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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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

Future Fuels and Technology Project to inform GHG Strategy update

The decarbonization of international shipping is a priority for IMO and by mid-2023, the organization aims to have in place a revised and strengthened Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships.

A new IMO project aims to provide an assessment of the state of availability and readiness of low- and zero-carbon ship technology and marine fuels, in order to help inform Member States as they work towards the revision of the IMO GHG Strategy. More...

Professor Max Mejia to lead WMU

Following a competitive selection process, Professor Max Mejia has been selected by the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, Chancellor of the university, to succeed Dr. Oleopatra Doumbia-Henry as the new President of the World Maritime University (WMU), based in Malmö, Sweden.

It is expected that Professor Mejia will take over the president's role on 29 June 2023, when Dr. Doumbia-Henry's term expires. More...

Learning the lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic

Designating transport workers, including seafarers, as keyworkers and ensuring such workers' needs and challenges are voiced during a pandemic are among the recently published recommendations from a joint United Nations and industry sector action group.

The Joint Action Group was established in December 2021 to review the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the world's transport workers and the global supply chain. The Group included IMO, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Chamber of shipping (ICS) and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), and air and road entities. More...

Mandatory Maritime Single Window: One year to go

From 1 January 2024 it will be compulsory for ports around the world to operate Maritime Single Windows (MSWs) for the electronic exchange of information required on ships' arrival at a port, their stay and their departure. This mandatory change follows the adoption by IMO's Facilitation Committee of amendments to the FAL Convention.

With this key date in mind, IMO hosted "Maritime Single Window 2024 – A window of opportunities", a two-day Symposium (18-19 January 2023) jointly organized by IMO, IAPH and BIMCO, with the support of the International Port Community Systems Association (IPCSA). More...
MEETING SUMMARIES AND SCHEDULE

Previous Meetings

Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Construction (SDC 9) 23 – 27 January 2023

Sub-Committee on Human element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW 9) 6-10 February 2023

Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE 9) 27 February 2023 – 3 March 2023

Forthcoming Meetings

Facilitation Committee (FAL 47) 13-17 March 2023

Intersessional Working Group on the Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships (ISWG-GHG 14) 20-24 March 2023

Legal Committee (LEG 110) 27-31 March 2023

Programme of Meetings for 2023
General Assembly President hosts children from around the world, on MLK Day. UN News. 17 January 2023. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/01/1132497. Swarming the office of President Csaba Kőrösi, the children – who ranged in age from toddler to high-school teen – pulled on the UN and Hungarian flags that flank a UN seal in the office and ran around to look at the skyline outside of the balcony.


UN chief blasts Big Oil for ‘peddling the big lie’ on climate. Al Jazeera. 18 January 2023. Available from: https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/1/18/un-chief-blasts-big-oil-for-peddling-the-big-lie-on-climate. Some big oil companies ignored their own science on the dangers of climate change and “peddled the big lie” for decades about the safety of burning fossil fuels, the United Nations chief said.

Cabo Verde ‘on the frontlines’ of climate crisis, says Guterres ahead of Ocean Summit. UN News. 21 January 2023. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/01/1132692. The answer goes back to 2015, when the national Government detailed a strategic plan on how the blue economy would be a central part of the island nation’s future, as well as to a series of investments that have been made since then.

‘Let’s all become the champions the ocean needs’ – UN chief Guterres. UN News. 23 January 2023. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/01/1132752. The Secretary-General was speaking from the Ocean Science Centre Mindelo, in São Vicente, a state-of-the-art facility that hosts large marine scientific equipment such as deep-sea robots, as well as electronics workshops, and cutting-edge laboratories.

Odesa added to UNESCO’s World Heritage List amid threats of destruction. UN News. 25 January 2023. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/01/1132807. “Odesa, a free city, a world city, a legendary port that has left its mark on cinema, literature and the arts, is thus placed under the reinforced protection of the international community,” said Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO.

IOM steps up support as Rohingya refugee numbers rise in Southeast Asia. UN News. 31 January 2023. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/01/1133017. Almost 3,300 arrived in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand last year, the UN agency said, a roughly 290 per cent rise over the 850 people recorded in 2021.
CASUALTIES


Clean up crews have been deployed to Abaco to assist with oil remediation efforts after a cargo ship that was carrying heavy fuel onboard sank in waters in the southern part of the island.


While action has been taken to minimise the risks of accidents on offshore installations and improve the safety of offshore oil and gas infrastructure, incidents still occur for various reasons.


Central and South Abaco MP John Pinder denied claims of an oil spill on the south coast of the island, describing it as “erroneous”.


Part of the investigation into a collision between a freight ship and a fishing boat off Jersey’s coast will now be carried out by the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA).


AIS data from MarineTraffic.com shows the ship, the 340-meter-long *MSC Elaine*, was outbound from the port when it apparently swung wide on a turn and grounded along a breakwater at the harbor’s entrance just after 9 a.m. Monday morning.


Tugs were able to move the ship to a repair area - avoiding any repeat of the infamous *Ever Given* incident that delayed world trade two years ago.


One of Japan’s Murasame-class destroyers, the *JS Inazuma*, hit a rock while on sea trials off the coast of Japan disabling the ship and causing an oil spill.


On 17 June 2022, the Danish Maritime Authority informed DMAIB that two technicians had succumbed due to exposure to a toxic gas during inspection of a cargo tank on the Danish chemical/product tanker *NORD MAGIC*, while the ship was at anchor off Chittagong, Bangladesh.


Humber pilot Francisco Galia died in fall while boarding vessel. BBC News. 11 January 2023. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-humber-64223424 Mr Galia fell from a rope ladder as he tried to board the vessel, bound for King George Dock in Hull, shortly after midday on Sunday, a colleague said.

If You Think the *Ever Given* Was Bad, Wait Until You See the *Safer*. Ian Ralby and Alan Duncan. *Maritime Executive*. 11 January 2023. Available from: https://www.maritime-executive.com/editorials/op-ed-if-you-think-ever-given-was-bad-wait-until-you-see-the-safer The *Ever Given* blocked the Suez Canal for six days in March 2021, causing shortages of critical supplies in different parts of the world and sending global trade into a frenzy.


**Tanker explodes, 1 dead, 4 hurt, others missing.** *Bangkok Post.* 17 January 2023. Available from: [https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2484520/](https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2484520/) One dock worker was confirmed killed and four others injured by an explosion and fire aboard an oil tanker moored for maintenance at a dockyard on the Mae Klong river in Muang district on Tuesday morning.

**UN: Cost is new obstacle to oil transfer from Yemen tanker.** Edith M. Lederer. *Associated Press.* 18 January 2023. Available from: [https://apnews.com/article/oil-spills-united-nations-yemen-business-4ec17509e2284b3412a35438a0b38d00](https://apnews.com/article/oil-spills-united-nations-yemen-business-4ec17509e2284b3412a35438a0b38d00) The rising cost of purchasing or leasing a vessel that can hold more than 1 million barrels of crude oil now in a rusting old tanker off the coast of war-torn Yemen is the latest obstacle to resolving the grave threat of massive environmental damage from a possible oil spill or explosion, the U.N. said Tuesday.

