants senior executives say the picture is bleak.


Philippines bans international crew change for vessels arriving from seven countries. Marcus Hand. Seatrade Maritime News. 18 May 2021. Available from: https://www.seatrademaritime.com/regulation/philippines-bans-international-crew-change-vessels-arriving-seven-countries The Philippines has joined a growing list of countries that is banning crew change for foreign seafarers vessels that have called at Indian sub-continent nations in the previous 14 days as well some Middle East countries.

PORTS & HARBOURS


Yokohama crowned world’s most efficient container port. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 6 May 2021. Available from: https://splash247.com/yokohama-crowned-worlds-most-efficient-container-port/ The Japanese port of Yokohama has been crowned as the world’s most efficient box facility in a new study launched by the World Bank and data firm IHS Markit.


Update: Yantian port reports a new COVID-19 case related to the firefighter operator case. *Global Times (China)*. 22 May 2021. Available from: [https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202105/1224155.shtml](https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202105/1224155.shtml) A new case of asymptomatic infection with COVID-19 was reported at Yantian Port in Shenzhen, South China’s Guangdong Province on Saturday, following an international firefighter boarding operator from Yantian Port testing positive for COVID-19 on Friday.


Often overlooked Port of Savannah seafarers given the chance to be vaccinated. Blair Caldwell. *WTOW (US)*. 24 May 2021. Available from: [https://www.wtoc.com/2021/05/24/often-overlooked-port-savannah-seafarers-are-given-chance-be-vaccinated](https://www.wtoc.com/2021/05/24/often-overlooked-port-savannah-seafarers-are-given-chance-be-vaccinated) As vaccinations continue in the Coastal Empire, new efforts are under way to expand their reach to those coming in and out of our community.

China port congestion persists as India braces for cyclone. Declan Bush. Lloyd’s List. 25 May 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136903/ A small cluster of coronavirus infections at China’s Yantian port has added to congestion woes. India’s east coast braces for another big storm a week after Cyclone Tauktae battered its western ports.


REGULATIONS


Australia finds numerous violations among ships with ballast water systems. Søren Pico. ShippingWatch. 3 May 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12948024.ece Australian authorities inform ShippingWatch of a “real biosecurity risk” as a study in the country’s ports shows that a large proportion of ships do not meet the environmental requirements for ballast water, even if they have systems installed.


Shipping rule cleans the air but dirties the water. Erik Stokstad. *Science*. 13 May 2021. Available from: https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2021/05/shipping-rule-cleans-air-dirties-water In an unwelcome twist, a global effort to curb pollution from the heavy fuel oil burned by most big ships appears to be encouraging water pollution instead.

**SALVAGE**

Salvage crews began removing fuel from SEACOR Power’s tanks on Monday, kicking off salvage operations for the overturned lift boat off the coast of Port Fourchon, Louisiana.

**SEAFARERS**


Raising seafarers’ plight to the world. Yashika F. Torib. Manila Times. 5 May 2021. Available from: https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/05/05/business/maritime-business/raising-seafarers-plight-to-the-world/869965/ In a time when tens of thousands of individuals stepped forward to hold the line of safety and survival in the face of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic, one sector of essential workers seemed to have been forgotten by the world — the seafarers.


No more excuses for global brands as new tool launched in fight to resolve crew change crisis. ITF Seafarers. 6 May 2021. Available from: https://www.itfseafarers.org/en/news/no-more-excuses-global-brands-new-tool-launched-fight-resolve-crew-change-crisis The world’s seafarers’ unions say the world’s biggest brands have no excuse not to audit their supply chains and issue directives to suppliers on crew change, now that a new human rights due diligence toolkit has been launched today.

Role of seafarers in keeping the world moving is unrecognised. Inderpreet Walia. Lloyd’s List. 6 May 2021. Available from: https://lloydlist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136690/ As the maritime industry works to tackle the crew change issue, governments have still not responded to the humanitarian crisis.


The Lloyd’s List podcast: Is shipping about to be hit by a global crew shortage? Lloyd’s List. 7 May 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136701/ The crewing crisis never went away, the industry just worked around the problems, but with India now engulfed with a new coronavirus strain, Myanmar seafarers locked out due to sanctions at home and existing logjams getting worse, there is a very real possibility that shipping has a global crew shortage coming in the post.


