About the MKC Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)

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

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

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

The Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB) is published by the Maritime Knowledge Centre and is not an official IMO publication. Inclusion does not imply any endorsement by IMO.

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IMO NEWS & EVENTS

WHAT’S NEW

IMO supports maritime security activities in East Africa

IMO has assisted in the strengthening of maritime security governance in East Africa by participating in two regional events during August: the Strategic Maritime Security and Blue Economy course (held 9-13 August) held in Kenya, and also the annual Cutlass Express event (26th July – 6th August), a United States Naval Forces Africa led, maritime security exercise conducted in the Western Indian Ocean.

For the Strategic Maritime Security and Blue Economy course, Kiruja Micheni, IMO project manager for the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) facilitated a module on maritime security governance. This focused on the establishment of National Maritime Security Committee, development of a National Maritime Risk Register and formulation of a National Maritime Security Strategy. More...

Supporting Djibouti to prevent pollution from ships

Djibouti is the latest country to benefit from a national training workshop* (held 2-5 August, 2021) on implementation and enforcement of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). The workshop particularly emphasized the importance of MARPOL Annexe V, which focuses on prevention of pollution by garbage from ships and prohibits disposal of plastics and restricts disposal of other ship-generated solid wastes at sea.

The workshop, held in Djibouti City and delivered in French, also underscored the importance of ratification of Annex VI regulations to prevent air pollution from ships. Full and effective ratification and implementation of the convention could help improve the air quality in and around the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea. More...

Building support for fishing safety in the Pacific region

IMO Member states in the Pacific Region were part of an active discussion exploring the national and regional benefits of ratifying and implementing the 2012 Cape Town Agreement (CTA), which aims to boost safety for fishing vessels and their crew. The event was the latest in a series of virtual webinars aimed at engaging decision-makers from maritime administrations and fishery authorities on the topic, and was organized in cooperation with the Pew Charitable Trusts, Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and Pacific Community (SPC) Secretariats.

Joseph Westwood-Booth, Senior deputy director for IMO’s Maritime Safety Division said, “While a number of factors may have contributed to the bad safety record of the fishing industry, there can be no doubt that the lack of an effective internationally binding regulatory regime for the safety of fishing vessels plays a significant part. More...
Programme of Meetings for 2021 (issued 9 July 2021) can be downloaded here

Previous Meetings (REMOTE)

Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments (III 7) – 12-16 July

Legal Committee (LEG 108) – 26-30 July

Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC 7) – 6-10 September 2021

Forthcoming Meetings (REMOTE)

9th meeting of the Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships 15-22 September 2021

Technical Cooperation Committee (TC 71) – 20-24 September 2021

RECENT SPEECHES BY IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL KITACK LIM

Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC 7), 6-10 September (Opening remarks)

IMO NEWS MAGAZINE Summer 2021

IMO PUBLISHING Just Published 2021

Latest COVID-19 data confirms infections have risen globally for four consecutive weeks. *UN News.* 4 August 2021. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/08/1097062](https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/08/1097062) COVID-19 infections have continued to rise globally for more than a month now, with over four million cases reported in the past week alone, the UN health agency said on Wednesday.


Wakashio stern remains lodged on reef 375 days on from its infamous grounding. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 4 August 2021. Available from: https://splash247.com/wakashio-stern-remains-lodged-on-reef-375-days-on-from-its-infamous-grounding/ More than a year since its grounding and splitting in two, the rump of the Wakashio newcastlemax remains lodged on a reef off Mauritius as the picture above taken a week ago shows.

Iran rejects G7 and US allegations over drone attack on ship. France 24. 7 August 2021. Available from: https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210807-iran-rejects-g7-and-us-allegations-over-drone-attack-on-ship Iran on Saturday rejected Western allegations its drones were used in a deadly tanker attack, while accusing Israel of concocting the “scenario” in a bid to undermine the Islamic republic.

Governments condemn Iran as tanker attack evidence is presented. Richard Meade. Lloyd’s List. 7 August 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1137823/Governments-condemn-Iran-as-tanker-attack-evidence-is-presented A co-ordinated series of international statements from governments have stressed that vessels must be allowed to navigate freely as the US presents evidence that Iran was behind the attack on Mercer Street tanker.


Livestock carrier meets fiery end off Spain. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 9 August 2021. Available from: https://splash247.com/livestock-carrier-meets-fiery-end-off-spain/ All crew were evacuated from the burning ship and many firefighters were deployed to help put the blaze out.

Spain once again forced to deal with controversial livestock carrier. Lloyd’s List. 9 August 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1137830/Spain-once-again-forced-to-deal-with-controversial-livestock-carrier Five months after the Spanish authorities were forced to cull 1,600 cattle on board the ageing Lebanese livestock carrier Elbeik, the vessel was back in Spain and caught fire during the weekend.


Grounding of Wood-Chip Carrier *Crimson Polaris* off Hachinohe. *NYK Line.* 19 August 2021. Available from: [https://www.nyk.com/english/news/2021/20210818_01.html](https://www.nyk.com/english/news/2021/20210818_01.html) In response to the grounding of *Crimson Polaris* that occurred off the coast of Hachinohe on August 11, 10 NYK employees were dispatched on August 18 to assist in the area clean-up.


Grounding of Wood-Chip Carrier *Crimson Polaris* off Hachinohe (5). *NYK Line.* 24 August 2021. Available from: [https://www.nyk.com/english/news/2021/20210824_01.html](https://www.nyk.com/english/news/2021/20210824_01.html) In response to the grounding of *Crimson Polaris* that occurred off the coast of Hachinohe on August 11, NYK will make a total of 11 dispatches of 10 employees each (totaling 110 employees) by September 11 to assist with the area clean-up.


**ENVIRONMENT**


Dossier: mining the Arctic. Mark Rowe. *Geographical.* 6 August 2021. Available from: [https://geographical.co.uk/nature/polar/item/4113-dossier-mining-the-arctic](https://geographical.co.uk/nature/polar/item/4113-dossier-mining-the-arctic) The Arctic is one of the last frontiers still free from full-on exploitation of its resources by humans.

Climate change widespread, rapid, and intensifying – IPCC. *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).* 9 August 2021. Available from: [https://www.ipcc.ch/2021/08/09/ar6-wg1-20210809-pr/](https://www.ipcc.ch/2021/08/09/ar6-wg1-20210809-pr/) Scientists are observing changes in the Earth’s climate in every region and across the whole climate system, according to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report, released today.  
[Full Report](https://www.ipcc.ch/2021/08/09/ar6-wg1-20210809-pr/)  
Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis
IPCC scientists’ climate change report says rising seas will see Great Barrier Reef islands disappear. Johanna Marie. ABC (Australia). 12 August 2021. Available from: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-08-11/climate-islands-disappear/100366874 If you’ve never visited the Great Barrier Reef islands, then time to do so could be running out, with marine scientists warning they could disappear into the ocean over the coming years.