**UN has cash for Safer salvage but finding a replacement vessel is proving a challenge.** *Arab News (Saudi Arabia).* 18 January 2023. Available from: [https://www.arabnews.com/node/2234366/](https://www.arabnews.com/node/2234366/) The U.N. is “closer than ever” to beginning the first phase of the salvage operation on the decaying Safer oil tanker off the coast of Yemen.


**UK-insured tanker damaged in fatal explosions is linked to vessel identity laundering fraud.** Michelle Wiese Bockmann. *Lloyd’s List.* 18 January 2023. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1143651/](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1143651/) A tanker that exploded while at dock in Thailand with the loss of as many as eight people, was at the centre of a suspected vessel identity laundering fraud.


**Estonia ferry disaster inquiry backs finding bow door was to blame.** Jon Henley. *The Guardian.* 23 January 2023. Available from: [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jan/23/estonia-ferry-disaster-inquiry-backs-finding-bow-door-was-to-blame](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jan/23/estonia-ferry-disaster-inquiry-backs-finding-bow-door-was-to-blame) The 1994 Estonia ferry disaster that claimed the lives of 852 people was caused by a faulty bow door rather than by a collision or explosion, according to the preliminary findings of an intergovernmental investigation.


**Cargo ship sinks off Japan, leaving two dead, nine missing.** Mariko Katsumura. *Reuters.* 25 January 2023. Available from: [https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/rescue-efforts-underway-22-crew-members-capsized-cargo-ship-2023-01-25/](https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/rescue-efforts-underway-22-crew-members-capsized-cargo-ship-2023-01-25/) Two people died and nine were missing after a cargo ship sank off southwestern Japan early on Wednesday amid fierce winter winds, the coast guard said, as it continued to search for survivors.


**Cargoships damaged during attacks on port of Kherson.** Bridget Diakun. *Lloyd’s List.* 25 January 2023. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1143745/](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1143745/) Two multi-purpose general cargo vessels have been hit during missile attacks on the Ukrainian port of Kherson, according to reports.

NTSB Finds Fatigue Led to Striking of an Oil and Gas Production Platform. US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). 26 January 2023. Available from: https://www.ntsb.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/NR20230126A.aspx A company not adhering to their 12-hour work limit led to an offshore supply vessel striking an oil and gas production platform, the National Transportation Safety Board said Thursday.


An urgent appeal to the shipping community: Help the UN avert catastrophe in Yemen. Lloyd’s List. 27 January 2023. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1143781/ The late twentieth century was punctuated by a sorry litany of tanker break-up oil spills that ran from Torrey Canyon, Amoco Cadiz, Exxon Valdez, Braer and Sea Empress to Erika and Prestige.


Containership Suffers Engine Room Fire at the Panama Canal. Mike Schuler. gCaptain. 30 January 2023. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/containership-suffers-engine-room-fire-at-the-panama-canal/ The Panama Canal Authority is reporting that a fire broke out in the engine room of a containership near the Pacific entrance of the Panama Canal on Monday.

Incident at the Pacific Entrance of the Panama Canal under control. Panama Canal Authority. 30 January 2023. Available from: https://pancanal.com/en/incident-at-the-pacific-entrance-of-the-panama-canal-under-control/ The Panama Canal reports that this morning the container vessel CAPE KORTIA, while moving towards the PSA port in the Pacific, reported a fire outbreak in the engine room.
There’s a decrepit supertanker off the coast of Yemen — it’s another Exxon Valdez disaster just waiting to happen. Frank Giustra. The Star (Canada). 31 January 2023. Available from: https://www.thestar.com/business/opinion/2023/01/31/yemens-looming-red-sea-oil-disaster-is-an-exxon-valdez-waiting-to-happen.html An oil spill from abandoned supertanker FSO Safer, anchored off the coast of war-torn Yemen, would parallel the 1989 Valdez disaster in Alaska, the effects of which are still felt today.

ENVIRONMENT

More than 100,000 tourists will head to Antarctica this summer. Should we worry about damage to the ice and its ecosystems? Elizabeth Leane, Anne Hardy, Can Seng Ooi, Carolyn Philpott, Hanne E.F. Nielsen and Katie Marx. The Conversation. 4 January 2023. Available from: https://theconversation.com/more-than-100-000-tourists-will-head-to-antarctica-this-summer-should-we-worry-about-damage-to-the-ice-and-its-ecosystems-192843 Travelling on one of more than 50 cruise ships, they will brave the two-day trip across the notoriously rough Drake Passage below Patagonia, destined for the polar continent of Antarctica.

Europe: Warm start to 2023 breaks records and skiers’ hearts, says WMO. UN News. 5 January 2023. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/01/1132177 The unusually warm conditions in Europe that marked the festive season broke records – and likely skiers’ hearts - in several countries on the continent, on New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day, the UN World Meteorological Organization has confirmed.

What the BBNJ negotiations could mean for the ocean’s ‘twilight zone’. Vrinda Suresh, Julia Mason and Doug Rader. Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). 9 January 2023. Available from: https://blogs.edf.org/edfish/2023/01/09/what-the-bbnj-negotiations-could-mean-for-the-oceans-twilight-zone/ During the last two weeks of August 2022, delegates from across the globe gathered in New York City for the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Conference, or IGC5, to develop a new treaty to protect biodiversity in offshore waters, called the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement, or BBNJ Agreement.


Ocean temperatures in 2022 were highest ever recorded, study says. France 24. 11 January 2023. Available from: https://www.france24.com/en/environment/20230111-ocean-temperatures-in-2022-were-highest-ever-recorded-study-says The world’s oceans, which have absorbed most of the excess heat caused by humanity’s carbon pollution, continued to see record-breaking temperatures last year, according to research published Wednesday.
Past eight years confirmed to be the eight warmest on record. **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**. 12 January 2023. Available from: [https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/past-eight-years-confirmed-be-eight-warmest-record](https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/past-eight-years-confirmed-be-eight-warmest-record). The past eight years were the warmest on record globally, fuelled by ever-rising greenhouse gas concentrations and accumulated heat, according to six leading international temperature datasets consolidated by the World Meteorological Organization.

**How to create a healthy ocean that benefits everyone.** Peter Thomson. **World Economic Forum**. 15 January 2023. Available from: [https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/01/how-to-create-a-healthy-ocean-that-benefits-everyone-davos23](https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/01/how-to-create-a-healthy-ocean-that-benefits-everyone-davos23). Restoring ocean health is not just about verdant mangrove forests, thriving fish stocks and pristine blue waters, although these are all vitally important in their own right. **Ocean Action Agenda**.

**Humpback whale ‘hog-tied’ in fishing gear rescued off B.C. coast.** **Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC)**. 19 January 2023. Available from: [https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/humpback-whale-rescue-port-hardy-1.6718741](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/humpback-whale-rescue-port-hardy-1.6718741). A young humpback whale was rescued off the coast of Vancouver Island on Monday when it was found tangled up in fishing gear, according to officials.

**Sea level rise may threaten Indonesia’s status as an archipelagic country.** Dita Liliansa. **The Conversation**. 19 January 2023. Available from: [https://theconversation.com/sea-level-rise-may-threaten-indonesias-status-as-an-archipelagic-country-195217](https://theconversation.com/sea-level-rise-may-threaten-indonesias-status-as-an-archipelagic-country-195217). The recent UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report found global sea levels have been rising at an accelerated rate.