Seafarers Hospital Society and Yale University announce landmark study of maritime worker health initiatives. Seafarers Hospital Society. 10 May 2021. Available from: https://seahospital.org.uk/seafarers-health-initiatives/ The Seafarers Hospital Society (SHS) and Yale University are collaborating on a landmark study to determine the effectiveness of initiatives taken by shipping companies, charities and the wider maritime sector to keep seafarers healthy and safe.

Chinese crew invokes contract clause after order to call at India. Cichen Shen. Lloyd’s List. 11 May 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136728/ Crew of a 48,500-dwt general cargo bulker are protesting against their employer’s decision to sail the vessel to India, where coronavirus infections are at a record high, underlying the mounting concern being raised by seafarers from China.


Cuban tanker en route to Venezuela reports missing sailor at sea - document. Reuters. 12 May 2021. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/cuban-tanker-en-route-venezuela-reports-missing-sailor-sea-document-2021-05-12/ A crew member aboard a Cuba-flagged oil tanker on its way from a Mexican shipyard to Venezuela was reported missing this week, according to a shipping report seen by Reuters, marking the second incident aboard the same vessel in about a year.


Actions carried out by the AMP ensure that seafarers on Panamanian flag vessels and their nationals on foreign flags return to their homes. Panama Maritime Authority. Hellenic Shipping News. 15 May 2021. Available from: https://bit.ly/3iVL71 The Panama Maritime Authority (AMP) communicates that the actions taken to safeguard the labor rights of the eight (8) Panamanian crew members who were on the ship “NISSI COMMANDER I” of the Mongolian Ship Registry, as well as the eighteen (18) crew members of other nationalities who were on board ships belonging to the Panama Ship Registry, came to a good end allowing them to return to their homes alongside their families, with the payment of their owed wages.


The real reason why there are so few female seafarers. Richard Clayton. Lloyd’s List. 17 May 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136798/The-real-reason-why-there-are-so-few-female-seafarers One study by Marine Insight quoted in a webinar by Mental Health Support Solutions (MHSS) last week claimed that there are about 1.2m male seafarers, compared with only 27,000 female seafarers.


New seafarers certificate to make it easier for Seychellois to work on foreign ships. Salifa Karapetyan. Seychelles News Agency. 25 May 2021. Available from: http://www.seychellesnewagency.com/articles/14878/New+seafarers+certificate+to+make+it+easier+for+Seychellois+to+work+on+foreign+ships Seychellois seafarers looking to work on foreign-flagged vessels will undergo less scrutiny as the island nation’s gears up to sign Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with around 10 countries on mutual recognition and endorsement of certificates.

Vigilance, not complacency, amid encouraging trend. Carlos Salinas. *Manila Times*. 26 May 2021. Available from: [https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/05/26/business/maritime/vigilance-not-complacency-amid-encouraging-trend/1800585](https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/05/26/business/maritime/vigilance-not-complacency-amid-encouraging-trend/1800585) In a recent statement, IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim reported that the number of seafarers requiring repatriation after finishing their contracts had declined from around 400,000 in September 2020 to approximately 200,000 as of March 2021, an encouraging improvement.

Seafarers relief fund raises half a million dollars and issues first grants. *ShipInsight*. 27 May 2021. Available from: [https://shipinsight.com/articles/seafarers-relief-fund-raises-half-a-million-dollars-and-issues-first-grants/](https://shipinsight.com/articles/seafarers-relief-fund-raises-half-a-million-dollars-and-issues-first-grants/) The Seafarers International Relief Fund (SIRF), established by leading seafarer welfare charities and the wider shipping industry to support seafarers and their families devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic, has collected $530,000 in pledges so far, and thanks to The Seafarers’ Charity’s agile and established grant-making processes, has already issued grants of almost $400,000 to help those worst affected.

Govt must address well-being of Filipino seafarers. *Manila Times*. 27 May 2021. Available from: [https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/05/27/opinion/editorial/govt-must-address-well-being-of-filipino-seafarers/1800844](https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/05/27/opinion/editorial/govt-must-address-well-being-of-filipino-seafarers/1800844) According to data from various government and industry sources, there are approximately 1.6 million seafarers manning 50,000 commercial shipping currently operating around the world.

