About the MKC Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)

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

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

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IMO NEWS & EVENTS

WHAT'S NEW

IMO welcomes adoption of new oceans treaty

The new legally binding international instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction - known as 'BBNJ' - was adopted on 19 June, at the United Nations headquarters in New York, United States. It was adopted at the resumed fifth session of the Intergovernmental Conference, and will open for signature on 20 September. The treaty will enter into force after ratification by 60 States. More...

MEETING SUMMARY AND SCHEDULE

Previous Meetings

Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR 10)
10-19 May 2023

Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 107) 31 May – 9 June 2023

Forthcoming Meetings

Intersessional Working Group on the Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships (ISWG-GHG 15)
26-30 June 2023

Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 80) 3-7 July 2023

IMO Council (C 129) 17-21 July 2023

Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments (III 9) 31 July – 4 August 2023

Programme of Meetings for 2023
UNITED NATIONS

From the Field: ‘Ordinary people’ pursuing ‘extraordinary outcomes’ - UN peacekeeping at 75. UN News. 1 May 2023. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/05/1136237. The first so-called blue helmets were deployed as military observers to the Middle East in 1948 and since then more than two million uniformed and civilian personnel have served in 71 peacekeeping operations around the world.


New UN ‘roadmap’ shows how to drastically slash plastic pollution. UN News. 16 May 2023. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/05/1136702. Plastic pollution could be slashed by 80 per cent by 2040 if countries and companies use existing technologies to make significant policy shifts and market adjustments, according to a new UN Environment Programme (UNEP) report released on Tuesday.

G7 nations, ‘central to climate action’ says Guterres, calling for global reset. UN News. 21 May 2023. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/05/1136872. The world is counting on the G7 bloc of industrialized democracies to demonstrate global leadership and solidarity, said the UN chief on Sunday, speaking to journalists in Hiroshima, Japan, which he described as a “global symbol of the tragic consequences when nations fail to work together”, and abandon multilateralism.
António Guterres was addressing the first high stakes meeting of the UN Economic and Social Council’s (ECOSOC) Operational Activities for Development Segment at UN Headquarters in New York, which he described as “an important first step” towards providing accelerated action for reaching the 17 ambitious SDGs, by the 2030 deadline.

Mr. Guterres was speaking on the final day of the annual Africa Dialogue Series in New York, where the focus this year was on accelerating implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) – set to be the largest in the world.
**CASUALTIES**


**Tanker collides with dredger in fatal accident.** Niklas Krigslund. *ShippingWatch.* 2 May 2023. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Tanker/article15719624.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Tanker/article15719624.ece) A tanker has collided with a Sierra Leone-flagged dredger in Filipino waters, and early reports say the accident has proven fatal for several individuals.

**Burning oil tanker off Malaysian rings shadow-fleet alarm bells.** Ann Koh and Kok Leong Chan. *ShippingWatch.* 2 May 2023. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article15721543.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article15721543.ece) Three crew members are missing from a Gabon-registered tanker that caught fire on Monday in the South China Sea, a Malaysian maritime enforcement agency official said on Tuesday.


**MMEA: Cause of oil tanker fire will be identified.** New Straits Times (Malaysia). 8 May 2023. Available from: [https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2023/05/907129/mmea-cause-oil-tanker-fire-will-be-identified](https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2023/05/907129/mmea-cause-oil-tanker-fire-will-be-identified) The forensic team from the Fire and Rescue Services Department, Police and Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) will identify the cause of the fire that broke out on board the oil tanker *MT Pablo* on May 1 (last Monday).


**Fifty years after the sinking of MV Blythe Star, a survivor shares his story.** Lucy Breaden. *ABC (Australia).* 16 May 2023. Available from: [https://www.abc.net.au/hobart/programs/drive/blythe-star-mick-doleman/102351650](https://www.abc.net.au/hobart/programs/drive/blythe-star-mick-doleman/102351650) The location of the MV *Blythe Star*, which sank almost 50 years ago off the Tasmanian coast, has finally been solved.


Indian Navy locates capsized Chinese fishing vessel, life raft. *Economic Times (India).*

Russian ship linked to arms shipments breaks down off Turkey. *TradeWinds.*

Death toll rises to 7 after Chinese fishing vessel accident. *Xinhuanet (China).* 22 May 2023. Available from: https://english.news.cn/20230522/686ae37105a444b287c1977e278e4432/c.html Seven people have been confirmed dead after a Chinese deep-sea fishing vessel capsized in the central Indian Ocean, China’s Ministry of Transport said on Monday.


In response to media queries on incident involving Gabon-registered tanker *MT PABLO.* *Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA).* 24 May 2023. Available from: https://www.mpa.gov.sg/media-centre/details/in-response-to-media-queries-on-incident-involving-gabon-registered-tanker-mt-pablo The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) previously updated that the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) Singapore received information from the master of tanker *MS ENOLA* on 1 May 2023 at around 1600 hrs that they had rescued 18 crew from a Gabon-registered tanker *MT PABLO* within the Singapore Maritime Search and Rescue Region in the South China Sea, about 40 nautical miles off Pulau Tinggi, Malaysia.

Tourist boat sinks on Lake Maggiore killing four. *BBC News.* 29 May 2023. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-65741465 Four people have died after a boat carrying more than 20 passengers, including tourists, sank in strong winds on Lake Maggiore in northern Italy.


Sanctioned ship refloated after blocking Russia’s Caspian Sea connection. *Lloyd’s List.* 30 May 2023. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1145247/ Traffic along the Volga-Caspian shipping canal has resumed after a sanctioned Russian general cargoship was refloated on May 28, according to a Lloyd’s List Intelligence casualty report.
ENVIRONMENT


The rising ocean temperature. Carlos Salinas. *Manila Times.* 3 May 2023. Available from: [https://www.manilatimes.net/2023/05/03/business/maritime/the-rising-ocean-temperature/1889614](https://www.manilatimes.net/2023/05/03/business/maritime/the-rising-ocean-temperature/1889614) The Guardian reported last week that “for the best part of two months now, something very strange has been happening in the oceans. Something very worrying.”


More than 5,000 new species discovered in Pacific deep-sea mining hotspot. Karen McVeigh. *The Guardian.* 25 May 2023. Available from: [https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/may/25/more-than-5000-new-species-discovered-in-pacific-deep-sea-mining-hotspot](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/may/25/more-than-5000-new-species-discovered-in-pacific-deep-sea-mining-hotspot) Scientists have discovered more than 5,000 new species living on the seafloor in an untouched area of the Pacific Ocean that has been identified as a future hotspot for deep-sea mining, according to a review of the environmental surveys done in the area.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Inventory of national policies regarding the use of oil spill dispersants in the EU Member States 2022. European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). 26 April 2023. Available from: https://www.emsa.europa.eu/publications/item/4942-dispersants-2022.html The purpose of this inventory is to provide an overview of the oil spill dispersant application capability at an EU level. Dispersants Inventory 2022


An Oil Tanker Ablaze in the South China Sea Is a Global Problem. Alex Longley and Yongchang Chin. Bloomberg. 6 May 2023. Available from: https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/an-oil-tanker-ablaze-in-the-south-china-sea-is-a-global-problem-1.1916800 Off the coast of Malaysia, in one of the world’s busiest shipping channels, an explosion on board the aging oil tanker Pablo ripped off its deck like a sardine can and began a fire that sent dark plumes of smoke into the sky.


HEALTH & SAFETY


While kidnap will always be traumatic, action can be taken to mitigate the impacts on crews according to Mental Health Support Solutions. Hellenic Shipping News. 23 May 2023. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/while-kidnap-will-always-be-traumatic-action-can-be-taken-to-mitigate-the-impacts-on-crews-according-to-mental-health-support-solutions/ Although shipmanagers and owners are taking ever greater steps to protect their crews, the fact is that piracy is rife throughout parts of Asia, Africa and the Americas and it is likely that on any day of the year, a vessel will have been boarded by pirates and the crew subjected to a nightmare experience.