‘You can’t have a healthy planet without a healthy ocean’: interview with UN Special Envoy for the Ocean. Emma Charlton. World Economic Forum. 12 August 2021. Available from: https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/08/climate-crisis-oceans-peter-thomson-un/ That’s the message Peter Thomson, the United Nations’ Special Envoy for the Ocean and Co-Chair of Friends of Ocean Action, is sending to global leaders as they head to a crucial climate summit in November.

‘Code red’ climate crisis: leaders must wake up to the real threat to maritime security. C. Uday Bhaskar. South China Morning Post. 16 August 2021. Available from: https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/world/article/3144837/code-red-climate-crisis-leaders-must-wake-real-threat Global warming, the world’s most serious existential challenge, is poised to morph into an irreversible threat to Planet Earth’s diverse life forms.


**ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION**


**The menace of ghost netting.** Nick Bowett. Green World. 13 August 2021. Available from: [https://greenworld.org.uk/article/menace-ghost-netting](https://greenworld.org.uk/article/menace-ghost-netting) Ghost gear is loose fishing gear which has been lost, voluntarily abandoned or dumped at sea by fishermen, and invariably goes on to maim and kill marine wildlife for no justifiable reason.

**The pollution challenge facing the 'Dragon’s Jewels' of Viet Nam.** UN News. 15 August 2021. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/08/1097052](https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/08/1097052) A community-led project to manage some 28,000 tonnes of plastic waste and prevent 5,000 tonnes from ending up in the ocean is being supported by the UN in one of the most popular tourist attractions in Viet Nam.


**Shipping urged to share information on abandoned fishing nets.** Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 27 August 2021. Available from: [https://splash247.com/shipping-urged-to-share-information-on-abandoned-fishing-nets/](https://splash247.com/shipping-urged-to-share-information-on-abandoned-fishing-nets/) Another sea pollution mapping initiative is launching with a specific focus on so called ghost nets, the thousands of square meters of abandoned fishing gear that harms marine life and renders many ships without power.
HEALTH & SAFETY


10,000 Janssen vaccines available for international seafarers. Euro Nordic Logistics. 2 August 2021. Available from: [https://www.euronordic.nl/news/10-000-janssen-vaccines-available-for-international-seafarers](https://www.euronordic.nl/news/10-000-janssen-vaccines-available-for-international-seafarers) In the next two months, a total of 10,000 Janssen vaccines will be available for all (foreign) commercial seagoing vessel’s and its crew, except cruise vessels and pleasure yachts, at special designated vaccination centers.

OPAV sets up Cebu vaccination site for seafarers. John Rey Saavedra. *Philippine News Agency (PNA)*. 3 August 2021. Available from: [https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1149163](https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1149163) In response to President Rodrigo Duterte’s order to prioritize overseas Filipino workers and seafarers in the vaccination rollout, the Office of the Presidential Assistant for the Visayas (OPAV) has initiated the establishment of the inoculation site for international maritime workers in Cebu.

Coronavirus: More than 5,000 crew members jabbed as part of Cyprus programme. Evie Andreou. *Cyprus Mail*. 3 August 2021. Available from: [https://cyprus-mail.com/2021/08/03/coronavirus-more-than-5000-crew-members-jabbed-as-part-of-cyprus-programme/](https://cyprus-mail.com/2021/08/03/coronavirus-more-than-5000-crew-members-jabbed-as-part-of-cyprus-programme/) More than 5,000 seafarers have been vaccinated so far as part of the government’s initiative to offer Covid-19 jabs to crews of ships flying the Cypriot flag or using the country’s ports, deputy shipping minister Vassilis Demetriades said on Tuesday.

Covid jabs given to 100 seafarers in Cornwall. *BBC News*. 4 August 2021. Available from: [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-58085710](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-58085710) The NHS has worked with the Cornwall Port Health Authority to offer the vaccines to crews that have entered Cornish waters, regardless of their nationality.


11 coronavirus cases off central Queensland coast likely to be Delta, Maritime Safety

Ocean shipping industry has repeatedly demonstrated anti-COVID measures. Shipping Australia Ltd. 6 August 2021. Available from: https://www.shippingaustralia.com.au/ocean-shipping-industry-has-repeatedly-demonstrated-anti-covid-measures/ Global ocean-going shipping companies have repeatedly demonstrated to the authorities in general that the shipping industry is taking a great number of measures to keep its crews and shore side communities safe from COVID.

Almost 4,000 seafarers got Moderna and Janssen vaccines in Villar Tent. Senate of the Philippines. 8 August 2021. Available from: http://legacy.senate.gov.ph/press_release/2021/0807_villar1.asp The partnership of MARINA (Maritime Industry Authority) and the Office of Sen. Cynthia Villar has inoculated with Moderna and Janssen Covid-19 vaccines almost 4,000 seafarers so they can go back to their work.


Cheonghae unit members believed to have contracted COVID-19 at port in Gulf of Guinea. Yonhap News Agency (South Korea). 10 August 2021. Available from: https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210810007551320 Members of the Cheonghae unit are presumed to have contracted COVID-19 while docked at a port in the Gulf of Guinea in late June to get local supplies, a joint investigation team said Tuesday.


27 people aboard Carnival cruise test positive for COVID-19. *Associated Press*. 14 August 2021. Available from: [https://apnews.com/article/lifestyle-business-health-travel-caribbean-4dd34f14b6a6365f48b3375c57ba4fb4](https://apnews.com/article/lifestyle-business-health-travel-caribbean-4dd34f14b6a6365f48b3375c57ba4fb4) A Carnival cruise on which 27 people tested positive for COVID-19 just before the ship made a stop in Belize City this week was headed back to Galveston, Texas Friday after stopping in Mexico.

Covid-19 jabs to seafarers at no charge. *International Harbour Masters Association*. 16 August 2021. Available from: [https://www.harbourmaster.org/News/covid-19-jabs-seafarers-no-charge](https://www.harbourmaster.org/News/covid-19-jabs-seafarers-no-charge) Crew services specialist Boers has launched seafarer vaccination programmes at German and Belgian ports, as shipping executives warn of onboard Covid-19 outbreaks as it is reported that seafarers are not getting vaccines quick enough.


Seafarers Hospital Society and Yale University will reveal early findings from study of maritime worker health initiatives at LISW. *Seafarers Hospital Society.* 26 August 2021. Available from: https://seahospital.org.uk/seafarers-hospital-society-and-yale-university-will-reveal-early-findings-from-study-of-maritime-worker-health-initiatives-at-lisw/🔗. The Seafarers Hospital Society, Yale University and Lloyd’s Register Foundation will reveal the early findings of their landmark study of maritime worker health initiatives at London International Shipping Week (LISW) next month.


Capt. Dan Thompson’s experience with depression and anxiety at sea🔗.