Seafarers Deserve Support. *BIMCO*. 27 May 2021. Available from: [https://www.bimco.org/SeafarersDeserveSupport](https://www.bimco.org/SeafarersDeserveSupport) Over 90% of world trade is carried by ship, and around 1.7 million seafarers work to facilitate the way we live, making sure we get everything we need in our daily lives.


**SEARCH & RESCUE**

SHIP RECYCLING


**Ship Demolition Market Facing Unprecedented Conditions.** Nikos Roussanoglou. *Hellenic Shipping News.* 13 May 2021. Available from: [https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/ship-demolition-market-facing-unprecedented-conditions/](https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/ship-demolition-market-facing-unprecedented-conditions/) The ship recycling activity has been facing a lack of tonnage of late, while prices are being rising as was expected, offering more financial incentive to owners in order to sell their older ships.

**ICS Leadership Insights Live: Ship Recycling round-up.** *International Chamber of Shipping (ICS).* 13 May 2021. Available from: [https://www.ics-shipping.org/news-item/ics-leadership-insights-live-ship-recycling-round-up/](https://www.ics-shipping.org/news-item/ics-leadership-insights-live-ship-recycling-round-up/) As with any part of the maritime industry, ship breaking has been impacted by the changes and challenges created by COVID-19 this past year.

**EU Ship Recycling Regulation: An Inhibitor or Catalyst for Greening Ship Recycling Yards?** *Hellenic Shipping News.* 14 May 2021. Available from: [https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/eu-ship-recycling-regulation-an-inhibitor-or-catalyst-for-greening-ship-recycling-yards/](https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/eu-ship-recycling-regulation-an-inhibitor-or-catalyst-for-greening-ship-recycling-yards/) Within the last two weeks, the ongoing debate on the European Union Ship Recycling Regulation and a bilateral agreement between the European Union (EU) and India to solve the Basel Ban Amendment conundrum is re-surfacing once again, as the Danish Environmental agency is reportedly investigating Maersk’s recycling standards in India.

**EU Tightens Ship Recycling Rules Again.** Kate Abnett. *gCaptain.* 17 May 2021. Available from: [https://gcaptain.com/eu-ship-recycling/](https://gcaptain.com/eu-ship-recycling/) The European Union on Monday said it would toughen its rules on ship recycling and decommissioning offshore oil and gas sites, and set new targets to restore damaged marine ecosystems.


**Boom in ships that fly ‘fake’ flags and trash the environment.** Quirin Schiermeier. *Nature.* 24 May 2021. Available from: [https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-01391-3](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-01391-3) The number of ships using a ‘flag of convenience’ loophole that allows them to be scrapped in a place with lax environmental regulations is skyrocketing.
**SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR**

€6m project to trial greener, more efficient ship propulsion and steering system underway. University of Strathclyde (UK). 4 May 2021. Available from: https://www.strath.ac.uk/whystrathclyde/news/6mprojecttotrialgreenermoreefficientshippropulsionandsteeringsystemunderway/ A greener, more efficient rudder system, designed at the University of Strathclyde, will be demonstrated as part of a €6 million EU-funded research project.

Germany’s VSM calls for restructuring of European shipbuilding and warns of skills loss. ShipInsight. 5 May 2021. Available from: https://shipinsight.com/articles/germanys-vsm-calls-for-restructuring-of-european-shipbuilding-and-warns-of-skills-loss/ VSM, the trade body representing German Shipbuilders and marine equipment suppliers has warned that despite high levels of competence in ship construction, distortion of competition and increasing protectionism is resulting in lack of orders and is leading to a loss of skills.


World’s Largest Civilian Hospital Ship, the Global Mercy™ Successfully Passes Final Sea Trials. Mercy Ships. 10 May 2021. Available from: https://www.mercyships.org/worlds-largest-civilian-hospital-ship-the-global-mercy-successfully-passes-final-sea-trials/ Mercy Ships announced this week that the Global Mercy has now completed deep water sea trials, one of the final milestones in the countdown towards the hospital ship’s delivery, equipping, maiden voyage and launch into service to sub-Saharan Africa in 2022.