IMO

As IMO Fails to Protect Arctic & Climate, Call for Governments To Ramp Up Action on Black Carbon. Clean Arctic Alliance. 28 April 2023. Available from: https://cleanarctic.org/2023/04/28/asimo-fails-to-protect-arctic-climate-call-for-governments-to-ramp-up-action-on-black-carbon/ As a meeting of the IMO’s Pollution Prevention and Response committee closed (PPR10), the Clean Arctic Alliance denounced the IMO’s failure to progress compulsory measures to reduce black carbon emissions from international shipping on the Arctic, and called for national governments to urgently develop concrete proposals for mandatory action for the IMO to consider at the first available opportunity in 2024.


PM calls for IMO’s further support in maritime development. VietnamPlus. 12 May 2023. Available from: https://en.vietnamplus.vn/pm-calls-for-imos-further-support-in-maritime-development/252983.vnp Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh suggested the IMO continue its support to Vietnam in maritime development, particularly in management science and personnel training, at a reception for IMO Secretary General Kitack Lim in Hanoi on May 12.


International Day for Women in Maritime - The Drive to Encourage More Women into the Maritime Industry. Lubmarine TotalEnergies. 15 May 2023. Available from: https://lubmarine.totalenergies.com/blog/international-day-women-maritime-drive-encourage-more-women-maritime-industry The IMO’s International Women in Maritime Day is held on May 18th every year to mark and celebrate women in the industry and to promote the recruitment, retention and sustained employment of women in the maritime sector.

Green shipping corridors must not strand island states. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). 16 May 2023. Available from: https://climatechampions.unfccc.int/green-shipping-corridors-must-not-strand-island-states/ Tuvalu, along with other atoll nations, is amongst those most impacted by climate change and yet the least responsible for it, so we eagerly await action from the IMO to align the maritime sector with 1.5°C.


International Day for Women in Maritime. Seychelles Nation. 18 May 2023. Available from: https://www.nation.sc/articles/17867/international-day-for-women-in-maritime Today, May 18 is International Day for Women in Maritime; a day initiated by the IMO to celebrate women in the industry and which is intended to promote the recruitment, retention and sustained employment of women in the maritime sector, raise the profile of women in maritime, strengthen IMO’s commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 which refers to gender equality, as well as support work to address the current gender imbalance in maritime.

Blowing away barriers on International Day for Women in Maritime. Splash247.com. 18 May 2023. Available from: https://splash247.com/blowing-away-barriers-on-international-day-for-women-in-maritime/ Shipping’s ambitious goals have created unique opportunities for women across industries to bring their experience and skills to support maritime’s evolution, writes Diane Gilpin, CEO of Smart Green Shipping.


Women urged to take advantage of maritime opportunities at MAJ event. The Gleaner (Jamaica). 23 May 2023. Available from: https://tinyurl.com/3fxe6d4c The Maritime Authority of Jamaica (MAJ) hosted an event to showcase the contributions of women to the sector on International Day for Women in Maritime on Thursday, May 18.

Green Seas: Can the e-fuel ‘opportunity’ push the IMO to act on a carbon levy? TradeWinds. 24 May 2023. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/esg/green-seas-can-the-e-fuel-opportunity-push-the-imo-to-act-on-a-carbon-levy/-2-1-1455023 Closing the price gap between cheap fossil fuels and costly low-carbon or zero carbon alternatives, the argument goes, is an enormous opportunity for the Global South, as developing countries in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Oceania are collectively known.


Why MEPC 80 will prove pivotal to industry and the future of the IMO. Lloyd’s List. 25 May 2023. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1145197/ The revision of the International Maritime Organization’s greenhouse gas emissions-reduction strategy due to be agreed this summer will disappoint anyone expecting clarity on policy.

Shipping emissions continue to drop ahead of MEPC 80. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 29 May 2023. Available from: https://splash247.com/shipping-emissions-continue-to-drop-ahead-of-mepc-80/ Five weeks from today sees the start of the keenly anticipated 80th gathering of the MEPC at the London headquarters of the IMO, a meeting where the shipping industry will likely hear about forthcoming more stringent green targets.
LAW & POLICY

Reporting on climate adaptation is a mess – here’s how to fix it. Richard J T Klein, Nella Canales and Biljana Macura. Climate Home News. 26 April 2023. Available from: https://climatechangenews.com/2023/04/26/reporting-on-climate-adaptation-is-a-mess-heres-how-to-fix-it/ More and more people are recognising that the world needs to adjust to climate change as well as cut emissions.


US confiscates Iran oil cargo on tanker amid Tehran tensions. Reuters. 29 April 2023. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/us-confiscatesiran-oil-cargo-tanker-amid-tehran-tensions-sources-2023-04-28/ The U.S. confiscated Iranian oil on a tanker at sea in recent days in a sanctions enforcement operation, three sources said, and days later Iran seized another oil-laden tanker in retaliation, according to a maritime security firm.

Dubai shipping companies must provide details on sea container charges to Maritime Authority. Gulf News (UAE). 1 May 2023. Available from: https://gulfnews.com/business/markets/dubai-shipping-companies-must-provide-details-on-sea-container-charges-to-maritime-authority-1.1682930078783 All maritime industry service providers in Dubai will have to declare their container charge tariffs to the Dubai Maritime Authority under a new directive.


Investing in the Future: 4 Actions to Build a Sustainable Ocean Economy. UN Global Compact. 2 May 2023. Available from: https://unglobalcompact.org/news/5056-05-02-2023 Against the backdrop of high inflation and interest rates, emerging economies face challenges in securing sustainable funding while the global financial system is seeking solutions to address pressing issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, hunger and energy.


Marine Experts Meeting - 6th AAMA conference underway in Mombasa. *Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC).* 3 May 2023. Available from: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ruz68O1VIUE&ab_channel=KBCBusiness](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ruz68O1VIUE&ab_channel=KBCBusiness) Kenya is employing collaboration to address the issues of safety and security, which are the key factors affecting exploitation of maritime resources and trade.


Statement by EMASoH on the seizure and detention by Iran of the Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker *Advantage Sweet* in the Gulf of Oman and the Panama-flagged oil tanker *Niovi* in the Strait of Hormuz. *Hellenic Shipping News.* 4 May 2023. Available from: [https://tinyurl.com/38phuuw8](https://tinyurl.com/38phuuw8) The countries participating in the European Maritime Awareness mission in the Strait of Hormuz (EMASoH), Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway and Portugal, condemn the seizure of the merchant vessel *Advantage Sweet* by the Iranian Navy on the 27th of April and the seizure of the merchant vessel *Niovi* by the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps Navy on the 3rd of May in breach of international law.


Kremlin says Russia’s view on Black Sea grain deal understood by all parties. *Reuters.* 10 May 2023. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/kremlin-says-russias-view-black-sea-grain-deal-understood-by-all-parties-2023-05-10/ The Kremlin said on Wednesday that Russia's stance on the Black Sea grain deal - that its own interests must be taken into account in talks aimed at extending it beyond May 18 - was understood by all relevant parties.

Italy smashes cross-border migrant smuggling ring. Frances D’emilio. *Associated Press.* 10 May 2023. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/italy-turkey-migrants-smugglers-arrests-13e8b3090a57cb40f3a996a6417bfa7 Italian police on Wednesday arrested 29 suspected smugglers as they smashed a transnational operation that for years brought migrants illegally into Italy by sea and then moved them overland into northern Europe, authorities said.


Black Sea Initiative exports top 30 million tonnes from Ukraine, as talks continue over renewal. *UN News.* 11 May 2023. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/05/1136587 The UN-brokered Black Sea Initiative, aimed at ensuring the flow of grain, foodstuffs and fertilizer amid global shortages exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, has now allowed the safe export of more than 30 million tonnes, since it first began in July last year.


Parties nearing Black Sea grain deal extension after ‘positive’ talks: Türkiye. Sarp Ozer. Anadolu Agency (Türkiye). 12 May 2023. Available from: https://www.aa.com.tr/en/russia-ukraine-war/parties-nearing-black-sea-grain-deal-extension-after-positive-talks-turkiye/2895585 Recent talks between Türkiye, Russia, Ukraine and the UN have been “positive” and helped the parties move towards an agreement on extending the Black Sea grain deal, according to the Turkish defense chief.


Palau’s efforts to combat IUU fishing showing positive results. Sanjeshni Kumar. Pacific Islands News Association (PINA). 12 May 2023. Available from: https://pina.com.fj/2023/05/12/palau%E2%80%99s-efforts-to-combat-iuu-fishing-showing-positive-results/ Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing poses significant risks to Palau, one of the world’s most important fishing areas.