**Blue carbon studies can support climate change mitigation: ministry.** **Antara News (Indonesia)**. 30 January 2023. Available from: [https://en.antaranews.com/news/271146](https://en.antaranews.com/news/271146). The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK) has said that a study on preparing a blue carbon ecosystem and integrating marine ecosystems have an important role in climate change mitigation efforts.

**ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION**


‘Ecological disaster’: **Spanish energy giant Repsol hit with further €5.5m fine for oil spill in Peru.** Rosie Frost. **Euronews**. 5 January 2023. Available from: [https://www.euronews.com/green/2023/01/05/ecological-disaster-spanish-energy-giant-repsol-hit-with-further-55m-fine-for-oil-spill-in](https://www.euronews.com/green/2023/01/05/ecological-disaster-spanish-energy-giant-repsol-hit-with-further-55m-fine-for-oil-spill-in). Three new fines were issued for “administrative responsibilities” relating to the spill, according to the Environmental Assessment and Monitoring Agency (OEFA).

**Braer disaster: Thirty years on from Scotland’s worst oil spill.** Louise Hosie. **STV News (Scotland)**. 5 January 2023. Available from: [https://news.stv.tv/highlands-islands/brayer-disaster-thirty-years-on-from-scotlands-worst-oil-spill-after-tanker-grounded-in-shetland](https://news.stv.tv/highlands-islands/brayer-disaster-thirty-years-on-from-scotlands-worst-oil-spill-after-tanker-grounded-in-shetland). At the time of the disaster there was no emergency tug cover, which may have helped prevent the **Braer** from grounding.

‘Nurdles’ are devastating the environment but they are yet to be classified as hazardous. Charlie Jaay. *Euronews*. 8 January 2023. Available from: https://www.euronews.com/green/2023/01/08/what-are-nurdles-and-how-are-they-devastating-the-environment Nurdles are the raw material of the plastics industry.


MPI and NZ Cruise Association in biofouling talks as foreign biomatter found on five ships. Thomas Bywater. *New Zealand Herald*. 12 January 2023. Available from: https://www.nzherald.co.nz/travel/mpi-and-nz-cruise-association-in-biofouling-talks-as-foreign-biomatter-found-on-five-ships/SLW7UW4FPFHSHKREAXP7VHUR2U/ This summer, alien invaders and non native species have been found stuck to the underside of ships with an alarming rate this summer.

Cruise ship Azamara Quest’s passengers not too happy with change in cruise’s plans due to biofouling. Yashas Srinivasa. *Stuff (New Zealand)*. 12 January 2023. Available from: https://www.stuff.co.nz/timaru-herald/news/130955278/ The passengers on the second cruise ship to visit Timaru in under a month are disappointed with the change in plans as the ship was restricted from entering certain ports for not cleaning its biofouling.


The OECS Continues to Tackle Plastic Pollution in the Caribbean. Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). 17 January 2023. Available from: https://pressroom.oecs.org/the-oecs-continues-to-tackle-plastic-pollution-in-the-caribbean# The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), with funding from the European Union, through the Agence Française de Développement, has embarked on a new initiative, the Recycle OECS Project, which will focus on the development and implementation of a recyclable plastic waste collection and treatment programme in the OECS.

Underwater noise: we have the way, now we need the political will. Melanie Lancaster. WWF. 19 January 2023. Available from: https://www.arcticwwf.org/newsroom/news/underwater-noise-we-have-the-way-now-we-need-the-political-will/ From 23 to 27 January, representatives from 175 countries that make up the UN International Maritime Organization (IMO) – the regulatory body for shipping globally – will meet in London at the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Construction (SDC) meeting to continue their review of IMO guidelines to reduce impacts of underwater noise from shipping.


HEALTH & SAFETY

COVID in Europe: China’s surge not a cause for concern ‘at this time’ says WHO, as XBB.1.5 virus spreads. UN News. 10 January 2023. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/01/1132312 Dr. Hans Kluge, head of the World Health Organization for Europe, explained that this is because the two variants circulating in China are already present in European countries, according to data provided by the Chinese authorities.


IMO


NAMEPA launches joint Art Contest featuring IMO’s 50th Anniversary of MARPOL. Anika Bjarnadottir. North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA). 6 January 2023. Available from: https://namepa.net/2023/01/06/namelpa-launches joint-art-contest-featuring-imos-50th-anniversary-of-marpol/ Students in grades K–12 are invited to participate in the annual calendar art contest sponsored by the North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA), the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the Inter-American Committee on Ports of the Organization of American States (CIP-OAS).

IMO should agree on climate neutrality – a “disaster” if not. Dag Holmstad. ShippingWatch. 11 January 2023. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article14825686.ece A decisive battle regarding shipping’s climate ambitions will take place in July, says Danish Shipping, arguing that IMO’s climate committee should decide on a tightening of 2050 climate targets and set dates for specific measures ensuring climate neutrality.

Revised IMO GHG Reduction Strategy Could Be Coming Sooner, Rather Than Later. Nikos Roussanoglou. Hellenic Shipping News. 16 January 2023. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/revised-imo-ghg-reduction-strategy-could-be-coming-sooner-rather-than-later/ Regulatory pressure on shipping to further move towards emissions reduction, is only going to get higher as months go by, with 2023 expected to be a key year towards this.

IMO report finds indifference and ignorance about fake flags and fraudulent shipping practices. Michelle Wiese Bockmann. Lloyd’s List. 20 January 2023. Available from: https://lloydsslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1143686/ There is widespread ignorance and indifference about fraudulent flagging and registration, according to research undertaken by Sweden’s World Maritime University and presented in an interim report to the IMO.
SDC9: NGOS Call on UN Shipping Body Reduce to Underwater Noise Impact on Marine Life. 

Debate on noise rules being mandatory or not gets louder as IMO meeting starts. Paul Berrill. *TradeWinds*. 23 January 2023. Available from: [https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/debate-on-noise-rules-being-mandatory-or-not-gets-louder-as-imo-meeting-starts/2-1-1392171](https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/debate-on-noise-rules-being-mandatory-or-not-gets-louder-as-imo-meeting-starts/2-1-1392171) Environmental group the Clean Arctic Alliance is calling for measures tackling underwater noise from ships to be made mandatory as the International Maritime Organization meets to consider the issue.

IMO number declared invalid after fatal explosions on UK-insured tanker linked to vessel identity fraud. Michelle Wiese Bockmann. *Lloyd’s List*. 24 January 2023. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1143734/](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1143734/) Thailand has ordered an investigation into last week’s fatal explosions on a UK-insured tanker at the centre of a North Korea-backed vessel identity-laundering scam amid flip-flopping by maritime regulators over whether the ship exists or not.


**LAW & POLICY**


Lula revives $1 billion Amazon Fund and environmental protections. Sebastian Rodriguez. Climate Home News. 5 January 2023. Available from: https://www.climatechangenews.com/2023/01/04/first-day-office-lula-revives-1-billion-fund-amazon/ In his first day in office, Brazil’s new president, Lula da Silva, signed a package of seven executive orders aimed at controlling deforestation in the Amazon and re-building the country’s environmental institutions.