**IMO**

**A defence of the International Maritime Organization.** Greg Atkinson. *Splash 247.com*. 3 August 2021. Available from: [https://splash247.com/a-defence-of-the-international-maritime-organization/](https://splash247.com/a-defence-of-the-international-maritime-organization/). In recent months there has been an ever increasing and broad range of criticism directed towards the International Maritime Organization (IMO), much of which ranges from being mildly critical to downright brutal.


**MAN is Optimistic for Methanol as Industry Advocates to Speed Adoption.** *Maritime Executive*. 25 August 2021. Available from: [https://maritime-executive.com/article/man-is-optimistic-for-methanol-as-industry-advocates-to-speed-adoption](https://maritime-executive.com/article/man-is-optimistic-for-methanol-as-industry-advocates-to-speed-adoption). Following the news that Maersk has ordered the first large dual-fuel containerships that it plans to operate on methanol, the industry is questioning if this will spur the rapid adoption of the alternative fuel.

**LAW & POLICY**


**Why decarbonising industry is a team sport.** Faustine Delasalle and Anthony Robert Hobley. World Economic Forum. 4 August 2021. Available from: https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/08/why-decarbonising-industry-has-to-be-a-team-sport/ In the face of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Games is bringing the world together in sporting prowess and teamwork.

**Coast Guard Cutter James conducts largest illegal narcotic offload in Coast Guard history worth more than $1.4 billion at Port Everglades.** United States Coast Guard. 5 August 2021. Available from: https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/2eb66a7 Coast Guard Cutter James’ crew offloaded approximately 59,700 pounds of cocaine and 1,430 pounds of marijuana worth more than $1.4 billion, Thursday, at Port Everglades, which is the largest offload in Coast Guard history.

**Government committed to supporting maritime industry – Alhassan Tampuli.** GhanaWeb. 5 August 2021. Available from: https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/business/Government-committed-to-supporting-maritime-industry-Alhassan-Tampuli-1325752 As the Coronavirus pandemic emerged, seafarers who are vital to the maritime industry, contributed to the transportation of about 80 percent of trade by volume, including vital food and medical goods, energy, raw materials as well as manufactured goods across the globe.


UK Chamber of Shipping and Nautilus International welcome Government clarification over Nationality and Borders Bill. *UK Chamber of Shipping*. 11 August 2021. Available from: https://ukchamberofshipping.com/latest/uk-chamber-of-shipping-and-nautilus-international-welcome-nationality-and-borders-bill/ The UK Chamber of Shipping and Nautilus International welcome the assurance that we have received today from the Government that Masters and crews of merchant ships will not be criminalised for rescuing distressed persons at sea and bringing them ashore in the UK.


Review: Flawed Implementation of International Laws Leaves Seafarers in Legal Vacuum. *Human Rights at Sea (HRAS)*. 11 August 2021. Available from: https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/2021/08/11/review-flawed-implementation-of-international-laws-leaves-seafarers-in-legal-vacuum/ The consequences of port closures during the COVID-19 pandemic have highlighted flaws in the implementation of international law designed to protect the human rights of those at sea, according to a study by Dr Sofia Galani, Senior Lecturer in Public International Law at the University of Bristol and Human Rights at Sea Advisory Board member.
From 1 September 2021, ship owners and operators calling at ports in Sierra Leone risk penalties of up to USD 15,000 if they carry fuel with a sulphur content exceeding 0.5 percent.


Biden Extends Mask Order At US Ports And Ferries. John Konrad. gCaptain. 18 August 2021. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/biden-mask-order-ports-ferries/ The Biden administration confirmed late on Tuesday it plans to extend requirements for travelers to wear masks aboard ferries, at ports, and all other public transportation modes.


Scotland’s fishing fleet urged to take steps to go green. Kevin Keane. BBC News. 18 August 2021. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-58246143 Environmental groups are calling on the fishing industry to take urgent steps to decarbonise the sector.


San Marino sets up business as a ship registry despite being landlocked. ITF Seafarers. 19 August 2021. Available from: https://www.itfseafarers.org/en/news/san-marino-sets-business-ship-registry-despite-being-landlocked Tiny, landlocked San Marino on the Italian peninsula has no clear maritime connections, which are usually the basis for a country setting up a flag registry.


World Tankers Management Strongly Denies Wrongdoing After Indonesia Seizes Tanker. Mike Schuler. *gCaptain*. 25 August 2021. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/world-tankers-management-strongly-denies-wrongdoing-after-indonesia-seizes-tanker/ The operator of the Bahamas-flagged products tanker *MT Strovolos* is denying ‘inaccurate’ reports that the vessel was illegally transporting Cambodian crude oil after the ship was detained for anchoring in Indonesian waters without permission.


Navios Amaryllis captain accused of negligent behaviour in grounding off Maldives.


Manning group asks Duterte to lift travel cap for seafarers. Manila Standard. 30 August 2021. Available from: https://manilastandard.net/news/national/363721/manning-group-asks-duterte-to-lift-travel-cap-for-seafarers.html Licensed manning agencies have elevated their appeal to President Rodrigo Duterte to help bring home thousands of Filipinos seafarers, many of them already fatigued from serving beyond their contracts on board international vessels.


MARINE TECHNOLOGY


Automation, where routine tasks are handled by machines, has been talked about throughout maritime sectors for much of the 21st Century.


Seafarers working for Japan’s largest shipping line might have further pause for thought about the long term future of their jobs following the latest news from Tokyo today.


“Increased use of wind-assisted propulsion at sea has the potential to reduce climate gases and use of heavy-fuel oil”, says Researcher Ning Lin at Nord University.


Japan will begin testing an artificial intelligence-assisted system next fiscal year to automatically detect and track suspicious foreign vessels in its territorial waters, Japan Coast Guard officials said.

**MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING**


This will provide training and development of skills across a wide range of marine management themes, free of charge.


Predictions of a seafarer shortage by 2026 highlight the importance of prioritising competencies and skill building, says Danica Crewing Specialists.


In a bid for the voice of nautical professionals to be heard, a Maritime Professional Council has been formed to offer professional advice and will be launched in London next month.


Government with support from the Exim Bank of Korea will acquire a training vessel for the Regional Maritime University (RMU).


Travellers on BC Ferries are feeling the impacts of a global shortage of experienced mariners, as the corporation struggles to hire more than 100 new staff members.
Liberian Registry Launches Online Seafarer Examination Portal. *Liberian Registry.* 9 August 2021. Available from: [https://www.liscr.com/blog/liberian-registry-launches-online-seafarer-examination-portal](https://www.liscr.com/blog/liberian-registry-launches-online-seafarer-examination-portal) This advanced platform is the latest from the Registry, which has always been the industry leader amongst flag States in adopting technological advancements and pushing for practical and cost-effective electronic solutions.