Iran seizes another tanker as US Navy ramps up Strait of Hormuz presence. Eric Priante Martin. TradeWinds. 12 May 2023. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/iran-seizes-another-tanker-as-us-navy-ramps-up-strait-of-hormuz-presence/ Iran said it has seized a third tanker in a little over two weeks as the US Navy plans to ramp up its presence in and around the Strait of Hormuz to protect shipping.

Iran recaptures oil tanker in joint operation by IRGC Navy, Intelligence Ministry. Tehran Times (Iran). 13 May 2023. Available from: https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/484682 The 10,000-ton oil tanker Purity has returned to Iranian territorial waters as a result of a court order and a joint operation by the IRGC Navy and Intelligence Ministry, according to Mojtaba Qahremani, head of the justice department in Iran’s southern province of Hormozgan.

COP28 is a moment of truth for the oil and gas industry’s efforts on climate. Fatih Birol. International Energy Agency (IEA). 13 May 2023. Available from: https://www.iea.org/commentaries/cop28-is-a-moment-of-truth-for-the-oil-and-gas-industry-s-efforts-on-climate The COP28 Climate Change Conference in Dubai this year is a unique opportunity for the oil and gas industry to show it’s serious about tackling climate change.

Over $831m worth of maritime, port projects underway in Iran. Tehran Times (Iran). 13 May 2023. Available from: https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/484644/ According to Ali-Akbar Safaei, 180 trillion rials (about $340 million) of such projects have also been completed and gone operational since the current government took office in August 2021.


Several issues concerning Russian part of grain deal still unresolved — Kremlin. TASS Russian News Agency. 16 May 2023. Available from: https://tass.com/politics/1618237 🌍 Contacts on the grain deal continue, but many issues on the implementation of the Russian part of the initiative still remain unresolved, Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Tuesday.

Analysis: Is Iran seizing tankers to settle legal scores? Eric Priante Martin. TradeWinds. 16 May 2023. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/law/analysis-is-iran-seizing-tankers-to-settle-legal-scores/2-1-1451541 🌍 In the geopolitical powder keg that is the Strait of Hormuz and surrounding waters, Iranian seizures of vessels have been a growing problem as the country has nabbed dozens of ships in recent years, many to retaliate against Western or Arab nations.


Ukraine Black Sea grain deal extended for two months. Huseyin Hayatseven and Michelle Nichols. Reuters. 17 May 2023. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/last-ship-leave-ukraine-fate-black-sea-grain-deal-russias-hands-2023-05-17/ 🌍. The Ukraine Black Sea grain deal has been extended for two more months, in what U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres hailed as “good news for the world,” a day before Russia could have quit the pact over obstacles to its grain and fertiliser exports.
Russia confirms participation in grain deal for at least 60 more days. UN News. 17 May 2023. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/05/1136757 Speaking at the daily press briefing, António Guterres welcomed Russia’s decision to continue its involvement in the Initiative, which has allowed the safe export of more than 30 million tonnes of grain and other foodstuffs from Ukraine, via its Black Sea ports, and also aims to ensure the flow of food and fertilizer from Russia, through a Memorandum of Understanding.

Black Sea grain deal extended for another 2 months: Turkish president. Diyar Guldogan. Anadolu Agency (Türkiye). 17 May 2023. Available from: https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/black-sea-grain-deal-extended-for-another-2-months-turkish-president/-2899791 Black Sea grain deal, which was set to expire on May 18, was extended for another two months, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced on Wednesday.


Biden-Harris Administration Announces Availability of $220 Million to Modernize Ferry Service and Better Connect Rural Communities. US Department of Transportation. 18 May 2023. Available from: https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/biden-harris-administration-announces-availability-220-million-modernize-ferry The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced the availability of $220 million from President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to support or modernize passenger ferry service in rural and urban communities across the country.


Comité Maritime International eyeing further conventions. David Osler. Lloyd’s List.
Comité Maritime International, the grouping of national maritime associations that played a key role in bringing about the Beijing convention, sees the need for a further series of diplomatic pacts on industry issues, according to its president.

ONE and Wan Hai agree civil penalties following FMC probes. Tomer Raanan. Lloyd’s List.
Ocean Network Express and Wan Hai have paid a combined $2.65m in civil penalties to resolve allegations brought forth by the Federal Maritime Commission.

French Arrest “Passengers” Smuggling 95kg of Cocaine on Costa Cruise. Maritime Executive.
French authorities are confirming that they are detaining four individuals who had been sailing aboard a cruise ship under the guise of being tourists, but who were in fact hired Brazilian drug smugglers carrying large quantities of cocaine.

We, the Leaders of the Group of Seven (G7), met in Hiroshima for our annual Summit on May 19-21, 2023, more united than ever in our determination to meet the global challenges of this moment and set the course for a better future.

With the April 16 release of their G-7 Climate, Energy, and Environment Ministers’ Communiqué, leaders of the International Group of Seven (G-7) publicly committed to approve proposed marine protected areas (MPAs) around Antarctica and to urge other countries with a stake in Southern Ocean management to follow suit.

The Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region, referred to in the relevant decisions of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity Protocol as “The Post-2020 SAPBIO”, is the Mediterranean region’s blueprint for the protection and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.

Today at the Caribbean Motors conference room in Belize City, public and private sector stakeholders in the business of trade, particularly maritime transport, were engaged in a technical workshop, as the country works on establishing a maritime transport policy.


ESG Watch: Expert thinking on ESG in the maritime industry. Safety4Sea. 25 May 2023. Available from: https://safety4sea.com/cm-esg-watch-expert-thinking-on-esg-in-the-maritime-industry/ In today’s disruptive, demanding, and dynamic environment, the maritime industry is realigning its ambitious goals with the ESG criteria to optimize long-term value for all stakeholders, strengthening its environmental and social effect as well as its corporate governance.

G7 Leaders falter on climate leadership. WWF. 25 May 2023. Available from: https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/latest_news/?8787966/ The G7 Summit, held from 19 to 21 May 2023 in Hiroshima, Japan, marked the 48th meeting of leaders of the world’s most advanced economies.


What you need to know about the plastic treaty negotiations in Paris this week. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). 29 May 2023. Available from: https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/what-you-need-know-about-plastic-treaty-negotiations-paris-week This week sees the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), INC-2, take place in Paris, where countries will discuss an options paper that will be used as the basis for discussions at the meeting.


**African blue economy strategy taking shape across the continent: SAIMI.** *South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC).* 30 May 2023. Available from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19Y8bVvT-Lq The institute held a two-day conference in Gqeberha in the Eastern Cape that seeks to explore avenues for strengthening the visibility and implementation of transforming Africa’s ocean economy.

**Climate Costs Mount for Poorer Nations Already Burdened by Debt.** Antony Sguazzin, Ronojoy Mazumdar and Prinesha Naidoo. *Bloomberg.* 30 May 2023. Available from: https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/climate-costs-mount-for-poorer-nations-already-burdened-by-debt-1.1926335 Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif warned world leaders at the COP27 climate talks last November that developing nations risk falling into a “financial debt trap” if they’re forced to turn to the markets to cover the mounting costs of climate change.

**Heroic Idun leaves Nigeria.** *Lloyd’s List.* 30 May 2023. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1145234/ The Nigerian government has formally released and handed over the very large crude carrier *Heroic Idun* (IMO: 9858058) after owners Idun Maritime fulfilled the conditions of a plea bargain, local media reported.

**MARINE TECHNOLOGY**


New climate rules certain to trigger scramble for biofuel. Idha Toft Valeur. ShippingWatch. 12 May 2023. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article15799308.ece It is technologically uncomplicated to add biofuels to most ship tanks in order to adhere to the EU’s coming regulation on reducing carbon intensity in shipping.

Synthetic fuels could be the answer to shipping’s net-zero goals, but don’t count on them yet. Gerben Hieminga and Rico Luman. ING Bank N.V. 15 May 2023. Available from: https://think.ing.com/articles/synthetic-fuels-answer-to-shipping-net-zero-goals-ot/ Synthetic fuels could be the technology fix that shipping needs because they promise the possibility of reaching zero-emission targets.

