INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION
MARITIME KNOWLEDGE CENTRE (MKC)
“Sharing Maritime Knowledge”

CURRENT AWARENESS BULLETIN
AUGUST 2023

www.imo.org
Maritime Knowledge Centre (MKC)
maritimeknowledgecentre@imo.org
About the MKC Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

IMO NEWS & EVENTS .................................................................................................................................................. 2
UNITED NATIONS ............................................................................................................................................................ 3
CASUALTIES ...................................................................................................................................................................... 4
ENVIRONMENT .................................................................................................................................................................... 6
ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ................................................................................................................................. 7
HEALTH & SAFETY ......................................................................................................................................................... 9
IMO .................................................................................................................................................................................. 9
LAW & POLICY ................................................................................................................................................................. 10
MARINE TECHNOLOGY .................................................................................................................................................. 16
MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING .......................................................................................................................... 18
MARITIME SAFETY .......................................................................................................................................................... 21
MARITIME SECURITY ..................................................................................................................................................... 22
MIGRANTS ........................................................................................................................................................................... 25
NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS ............................................................................................................................ 26
PIRACY .............................................................................................................................................................................. 31
PORT STATE CONTROL .................................................................................................................................................. 31
PORTS & HARBOURS ...................................................................................................................................................... 32
REGULATIONS ................................................................................................................................................................... 36
SALVAGE ............................................................................................................................................................................... 37
SEAFARERS ......................................................................................................................................................................... 39
SEARCH & RESCUE ......................................................................................................................................................... 41
SHIP RECYCLING ............................................................................................................................................................ 42
SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR ..................................................................................................................................... 42
SHIPPING ........................................................................................................................................................................... 44
RESEARCH ....................................................................................................................................................................... 49
**IMO NEWS & EVENTS**

**WHAT'S NEW**

**World Maritime Day 28 September 2023**

The World Maritime Day 2023 will take place on 28 September 2023. This year's World Maritime theme is “MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on”.  
[More...](#)

**IMO-UNEP-Norway Innovation Forum - 28 September 2023**

Topics will include: Environmental performance; reducing plastic litter from ships; supporting innovation in marine fuel production; decarbonizing the maritime sector; unlocking green finance; and partnerships and collaboration.  
[More...](#)

**Workshop on the Relationship between Energy Efficiency and Underwater Radiated Noise from Ships - 18-19 September**

The workshop seeks to engage participants who work in the greenhouse gas (GHG) and underwater radiated noise (URN) technical, regulatory and policy spaces, to include wide participation from industry with practical experience implementing both GHG/emissions reductions programs as well as those who are interested in or involved in reducing URN.  
[More...](#)

**MEETING SUMMARIES AND SCHEDULE**

**Previous Meetings**

**IMO Council (C 129) 17-21 July 2023**

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

**Forthcoming Meetings**

**Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC 9) 20-29 September 2023**

**Consultative Meetings of Contracting Parties (London Convention 1972 (LC 45)) and Meetings of Contracting Parties (London Protocol 1996 (LP 18)) 2-6 October 2023**

**Technical Cooperation Committee (TC 73) 16-20 October 2023**

[Programme of Meetings for 2023](#)
UNITED NATIONS


The General Assembly today adopted two resolutions — including one on entry into force of a previously adopted agreement on the oceans and conservation of biodiversity — while rejecting an amendment proposed by the Russian Federation that would have deleted three critical paragraphs of the text.


In a message to mark the 78th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Mr. Guterres urged the international community to learn from the “nuclear cataclysm” that befell the Japanese city on 6 August 1945.


UN Secretary-General António Guterres welcomed the news of the successful transfer of oil aboard the FSO Safer to a replacement vessel, thus “avoiding what could have been a monumental environmental and humanitarian catastrophe.”
CASUALTIES

Ship Fire Began in Decks Where Cars Stored, Says Salvage Firm. Sarah Jacob and Cagan Koc. Bloomberg. 3 August 2023. Available from: https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/ship-fire-began-in-decks-where-cars-stored-says-salvage-firm-1.1954553 The nearly week-long fire that ravaged a ship off the Dutch coast started in the upper decks where some cars were stored, according to the chief executive of the company handling salvage operations.