Marina implements Equivalency on revalidation of COC. Yashika F. Torib. *Manila Times.* 18 August 2021. Available from: [https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/08/18/business/maritime/marina-implements-equivalency-on-revalidation-of-coc/1811369](https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/08/18/business/maritime/marina-implements-equivalency-on-revalidation-of-coc/1811369) All Filipino seafarers whose job experiences have technical relevance to STCW can now file for revalidation or re-issuance of their Certificate of Competency (COC) as an equivalence to actual seagoing service requirements.


**MARITIME SAFETY**


Fires in containers caused by Seed Cake. *Gard*. 18 August 2021. Available from: [https://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/32188313/fires-in-containers-caused-by-seed-cake](https://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/32188313/fires-in-containers-caused-by-seed-cake) The carriage of Seed Cake cargoes continues to cause confusion and the potential for mis-declaration remains high with the consequent risk of fire onboard.
MARITIME SECURITY

Focus on maritime security, peacekeeping, terror as India enters UNSC presidency. Sohini Goswami. Hindustan Times (India). 2 August 2021. Available from: https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/focus-on-maritime-security-peacekeeping-terror-as-india-enters-unsc-presidency-101627873543545.html Ambassador TS Tirumurti said the stint would give India an opportunity to play an important role yet again in shaping some of the important challenges on international peace and security.

Gulf shipping put on red alert following deadly attack on Zodiac tanker. Adam Corbett. TradeWinds. 2 August 2021. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/gulf-shipping-put-on-red-alert-following-deadly-attack-on-zodiac-tanker/2-1-1047045 Ships operating in the Middle East Gulf have been put on high alert following the suspected drone attack on a Zodiac Maritime-controlled tanker which killed two crew.

Shipping reviews security links in wake of fatal tanker attack. Richard Meade, Michelle Wiese Bockmann and Declan Bush. Lloyd’s List. 2 August 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1137749/Shipping-reviews-security-links-in-wake-of-fatal-tanker-attack As a diplomatic tit-for-tat exchange played out on Monday in the wake of the drone attack on Zodiac-operated product tanker Mercer Street, shipping security specialists were swiftly being brought in to review any potential links that could cause ships to be caught up in the escalating Middle East conflict.

What Are The Implications Of The M/T MERCER STREET Incident? Sarah Knight. Dryad Global. 3 August 2021. Available from: https://channel16.dryadglobal.com/what-are-the-implications-of-the-m-t-mercer-street-incident On July 29th, the Panama-flagged oil tanker M/T MERCER STREET was attacked off the coast of Oman, resulting in the deaths of two onboard personnel: a Romanian national, understood to be the vessel master, and a British national, understood to be a member of an embarked security team.


Oman confirms tanker boarded off UAE was target of ‘hijacking incident’. The Guardian. 4 August 2021. Available from: https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/aug/03/extreme-caution-urged-in-gulf-of-oman-after-non-piracy-incident Oman has confirmed that a tanker boarded off the coast of the United Arab Emirates by a group of armed men was the target of a “hijacking incident”.


Shipping risk remains level despite drone strike and hijack. Richard Meade. Lloyd’s List. 4 August 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1137786/. Whatever the true nature of the brief Asphalt Princess seizure, it was a sideshow to the more significant and fatal drone strike against the Zodiac-controlled Mercer Street on July 29.


Cyberattack or coincidence? Tom Bebbington. Seatrade Maritime News. 6 August 2021. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/opinions-analysis/cyberattack-or-coincidence. With one vessel hijacked and up to six others reporting a loss of steering control in the Gulf of Oman this week, many questions are being raised about the cybersecurity onboard ships.


Why the Mercer Street attack should be classed as terrorism. Stephen Askins. Lloyd’s List. 10 August 2021. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1137825/Why-the-Mercer-Street-attack-should-be-classed-as-terrorism](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1137825/Why-the-Mercer-Street-attack-should-be-classed-as-terrorism) Designating attacks to allow for compensation is important and politics should not get in the way of doing the right thing by crew or supernumeraries such as security guards killed in this way.


Five ships were hit by armed robberies in Asia during July. Daniel Logan. ShippingWatch. 13 August 2021. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article13199062.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article13199062.ece) The number of attacks is declining, but developments in the Singapore Strait are a cause for concern.

Vessel attack reported off Somalia. Declan Bush. Lloyd’s List. 13 August 2021. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1137885/Vessel-attack-reported-off-Somalia](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1137885/Vessel-attack-reported-off-Somalia) United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, part of the Royal Navy, reported that a vessel was attacked 100 nautical miles northeast of the Somali capital, and just 5.7 nm from the coast, at 0745 hrs local time.

Vice FM Choi discusses bilateral ties, maritime security with Nigerian FM. Yonhap News Agency (South Korea). 17 August 2021. Available from: https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210820005700325 First Vice Foreign Minister Choi Jong-kun has met with Nigeria’s top diplomat during a visit to the African nation and agreed to work together to move forward economic and other ties between the two countries forward, the foreign ministry said Friday.

Armed robbers at work at Manila anchorage. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 24 August 2021. Available from: https://splash247.com/armed-robbers-at-work-at-manila-anchorage/ The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC) has warned that in the year to date eight incidents of armed robbery against ships at the South Harbour Anchorage Area of Manila have been recorded.


India’s focus on enhancing maritime security as the UNSC president: Leadership envisioning a global roadmap. Debasis Bhattacharya. Observer Research Foundation (ORF). 26 August 2021. Available from: https://www.orfonline.org/expertspeak/indias-focus-on-enhancing-maritime-security-as-the-unsc-president/ The UN Security Council Open Debate on “Enhancing Maritime Security: A Case for International Cooperation”, held in August 2021 and presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been momentous because it is the first time that maritime security was deliberated in a “holistic manner as an exclusive agenda item” in such a high-level global forum.

MIGRANTS

Humanitarian ships rescue over 700 migrants from Mediterranean in one weekend. Euronews. 2 August 2021. Available from: https://www.euronews.com/2021/08/02/humanitarian-ships-rescue-over-700-migrants-from-mediterranean-in-one-weekend Humanitarian ships rescued over 700 migrants off the coasts of Libya and Malta in just one weekend, NGO SOS Mediterranee said.


Ocean Viking completes disembarkation of migrants. InfoMigrants. 11 August 2021. Available from: https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/34240/ocean-viking-completes-disembarkation-of-migrants SOS Mediterranee—the organization that runs the Ocean Viking rescue ship—announced on Wednesday afternoon (August 11) that the last remaining migrants and refugees had left the ship.
The good weather on Thursday saw more migrants attempting to cross the Channel.


Around 100 migrants rescued in English Channel. *InfoMigrants*. 23 August 2021. Available from: [https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/34522/around-100-migrants-rescued-in-english-channel](https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/34522/around-100-migrants-rescued-in-english-channel) Around 100 migrants have been rescued just off the coast of Calais in northern France while trying to cross the English Channel, said the local French maritime body on Saturday (August 21).