In the voyage to net-zero, which green shipping fuel will rule the seas? Angeli Mehta. Reuters. 15 May 2023. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/voyage-net-zero-which-green-shipping-fuel-will-rule-seas-2023-05-15/ There’s urgency now since ships ordered today will likely to be still ploughing the seas in 2050, and net-zero value chains are dependent on the fuels that allow raw materials and finished goods to move across the globe.


**MMW23: EMSA developing tool to support the introduction of EU ETS and FuelEU Maritime.** Lesley Bankes-Hughes. *Bunkerspot*. 17 May 2023. Available from: [https://www.bunkerspot.com/europe/59044](https://www.bunkerspot.com/europe/59044) Based on its experience in developing the Thetis MRV (Monitoring, Reporting and Verification) system, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) is creating a tool which is intended to facilitate reporting, verification, compliance, monitoring and enforcement of the upcoming EU emissions trading system (ETS) and FuelEU Maritime regulations.

**Information note Removal activities under the Article 6.4 mechanism.** *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*. 17 May 2023. Available from: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/a64-sb005-aa-a09.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/a64-sb005-aa-a09.pdf) This note provides technical information on the elements related to activities involving removals referred to in decision 3/CMA.3, paragraph 6 (c), with respect to different types of activities involving removals.


**‘Low maturity of solutions’ the main barrier to decarbonisation, Lloyd’s List survey finds.** Enes Tunagur. *Lloyd’s List*. 22 May 2023. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1145131/](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1145131/) Low maturity and uncertainty of available solutions are among the top barriers to shipping’s decarbonisation, according to nearly a third of respondents in a Lloyd’s List survey in collaboration with classification society Lloyd’s Register.

**Charting a course to a greener future for shipping: Low-emission shipping fuels and the development opportunity for the Global South.** *Trafigura*. 23 May 2023. Available from: [https://www.trafigura.com/brochure/charting-a-course-to-a-greener-future-for-shipping/](https://www.trafigura.com/brochure/charting-a-course-to-a-greener-future-for-shipping/) Shipping is an important industry that plays a significant role in global trade and economic growth, but it is also responsible for 3 percent of all global greenhouse gas emissions. *White Paper*

**Carriers must show greater consideration to ensure biofuels are green.** Idha Toft Valeur. *ShippingWatch*. 24 May 2023. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article15869147.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article15869147.ece) Biofuels will become an important source for reducing emissions from the global merchant fleet.

**Carbon capture seen as ‘key tool’ in fight against greenhouse gas emissions.** Melisa Cavcic. *Offshore Energy*. 25 May 2023. Available from: [https://www.offshore-energy.biz/carbon-capture-seen-as-key-tool-in-fight-against-greenhouse-gas-emissions/](https://www.offshore-energy.biz/carbon-capture-seen-as-key-tool-in-fight-against-greenhouse-gas-emissions/) With decarbonisation being seen as one of the biggest challenges facing the energy industry today, Offshore Energies UK has outlined that the recently offered carbon storage licences signify the country could bury 30 million tonnes of CO2 a year by 2030 and become a renowned mover and shaker in decarbonisation technology.


**MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING**


University of Gibraltar partnership with FRS offers practical experience for maritime students. Priya Gulraj. *Gibraltar Chronicle*. 10 May 2023. Available from: [https://www.chronicle.gi/university-of-gibraltar-partnership-with-frs-offers-practical-experience-for-maritime-students/](https://www.chronicle.gi/university-of-gibraltar-partnership-with-frs-offers-practical-experience-for-maritime-students/) Maritime students studying at the University of Gibraltar will have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with international shipping company FRS thanks to a strategic partnership agreement signed on Tuesday.

Listen up: The clock is ticking on upskilling seafarers now or miss the boat, warns DNV. Holly Birkett. *TradeWinds*. 12 May 2023. Available from: [https://tinyurl.com/4pa9u6kv](https://tinyurl.com/4pa9u6kv) There are only seven years left to meet shipping’s next big decarbonisation goal, so time is of the essence to ensure that seafarers have all the requisite skills to rise to the challenge.


The Seafarers’ Charity is delighted to announce a new collaboration with The Nautical Institute to develop a new range of training courses aimed at improving the leadership and management skills of seafarers and those working ashore.


The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) is organising a Maritime Security Reporting (MSR) Pilot Course for media and maritime security professionals this week.


The Kofi Annan Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), with support from the German Government, has commenced a two-week intensive training course on Maritime Security and Transnational Organized Crime for 34 professionals.


The Principal Secretary, State Department for Shipping and Maritime Affairs, Mr. Shadrack Mwadime, terms the ocean and the associated blue economy value chain as the new frontier for job creation for thousands of youths.


The Ghanaian government has been encouraged to develop a deliberate policy that focuses on the training and exportation of seafarers from Ghana.


Australian mining company South32’s head of shipping, Su Yin Anand, gave some poignant advice as she took her final bow on Singapore’s shipping conference circuit before moving into the aluminium sector.
MARITIME SAFETY


Lifeboats on Cargo Ships Need to Be Redesigned to Improve Crew Safety. *Maritime Executive.* 8 May 2023. Available from: [https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/lifeboats-on-cargo-ships-need-to-be-redesigned-to-improve-crew-safety](https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/lifeboats-on-cargo-ships-need-to-be-redesigned-to-improve-crew-safety) While there have been significant advancements in developing lifesaving equipment, the Container Ship Safety Forum says there are far too many injuries to crewmembers aboard cargo ships while launching lifeboats.


Doubling of machinery failures since 2012 leads casualty trend analysis. *Richard Clayton.* *Lloyd’s List.* 15 May 2023. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1145061/](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1145061/) A steady rise in the number of machinery damage or failure incidents in the decade between 2012 and 2022 is the main finding of a new survey of maritime casualties conducted by Lloyd’s List Intelligence and DNV.


Japan concerned by N. Korea plan to launch satellite by June 11. Kyodo News (Japan). 29 May 2023. Available from: https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2023/05/a2f14da821c1-n-korea-intends-to-launch-satellite-between-may-31-and-june-11.html Japan said Monday that North Korea notified it of a plan to launch a “satellite” between Wednesday and June 11, with Tokyo expressing concern it may instead test a ballistic missile in what would be another step towards Pyongyang developing its nuclear and missile capabilities.

Government expedites urgent advice on maritime disaster response options. Georgina Campbell. New Zealand Herald. 30 May 2023. Available from: https://www.nzherald.co.nz.nz/government-expedites-urgent-advice-on-maritime-disaster-response-options/TCFODUW7HVGBBJLPPGGRMROCA/ Associate Transport Minister Kiri Allan has expedited urgent advice on New Zealand’s ability to respond to a maritime disaster after the MV Shiling cargo ship’s mayday call.


N. Korea fires what it claims to be ‘space launch vehicle’ southward: S. Korean military. Song Sang-ho. Yonhap News Agency (South Korea). 31 May 2023. Available from: https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN2023041800555325? North Korea fired what it claims to be a “space launch vehicle” southward Wednesday, the South Korean military said, after it unveiled a plan for the launch earlier this week despite international criticism and warning.


MARITIME SECURITY


Piracy and maritime crime incidents on the increase. Bridget Diakun. Lloyd’s List. 5 May 2023. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1144984/ There were 39 recorded acts of piracy and maritime-related criminal incidents in March and April after a relatively quiet start to the year, according to Lloyd’s List Intelligence casualty data.


Global shipping threat 'highest since Second World War'. Thomas Harding. *The National (UAE)*. 16 May 2023. Available from: https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/uk-news/2023/05/16/global-shipping-threat-highest-since-second-world-war/ Global shipping routes face a level of “threat and coercion” not seen since the Second World War, a UK foreign minister has said.


Australia to help boost PH maritime security; provide drones. Joyce Ann L. Rocamora. *Philippine News Agency (PNA)*. 18 May 2023. Available from: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1201764 Australia is open to providing drones, skills training, and other technology to improve the Philippines’ maritime domain awareness activities in its waters, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said Thursday.


Independent Experts Group Meeting on the Draft Supplementary Act Relating to the Cooperation on the Suppression of Illicit Maritime Activities in ECOWAS. *Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)*. 23 May 2023. Available from: https://tinyurl.com/2wubfazm The objective of this draft Supplementary Act is to promote the cooperation of ECOWAS Member States through the strengthening of the operational legal framework to combat illicit activities committed at sea.