One dead as tugboat sinks in Suez Canal after colliding with tanker. Zeinab El-Gundy. Ahram Online (Egypt). 6 August 2023. Available from: https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/1235/506087/Egypt--Transport/One-dead-as-tugboat-sinks-in-Suez-Canal-after-coll.aspx One crewmember had died after their tugboat sank following a collision with the LPG tanker China Gas Legend in the Suez Canal, Chairman of the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) Osama Rabie said on Saturday.

Russia promises retaliation after Ukrainian drones hit a Russian tanker in 2nd sea attack in a day. Hanna Arhirova. Associated Press. 6 August 2023. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-drones-black-sea-crimea-d6ab9c0d71fe9d3d95e1af5953fe8d8a Moscow promised retaliation Saturday after Ukrainian drones hit a Russian tanker in the Black Sea near Crimea late Friday, the second sea attack involving drones in one day.


Major fire on Fremantle Highway could have been prevented, expert says. NL Times (Netherlands). 13 August 2023. Available from: https://nltimes.nl/2023/08/13/major-fire-fremantle-highway-prevented-expert-says The major fire on the cargo ship Fremantle Highway could have been prevented with the right extinguishing system on board, at least that's what Cor Meedendorp, director of FIFI4Marine, claims.

Firefighters ‘trained extensively’ in handling ship blazes, Newark Fire Department says.
Michael Juliano. TradeWinds. 14 August 2023. Available from: https://www.tradewinds.com/ports/firefighters-trained-extensively-in-handling-ship-blazes-newark-fire-department-says-2-1-1496762 The Newark Fire Department considers itself adequately trained to fight fires that erupt on ships in port, despite the US Coast Guard’s plan to consider further training after a vessel blaze aboard in early July caused the death of two firefighters.


SCA - Adm. Rabiee: “We’ve immediately handled the breakdowns sustained by an LNG carrier and a tanker.. Suez Canal Authority (SCA). 23 August 2023. Available from: https://www.suezcanal.gov.eg/English/MediaCenter/News/Pages/Sca_23-8-2023.aspx Adm. Ossama Rabiee, Chairman and Managing Director of the Suez Canal Authority, has announced that the SCA’s maritime salvage tugboats have successfully immediately handled the navigational emergencies and technical failure sustained by an LNG carrier and a tanker during their transit through the Canal amongst the north convoy in the early morning hours of Wednesday.

Singapore-Flagged Tanker On Move Again After Running Aground in Suez Canal.
Two crew members from a cargo ship are missing after the vessel capsized late Thursday off Wakayama Prefecture following a collision with another freighter, the coast guard said Friday.


**ENVIRONMENT**

Regional Taskforce meets to tackle biofouling. *Pacific Islands News Association (PINA)*. 1 August 2023. Available from: https://pina.com.fj/2023/08/01/regional-taskforce-meets-to-tackle-biofouling/ Biofouling, which refers to the accumulation of organisms such as algae, barnacles, and mollusks on the surfaces of structures submerged in water, poses serious economic and environmental risks to Pacific communities.


The desperate race to create a protection zone around the rapidly melting Arctic. *Jimmy Thomson. The Guardian*. 11 August 2023. Available from: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/aug/11/polar-challenge-as-the-sea-ice-melts-can-countries-come-together-to-protect-the-arctic-ocean When the Arctic explorer Pen Hadow had to start swimming from ice floe to ice floe, rather than walking, he experienced for himself what scientists and Indigenous peoples of the north have long known: the floating sea ice, which used to reliably cover the Arctic Ocean for most of the year, is disappearing.