Applauding the shipping industry’s move to cleaner air and lower greenhouse gas emissions. SEA-LNG. 25 May 2021. Available from: https://sea-lng.org/2021/05/applauding-the-shipping-industries-move-to-cleaner-air-and-lower-greenhouse-gas-emissions/ It is time to celebrate the recent LNG-fuelled new build vessel announcements from many major shipping industry leaders.
First ship complying with DE-Tier III regulations laid down in Russia. Port News. 26 May 2021. Available from: https://en.portnews.ru/news/313348/ Russia’s first ship complying with IMO DE-Tier III regulations, a 8,144-dwt multifunctional dry cargo ship of Project RSD59, was laid down on 25 May 2021, says Marine Engineering Bureau, the ship designer.

**SHIPPING**

Experts see ‘missing link’ as maritime firms fail to prioritise digitalisation in business plans. Max Tingyao Lin. TradeWinds. 30 April 2021. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/business-focus/experts-see-missing-link-as-maritime-firms-fail-to-prioritise-digitalisation-in-business-plans/2-1-999326 While more shipping professionals are increasingly willing to adopt new technologies, they may have a long way to go before they reap the rewards of digitalisation.

Italian cruise ship sets sail for first time in months after pandemic nearly sunk the industry. Katy Dartford. Euronews. 2 May 2021. Available from: https://www.euronews.com/2021/05/02/italian-cruise-ship-sets-sail-for-first-time-in-months-after-pandemic-nearly-sunk-the-industry意大利 cruise line Costa Cruises took to the seas on Saturday for the first time in more than four months, buoying an industry capsized by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Shipping on trial – the true cost of buying online. Pippa Neill. Environment Journal. 3 May 2021. Available from: https://environmentjournal.online/articles/shipping-on-trial-the-true-cost-of-buying-online/ It takes a lot of complicated logistics to enable online retailers to provide us with next-day delivery and believe it or not the journey is a lot longer than the 24-hours between your order and your receival.

The Containerization of Shipping and its Global Consequences with Marc Levinson and Liang Wu. Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies (RBI) City University of New York 3 May 2021. Available from: https://soundcloud.com/user-665186326/the-containerization-of-shipping-and-its-global-consequences RBI Director John Torpey talks to Marc Levinson, economist, historian, and journalist, and Liang Wu, doctoral candidate in anthropology at the Graduate Center, CUNY, about how shipping containers have become the new paradigm in international shipping, and what affect that has had on supply chains, markets, and those working in the shipping industry.

Shipping’s decarbonisation requires both the IMRB and an MBM. John Butler. Splash 247.com. 4 May 2021. Available from: https://splash247.com/shippings-decarbonisation-requires-both-the-imrb-and-an-mbm/ One of the most important items on the agenda for the next meeting of the IMO’s Marine Environment Protection Committee is further consideration and development of the International Maritime Research and Development Board, or IMRB.


EU forced to postpone proposal on CO2 quotas for shipping. Louise Wendt Jensen. ShippingWatch. 4 May 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article/12952322.ece The entire legislative package, which includes how to induct the shipping industry into the EU’s ETS system and requirements for greener fuels, originally set to be presented in June, is now postponed by one month.

BIMCO, ICS, INTERCARGO and INTERTANKO are calling on Fleet Managers, Vessel Managers, Technical Superintendents, Masters and Chief Engineers to share their insight and experiences with marine fuels in a new survey aimed at identifying potential quality and quantity issues.


Titan LNG has questioned the lifecycle emissions analysis available for hydrogen and ammonia, pointing out that liquefied natural gas has an established record of evidence backing up its status as an available pathway to decarbonising international shipping.


The Shipping Industry is at sixes and sevens as the industry tries to grapple with container shortages to ship goods across the world.


Our ambition is to create a framework that charterers can adapt to their own specific circumstances. Best Practices for Charterers


The world has never had a global price on carbon. Instead, more than 60 emission trading systems and taxes have been stitched together by national governments pricing a ton of CO₂, anywhere from less than $1 (Poland) to more than $120 (Sweden).


US Climate Envoy John Kerry’s announcement of the Biden administration’s new policy on shipping decarbonisation last month led to some confusion in the industry.