UAE rejects mischaracterisation of US-UAE conversations regarding maritime security. Hatem Mohamed. *Emirates News Agency (UAE)*. 30 May 2023. Available from: https://www.wam.ae/en/details/1395303163665 In a statement today, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said that the UAE is committed to peaceful dialogue and diplomatic engagement as a means of advancing the shared goals of regional security and stability.
**Migrants**

UK coastguard ‘left Channel migrants adrift’ in lead-up to mass drowning. Aaron Walawalkar, Eleanor Rose and Mark Townsend. *The Guardian*. 29 April 2023. Available from: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/apr/29/uk-coastguard-left-channel-migrants-adrift-in-lead-up-to-mass-drowning. Hundreds of vulnerable migrants were abandoned to their fates after the UK coastguard “effectively ignored” reports of small boats in distress during the days leading up to the worst Channel disaster in 30 years when at least 27 people died, an Observer investigation suggests.


Almost 1,000 deaths recorded in the central Mediterranean in less than 6 months amidst restrictive measures of countries of arrivals. SOS Mediterranee. 22 May 2023. Available from: https://en.sosmediterranee.org/news/eyes-on-the-central-med-60-almost-1000-deaths-recorded-in-the-central-mediterranean/. The following publication by SOS MEDITERRANEE intends to shed light on events which unfolded in the central Mediterranean in the past weeks.

Brussels warns Greece it could take ‘formal steps’ over latest illegal migrant pushback allegations. Alice Tidey. Euronews. 23 May 2023. Available from: https://tinyurl.com/p95f2f76. The EU has called for an independent investigation into allegations authorities carried out an illegal migrant pushback in April and warned it could take “formal steps” against the country.


3 dead, 12 missing as migrant boat capsizes in Aegean Sea. Middle East Monitor (MEM). 26 May 2023. Available from: https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20230526-3-dead-12-missing-as-migrant-boat-capsizes-in-aegean-sea/. Three migrants were killed and twelve others are still missing after their boat capsized off the Mykonos Island in the Aegean Sea on Friday morning, Greek state broadcaster ERT said, Anadolu Agency reports.

**Navigation & Communications**


Satellite images show tankers Iran seized off Bandar Abbas. Jon Gambrell. Associated Press. 8 May 2023. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/iran-seized-tankers-persian-gulf-tensions-f9f7f2c267cc6b7b65a655edc8e6a7e8. Two oil tankers recently seized by Iran are anchored off the coast of one of its key port cities on the strategic Strait of Hormuz, according to satellite photos analyzed by The Associated Press on Sunday.
Winding down? Black Sea grain corridor inactive for two days. Harry Papachristou. TradeWinds. 9 May 2023. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/bulkers/winding-down-black-sea-grain-corridor-inactive-for-two-days/2-1-1447866 In another sign that the Black Sea corridor for Ukrainian grain is winding down, the United Nations announced on Tuesday that its implementation is slowing to a halt.

Flag and port states urged to act to prevent ‘dark fleet’ pollution disaster. Adam Corbett. TradeWinds. 10 May 2023. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/insurance/flag-and-port-states-urged-to-act-to-prevent-dark-fleet-pollution-disaster/2-1-1448605 Signatories to the main oil pollution liability conventions should be enforcing strict insurance requirements on the growing "dark fleet" of tankers to reduce the risk of an environmental disaster, according to a leading industry figure.

EU Russian Sanctions Talks to Focus on STS Operations. Ship & Bunker. 10 May 2023. Available from: https://shipandbunker.com/news/emea/659452 Although details are lacking, measures to be discussed are likely to include the practice of ship-to-ship transfers, according to maritime news provider Tradewinds.


Slow steaming not the CII solution you think it is claims Clarksons. Michael Grinter. Hong Kong Maritime Hub. 11 May 2023. Available from: http://www.hongkongmaritimehub.com/slow-steaming-not-the-cii-solution-you-think-it-is-claims-clarksons/ Slow steaming has been long touted as a vital component in meeting Carbon Intensity Indicator (CII) requirements, a benefit that leading broker Clarksons has largely refuted following research by its green transition team.

I've lived in Venice for 8 years. Why are cruise ships still stopping here when they've been banned? Rebecca Ann Hughes. Euronews. 13 May 2023. Available from: https://www.euronews.com/travel/2023/05/13/ive-lived-in-venice-for-8-years-why-do-i-see-see-cruise-ships-here-when-theyve-been-banned In 2021, large ships were barred from entering Venice - but the ban is yet to be enforced.

Could Iran’s Tanker Seizures Bring Navy Convoys Back to the Gulf? James Stavridis. gCaptain. 15 May 2023. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/could-iran-tanker-seizures-navy-convoys/ Two massive oil tankers, the Advantage Sweet, flagged to the Marshall Islands, and the Niovi, flagged to Panama, were recently seized by maritime elements of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard.


S-57 to S-101: Explaining the IHO standards for ECDIS. UK Hydrographic Office. 24 May 2023. Available from: https://www.admiralty.co.uk/s-57-s-101-explaining-ihos-ecdis For many years, S-57 has been the standard data format used for the transfer of digital hydrographic data including Electronic Nautical Charts (ENCs).

Just two years after gas carriers conducted the first trial winter voyages along the Northern Sea Route, Russian gas company Novatek is set to begin year-round shipping along the Arctic seaway.


Tugboats managed to move a large ship that had been stranded for several hours in the Suez Canal on Thursday, and sources said shipping traffic through one of the world’s busiest waterways had returned to normal.


Recent reports from within the shipping and offshore energy sectors indicate that the total number of dark ships could be as high as 750, a quite staggering figure.


Studies into the interactions between migrating humpback whales and marine vessels such as passenger ferries, recreational boats and cargo ships off the South East Queensland coast has strengthened the bonds between research, government, and stakeholders in a proactive approach to understand the behaviour of whales in Moreton Bay.


In March, after nearly two decades of discussions, UN member states approved a landmark agreement to protect marine life on the high seas.


A deal allowing the safe wartime export of grain and fertilizer from Ukrainian Black Sea ports has not yet resumed full operations, the United Nations said on Friday, having come to a halt before Russia’s decision last week to extend it.


There are 46 ships waiting to participate in the Black Sea Grain Initiative, according to data published by the Ukrainian Sea Ports Authority and reviewed by Lloyd’s List.


Australia’s Antarctic season has wrapped up with the return of icebreaker *RSV Nuyina* from Macquarie Island today.


Even Russia’s closest allies are getting jittery about the state of the tonnage being used to haul oil across the globe.
PIRACY


UN group urged to focus on migrant smuggling along the Western Indian Ocean. Mary Wambui. The Nation (Kenya). 24 May 2023. Available from: https://nation.africa/africa/news/un-group-urged-to-focus-on-migrant-smuggling-along-the-western-indian-ocean-4245856 The UN Contact Group on Piracy along the Western Indian Ocean has been urged to focus its attention to the rising cases of migrant smuggling and illegal fishing as it ventures into new areas of focus following a decline in piracy activities in the region.


PORT STATE CONTROL

PORTS & HARBOURS


Sudan crisis: Chaos at port as thousands rush to leave. Lyse Doucet. BBC News. 1 May 2023. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-65444282 In the dead of night, as HMS Al Diriyah approached Sudan’s coast, Saudi officers flicked on sweeping search lights to secure safe passage for their warship into a harbour rapidly transforming into a major evacuation and humanitarian hub in Sudan’s deepening crisis.

Singapore ammonia bunkering gets reality check from port authority, industry. Jeslyn Lerh. Reuters. 2 May 2023. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/article/singapore-shipping-ammonia-bunkering-idAFL4N36Z1NL Top global ship fuelling hub Singapore is unlikely to be ready for ammonia bunkering by the end of this year, Singapore’s Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) said, while industry players have also raised concerns about feasibility.


Biden-Harris Administration Announces $4 Billion Through the Investing in America Agenda for Clean Port Upgrades and Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles to Improve Air Quality and Protect Public Health. US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 5 May 2023. Available from: https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-4-billion-through-investing-america-agenda-clean Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the initial steps in the development of programs that will invest $4 billion from the Inflation Reduction Act in our nation’s port infrastructure while reducing air pollution and advancing President Biden’s commitment to environmental justice.

FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Key Infrastructure Funding to Electrify Ports. The White House. 5 May 2023. Available from: https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/05/05/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-key-infrastructure-funding-to-electrify-ports/ America’s ports play a central role in our supply chains and affordable goods movement, are important providers of good jobs, and are key to our global competitiveness.


The West Australia-East Asia iron ore green corridor is within reach. Global Maritime Forum. 15 May 2023. Available from: https://www.globalmaritimeforum.org/press/the-west-australia-east-asia-iron-ore-green-corridor-is-within-reach Ships powered by clean ammonia could be deployed on the iron ore trade routes between West Australia and East Asia by 2028 and reach 5% adoption by 2030. Fuelling the decarbonisation of iron ore shipping between Western Australia and East Asia with clean ammonia Report.

The future of artificial intelligence in port management... seen by herself. Naucher Global (Spain). 15 May 2023. Available from: https://www.naucher.com/el-futuro-de-la-inteligencia-artificial-en-la-gestion-portuaria-visto-por-ella-misma/ There are various pilot tests and applications that have taken the concept of smart ports further.
Panama Canal Imposes Additional Shipping Restrictions Amid Worsening Drought.
A severe drought affecting the Panama Canal is forcing container vessels to lighten their loads and pay higher fees, with further increases in the cost of shipping cargo through the canal expected this summer.

UN concerned by lack of grain ships going to one Ukrainian port. Michelle Nichols. Reuters. 22 May 2023. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/un-concerned-by-lack-grain-ships-going-one-ukrainian-port-2023-05-22/ The United Nations expressed concern on Monday that Ukraine’s Black Sea port of Pivdennyi (Yuzhny) has not received any ships since May 2 under a deal allowing the safe wartime export of grain and fertilizer.

Ukraine export hub empty for nearly two weeks. Bridget Diakun. Lloyd’s List. 23 May 2023. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1145174/ No ships have arrived at the Black Sea port of Yuzhny, one of Ukraine’s export hubs under the grain deal since the start of the month, raising concern that the initiative is not being fully implemented.

Ukraine says Russia prevents Black Sea grain deal port operating. Pavel Polityuk. Reuters. 24 May 2023. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/ukraine-says-russia-prevents-black-sea-grain-deal-port-operating-2023-05-23/ Ukraine accused Russia on Tuesday of effectively cutting the Ukrainian port of Pivdennyi out of a deal allowing safe Black Sea grain exports as Russia complained that it had been unable to export ammonia via a pipeline to Pivdennyi under the pact.


REGULATIONS

The tangled net of regulations that ensnares lifesaving NGOs in the Mediterranean.

Shipping desperately needs consistency and clarity of regulatory outcomes – ABS.
Gary Howard. Seatrade Maritime News. 16 May 2023. Available from: https://tinyurl.com/3tby3sa9 Speaking at the keynote session of Seatrade Maritime Logistics Middle East (SMLME), Vassiliios Kroustallis, Senior Vice President, Global Business Development and Global Marine, ABS, accepted that regulators face a challenging landscape, but stressed the need for clear guidance to the market.

Shipping starts to embrace energy-efficiency measures to reach net zero goals. Enes Tunagur. Lloyd's List. 24 May 2023. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1145014/ New regulations targeting shipping’s emissions and carbon intensity will start to bite in the coming years, but the industry still lacks a unified approach on how to cope with the new rules, from the IMO’s Carbon Intensity Indicator, or CII, to the EU’s Emissions Trading System, or ETS.

SALVAGE

FSO Safer moored off Yemen coast is ‘ticking time bomb’, warns rescue mission head.

Shipping is a target again just for doing its job. Lloyd’s List. 5 May 2023. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1144983/ When 53 seafarers can be taken hostage in the space of a week and it barely causes a ripple in the international news, it is time for the shipping industry to address why it all too often seen as an ‘easy’ target.

Salvors steering clear of Pablo wreck job over sanctions fears. Adam Corbett. Trade Winds. 11 May 2023. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/insurance/salvors-steering-clear-of-pablo-wreck-job-over-sanctions-fears/2-1-1448830 That looks likely to complicate the salvage and wreck removal operation, with Malaysian authorities potentially left to deal with the costs and the carcass of the vessel.

The Suez Canal Exempts FSO Safer’s Salvage Vessel from Transit Fees. Baibhav Mishra. Transport & Logistics Middle East. 11 May 2023. Available from: https://www.transportandlogisticsme.com/smart-sea-freight/the-suez-canal-exempts-fso-safers-salvage-vessel-from-transit-fees As part of the Egyptian efforts to participate in the international endeavours to salvage FSO Safer, the Suez Canal Authority announced the exemption of the service and salvage vessel “NDEAVOR”, which will contribute to the execution of the salvage operation of the FSO Safer.


**Oil Removal FSO Safer - Project Progress Log.** *Boskalis.* May 2023. Available from: [https://boskalis.com/safer](https://boskalis.com/safer). Boskalis through its subsidiary SMIT Salvage has been tasked with the removal of the oil from the FSO Safer.

**UN to begin emptying dangerous tanker vessel of oil in the Red Sea.** *ShippingWatch.* 31 May 2023. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article15925253.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article15925253.ece). An oil tanker whose decay is at an advanced stage is located in the Red Sea and contains the equivalent of 1.1 million oil barrels.

**SEAFARERS**


**Nigeria releases crew of *Heroic Idun* arrested for suspected oil theft.** Godwin Oritse. *Vanguard (Nigeria).* 1 May 2023. Available from: [https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/05/nigeria-releases-crew-of-heroic-idun-arrested-for-suspected-oil-theft/](https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/05/nigeria-releases-crew-of-heroic-idun-arrested-for-suspected-oil-theft/) After nine months of being incarcerated, Nigeria has finally released the crew of the VLCC *Heroic Idun*, who were accused of attempting to lift oil from an offshore platform and held without bail since last year.


Eagle Bulk confirms kidnapping of three crew members. Dag Holmstad. ShippingWatch. 3 May 2023. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Bulk/article15741238.ece Three crew members on dry bulk carrier Grebe Bunker was kidnapped on May 2. while anchored in Port of Owendo, Gabon, Eagle Bulk confirms to ShippingWatch in writing.

MT Heroic Idun crew members plead guilty to oil theft. Ships & Ports. 4 May 2023. Available from: https://shipsandports.com.ng/mt-heroic-idun-crew-members-plead-guilty-to-oil-theft/ Nigerian Navy has said Motor Tanker (MT) Heroic Idun and its 26 foreign crew have pleaded guilty and voluntarily elected to enter into a plea bargain with the Federal Government of Nigeria.


Pirates release kidnapped seafarers from Monjasa ship. Niklas Krigslund. ShippingWatch. 8 May 2023. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article15761415.ece Six crew members that were kidnapped by pirates from one of Monjasa’s ship have been recovered.

Danish oil tanker crew rescued after hijack off West Africa coast. Al Jazeera. 8 May 2023. Available from: https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/5/8/danish-oil-tanker-crew-rescued-after-hijack-off-west-africa-coast Six crew members kidnapped by pirates last month from a Danish oil tanker off the Republic of Congo have been rescued in Nigeria, the ship’s owner says.

Apprehended crews in Iran face ‘extended detention’. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 8 May 2023. Available from: https://splash247.com/apprehended-crews-in-iran-brace-for-extended-detention/ The crew of two ships detained by Iran in the past 10 days must brace for an extended time away from loved ones if recent similar ship seizures by Tehran are anything to go by.


Boost for Sri Lankan seafarers. Leon Berenger. *Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka)*. 14 May 2023. Available from: [http://www.sundayobserver lk/2023/05/14/boost-sri-lankan-seafarers](http://www.sundayobserver lk/2023/05/14/boost-sri-lankan-seafarers) A delegation from an international ship management service has arrived in the country to shore up job opportunities for hundreds of Sri Lankan seafarers that will, at the end of day bring in much needed foreign exchange to State coffers.

Egypt: detention of seafarers for carrying prohibited items. *Skuld*. 15 May 2023. Available from: [https://www.skuld.com/topics/port/port-news/africa/egypt-detention-of-seafarers-for-carrying-prohibited-items/](https://www.skuld.com/topics/port/port-news/africa/egypt-detention-of-seafarers-for-carrying-prohibited-items/) Recently, seafarers have been detained and prosecuted by Egyptian security authorities with the risk of being faced with a fine or potential jail sentence, as well as missing the ships they are signing on to or their flights back home.