Unfinished Business in Nigeria’s Maritime Sector. This Day (Nigeria). 8 January 2023. Available from: https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2023/01/08/unfinished-business-in-nigerias-maritime-sector/ With about five months to stay in office, the Minister of Transportation, Mr. Mua’zu Jaji Sambo, who assumed office in July 2022, has a lot to accomplish based on the expectations of industry stakeholders before the May 29 curtain is drawn.


UN ECOSOC Special Consultative Status Awarded to Human Rights at Sea. Human Rights at Sea (HRAS). 10 January 2023. Available from: https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/news/un-ecosoc-special-consultative-status-awarded-human-rights-sea Consultative status is given to civil society organisations on the underlying basis that the UN and the international community can benefit from the expertise of those fighting against human rights violations, struggling against climate change and pushing to achieve the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.


A final sprint to make the EU Fit for 55. Sean Goulding Carroll. EurActiv. 10 January 2023. Available from: https://www.euractiv.com/section/transport/news/a-final-sprint-to-make-the-eu-fit-for-55/ The transport sector will remain a key focus of the climate law discussions, with a number of mobility files yet to be agreed.


**Biden Administration Decarbonization Blueprint targets transportation.** Stas Margaronis. *American Journal of Transportation (AJOT).* 12 January 2023. Available from: [https://www.ajot.com/insights/full/ai-biden-administration-decarbonization-blueprint-targets-transportation](https://www.ajot.com/insights/full/ai-biden-administration-decarbonization-blueprint-targets-transportation) On January 10th, the Biden administration released the “U.S. National Blueprint for Transportation Decarbonization” in which: “To address the climate crisis, we must eliminate nearly all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the sector by 2050.”


**Climate change: UAE names oil chief to lead COP28 talks.** Matt McGrath. *BBC News.* 12 January 2023. Available from: [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-64240206](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-64240206) The head of one of the world’s biggest oil companies has been named to lead the COP28 global climate talks in Dubai, later this year.


**The Lloyd’s List Podcast: Can the Ukraine grain corridor survive 2023?** *Lloyd’s List.* 13 January 2023. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1143585/](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1143585/) The deal to allow the safe transport of grain out of Ukraine by sea was an extraordinary and unprecedented agreement between enemy combatants.

**Ocean conservation: Seychelles’ marine spatial plan in final stages of completion.** *Seychelles News Agency.* 13 January 2023. Available from: [http://www.seychellesnewagency.com/articles/18023](http://www.seychellesnewagency.com/articles/18023) The Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan is expected to be implemented this year, with the final works now being completed, according to a top official.

UNODC and WWF partner to reduce occurrence of crimes at sea and their impact on ecosystems and livelihoods. *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).*

**Greece in spotlight over trial of activists, volunteers who rescued migrants.** *UN News.*

**Black Sea grain deal keeps making a difference: UN official.** *Xinhuanet (China).*
14 January 2023. Available from: [https://english.news.cn/20230114/1e30a4890266475db411ddf119c6b2c4/c.html](https://english.news.cn/20230114/1e30a4890266475db411ddf119c6b2c4/c.html) The deal on the export of grain and fertilizers from Black Sea ports continues to make a difference, as indicated in the lowering of global food prices, a senior United Nations official said Friday.

**AfCFTA: Buhari urges Africa to boost int’l trade.** *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN).*

**Estonian foreign ministry wants to extend controlled maritime area.** *ERR News (Estonia).*
17 January 2023. Available from: [https://news.err.ee/1608853667](https://news.err.ee/1608853667) Last week, following a proposal from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the government cabinet discussed the potential establishment of a contiguous zone in Estonia’s maritime area.

**BRS says shadow fleet oil spill could put an end to rogue trade.** *Gary Dixon. TradeWinds.*


Lawsuit Challenges Approval of Sea Port Oil Terminal: Massive Gulf Coast Deepwater Oil-Export Terminal Violates Federal Law. Center for Biological Diversity. 19 January 2023. Available from: https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/lawsuit-challenges-approval-of-sea-port-oil-terminal-2023-01-19/ Environmental and community groups sued the U.S. Department of Transportation today over its approval of the Sea Port Oil Terminal, also known as SPOT, a proposed massive Gulf Coast deepwater oil-export facility off the coast of Brazoria County, Texas.

Ship Owner and Operator Sentenced for Environmental Crimes. US Department of Justice. 19 January 2023. Available from: https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/ship-owner-and-operator-sentenced-environmental-crimes Empire Bulkers Limited and Joanna Maritime Limited, two related companies based in Greece, were sentenced today for committing knowing and willful violations of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (APPS) and the Ports and Waterways Safety Act related to their role as the operator and owner of the Motor Vessel (M/V) Joanna.

Inspections of Ukrainian grain ships halved since October. Jamey Keaten. Associated Press. 20 January 2023. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/politics-health-russia-government-united-nations-business-b2f6bb9e50b7440ea6c18f66e016e145 Inspections of ships carrying Ukrainian grain and other food exports have slowed to half their peak rate under a U.N.-brokered wartime agreement, creating backlogs in vessels meant to carry supplies to developing nations where people are going hungry, United Nations and Ukrainian officials say.


The acid test: legal moves to force action on climate change. Donald R. Rothwell. Samoa Observer. 23 January 2023. Available from: https://www.samoaobserver.ws/category/op_ed/101676 The call for a global response to the impact of climate change and especially the threats posed by sea-level rise for small island states has been constant and growing increasingly louder.


Judge unexpectedly resumes frozen Beirut blast investigation. Laila Bassam, Maya Gebeily and Timour Azhari. Reuters. 23 January 2023. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/beirut-blast-investigator-resumes-work-after-more-than-year-lebanese-media-2023-01-23/ The judge investigating the 2020 Beirut port explosion has unexpectedly resumed his inquiry and charged top security officials, three judicial officials said on Monday, more than a year after his probe was frozen by political resistance.


Two charged after cocaine found attached to grain ship in Newcastle. Giselle Wakatama and Cecilia Connell. ABC (Australia). 26 January 2023. Available from: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-01-26/charges-laid-after-cocaine-found-on-ship-in-newcastle/101897244 Two men have been charged after a quantity of cocaine was found stuck to the bottom of a ship in Newcastle.


Global Economy to Slow Further Amid Signs of Resilience and China Re-opening.  
Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas. *International Monetary Fund (IMF)*. 30 January 2023. Available from:  
The global economy is poised to slow this year, before rebounding next year. Growth will remain weak by historical standards, as the fight against inflation and Russia’s war in Ukraine weigh on activity.

**Action needed to transform Africa’s maritime industry — Ayorkor Botchwey.**  
Elizabeth Nyaadu Adu. *Graphic Online (Ghana)*. 31 January 2023. Available from:  
Against this background, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, appealed to member states to ensure that the Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa (MOWCA) continued to contribute positively to the growth of the industry.

**MARINE TECHNOLOGY**

One particular fuel dominates among newly ordered vessels.  
https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article14789948.ece  
Last year, carriers placed orders for a whopping 275 vessels able to sail on alternative fuels, and namely one type of fuel outranks others, new figures from DNV unveil.

VR technology for domestic ferry safety may take time, says stakeholder.  
The use of virtual reality (VR) technology to improve domestic ferry safety in the Philippines might take time and a paradigm shift, said Mary Ann Pastrana, chairman of Archipelago Philippines Ferries Corp. (APFC).