Greece’s minister of shipping became the latest official to put forth a series of proposals to the European Commission as it prepared to complete the next phase of EU rules on emissions, including incorporate shipping into the ETS.

CMA CGM sees biomethane as the next step for much criticized LNG. Dag Holmstad. ShippingWatch. 10 May 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12966539.ece

With a bet on biomethane for the gas network, CMA CGM wants to “provoke investments and scale” in the market, and sees biomethane as a next step for LNG, says Farid Trad, VP of Bunkering and Energy Transition in CMA.

Ikea denounces LNG as the fuel to decarbonize shipping. Tomas Kristiansen. ShippingWatch. 11 May 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12970142.ece

While an increasing number of carriers opt to include LNG vessels in their fleets, one of the world’s largest shippers, Ikea, makes it clear that the liquefied natural gas is not the way to go for shipping companies to decarbonize.

Carriers battle for free quotas before EU presents its CO2 proposal. Tomas Kristiansen. ShippingWatch. 11 May 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12972115.ece Last week, the price of emitting a tonne of CO2 reached over EUR 50, ending on EUR 50.35 on Friday, the highest price ever for a quota in the EU’s ETS system.


Shipping leaders disagree on future of LNG in shipping. Anastassios Adamopoulos. Lloyd’s List. 12 May 2021. Available from: https://lloydsslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136761/ During a Lloyd’s List webinar on decarbonising shipping, leaders from shipping technology provider Wärtsilä, classification society DNV and Maersk, a shipping company that has not invested in LNG while its arch-rivals have, traded views on what the future of LNG is in shipping.


E-fuels offer clean future for shipping and aviation, green groups tell EU. Eoin Bannon. Transport & Environment. 12 May 2021. Available from: https://www.transportenvironment.org/press/e-fuels-offer-clean-future-shipping-and-aviation-green-groups-tell-eu The EU should promote the use of green synthetic fuels, or e-fuels, by ships and planes as part of its upcoming maritime and aviation fuel laws, environmental groups have told the European Commission. Letter: The EU should promote the use of e-fuels by ships and planes
U.S. Senate allows Alaska-bound cruise ships to bypass Canada; House action could allow summer cruises this year. James Brooks. Anchorage Daily News (US). 13 May 2021. Available from: https://www.adn.com/politics/2021/05/13/us-senate-allows-alaska-bound-cruise-ships-to-bypass-canada-house-action-could-allow-summer-cruises-this-year/ The U.S. Senate on Thursday passed a bill that could allow large cruise ships to visit Alaska this summer despite Canadian restrictions that have closed that country to cruise travel.


From buzzword to necessity: why shipping needs to take sustainability seriously. Mathieu Philippe. Seatrade Maritime News. 14 May 2021. Available from: https://bit.ly/3zHZsFe Many of the organisations that we work with share an ambition to deliver the carbon savings now required of shipping, but also face the challenge of finding the right decarbonisation strategies for their operations and their assets.


Maersk advocates for a “significant” CO2 tax. Tomas Kristiansen. Shipping Watch. 17 May 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12985018.ece Maersk says a coming carbon tax should be “significant” to prompt shipping companies to shift course away from using fossil fuels.
Does your ship have the EEXI factor? Adam Corbett. *TradeWinds*. 17 May 2021. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/technology/does-your-ship-have-the-eexi-factor/-21-1001752 The Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index, or EEXI for short, is a bit of a mouthful, but shipowners will find themselves discussing it increasingly frequently over the next 18 months.


**Hext hits out at two-faced charterers for including no-crew change clauses in contracts.** Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*. 18 May 2021. Available from: https://splash247.com/hext-hits-out-at-two-faced-charterers-for-including-no-crew-change-clauses-in-contracts/ The Asian Shipowners’ Association (ASA) held its 30th annual general meeting today in which strong words were levelled against many of the world’s top charterers for their stubborn stance on crew changes.

**Environmental concerns propel research into marine biofuels.** Idha Toft Valeur. *ShippingWatch*. 19 May 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12989819.ece A global effort to reduce sulfur and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from ships has researchers from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and other Department of Energy facilities investigating the potential use of marine biofuels. Euronav’s CEO, Hugo De Stoop, believes the IMO’s plan to lower shipping’s carbon intensity by 40 percent by 2030 is a feasible plan that will still be challenging to meet.