Lampedusa transfers halted due to COVID-positive sailor. *InfoMigrants*. 27 August 2021. Available from: [https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/34667/lampedusa-transfers-halted-due-to-covidpositive-sailor](https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/34667/lampedusa-transfers-halted-due-to-covidpositive-sailor) The transfer of 110 migrants hosted at the Lampedusa hotspot, who were to have left the island Thursday via ferry to Porto Empedocle, has been suspended after a crew member tested positive for COVID-19.
NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS

6 ships in Gulf of Oman lose control, days after vessel attacked by drones. *Times of Israel.* 3 August 2021. Available from: [https://www.timesofisrael.com/4-ships-in-gulf-of-oman-lose-control-days-after-drone-strike-on-vessel/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/4-ships-in-gulf-of-oman-lose-control-days-after-drone-strike-on-vessel/) At least six ships off the coast of the United Arab Emirates broadcast warnings Tuesday that they had lost control of their steering under unclear circumstances as British authorities reported “a potential hijack” was underway in the area.

**Asphalt Princess crew disabled engine to avoid being taken to Iran.** Jonathan Boonzaier. *Trade Winds.* 6 August 2021. Available from: [https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/asphalt-princess-crew-disabled-engine-to-avoid-being-taken-to-iran/2-1-1049007](https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/asphalt-princess-crew-disabled-engine-to-avoid-being-taken-to-iran/2-1-1049007) The crew of the bitumen carrier *Asphalt Princess* are reported to have disabled their ship's engine to prevent armed gunmen from taking control and diverting it to Iran.


**Kuwait voices deep concerns about threats to maritime navigation.** *Kuwait News Agency.* 12 August 2021. Available from: [https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2993030&Language=en](https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2993030&Language=en) Kuwait’s cabinet on Wednesday expressed deep concerns about the dangerous consequences of the threats to security and safety of maritime navigation in the waters leading to the Arabian Gulf and waters surrounding the Sea of Oman and the Sea of Arabia.

**Arab Parliament calls for respecting international navigation security, freedom laws.** *Bahrain News Agency.* 12 August 2021. Available from: [https://www.bna.bh/en/ArabParliamentcallsforrespectinginternationalnavigationsecurityfreedomlaws.aspx?cms=q8FmFjiscL2fwzON1%2bDqC5EFpTSKsRYScHzWycm1c%3d](https://www.bna.bh/en/ArabParliamentcallsforrespectinginternationalnavigationsecurityfreedomlaws.aspx?cms=q8FmFjiscL2fwzON1%2bDqC5EFpTSKsRYScHzWycm1c%3d) The Arab Parliament has urged concerted Arab and international efforts to strengthen the safety and security of maritime navigation in the Arab region.

Efforts to protect historical lighthouses from climate change. Ng Keng Gene. *Straits Times.* 16 August 2021. Available from: https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/efforts-to-protect-historical-lighthouses-from-climate-change With a combined age of more than 41/2 centuries, three Singapore lighthouses - on Sultan Shoal, Pulau Satumu and Pedra Branca - have helped safeguard navigation, and they are now getting their own protection.


Mayday Mayday! Answering emergency calls with help from AI. Frankie Youd. *ShipTechnology.* 17 August 2021. Available from: https://www.shiptechnology.com/features/mayday-mayday-answering-emergency-calls-with-help-from-ai/ As of 21 June, Sweden's sea and air rescue leaders have been using artificial intelligence to assist with the monitoring of mayday calls around the Swedish coast and Baltic Sea.


PIRACY


Putin calls for pooling efforts under UN auspices to combat maritime piracy. TASS Russian News Agency. 9 August 2021. Available from: https://tass.com/politics/1324141 The Russian president stressed that Russia was ready to share its experience of anti-terrorist operations, crime prevention practices and practices of exposing and exterminating illegal armed groups, including at sea.


Ocean Technologies Group offers support to help seafarers cope with piracy attacks. Ocean Technologies Group. 17 August 2021. Available from: https://oceantg.com/ocean-technologies-group-helps-seafarers-cope-with-piracy-attacks/ Piracy attacks on vessels in the commercial shipping sector are an on-going problem with particular hotspots in areas such as the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Guinea and the South China Sea.

Piracy, Safety Risks Stoke Shipping’s Re-Think of Security. Damian Shepherd. gCaptain. 18 August 2021. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/piracy-safety-risks-stoke-shippings-re-think-of-security/ Some of the world’s largest shipping organizations are drafting a plan to deal with the changing nature of piracy and other maritime security risks, following recent incidents off the coast of West Africa and in the Middle East.


PORT STATE CONTROL


PORTS & HARBOURS

The Panama Canal Resumes Seasonal Measures to Protect Marine Life and Reduce Emissions. Panama Canal Authority. 30 July 2021. Available from: https://www.pancanal.com/eng/pr/press-releases/2020/07/30/pr694.html  From August 1 to November 30, 2020, the Panama Canal will encourage the protection of whales, dolphins, and other large aquatic animals as they begin their seasonal migration, crossing paths with vessels heading to the Canal.

Ports Australia calls for calm in WA. Ports Australia. 4 August 2021. Available from: https://www.portsaustralia.com.au/blog/ports-australia-calls-for-calm-in-wa Ports Australia is urging both the Western Australian Government and shipping charterers and lines to work together to avoid circumstances where the State Government is forced to punish or even turn away ships which have passed through ports in high COVID-19 risk nations.

**Ports Face The Biggest Crisis In 65 Years.** John Konrad. *gCaptain.* 11 August 2021. Available from: [https://gcaptain.com/port-crisis-short-sea/](https://gcaptain.com/port-crisis-short-sea/) While countless airports, roads, and trains ground to a halt during the peak of the pandemic last year, authorities continued to wave ships into ports.

**Port staff and seafarers get vaccinated at Port of Liverpool.** Tony McDonough. *Liverpool Business News.* 12 August 2021. Available from: [https://lbndaily.co.uk/port-staff-seafarers-get-vaccinated-port-liverpool/](https://lbndaily.co.uk/port-staff-seafarers-get-vaccinated-port-liverpool/) Port of Liverpool owner Peel Ports has partnered with the NHS to offer COVID-19 vaccines to people working within the port and to seafarers from overseas.


**2.7 million containers queued off the world’s ports – Ningbo shutdown worsens bottlenecks.** Dag Holmstad. *ShippingWatch.* 19 August 2021. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article13212979.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article13212979.ece) It may prove difficult for the US and many other countries to stock up enough retail goods for the shopping spree that awaits on Black Friday and during the Christmas season.