Our oceans are the warmest in recorded history. This is why it’s so concerning. *Nicole Mortillaro. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC)*. 17 August 2023. Available from: https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/oceans-explainer-1.6937010 And just like when we run a fever, it’s indicative that something is very wrong.


ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION


Aerosols: are SO2 emissions reductions contributing to global warming? Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS). 1 August 2023. Available from: https://atmosphere.copernicus.eu/aerosols A question of whether reduced aerosol loading contributes to global warming is not new to atmospheric scientists, but it has recently resurfaced with the extreme heatwaves across the North Atlantic and many areas of Europe.


Captain of oil spill gas tanker arrested. Gabriella Peralta. Gibraltar Chronicle. 2 August 2023. Available from: https://www.chronicle.gi/captain-of-oil-spill-gas-tanker-arrested/ The captain of a gas tanker involved in an oil spill in the Bay of Gibraltar on Tuesday has been arrested, the Royal Gibraltar Police confirmed on Wednesday morning.


S. Koreans condemn Japan’s nuke wastewater dumping decision. Xinhuanet (China). 23 August 2023. Available from: https://english.news.cn/20230823/533b63f3c6724677ab97aec87492b138/c.html South Korean activists and politicians on Tuesday condemned Japan’s decision to start dumping nuclear-contaminated wastewater from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the ocean later this week.


Tritium not detected in samples from waters off Fukushima plant. Kyodo News (Japan). 25 August 2023. Available from: https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2023/08/dd0369255f12-seawater-sampling-stepped-up-day-after-fukushima-water-release.html No detectable amount of tritium was found in seawater samples taken from off the site of the wrecked Fukushima nuclear power plant, where Japan began disposing of treated radioactive water into the nearby sea, the plant’s operator said Friday.


HEALTH & SAFETY


TALKING POINT: Healthy, enjoyable food for all on board. International Seafarers’ Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN). 24 August 2023. Available from: https://www.seafarerswelfare.org/news/2023/talking-point-healthy-enjoyable-food-for-all-on-board We all know how vital good, tasty food is to seafarers – it is something that always comes up when seafarers are surveyed.

IMO

UCL students visit at the IMO. All About Shipping. 3 August 2023. Available from: https://allaboutshipping.co.uk/2023/08/03/ucl-students-visit-at-the-imo/ 50 international UCL students of Dr. Evangelos Markopoulos, studying International Business and Strategic Management & Leadership attended, as observers, the III (Implementation of IMO Instruments) meeting on July 31st 2023, at the headquarters of the IMO, the Temple of International Shipping, at the south bank of Father Thames, diagonally opposite the Parliament.


**LAW & POLICY**


ASEAN launches inaugural edition of ASEAN Maritime Outlook at 13th ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF). *Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)*. 1 August 2023. Available from: [https://asean.org/amo/](https://asean.org/amo/) ASEAN Maritime Outlook 2023 takes stock of the ongoing cooperation efforts undertaken by ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, mechanisms, and processes dealing with various aspects of maritime-related issues. *ASEAN Maritime Outlook 2023* 📊

Seychelles hosts meeting on ocean governance. *Seychelles Nation*. 1 August 2023 Available from: [https://www.nation.sc/articles/18780/seychelles-hosts-meeting-on-ocean-governance](https://www.nation.sc/articles/18780/seychelles-hosts-meeting-on-ocean-governance) A six-day meeting to enhance ocean governance in the western Indian Ocean is taking place at the Savoy Seychelles Resort and Spa since Sunday.

MoCCAE organises workshop on national strategy for sustainability of marine environment and fisheries. *Emirates News Agency (UAE).* 2 August 2023. Available from: [https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303183435](https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303183435) As part of the Year of Sustainability and in preparation for COP28, the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MoCCAE) held a workshop to develop the national strategy for the sustainability of the marine environment and fisheries.