Royal Navy sailors receive honours for services at Queen Elizabeth II’s funeral. Royal Navy. 30 May 2023. Available from: https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news-and-latest-activity/news/2023/may/30/230530-honours. His Majesty The King has personally honoured the sailors and Royal Marines involved in the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
SEARCH & RESCUE


Naval Forces Central aids passengers in Cebu ships' collision. Philippine News Agency (PNA). 22 May 2023. Available from: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1201947 Units from the Philippine Navy's Naval Forces Central came to the rescue of passengers of a fast craft that collided with a cargo vessel after suffering a "steering casualty" while transiting along Mactan Channel.

Stricter immigration controls for seafarers entering Brazil now in force. Gard. 25 May 2023. Available from: https://www.gard.no/web/articles?documentId=35426412 Following Brazil’s ratification of ILO Convention 185, only seafarers’ identification documents issued by ILO Convention 185 member states are accepted as valid travelling documents by Brazil, without the need for a visa.


NGOs accuse Malta of leaving migrants at sea -- to be picked up by Libyan militias. Sertan Sanderson. InfoMigrants. 30 May 2023. Available from: https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/49284/ngos-accuse-malta-of-lying-migrants-at-sea--to-be-picked-up-by-libyan-militias Fresh accusations have surfaced against Malta, alleging that instead of taking in nearly 500 migrants stuck in Maltese territorial waters a week ago, authorities returned them to Libya, where subsequently the people were sent to prison.

Malta says it didn't find migrant boat in distress alerted by NGOs. Renata Brito. Associated Press. 30 May 2023. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/malta-libya-migrant-boat-distress-ngo-d1ff571824ee1a3ed5ef445c41a0f42 Authorities on the European island nation of Malta have contested accusations made by a group of nongovernmental organizations a day earlier regarding a migrant boat in distress.
SHIP RECYCLING

**Green ship recycling gathers momentum.** Rob Willmington. *Lloyd's List*. 28 April 2023. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1144903/Green-ship-recycling-gathers-momentum](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1144903/Green-ship-recycling-gathers-momentum) While Hong Kong Convention on ship recycling has been a driving force in cleaning up the ship recycling industry, the EU’s Ship Recycling Regulation has been less successful.


**Shipbreaking industry’s Red classification a hindrance.** *Business Post (Bangladesh)*. 8 May 2023. Available from: [https://businesspostbd.com/national/shipbreaking-industrys-red-classification-a-hindrance08](https://businesspostbd.com/national/shipbreaking-industrys-red-classification-a-hindrance08) The shipbreaking industry in Bangladesh is going through troubled waters as the Department of Environment (DoE) categorised the industry as “Red,” for which shipyard owners are facing unnecessary complications, delays, harassment and losses.

**Over 15,000 ships could be recycled by 2032, up more than 100% on the last 10 years.** Niels Rasmussen. *BIMCO*. 16 May 2023. Available from: [https://www.bimco.org/news-and-trends/market-reports/shipping-number-of-the-week/20230516-snow](https://www.bimco.org/news-and-trends/market-reports/shipping-number-of-the-week/20230516-snow) Over the next ten years, from 2023 to 2032, more than 15,000 ships with deadweight capacity of more than 600 million tonnes are expected to be recycled, more than twice the amount recycled in the previous ten years.

**Time running out for Hong Kong Convention on ship recycling ahead of ratification deadline.** Cichen Shen. *Lloyd's List*. 16 May 2023. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1145092/](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1145092/) If the ratification criteria cannot be met within the year, it is likely that the prospects of its entry into force will become more complicated and difficult, according to the Asian Shipowners’ Association secretary-general Yuichi Sonoda.

**BIMCO applauds Bangladeshi Hong Kong Convention pledge after industry visit.** *BIMCO*. 17 May 2023. Available from: [https://www.bimco.org/news/priority-news/20230517-hkc-bangladesh](https://www.bimco.org/news/priority-news/20230517-hkc-bangladesh) During a visit to Bangladesh by Norwegian authorities, the Norwegian Shipping Association, the European Community Shipowners’ Association, the International Chamber of Shipping and BIMCO, between 8-11 May 2023, the Bangladesh Government confirmed that the country will ratify the Hong Kong Convention, allowing for the convention to enter into force.

**‘Ship-breaking has promising future in Bangladesh, needs govt support’.** *Business Standard (Bangladesh)*. 22 May 2023. Available from: [https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/ship-breaking-has-promising-future-bangladesh-needs-govt-support-636222](https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/ship-breaking-has-promising-future-bangladesh-needs-govt-support-636222) Keiji Tomoda, vice president of the Japanese Shipowners Association, has said government support can accelerate the development of Bangladesh’s ship-breaking industry, which holds a promising future.
**SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR**

**Ships to be retrofitted with carbon capture technologies to reduce CO2 emissions.** *University of Strathclyde (UK).* 3 May 2023. Available from: [https://www.strath.ac.uk/whystrathclyde/news/2023/shipstoberetrofittedwithcarboncapturetechnology/](https://www.strath.ac.uk/whystrathclyde/news/2023/shipstoberetrofittedwithcarboncapturetechnology/)

A joint UK-EU project to develop retrofit carbon capture solutions and other technologies for ships to reduce their emissions and fuel consumption has got underway.


The Liberia-flagged vessel, being constructed for MSC, underwent comprehensive testing of various systems and components during the trials carried out on May 1.


Iranian captain Hassan Rostam has braved the Strait of Hormuz aboard his lenj for four decades, but now watches with despair as the wooden ships are being replaced by cheaper, faster boats.


It will provide 180 billion won (US$135 million) in support for the development of core technologies for future ships in 2023 alone and will also expand refund guarantees (RGs) to help Korean shipbuilders land orders.


From hydrogen fuel cells and methanol to biodiesel and ammonia, it will take more than one solution to get to net zero.


In order for the shipping industry to achieve decarbonization that is sufficiently in line with the Paris Agreement’s goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, a full life-cycle approach – also known as a ‘well-to-wake emissions’ perspective – needs to be adopted.


Exhaust gas abatement systems have moved beyond SOx, modernising into a platform from which multiple technologies work in tandem in the stack, including tackling CO2 with CCS-Ready Scrubbers and fully integrated carbon capture and storage (CCS) units in future.

**Carriers stand before breakthrough in green conversion of ships.** Tomas Kristiansen. *ShippingWatch.* 17 May 2023. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article15842178.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article15842178.ece)

MAN Energy Solutions is close to a breakthrough within retrofitting of traditional ship engines to allow for use of sustainable fuels instead of heavy fuels only.
Building up to autonomous ship and autonomous crew. Craig Eason. *Fathom.World*. 17 May 2023. Available from: [https://fathom.world/building-up-to-autonomous-ship-and-autonomous-crew/](https://fathom.world/building-up-to-autonomous-ship-and-autonomous-crew/) Until there is 100 percent certainty that a ship can be fully connected to the shore, when it really needs it, then there will still be a navigator on the bridge.


Most commercial freighters are unfit for green retrofitting. Tomas Kristiansen. *ShippingWatch*. 23 May 2023. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article15855070.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article15855070.ece) More than 22,000 ships sail on engines from MAN Energy Solutions, but less than 10 percent of these are financially feasible for green retrofitting, MAN estimates.


High and dry: The global energy transition’s looming impact on the LNG and oil shipbuilding industry. *Climate Analytics*. May 2023. Available from: [https://climateanalytics.org/media/climateanalytics-report-high_dryshipbuilding-2023.pdf](https://climateanalytics.org/media/climateanalytics-report-high_dryshipbuilding-2023.pdf) Given the expected future decline in fossil fuel use, as the world moves to limit warming to 1.5°C, it is inevitable that oil tanker and gas carrier shipbuilding will also experience a decline.
SHIPPING

Shipping group calls for political action to make shipping green. ShippingWatch. 28 April 2023. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Bulk/article15704331.ece The shipping industry is itself capable of doing much to bring down its CO2 emissions, but saving on energy is insufficient for the industry’s green transition.