Ships could be delayed for weeks as Panama Canal plans maintenance. Gary Dixon. TradeWinds. 23 August 2021. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/ships-could-be-delayed-for-weeks-as-panama-canal-plans-maintenance/2-1-105612 Shipowners could be about to face a big delay headache at the Panama Canal due to maintenance work starting at the end of August, but the congestion could boost rates.


Port of Tallinn will lead the establishing of the Baltic Sea green infrastructure hub in Estonia. Port of Tallinn. 23 August 2021. Available from: https://www.ts.ee/en/port-of-tallinn-will-lead-the-establishing-of-the-baltic-sea-green-infrastructure-hub-in-estonia/ Port of Tallinn has unveiled an ambitious plan to design the hub of the Baltic Sea green infrastructure in Estonia together with the partners, which would contribute to Estonia’s climate neutrality goals and increase the country’s competitiveness.


REGULATIONS


Regulations Adding to Shipowners’ Costs. Nikos Roussanoglou. Hellenic Shipping News. 23 August 2021. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/regulations-adding-to-shipowners-costs/ A constantly evolving and complex regulatory framework is adding to every ship owner’s cost expenses, with the situation becoming more difficult as the industry is moving towards decarbonization.
Regulatory framework ‘vital’ for emissions reduction, says PSA and ONE. Jack Donnelly. 
*Port Technology International.* 23 August 2021. Available from: 
https://www.porttechnology.org/news/regulatory-framework-vital-for-emissions-reduction-says-psa-and-one/ In an interview with PTI, an ONE spokesperson said challenges facing industry – such as reaching targets from the IMO to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) by 40% by 2030 and 70% by 2050 – were “enormous”.

*Trade Winds.* 24 August 2021. Available from: 
https://www.tradewindsnews.com/shipbroking/regulatory-nightmare-gibson-says-fueleu-scheme-to-cost-shipping-105bn/2-1-1056705 UK shipbroker says EU decarbonisation measures mean owners are about to feel the heat like never before.

**SALVAGE**

Section of overturned shipwreck separated, oil discharged. *ABC News (US).* 1 August 2021. Available from: https://abcnnews.go.com/US/wireStory/section-overturnded-shipwreck-separated-79191485 Pollution response teams are working to contain oil that was discharged after demolition crews finished cutting away the sixth of eight sections of a giant cargo ship (*Golden Ray*) that tipped over off the Georgia coast nearly two years ago.


**SEAFARERS**

Knowledge is power and new ITF web tool aims to give seafarers that power. *International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF)*. 2 August 2021. Available from: https://www.itfglobal.org/en/news/knowledge-power-and-new-itf-web-tool-aims-give-seafarers-power ITFShipBeSure.org launches today to give those looking for work on cargo or cruise ships the kind of insight they need to negotiate sound contracts and avoid the perils of shady manning agents.

4 S. Koreans abducted in waters off West Africa have been released: foreign ministry. Song Sang-ho. *Yonhap News Agency (South Korea)*. 2 August 2021. Available from: https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210802006051325?section=search Four South Koreans who were kidnapped in waters off West Africa about two months ago have been freed, following the release of another Korean national in a separate abduction in the same region, the foreign ministry said Monday.

Bringing some cheer to seafarers at anchor in Singapore. Marcus Hand. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 2 August 2021. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/ship-operations/bringing-some-cheer-seafarers-anchor-singapore Current Covid-19 restrictions have made contact with seafarers difficult, however, adhering to strict safety measures MtSS has been able to distribute gift packs supplied by the Singapore Maritime Officers Union to 20 vessels at anchor in Singapore waters.


Seafarers waiting for Godot. Steven Jones. *Splash 247.com*. 4 August 2021. Available from: https://splash247.com/seafarers-waiting-for-godot/ It’s more the nature of the answers and the fact that in addition to feeling forgotten, unsure about when they will get back home, or if they will be getting vaccinated, on top of all this they are feeling bored rigid!


ALMA: Amend Magna Carta for Seafarers. *Manila Times.* 11 August 2021. Available from: https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/08/11/business/maritime/alma-amend-magna-carta-for-seafarers/1810495 A group of local maritime employers is pushing for the amendment of the Magna Carta for Filipino Seafarers which was recently lobbied to become a priority legislative measure of President Rodrigo Duterte.


New figures show low rate of vaccinations among seafarers. Søren Pico. *ShippingWatch.* 12 August 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article13194825.ece A very small number of seafarers have been vaccinated against Covid-19 thus far, according to figures from the Neptune Declaration initiative.
Eighteen crew have made it home after spending 21 months trapped on their abandoned ship.

On this week’s podcast, you’ll hear from Senior Legal Officer from the UN’s International Maritime Organization (IMO), Jan de Boer and the IMO’s Maritime Safety Director, Hieke Deggim.

The South Korean branches of a global Catholic maritime ministry are gearing up to mark centenary celebrations with commitments to serve all seafarers with better spiritual and pastoral care in coming days.

An emergency relief fund set up by five charities has raised more than $1 million to provide support to seafarers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

Recent maritime news reports again portend of an even bigger projected shortage of officers in the next five years, as presented in the new Seafarer Workforce Report, launched last July 28, by the Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO) and the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS).

Captain Eezmaira Sazzea’s first voyage as a Captain began on 13 August 2021 as she took over the command of *Seri Bijaksana*, a 153,000 cu m LNG carrier.

One crew member has reportedly died from a coronavirus infection on a Greek-owned bulker off Brazil, while another has tested positive.

A London-based insurer paid outstanding wages for some of the abandoned crew on a tanker linked to Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps four weeks before the US blacklisted the vessel and its Omani owner, on August 13.


Local maritime ministries provide vaccines to foreign seafarers in port. Katie Johnston. *Boston Globe (US).* 24 August 2021. Available from: [https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/08/24/business/local-maritime-ministries-provide-vaccines-foreign-seafarers-port/](https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/08/24/business/local-maritime-ministries-provide-vaccines-foreign-seafarers-port/) When a cargo ship pulls into the Port of Boston, crew members are often in need of toiletries or electronics, or maybe someone to talk to after a long stretch at sea.


SEARCH & RESCUE


Charities criticise lack of safer options after 10,000 migrants cross Channel. Haroon Siddique. The Guardian. 5 August 2021. Available from: https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/aug/05/charities-criticise-lack-safer-options-10000-migrants-cross-channel Charities have criticised a “shameful” lack of safe alternatives for migrants after the number making the life-threatening journey across the Channel in small boats this year surpassed 10,000.

Video: Severe Conditions Prevented Heli Rescue for Seacor Power’s Crew. Maritime Executive. 8 August 2021. Available from: https://maritime-executive.com/article/video-severe-conditions-prevented-heli-rescue-for-seacor-power-s-crew The U.S. Coast Guard has released video footage from an attempted rescue effort the night of the capsizing of the liftboat Seacor Power off Louisiana, which left six dead and seven missing.