IMSC Task Force Completes Maritime Exercise with Unmanned Systems, A.I.  
*United States Navy*. 9 January 2023. Available from:  
The International Maritime Security Construct (IMSC) completed a three-day maritime exercise in the Arabian Gulf, Jan. 9, integrating unmanned systems and artificial intelligence during a naval drill for the second time in six months.

Decarbonisation developments and challenges: 2030 to 2050 – examining emerging fuels.  
*Standard Club*. 9 January 2023. Available from:  
IMO-2030 targets a minimum 40% reduction in carbon intensity (CO2 emissions per transport work) by 2030 while pursuing efforts towards 70% by 2050, compared to 2008 levels.

Use of digital tools onboard perceived as positive, report finds.  
*Safety4Sea*. 10 January 2023. Available from:  
In the context of the EU co-funded WESS project, ECSA and ETF are committed to assessing shipboard living and working conditions with a view to taking action to contribute to an “attractive, smart and sustainable environment onboard”.


The Role of Smart Marine Coatings in Meeting CII Requirements. Paint & Coatings Industry Magazine. 11 January 2023. Available from: https://www.pcimag.com/gdpr-policy?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pcimag.com%2Farticles%2F110944 As we continue the push towards global decarbonization, the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) GHG strategy is aiming to reduce the carbon emissions of the global fleet by 40% by the year 2030 and is targeting a 70% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2050.


Why zero-emission fuel offtake is key to global shipping’s transition. World Economic Forum. 17 January 2023. Available from: https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/01/davos-2023-zero-emission-fuel-offtake-global-shipping-transition/ The tide is turning against ships that pollute both sea and air with the noxious fumes given off by bunker fuel.


**MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING**


Seafarers desperately need training to handle explosive lithium-ion batteries. Simon Hodgkinson. *Splash 247.com*. 10 January 2023. Available from: [https://splash247.com/seafarers-desperately-need-training-to-handle-explosive-lithium-ion-batteries/](https://splash247.com/seafarers-desperately-need-training-to-handle-explosive-lithium-ion-batteries/) Transporting potentially explosive lithium-ion batteries on vessels is a dangerous business, as incidents in recent years have shown.


A new reality for safe, compatible shipboard procedures. *Marine Professional (IMarEST).*
20 January 2023. Available from: [https://www.imarest.org/themarineprofessional/interactions/6736](https://www.imarest.org/themarineprofessional/interactions/6736)
A founding member of the Human Element Working Group, and recipient of the UK’s Merchant Navy Medal for services to Merchant Shipping and Ship Safety Systems, Dr Paul Doherty explains why the integration of new technologies requires a richer understanding of compatibility with the system, its environment and the end user.

**International Day of Education 2023 - To Invest in People, Prioritize Education.**
The International Day of Education is celebrated annually on 24 January.

**Seychelles Maritime Academy and CINEC to continue joint seafarers’ programme.**
The agreement will allow CINEC and the Seychelles Maritime Academy to continue to maintain and enhance the existing framework for academic cooperation to develop the skills of seafarers to meet requirements of the IMO’s International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) as well as to develop and maintain their professional standards as required by ship owners.

**MARITIME SAFETY**

The UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch has started investigating the causes of the death of pilot Francesco Galia, while transferring from a transfer vessel to a large oceangoing ship in the Humber Estuary, 8 January 2023.

The campaign involved all member Authorities of the BS MoU and was conducted under the campaign coordination of the Bulgarian Maritime Administration.

**MARITIME SECURITY**

The Council today prolonged the mandates of its Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operation in the Horn of Africa and Somalia.

Recalling its previous decisions and pronouncements on maritime security, particularly, Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1012 (2021)] adopted at its 1012th meeting held on 23 July 2021, on the State of Maritime Security in Africa; and Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1090 (2022)] adopted at its 1090th meeting held on 28 June 2022, on Maritime Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.
Ukraine war risk cover switched to net line basis. David Osler. Lloyd’s List. 3 January 2023. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1143460/Ukraine-war-risk-cover-switched-to-net-line-basis](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1143460/Ukraine-war-risk-cover-switched-to-net-line-basis) Commercial war risk cover for calls to ports hit by the Russian invasion of Ukraine is still available in London and Europe despite reinsurers being unwilling to touch the reinsurance, according to market sources.


War risk rates jump following reinsurers’ Russian retreat. Adam Corbett. TradeWinds. 10 January 2023. Available from: [https://www.tradewindsnews.com/insurance/war-risk-rates-jump-following-reinsurers-russian-retreat/2-1-1385465](https://www.tradewindsnews.com/insurance/war-risk-rates-jump-following-reinsurers-russian-retreat/2-1-1385465) War risk rates for ships sailing to Russia and areas affected by its invasion of Ukraine have jumped by more than 20% — and they could rise further in response to an exclusion clause introduced by the major reinsurers.


Large cocaine volumes found aboard MSC vessel following false bomb threat. Dag Holmstad. ShippingWatch. 17 January 2023. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article14859341.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article14859341.ece) More than 2,400 kilograms of cocaine have accidentally been detected at container ship MSC Lorena when the vessel in late December was forced to turn back from a voyage to Antwerp and head for the Dutch port of Vlissingen due to a bomb threat, writes Dutch media NL Times.

Italian Police Find One Tonne of Cocaine Aboard Chinese Freighter. *Maritime Executive.*


MIGRANTS


NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS

Ukraine sees speeding up inspections as key to Black Sea grain deal. Pavel Polityuk. Reuters. 4 January 2023. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/ukraine-sees-speeding-up-inspections-key-black-sea-grain-deal-2023-01-04/ Ukraine’s efforts to increase exports under the Black Sea grain deal with Russia are currently focused on securing faster inspections of ships rather than including more ports in the initiative, a senior Ukrainian official said on Wednesday.


Jersey exclusion zone reduced at sunken fishing boat site. BBC News. 8 January 2023. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-jersey-64202900 The exclusion zone around the site of a fishing boat that sank, leading to the deaths of three crew, has been reduced.

After Grounding, Maryland Bans Marine Pilots From Using Their Phones. Maritime Executive. 8 January 2023. Available from: https://maritime-executive.com/article/after-grounding-maryland-bans-marine-pilots-from-using-their-phones After a distracted pilot ran the boxship Ever Forward aground in Chesapeake Bay last March, the Maryland Board of Pilots has decided to enact a rule change that forbids on-duty pilots from using their phones.
NIMASA participates in international satellite system testing. Adaku Onyenucheya. Guardian (Nigeria). 11 January 2023. Available from: https://guardian.ng/business-services/nimasa-participates-in-international-satellite-system-testing/ The Director General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Dr. Bashir Jamoh, has disclosed that the agency is participating in the testing stage of an international satellite system that will improve communication channels for vessels at sea as part of the agency’s quest to ensure adoption of global best practices in the Nigerian maritime sector.


Traffic resumes after Ukraine cargo ship grounded near Istanbul. Yoruk Isik. Reuters. 16 January 2023. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/cargo-ship-ukraine-grounded-bosphorus-strait-traffic-halted-2023-01-16/ The cargo ship MKK 1, travelling from Ukraine to Turkey, was grounded in Istanbul’s Bosphorus Strait on Monday and traffic in the strait was suspended for a few hours, shipping agents Tribeca said.