Maritime stakeholders back unbundling of transport ministry. Godwin Oritse. *Vanguard (Nigeria).* 3 August 2023. Available from: [https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/08/maritime-stakeholders-back-unbundling-of-transport-ministry/](https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/08/maritime-stakeholders-back-unbundling-of-transport-ministry/) Following the hints of moves by the Federal Government to restructure the Ministry of Transport, maritime stakeholders have said an unbundled Ministry will not only enhance the growth of the industry, it will also improve the implementation of directives and policies.

EPA settles with World’s third largest shipping container company over claims of Clean Water Act violations. Michael Brogan. *US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).* 3 August 2023. Available from: [https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-settles-worlds-third-largest-shipping-container-company-over-claims-clean-water](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-settles-worlds-third-largest-shipping-container-company-over-claims-clean-water) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has settled with CMA CGM, the world’s third largest shipping container company, over claims of violations of EPA’s Vessel General Permit issued under the Clean Water Act.


Oil spill gas tanker released from detention after operator pays £1.5m bond. *Gibraltar Chronicle*. 10 August 2023. Available from: [https://www.chronicle.gi/oil-spill-gas-tanker-released-from-detention-after-operator-pays-1-5m-bond/](https://www.chronicle.gi/oil-spill-gas-tanker-released-from-detention-after-operator-pays-1-5m-bond/) The gas tanker that leaked fuel oil into the Bay of Gibraltar last week during a bunkering operation was released from detention on Thursday and allowed to sail from the Rock after its operator deposited a £1.5m bond to cover clean-up costs.

Paris prosecutors take over investigation into migrant Channel deaths. *France 24*. 13 August 2023. Available from: [https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20230813-paris-prosecutors-take-over-investigation-into-migrant-channel-deaths](https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20230813-paris-prosecutors-take-over-investigation-into-migrant-channel-deaths) Prosecutors in the channel port of Boulogne opened an investigation on Saturday, hours after the tragedy, but the investigation was switched to Paris, officials in both offices told AFP.

The Black Sea’s role in Russia’s war on Ukraine. Thomas Latschan. *Deutsche Welle (Germany)*. 13 August 2023. Available from: [https://www.dw.com/en/the-black-sea-plays-a-key-role-in-russias-war-on-ukraine/a-66517223](https://www.dw.com/en/the-black-sea-plays-a-key-role-in-russias-war-on-ukraine/a-66517223) Since the end of the grain deal between Russia and Ukraine, both countries have increased attacks on each other’s merchant ships on the Black Sea.
19 arrests for smuggling migrants within the EU. EUROPOL. 13 August 2023. Available from: https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/19-arrests-for-smuggling-migrants-within-eu An investigation led by the Spanish National Police (Policia Nacional), supported by Europol and involving the German Federal Police (Bundespolizei) led to the dismantling of an organised crime group facilitating the secondary movements of irregular migrants from Spain to Germany and Norway.

Kyiv’s plan to use abandoned ships to move grain in trouble. Adam Corbett. TradeWinds. 14 August 2023. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/bulkers/kyiv-s-plan-to-use-abandoned-ships-to-move-grain-in-trouble/2-1-1500563 A plan hatched last week by Ukraine to use vessels remaining trapped at its Black Sea ports to ship grain looks like it would have access to a limited amount of tonnage.

Montana judge hands young plaintiffs significant victory in landmark climate trial. Ella Nilsen. CNN. 14 August 2023. Available from: https://edition.cnn.com/2023/08/14/us/montana-kids-win-climate-trial/index.html A Montana judge handed a significant victory on Monday to more than a dozen young plaintiffs in the nation’s first constitutional climate trial, as extreme weather becomes more deadly and scientists warn the climate crisis is eroding our environment and natural resources.


UN climate summit host UAE failed to report methane emissions to UN. Damian Carrington. The Guardian. 17 August 2023. Available from: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/aug/17/un-climate-summit-host-uae-failed-report-methane-emissions The United Arab Emirates, which will run the crucial Cop28 UN climate summit in December, has failed to report its emissions of the powerful greenhouse gas methane to the UN for almost a decade, the Guardian can reveal.