Maritime Knowledge Centre (MKC)


Morocco navy rescues more than 400 Europe-bound migrants. InfoMigrants. 26 August 2021. Available from: https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/34601/morocco-navy-rescues-more-than-400-europebound-migrants. The Moroccan navy said it rescued more than 400 migrants between Thursday (August 19) and Monday (August 23) after their makeshift boats ran into trouble on the sea crossing to Europe, Morocco’s state media (MAP) reported.

SHIP RECYCLING

Ship recyclers under siege after spate of beached tanker arrests. Jonathan Boonzaier. TradeWinds. 4 August 2021. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/law/ship-recyclers-under-siege-after-spate-of-beached-tanker-arrests/2-1-1046307. Ship recyclers in Pakistan and Bangladesh have been hit by a spate of cargo claim arrests against beached tankers that could see them forced to shell out large sums of cash in legal fees or settlements.

NGOs urge Greece and Bangladesh to stop illegal beaching of ferry. NGO Shipbreaking Platform. 25 August 2021. Available from: https://shipbreakingplatform.org/greece-bangladesh-illegal-beaching-ferry/. Yet another passenger ship is heading towards the shipbreaking beaches of South Asia, in clear violation of European rules that are aimed at preventing the trade of toxic waste from the EU to non-OECD countries.

SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR

WinGD initiates research project to bet on ammonia and methanol. ShippingWatch. 2 August 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article13159651.ece. Swiss engine designer WinGD sees ammonia as the right choice for shipping in the green transition, and the company invests EUR 30 million in research projects to develop engines that can run on ammonia and methanol.

Methanol-fuelled ships less costly to build and operate than those burning LNG. Tanker Operator. 2 August 2021. Available from: https://www.tankeroperator.com/news/methanol-fuelled-ships-less-costly-to-build-and-operate-than-those-burning-lng/12522.aspx. Methanol as a commercially and technically viable marine fuel is gaining greater traction over other alternative bunkers, including LNG, as more shipowners adopt the clean burning fuel as price spreads narrow and production ramps up.

Report: Despite Economies of Scale, Megaships Come With Mega Risks. Maritime Executive. 4 August 2021. Available from: https://maritime-executive.com/article/report-despite-economies-of-scale-megaships-come-with-mega-risks. The containerized shipping industry's race for mega boxships is posing unique risks for the supply chain, particularly with concerns that port infrastructures have not kept pace with the increasing size of vessels, according to global insurer Allianz.
Mitsubishi Shipbuilding Begins Verification Testing of Marine-based CO2 Capture System. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries. 5 August 2021. Available from: https://www.mhi.com/news/21080501.html Mitsubishi Shipbuilding Co., Ltd has been working in cooperation with Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha, Ltd. (“K” Line) and Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (ClassNK), to conduct test operations and measurements for a small scale demonstration plant of the “Marine-based CO2 Capture System”, in order to verify the equipment’s use.

Joint Media Release: MPA and SMI to Co-fund Three Joint Industry-Research Consortiums to Develop and Pilot Electric Harbourotch in Singapore. Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA). 5 August 2021. Available from: https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/media-centre/news/releases/detail/b6d49e43-b5de-42df-b28d-2c0a37374f70 The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and the Singapore Maritime Institute (SMI) have awarded funding to three consortiums led by Keppel FELS Limited, SeaTech Solutions and Sembcorp Marine, and comprising a total of 30 enterprises and research institutions, to research, design, build and operate a fully electric harbourcraft over the next five years.

Ever Given to be drydocked in Asia. Janet Porter. Lloyd’s List. 5 August 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1137807/Ever-Given-to-be-drydocked-in-Asia After attracting worldwide attention following its grounding in the Suez Canal that severely disrupted global supply chains, the containership Ever Given is about to make its way back to Asia for a thorough inspection before returning to service.

Ammonia as fuel: challenges are not ‘unsurmountable’. LNG Shipping & Terminals. 9 August 2021. Available from: https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/ammonia-as-fuel-challenges-are-not-unsurmountable A panel of ship design experts discuss the many questions still to be answered concerning the use of ammonia as fuel, including scale, cost, availability, technology and safety.


Fewer container vessels had scrubbers installed in the first half year. ShippingWatch. 11 August 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article13191591.ece Although the price difference between high and low sulfur fuels has widened, container carriers have equipped far fewer vessels with scrubbers in 2021 than last year, writes Alphaliner.


Maersk spends $1.4 billion on ships that can run on ‘carbon neutral’ methanol. *CNBC (US).* 24 August 2021. Available from: [https://www.cnbc.com/2021/08/24/maersk-spends-1point4-billion-on-ships-that-can-run-on-methanol.html](https://www.cnbc.com/2021/08/24/maersk-spends-1point4-billion-on-ships-that-can-run-on-methanol.html) Maersk says vessels will be built by South Korea’s Hyundai Heavy Industries and have capacity to carry around 16,000 containers.


POSCO joins hands with partners to develop liquefied CO2 carrier by 2025. *Yonhap News Agency (South Korea).* 27 August 2021. Available from: [https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210827007600320](https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210827007600320) POSCO, the world’s fifth-largest steelmaker by output, said Friday it has teamed up with Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering Co. and other partners to develop a carrier of liquefied carbon dioxide in the latest move to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**SHIPPING**


Opinion: Pathetic Maritime, Its Reactions and Reality. Frank Coles. gCaptain. 2 August 2021. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/opinion-pathetic-maritime-its-reactions-and-reality/ How is it justifiable that an industry that carries 80% of world trade and is doing it in ships worth millions of dollars is not able to influence governments to provide a proper manner of treating the workers in the industry?


Shipping braces as China goes into lockdown mode. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 3 August 2021. Available from: https://splash247.com/shipping-braces-as-china-goes-into-lockdown-mode/ The delta variant has broken through the country’s virus defences, which are some of the strictest in the world, and reached nearly half of China’s 32 provinces in just two weeks.

The allure of green fuels looks to end shipping’s loveless marriage with oil. Mikal Bøe. Lloyd’s Register. 5 August 2021. Available from: https://www.lr.org/en/insights/articles/the-allure-of-green-fuels-looks-to-end-shippings-loveless-marriage-with-oil/ While shipping has had many strained relationships over the years with regulators, banks and customers, it is the ‘marriage of convenience’ with oil that is likely to end in tears, as owners are now tempted by the alluring charms of green fuels.


Shipping must review LNG use, as methane’s role in climate change is revealed. Nick Savvides. The Loadstar. 6 August 2021. Available from: https://theloadstar.com/shipping-must-review-lnq-use-as-methane-role-in-climate-change-is-revealed/ Members of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a body of scientists and others from 195 countries, will launch the first of four reports on Monday, which is expected to highlight the growing influence of methane in the warming of the atmosphere.