First cruise ship in three years sails into HK - and more are on their way. Eunice Lam. The Standard (Hong Kong). 19 January 2023. Available from: https://www.thestandard.com.hk/section-news/section/50015144/249160/ Hong Kong is expecting 16 cruise ships with 82 port of calls this year, as the first international cruise returned to the SAR yesterday after three years of the pandemic.

In January 1973, the freighter Irish Stardust ran aground at Haddington Reef, rupturing two fuel tanks. Instead of seeking help, the captain refloated the ship and kept going.


Over the years, hydrography has experienced several revolutions, both in terms of technology and standards, which culminated in November 2022 in the IMO adopting a Resolution on Performance Standards for Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS).


Seaborne Ukrainian grain flows through the Black Sea jumped during the week Jan. 16-22, with volumes up 82% on the week to reach 893,874 mt, and the average cargo size now trending at the highest levels since the inception of the safe passage agreement, an analysis of UN’s Black Sea Grain Initiative Joint Coordination Centre data by S&P Global Commodity Insights showed Jan. 23.


Ice coverage in the Gulf of St. Lawrence was measured at less than two per cent this week, putting it on course for breaking the low-ice record for the second time in three years.


It could take just one major oil spill to awaken the wider world to the knowledge and dangers of the “dark fleet”, which operates with little known about the identity of the owners, vessel standards or the quality of insurance.


How we manage our oceans is becoming increasingly important as the effects of climate change are felt across Canada and the world.
PIRACY


Naval Task Force Holding Somali Piracy Operation as a Reminder to Shipping Not to Let Its Guard Down. Mike Schuler. gCaptain. 5 January 2023. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/naval-task-force-holding-somali-piracy-operation-as-a-reminder-to-shipping-not-to-let-its-guard-down/  A multi-national naval task force tasked with combating piracy in the Somali basin is getting ready to conduct a five-day operation aimed at increasing naval presence and informing the maritime community on the continuing risks to shipping despite a lull in Somali piracy and expiration of a key industry designation.


The Lloyd’s List Podcast: Where have all the pirates gone? Lloyd’s List. 20 January 2023. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1143685  Attacks are still happening, but according to the International Maritime Bureau’s latest annual report maritime piracy and armed robbery attacks have reached their lowest recorded levels in 30 years.

PORT STATE CONTROL

Passengers to be compensated after cruise ship denied entry to Australian, NZ ports due to 'marine growth' on hull. *ABC (Australia)*. 2 January 2023. Available from: [https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-01-02/cruise-ship-stranded-south-australia-melbourne-marine-growth/101822590](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-01-02/cruise-ship-stranded-south-australia-melbourne-marine-growth/101822590) Hundreds of passengers on a cruise ship arriving at the Port of Melbourne on Monday evening are expected to set foot on dry land for the first time in more than a week after a build-up of marine creatures and plants was cleaned off its hull.


Italy rejects NGO ship’s request for closer safe port. *Francesca Landini. Reuters*. 8 January 2023. Available from: [https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italy-rejects-ngo-ships-request-closer-safe-port-2023-01-08/](https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italy-rejects-ngo-ships-request-closer-safe-port-2023-01-08/) The Italian government has rejected a request from a ship run by Doctors Without Borders non-governmental organisation (NGO) to assign a safe port closer to the place where it rescued 73 migrants, an NGO official said on Sunday.

NIMASA: Standardised Digital Communication Key to Effective Port, Flag Administration. *This Day (Nigeria)*. 9 January 2023. Available from: [https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2023/01/09/nimasa-standardised-digital-communication-key-to-effective-port-flag-administration/](https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2023/01/09/nimasa-standardised-digital-communication-key-to-effective-port-flag-administration/) The Director General of the NIMASA, Dr Bashir Jamoh has stated that international collaboration to attain standardized digitalization is essential for maritime administrations across the world and all stakeholders in the maritime sector to effectively communicate in line with provisions of the IMO and the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA).


PORTS & HARBOURS

The Port of Valencia will carry out the first hydrogen test for its refuelling station. Port of Valencia. 2 January 2023. Available from: https://www.valenciaport.com/en/the-port-of-valencia-will-carry-out-the-first-hydrogen-test-for-its-refuelling-station/ During the month of January, technicians from Valenciaport, the National Hydrogen Centre and Carburos Metálicos are expected to carry out this operation in the hydrogen plant located on the Xitò quay.


Port of Leith is first port on mainland Scotland to go live with zero emissions shore power for ships. Forth Ports Group. 5 January 2023. Available from: https://bit.ly/3ZJr35a The Port of Leith has become the first large mainland commercial port in Scotland to provide a shore power connection, reflecting Forth Ports’ commitment to reducing its own carbon footprint as well as that of its customers.

Coast is (almost) clear as port congestion fades even further. Greg Miller. FreightWaves. 6 January 2023. Available from: https://www.freightwaves.com/news/coast-is-almost-clear-as-port-congestion-fades-even-further At this time in 2022, over 100 container ships were stuck waiting off the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, California, with around 150 off all North American ports combined.


Valenciaport takes part in a European project to analyse the impact of weather variations on port facilities. Port of Valencia. 9 January 2023. Available from: https://www.valenciaport.com/en/valenciaport-takes-part-in-a-european-project-to-analyse-the-impact-of-weather-variations-on-port-facilities/ The initiative analyses the atmospheric variables over a medium and long term time horizon in order to know the future climatic conditions in the ports.


$1.9bn expansion project launched at Dammam’s King Abdulaziz Port. Arab News (Saudi Arabia). 10 January 2023. Available from: https://www.arabnews.com/node/2229911 The Saudi Ports Authority, also known as Mawani, on Tuesday, launched a project worth SR7 billion ($1.9 billion) to upgrade and develop two container terminals at the King Abdulaziz Port in Dammam.


Security expected to heighten at key ports. Siteri Sauvakacolo. Fiji Times. 16 January 2023. Available from: https://www.fijitimes.com/security-expected-to-heighten-at-key-ports/ Security at the country’s two major ports is expected to heighten with the recent audit carried out by the United States Coast Guard and the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji.


€2M TUS and Zinkworks Research Group to Make Driverless, Intelligent Shipping Ports a Reality. Technological University of the Shannon (Ireland). 27 January 2023. Available from: https://www.ait.ie/news-and-events/news/tus-and-zinkworks-launch-2m-telecommunications-research-group-to-make-driverless-intelligent-shipping-ports-a-reality As the race for self-driving cars heats up, a team of researchers at the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) and Athlone-based ICT start-up Zinkworks are turning their attention to how shipping ports can adopt the technology to improve global supply chains, eco-efficiency and safety.


Grain Initiative: In a week, 18 vessels exported 664,000 tonnes of food from Odesa ports. Government of Ukraine. 30 January 2023. Available from: https://www.kmu.gov.ua/en/news/zernova-initsiatyva-za-tyzhdny-suden-eksportovaly-664-tysiachi-tonn-prodovolstva-z-portiv-odesy In particular, 60,000 tonnes of wheat were shipped to Kenya, 56,000 tonnes – to Bangladesh, and 60,000 tonnes of Ukrainian vegetable oil – to India.