Shipping companies race to use green fuel to meet stricter rules. Chang Iou-chung and Oh Soo-hyun. Pulse (South Korea). 2 May 2023. Available from: https://pulsenews.co.kr/view.php?year=2023&no=336864 Global shipping companies are looking at green fuel such as methanol, ammonia and hydrogen to power vessels as the IMO set a target to cut emissions by 50 percent by 2050 through stricter regulations.

IACS 2022 Annual Review published. International Association of Classification Societies (IACS). 2 May 2023. Available from: https://iacs.org.uk/news/iacs-2022-annual-review-published/ This year’s Annual Review includes a broad range of articles on IACS’ work in 2022, with a strong emphasis on the wide range of decarbonisation initiatives being led by IACS in support of practical implementation of existing measures as well as longer-term projects, along with our work at IMO highlighting the safety challenges that accompany the rapid introduction of new fuels and technologies. Annual Review 2022 📌


Shipping lobby group advises caution on climate targets. Ed Davey. Associated Press. 4 May 2023. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/climate-shipping-emissions-international-maritime-d41e5f09c0a223fe6f7b596aaa3c29 An influential shipping industry group has quietly warned shippers to think carefully before they sign up for a new plan to reduce pollution and eventually eliminate their contribution to climate change.
The carbon question clouds shipping’s crystal ball. Paul Berrill. *TradeWinds*. 4 May 2023. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/opinion/the-carbon-question-clouds-shipping-s-crystal-ball/2-1-1437576 TW+, the magazine from TradeWinds, was first published 10 years ago. To mark the occasion, we decided not to look back but forward, to what the next few years might hold for shipping.


Tech transformation a must to ensure net zero emission: DG Shipping. *Business Standard (Bangladesh)*. 7 May 2023. Available from: https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/tech-transformation-must-ensure-net-zero-emission-dg-shipping-627762 The country’s shipping industry must go through a technological transformation to achieve the target of zero carbon emissions by 2050, said the Director General of the Department of Shipping Commodore Md Nizamul Haque.

Women in Maritime - Banishing gender stereotypes within the maritime sector. *eNCA (South Africa)*. 8 May 2023. Available from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PeH2rGYVxZo. Captain Londy Ngcobo, the founder of Global Maritime Youth and director of Womaritime Experts spoke with eNCA’s Abigail Visagie.


KMA keen to grow shipping industry, investments in Kenya. *Jacktone Lawi. The Star (Kenya).* 10 May 2023. Available from: [https://www.thestar.co.ke/business/kenya/2023-05-10-kma-keen-to-grow-shipping-industry-investments-in-kenya/](https://www.thestar.co.ke/business/kenya/2023-05-10-kma-keen-to-grow-shipping-industry-investments-in-kenya/) Kenya will be looking to tap on the international fleet traffic of which the country currently accounts for less than 0.1 percent of the world total.


An apology to the Nigerian Navy by owners of *Heroic Idun.* *Lloyd’s List.* 12 May 2023. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1145045](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1145045) At 21:30 hrs on August 8, 2022, the tanker *Heroic Idun* (IMO: 9858058) received voyage orders to approach the Akpo Terminal to load a cargo of oil.


Making Asian shipowners’ voices heard. *David Hughes. Business Times (Singapore).* 16 May 2023. Available from: [https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/companies-markets/transport-logistics/making-asian-shipowners-voices-heard](https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/companies-markets/transport-logistics/making-asian-shipowners-voices-heard) As readers of this weekly column will be aware, I think it is difficult to overestimate the value to Singapore of gathering top shipping representatives from around the world to discuss the challenges facing the global shipping industry and the opportunities that are opening up.
Mobilising networks for gender equality. Izyan Munirah Mohd Zaideen. The Sundaily (Malaysia). 16 May 2023. Available from: https://www.thesundaily.my/home/mobilising-networks-for-gender-equality-DP10979028 The IMO International Day for Women in Maritime is observed annually on May 18 as a manifestation of support for women in the maritime industry, with the goal of promoting the recruitment, retention and long-term employment of women in the sector.


International Day for Women in Maritime. Mich-Elle Myers. Maritime Union of Australia. 17 May 2023. Available from: https://www.mua.org.au/news/international-day-women-maritime The Maritime Union of Australia has a proud history of fighting to get more women in the industry and a proud history of ensuring they are also in the places where the decisions are being made.

Waves of Change: Reinvigorate the maritime sails with increased diversity. Pacific Community. 17 May 2023. Available from: https://www.spc.int/updates/blog/blog/2023/05/waves-of-change-reinvigorate-the-maritime-sails-with-increased-diversity A wave of change is coursing through the maritime industry with the growing recognition of the need to create a more inclusive, sustainable, and safer industry.

32nd ASA AGM hosted by China Shipowners’ Association (CSA) Shanghai, China. Jenny Ward. Fathom.World. 17 May 2023. Available from: https://fathom.world/32nd-asa-agm-hosted-by-china-shipowners-association-csa-shanghai-china/ ASA said that unfair treatment of seafarers, which can take many forms and be for many reasons, has a severe impact on seafarers’ physical and mental well-being and a damaging effect on the image of the shipping industry and its ability to attract and retain qualified seafarers.


ICS Barometer delivers snapshot of industry sentiment on key issues. International Chamber of Shipping (ICS). 19 May 2023. Available from: [https://www.ics-shipping.org/news-item/ics-barometer-delivers-snapshot-of-industry-sentiment-on-key-issues/](https://www.ics-shipping.org/news-item/ics-barometer-delivers-snapshot-of-industry-sentiment-on-key-issues/) Risk and confidence have certainly fluctuated among maritime leaders over the past few years, particularly as new challenges emerge. ICS Maritime Barometer Report 2022-2023 📈

Fired chief engineer sues Maersk in Hope Hicks-case. Dag Holmstad. ShippingWatch. 19 May 2023. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article15848094.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article15848094.ece) Former chief engineer Foilomeno Gaylan, who was fired from Maersk in February 2022 after an investigation of an alleged rape of naval cadet Hope Hicks aboard a Maersk ship, has commenced a counteroffensive in the legal system.


Green corridors risk becoming greenwash as progress stalls. Lloyd’s List. 24 May 2023. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1145068/ Sixteen months after 24 countries signed the Clydebank Declaration, promising the establishment of at least six zero-carbon green shipping corridors by the middle of this decade, there is a growing concern among industry experts that none of the projects that have been announced since the COP26 launch will meet that target.


Tuvalu is taking steps to address emissions from the shipping sector: PM Natano. Pita Ligiailua. Pacific Islands News Association (PINA). 29 May 2023. Available from: https://pina.com.fj/2023/05/29/tuvalu-is-taking-steps-to-address-emissions-from-the-shipping-sector-pm-natano/ As a responsible Small Island Developing State, with negligible contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, Tuvalu is taking steps to address emissions from the shipping sector, says Prime Minister Kausea Natano.

Relaunched WOMESA South Africa Chapter has no more time to lose – commits new leadership. South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA). 29 May 2023. Available from: https://blog.samsa.org.za/tag/women-in-the-maritime-sector-in-eastern-southern-africa/ New leadership of the South Africa chapter of the Women in the Maritime in Eastern and Southern Africa (WOMESA) has committed to hitting the ground running to ensure that development of country’s women in the maritime sector do not only make up for lost time but also stay abreast of new trends globally.
Shipping emissions continue to drop ahead of MEPC 80. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 29 May 2023. Available from: https://splash247.com/shipping-emissions-continue-to-drop-ahead-of-mepc-80/ Five weeks from today sees the start of the keenly anticipated 80th gathering of the MEPC at the London headquarters of the IMO, a meeting where the shipping industry will likely hear about forthcoming more stringent green targets.

Green efforts progress and evolve but acceleration needed. Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty. 31 May 2023. Available from: https://www.agcs.allianz.com/news-and-insights/expert-risk-articles/shipping-safety-23-decarbonization-sustainability.html Decarbonization of shipping is now well underway, but the pace of these efforts is influenced by range of factors, including green tech, regulation and market forces.

RESEARCH


Odgaard L and Lavelle KC. The Arctic Council, the International Maritime Organization, and the Polar Code. *Environment and Security*. 24 May 2023. Available from: https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/27538796231174825 Numerous scientific investigations and multilateral efforts have contributed to our understanding of environmental challenges and how to deal with them; yet little effective and coordinated action has been taken.


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.