Safely Expanding LNG Bunkering and Storage: A step towards decarbonization in the shipping industry. Hellenic Shipping News. 7 August 2021. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/safely-expanding-lng-bunkering-and-storage-a-step-towards-decarbonization-in-the-shipping-industry/ RINA has been awarded a framework contract by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) to support initiatives to increase the availability of LNG in the medium term with small scale bunkering and depots to expand the use of this fuel throughout the Mediterranean, Black and Caspian Seas.


Less than 25 per cent of bulkers & tankers will attain EEDI/EEXI compliance, says SSY. VPO Vessel Performance Optimization. 12 August 2021. Available from: https://vpoglobal.com/2021/08/12/less-than-25-per-cent-of-bulkers-and-tankers-will-attain-eedi-eexi-compliance-reports-ssy/ Shipbroker Simpson Spence Young (SSY) predicts that less than 25 per cent of bulkers and tankers will attain compliance with the Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI) and Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index (EEXI), leaving most of the fleet facing either engine power limitations (EPLs) or another form of CO2 abatement.


Tanker missing for over a month off Oman with $30m China-bound cargo. Adam Corbett. TradeWinds. 10 August 2021. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/tanker-missing-for-over-a-month-off-oman-with-30m-china-bound-cargo/1-1-1049648 An aframax tanker has been missing for more than a month after loading a $30m cargo of crude oil in Oman bound for China.

IPCC report takes aim at methane creating further alarm for proponents of LNG-fuelled ships. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 10 August 2021. Available from: https://splash247.com/ipcc-report-takes-aim-at-methane-creating-further-alarm-for-proponents-of-lng-fuelled-ships/ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report yesterday warning that over the next 20 years, global temperatures are expected to reach or exceed 1.5°C of warming – meaning we can anticipate increasing heat waves, longer warm seasons, and intensifying rain and floods.


The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic took the world by storm in early 2020, unleashing a strange sickness and deaths on humanity, devastating economies, disrupting lifestyles, and generally bringing the world literally to its knees.


Container carriers doubled the number of LNG-powered vessels in the first six months of the year despite global warnings on rising methane pollution, one source of which is LNG.


ABS has brought together leading companies in the Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) sector to address the safety challenges produced by a fleet where more than half of the ship type vessels are over 30-years-old and a quarter are over 40-years-old.


At our recent webinars, special guest Prashanth Athipar, the Principal for Sustainability and Safety at Gard, brought together leading maritime science and industry experts from ABS and Gard to address GHG emissions reduction targets and the carbon footprint.


The consensus findings of the world’s leading climate scientists were issued this week as a ‘code red for humanity’.


Just as it happened in the car industry, the green transition in shipping can set off within a few years, predicts scientist Tristan Smith.


Amid the ongoing focus by the shipping industry to cut GHG emissions, hydrogen fuels are viewed as an important tool for the future energy transition.


Ship It Zero coalition members Stand.earth and Pacific Environment are applauding Swiss outdoor gear brand Mammut’s new industry-leading climate commitment, calling attention to the company’s pledge to transition to zero-emissions shipping vessels by 2030.


The Lloyd’s List Podcast: The race for green methanol is on. Richard Meade. Lloyd’s List. 20 August 2021. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1137950/The-Lloydys-List-Podcast-The-race-for-green-methanol-is-on. The prospect of a single, very small, containership running on green methanol in two years’ time may not be the sort of headline to put the world at ease as Europe burns and world’s climate scientists look increasingly terrified by their own forecasts of looming climate Armageddon.


World’s Largest Floating Wind Farm Built to ABS Class. American Bureau of Shipping. 23 August 2021. Available from: https://news.cision.com/american-bureau-of-shipping/r/worlds-largest-floating-wind-farm-built-to-abs-class.c3400731 The 48MW project, approximately 15km off the southeast coast of Aberdeenshire, at water depths ranging between 60m to 80m, is expected to generate up to 218GWh of clean electricity a year, which will be enough to power approximately 55,000 Scottish households.

China’s low-sulphur marine fuel exports surge 51% in July. Hellenic Shipping News. 23 August 2021. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/chinas-low-sulphur-marine-fuel-exports-surge-51-in-july/ China’s exports of very low-sulphur fuel oil (VLSFO) in July rose 51% from a year ago, but they were lower than the peak in late 2020, customs data showed on Friday, as total oil product exports slowed because of a regional resurgence of COVID-19.

Methanol Institute calls for prioritisation of well-to-wake accounting of GHG emissions. Manifold Times (Singapore). 24 August 2021. Available from: https://www.manifoldtimes.com/news/methanol-institute-calls-for-prioritisation-of-well-to-wake-accounting-of-ghg-emissions/ The recent release of the European Union’s plans for maritime emissions trading will be followed later this year by IMO MEPC 77 meeting and COP 26, both of which will intensify the pressure on governments to put viable fuel choices in the hands of shipowners.


Maersk requires 360,000 tonnes of green methanol a year for its new container fleet. Astrud Sturlason. ShippingWatch. 24 August 2021. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article13225202.ece If Maersk is to live up to the expectations of climate-neutral ocean-going container vessels as soon as 2024, it will require green fuels on an unprecedented scale.


Carnival’s Diamond Princess cruise ship delays return to sailing to spring. Uday Sampath. Reuters. 25 August 2021. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/business/autos-transportation/carnivals-diamond-princess-cruise-ship-delays-return-sailing-spring-2021-08-25/ The Diamond Princess cruise ship, which became one of the earliest hotbeds for coronavirus infections when the pandemic broke out last year, will delay its return to sailing to spring of 2022, vessel operator Princess Cruises said on Wednesday.


Shape up or ship out: EU Commission pushes hard on maritime emissions. Hellenic Shipping News. 26 August 2021. Available from: https://www.hellenshippingnews.com/shape-up-or-ship-out-eu-commission-pushes-hard-on-maritime-emissions/ The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report published on 9 August paints a bleak picture on the status of the world’s climate, and scientifically proves that it will be extremely difficult to reach the 1.5-degree target under the Paris Agreement.


Climate justice and the decarbonization of shipping. International Science Council. 27 August 2021. Available from: https://council.science/current/blog/climate-justice-and-the-decarbonization-of-shipping/ Dr. Wassim Dbouk explores the issues around the decarbonization of the shipping industry, where carbon trading schemes are a hotly debated topic.


RESEARCH


Boers N. Observation-based early-warning signals for a collapse of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation. Nature Climate Change. 5 August 2021. Available from: https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-021-01097-4 The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), a major ocean current system transporting warm surface waters toward the northern Atlantic, has been suggested to exhibit two distinct modes of operation.


Schmauss TA and Barnett SA. Viability of Vehicles Utilizing On-Board CO2 Capture. ACS Energy Letters. 18 August 2021. Available from: https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsenergylett.1c01426 Although battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles hold great promise for mitigating CO2 emissions, there are still unaddressed sectors for electrified transport, e.g., the heavy-duty and long-range global shipping industry.
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.