REGULATIONS
CII could pose serious risk to LNG ship supply. Paul Bartlett. Seatrade Maritime News. 3 January 2023. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/tankers/cii-could-pose-serious-risk-lng-ship-supply The IMO’s carbon intensity regulations, specifically the carbon intensity indicator (CII) in place since 1 January, are likely to have a dramatic impact on LNG fleet supply which could lead to ‘stranded’ assets later this decade.


SALVAGE

SEAFARERS

2023 – A better year for seafarers? David Hughes. Business Times (Singapore). 3 January 2023. Available from: https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/international/2023-better-year-seafarers Last year has been difficult for most people in many ways but, in particular, 2022 will not be remembered fondly by those concerned with the welfare of seafarers.


Time to make seafarer abandonment a thing of the past. Lloyd’s List. 6 January 2023. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1143506/ No reputable international industry should allow its lowest-paid workers to find themselves stranded far away from home, often without food and sometimes without even a source of potable water.


Companies should be looking at how to cater for the next generation of seafarers, says leading catering management provider MCTC. All About Shipping. 9 January 2023. Available from: https://allaboutshipping.co.uk/2023/01/09/companies-should-be-looking-at-how-to-cater-for-the-next-generation-of-seafarers-says-leading-catering-management-provider-mctc Companies should be prioritising the needs of the new internet-savvy generation of seafarers to ensure the long-lasting future of shipping, says leading catering management provider MCTC.


Shipping companies need to allow more time for crew changes as industry sees more crews from non-traditional seafaring countries, says Boers. Hans Boers. All About Shipping. 10 January 2023. Available from: https://bit.ly/3J02iGD Shipping companies should allow at least three months for crew changes due to the recent rise in seafarers from South Asia and the challenges in arranging visas for them, says BCS Group – Boers Crew Services.

New advisory committee launched to address major maritime issues impacting Filipino seafarers. *International Chamber of Shipping (ICS).* 16 January 2023. Available from: https://www.ics-shipping.org/press-release/new-advisory-committee-launched-to-address-major-maritime-issues-impacting-filipino-seafarers/ Global leaders from organisations representing seafarers, shipowners and other maritime employers signed a memorandum of understanding with the Philippines’s Department of Migrant Workers on Wednesday 11 January, to form the International Advisory Committee on Global Maritime Affairs (IACGMA).


The truth about working on a cruise ship. Jonas Martiny. Deutsche Welle (Germany). 25 January 2023. Available from: https://www.dw.com/en/the-truth-about-working-on-a-cruise-ship/a-64487521 The contrast couldn’t be greater — while cruise ship passengers enjoy ocean views from their cabins, splash around in the pool or fill their plates at the buffet for the umpteenth time, things are very different for those working behind the scenes.


SEARCH & RESCUE

2 cruise ships rescue more migrants off Florida coast. Associated Press. 2 January 2023. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/cuba-florida-haiti-us-coast-guard-f06e63811565c8250051ee10623444a5 Crew members aboard two cruise ships rescued around two dozen migrants in small boats, the latest episode of hundreds making or attempting landings in the Florida Keys over the past several days, authorities said.


New decree obstructs lifesaving efforts at sea and will cause more deaths. Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF). 5 January 2023. Available from: https://www.msf.org/new-decree-obstructs-lifesaving-efforts-sea-and-will-cause-more-deaths We, civil organisations engaged in search and rescue (SAR) activities in the central Mediterranean Sea, express our gravest concerns regarding the latest attempt by a European government to obstruct assistance to people in distress at sea.

Celebrity Cruise captain explains how her crew maneuvered their massive ship in rough conditions to rescue a boat of migrants in distress. Hannah Towey. Insider. 6 January 2023. Available from: https://www.businessinsider.com/video-shows-celebrity-cruise-ship-rescuing-migrants-off-florida-coast-2023-1?r=US&IR=T Celebrity Cruise captain Kate McCue explained how her crew was able to rescue a small boat of 19 migrants off the coast of Florida earlier this week in a video posted to social media.


The night Devon lifeboat volunteers risked everything to save cargo ship crew. Guy Henderson. DevonLive (UK). 13 January 2023. Available from: https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/night-devon-lifeboat-volunteers-risked-8001440 A cargo ship with more than 5,000 tons of timber on board was in severe difficulties more than 30 miles out in the Channel.


What can be done about the plight of abandoned seafarers. Safety4Sea. 31 January 2023. Available from: https://safety4sea.com/cm-what-can-be-done-about-the-plight-of-abandoned-seafarers/ David Hammond, Human Rights at Sea, CEO, and Professor Steven Haines, University of Greenwich and Honorary Trustee, recently joined the Operational Maritime Law podcast to discuss the protection of human rights at sea, focusing on what can be done about the plight of abandoned seafarers.
SHIP RECYCLING


SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR


South Korea relaxes visa rules to address shipbuilding staffing. Megawati Wijaya. Lloyd’s List. 9 January 2023. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1143509/ The Ministry of Justice has increased the required E-7-4 visa quota to 5,000 from 2,000, according to a report in Business Korea.


**“Say No to LNG”: Campaign against LNG to be launched in 2023.** Safety4Sea. 9 January 2023. Available from: [https://safety4sea.com/say-no-to-lng-campaign-against-lng-to-be-launched-in-2023/](https://safety4sea.com/say-no-to-lng-campaign-against-lng-to-be-launched-in-2023/) A global campaign, Say No to LNG, will be launched during 2023, in order to counter pro-LNG narratives and ensure LNG is seen as a dead-end solution for policymakers, industry, and financial institutions.
China’s reopening seen as a positive for shipping. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 9 January 2023. Available from: https://splash247.com/chinas-reopening-seen-as-a-positive-for-shipping/ China’s reopening to the world over the weekend is seeing considerably more jet fuel about to be consumed in the world’s most populous nation, while for crew managers there’s relief that the country has made crew changes far easier for the first time in nearly three years.

Analysis: Some ocean shipping rates collapsing, but real price relief is months away. Lisa Baertlein. Reuters. 9 January 2023. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/business/retail-consumer/some-ocean-shipping-rates-collapsing-real-price-relief-is-months-away-2023-01-09/ Prices in the most volatile segment of ocean shipping are collapsing, but top retailers like Walmart and Home Depot should not expect relief until the spring contract renegotiation season, industry experts said.

Shipping industry: The year that was. The Gleaner (Jamaica). 10 January 2023. Available from: https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/shipping/20230110/shipping-industry-year-was As the industry optimistically looks towards a less tumultuous year, we look back at the events which characterised the industry and shaped the year that was.

Flags that let owners flout their own laws should feel the consequences. Bob Rust. TradeWinds. 12 January 2023. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/opinion/flags-that-let-owners-flout-their-own-laws-should-feel-the-consequences/2-1-1385311 According to the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF), the arrest has brought to light a blatant case of forcing seafarers to pay crewing agents cash for their jobs and for their sea service documentation — an illegal practice under the United Nations’ Maritime Labour Convention (MLC).

Feeder owner objects to ‘unfair’ box migration to CII-exempt ships. Harry Papachristou. TradeWinds. 13 January 2023. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/interviews/feeder-owner-objects-to-unfair-box-migration-to-cii-exempt-ships/2-1-1387796 Uneven application of the IMO’s carbon rules puts container feeder ships at a disadvantage to vessels that can do the same job without having to comply with the regulations, a senior Contships Management executive says.