Shipping showing resilience, helping economy. Financial Mirror (Cyprus). 20 May 2021. Available from: https://www.financialmirror.com/2021/05/20/shipping-showing-resilience-helping-economy/ The shipping sector showed “tremendous resilience” in supporting the Cypriot economy amid the coronavirus pandemic; President Nicos Anastasiades told the annual meeting of shipowners and shipmanagers on Thursday.


Sabrina Chao elected BIMCO President. BIMCO. 21 May 2021. Available from: https://www.bimco.org/news/priority-news/20210520-sabrina-chao-elected-bimco-president Sabrina Chao takes over as the 45th President of BIMCO, the fifth President to be based in Asia and the third to be based in Hong Kong.

European countries are open to quotas as well as a CO2 tax. Tomas Kristiansen. ShippingWatch. 21 May 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12997332.ece Before the EU presents its proposal on CO2 quotas on July 14, and ahead of the IMO’s decisive MEPC meeting a month before that, Denmark, Germany, France and Sweden now openly assert that fossil fuels must become more expensive.

Monjasa refrains from setting a target for more women: “We’re in a reasonable place”. Astrid Sturlason. ShippingWatch. 21 May 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article12998503.ece Monjasa is one of 24 companies that have joined Danish Shipping’s initiative to get more women into shipping, but the company will not set a specific goal for the proportion of women.
The Lloyd’s List Podcast: The big and challenging role for class societies in autonomous shipping. Yukihito Fujinami and Tomoaki Yamada. Lloyd’s List. 23 May 2021. Available from: https://lloydstlist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136837 ClassNK experts Yukihito Fujinami and Tomoaki Yamada join the Lloyd’s List Podcast to discuss what the key elements are for designing the safety requirements for autonomous ships, what progress is being made, and how the organisation itself aims to contribute to the industry’s automation efforts.


Container liners think IMO’s new CO2 rules disproportionately affect reefer transport. Tomas Kristiansen. ShippingWatch. 26 May 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article13005439.ece Container liners want the IMO to change the impending environmental regulations, as they will be penalized in their CO2 accounts if they transport many reefers.


The Bahamas welcomes the registry’s first LNG powered passenger ship. Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA). 26 May 2021. Available from: https://bit.ly/3qosjdc Mardi Gras, Carnival Cruise Lines’ newest ship, will be operating out of Port Canaveral with voyages to the Caribbean and will spend much of her time in the ports of The Bahamas, giving her passengers and crew (potentially totalling well over 7,000 people) the opportunity to explore the natural beauty of the islands and experience the renowned Bahamian hospitality.


EEXI and CII regulations expected to hit old LNG steamships. Lucy Hine. TradeWinds. 26 May 2021. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/gas/eexi-and-cii-regulations-expected-to-hit-old-lng-steamships/2-1-1016188 Older steam turbine-driven LNG carriers may have to be scrapped, converted for other uses or retrofitted to enable them to trade under new, a market expert told a Gastech webinar.
Decarbonizing shipping – why now is the time to act. World Economic Forum. 27 May 2021. Available from: https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/05/decarbonising-shipping-the-time-to-act-is-now/ The shipping industry must reach zero emissions by 2050, and to get there zero-emission ships must become the dominant and competitive choice by 2030.


BIMCO’s new president pledges to raise shipping’s voice. Cichen Shen. Lloyd’s List. 27 May 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1136926/ Sabrina Chao, the new president of BIMCO, has pledged that the task of making shipping’s voice better heard by the outside world will be at the top of her agenda over the next two years.


RESEARCH


Tan ECD, Hawkins TR, et al. Biofuel Options for Marine Applications: Technoeconomic and Life-Cycle Analyses. *Environmental Science & Technology.* 17 May 2021. Available from: [https://doi.org/10.1021/acsest.0c06141](https://doi.org/10.1021/acsest.0c06141) This study performed technoeconomic and life-cycle analyses to assess the economic feasibility and emission benefits and tradeoffs of various biofuel production pathways as an alternative to conventional marine fuels.


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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.