**London plays a pivotal role as shipping seeks to reframe risk in a complex marketplace.** *London International Shipping Week.* 16 January 2023. Available from: https://londoninternationalshippingweek.com/london-plays-a-pivotal-role-as-shipping-seeks-to-reframe-risk-in-a-complex-marketplace/ With its wide range of relevant expertise and home to key hubs for many sectors of the international maritime community, London is uniquely placed to lead the international shipping industry as it seeks to drive innovation, build skills, and meet its ambitious climate goals.

**Stena Line postpones goal of higher female representation among managers.** Astrid Sturlason. *ShippingWatch.* 16 January 2023. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article14848088.ece Swedish carrier Stena Line has postponed a goal of women representing at least a third of all management positions prior to the end of 2022, the company informs ShippingWatch, pointing to cutbacks following the pandemic as a primary reason.

**Shipping Industry: The year that was (Part 2).** *The Gleaner (Jamaica).* 17 January 2023. Available from: https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/shipping/20230117/shipping-industry-year-was-part-2 As the industry optimistically looks towards a less tumultuous year, we look back at the events which characterised the industry and shaped the year that was.

**An industry on standstill: maritime progress at risk over fears of digitalisation, Wärtsilä report warns.** *Wärtsilä Corporation.* 17 January 2023. Available from: https://www.wartsila.com/media/news/17-01-2023-an-industry-on-standstill-maritime-progress-at-risk-over-fears-of-digitalisation-wartsila-report-warns-3212079 Despite 78% of industry professionals agreeing that change and technological innovation is a positive thing for the maritime industry, almost half (45%) admit to having a volatile attitude towards technology and over a third (36%) say they are actively resistant to change. [Debunking the mythical beasts of maritime digital transformation](https://www.wartsila.com/media/news/17-01-2023-an-industry-on-standstill-maritime-progress-at-risk-over-fears-of-digitalisation-wartsila-report-warns-3212079)


SEA-LNG’s View from the Bridge 2022-2023. SEA-LNG. 18 January 2023. Available from: https://sea-lng.org/2023/01/lng-delivering-decarbonisation/ This resource highlights how the shipping industry has advanced along the LNG pathway to decarbonisation in 2022 and outlines what progress is anticipated in 2023. LNG – Delivering Decarbonisation

Panama has cancelled registry to 136 Iran-linked vessels. Elida Moreno. Reuters. 18 January 2023. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/panama-has-canceled-registry-136-iran-linked-vessels-2023-01-18/ Panama’s vessel registry, the world’s largest, has withdrawn its flag from 136 ships linked to Iran’s state oil company in the last four years, the country’s maritime authority said this week, pushing back against claims by an anti-nuclear group.


Panama rejects allegations that it is knowingly helping Iran violate sanctions. Tomer Raanan. Lloyd’s List. 19 January 2023. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1143673/ Panama Maritime Authority has rejected allegations that it is helping Iran skirt US sanctions by flagging tankers engaged in sanctioned oil trades.


Ports Org issues communique on registration of Iran ships by Panama. Islamic Republic News Agency - IRNA (Iran). 22 January 2023. Available from: https://en.irna.ir/news/85006680/ Ports and Maritime Organization of Iran (PMOI), the authority for Iran’s navigation and naval safety, issuing a communique about registration of ships related to Iran by Panama government, announced: All the ships belonging to Iran are now flagged with proud IRI banner.


Will box shipping’s big break-up bring heartbreak to the sector? James Baker. Lloyd’s List. 25 January 2023. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1143753](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1143753) The dissolution of the 2M alliance between Maersk and MSC has been on the cards for some time, even while its architects continued to support the vessel sharing agreement’s existence.


Liner shipping digests the news of the 2M divorce. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 26 January 2023. Available from: [https://splash247.com/liner-shipping-digests-the-news-of-the-2m-divorce/](https://splash247.com/liner-shipping-digests-the-news-of-the-2m-divorce/) Liner shipping has had 24 hours to digest the “bombshell” news that the world’s two largest containerlines are to dissolve their 2M alliance within the next two years, something that paves the way for enormous changes in the global liner hierarchy.

Right time for more women to join maritime industry. New Straits Times (Malaysia). 26 January 2023. Available from: https://www.nst.com.my/opinion/columnists/2023/01/873854/right-time-more-women-join-maritime-industry Despite the maritime industry evolving over time, it is still perceived as male-dominated and women currently make up less than two per cent of the workforce.


Barbados defends flagging US-sanctioned tanker. Michelle Wiese Bockmann. Lloyd’s List. 26 January 2023. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1143766/ The Barbados Maritime Ship Registry has defended the flagging of an Iranian-linked very large crude carrier two months after the US imposed sanctions on it but confirmed the vessel will be removed from the registry in the absence of a valid classification certificate.

The maritime industry from the view of a young Chinese woman. Lena Göthberg. Shipping Podcast. 26 January 2023. Available from: https://shippingpodcast.com/206-anna-wu-project-logistics-specialist-china/ I received an email from a loyal listener in Shanghai who is entering her career in the maritime industry and wanted to tell me how much the Shipping Podcast has meant to her.


Great Lakes fleets thrown overboard by new global maritime emissions standards.
Julius Melnitzer. *Financial Post (Canada)*. 30 January 2023. Available from:
https://financialpost.com/transportation/great-lakes-fleets-thrown-overboard-new-global-maritime-emissions-standards. Despite efforts to reduce their carbon emissions, Canada’s lakers — the ships that carry cargo in the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River and Arctic and East coasts — are finding themselves in an environmental and public relations quandary.

Climate Fund invests €10 million in Norsepower for accelerating emissions reductions in the shipping industry. *Helsinki Times (Finland)*. 30 January 2023. Available from:
https://www.helsinkitimes.fi/finland/finland-news/domestic/22896. The Finnish Climate Fund has decided on a capital loan of at most 10 million euros to rotor sail manufacturer Norsepower for increasing its production capacity.


Gulf logistics ambitions skirt net-zero carbon emissions goals. Sebastian Castelier. *Al Monitor*. 31 January 2023. Available from: https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2023/01/gulf-logistics-ambitions-skirt-net-zero-carbon-emissions-goals/. Dubai’s $8.7 trillion economic development plan for the next 10 years — called D33 — that was announced earlier this month aims to cement the United Arab Emirate’s (UAE) position as “the global city at the center of many emerging markets”.

RESEARCH


Verschuur J, Koks EE, et al. **Multi-hazard risk to global port infrastructure and resulting trade and logistics losses.** *Communications Earth & Environment.* 12 January 2023. Available from: [https://www.nature.com/articles/s43247-022-00656-7](https://www.nature.com/articles/s43247-022-00656-7) Despite their economic importance, the risk that ports face from multiple natural hazards has not yet been monetised on a global scale.


Dewan MH and Godina R. **Effective Training of Seafarers on Energy Efficient Operations of Ships in the Maritime Industry.** *Procedia Computer Science.* 13 January 2023. Available from: [https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1877050922024541/pdf](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1877050922024541/pdf) This study has shown onboard training activities such as computer and simulator-based training; onboard training by the technical manager or master and ship crews; training by the technical manager during the pre-joining briefing; and special training by the project teams/retrofits vendors onboard ships are the most effective training programs for seafarers for energy efficient operation of ships.


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About the front cover

The CAB front 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.

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