Channel migrants: France arrests four people over fatal sinking. Tom Symonds and Kathryn Armstrong. BBC News. 17 August 2023. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-66538638 Four people have been arrested and charged with involuntary manslaughter in France following the fatal sinking of a migrant boat in the Channel.

Court dismisses complaint seeking to block Fukushima water release. Choi Si-young. Korea Herald (South Korea). 17 August 2023. Available from: https://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20230817000582 The Busan District Court on Thursday dismissed a complaint seeking to block Japan from releasing its wastewater from the destroyed Fukushima nuclear power plant, saying the court has no jurisdiction to review the case.

As Washington celebrates law offering climate dollars, shipping has yet to apply. Eric Priante Martin and Sean Pribyl. TradeWinds. 18 August 2023. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/esg/as-washington-celebrates-law-offering-climate-dollars-shipping-has-yet-to-apply/2-1-1502878 @ The Biden Administration has been celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act, the US law that included some $783bn in spending on green energy and climate change.


Special envoy urges Pacific nations to ‘ratify and implement’ oceans agreements. Samantha Magick. Islands Business (Fiji). 21 August 2023. Available from: https://islandsbusiness.com/news-break/special-envoy-urges-oceans-agreements/ The United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean says while great strides have been made towards reaching the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG14) on sustainable ocean management and conservation, the focus now needs to be on ratification and implementation.


US Coast Guard charges engineer with sexual assault on Maersk ship as Justice declines to prosecute. Eric Priante Martin. TradeWinds. 22 August 2023. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/law/us-coast-guard-charges-engineer-with-sexual-assault-on-maersk-ship-as-justice-declines-to-prosecute/2-1-1505065 The US Coast Guard has filed sexual assault charges against a marine engineer accused in the high-profile Midshipman X case that shined a light on risks to cadets at sea, although the development means he has avoided criminal prosecution in the case.


Biden Trims Gulf Oil Lease Area to Protect Rare Whale Habitat. Jennifer A. Dlouhy. Bloomberg. 23 August 2023. Available from: https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/biden-trims-gulf-oil-lease-area-to-protect-rare-whale-habitat-1.1962748 The Biden administration plans to auction 67 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico for oil and gas development in a lease sale next month, cutting 9% from the initial proposal.


Spain Makes Record Cocaine Seizure in Reefer Boxes Arriving From Ecuador. Maritime Executive. 25 August 2023. Available from: https://maritime-executive.com/article/spain-makes-record-cocaine-seizure-in-reefer-boxes-arriving-from-ecuador Spanish authorities are reporting the largest cocaine seizure in the history of the country was made earlier this week in refrigerated containers arriving from Ecuador.


Magistrates’ Court fines Gas Venus captain £20,000 following oil spill. Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation (GBC). 29 August 2023. Available from: https://www.gbc.gi/news/magistrates-court-fines-gas-venus-captain-20000-following-oil-spill The captain of the Gas Venus tanker has been fined £20,000 after the vessel spilled thousands of litres of oil earlier this month during a bunkering operation.
A new *Titanic* expedition is planned. The US is fighting it, says wreck is a grave site.


The U.S. government is trying to stop a planned expedition to recover items of historical interest from the sunken *Titanic*, citing a federal law and an international agreement that treat the shipwreck as a hallowed gravesite.

**MARINE TECHNOLOGY**


*Imagining a world with a seamlessly digital sustainable supply chain where all parties from shippers to carriers, financers, freight forwarders and beyond collaborate for efficiency, the best customer experience and reduced environmental impact.*


*In 2021, UK shipping used almost 7 million tonnes of fossil marine fuel oil, and produced almost one fifth of all UK transport emissions.*


*This report is the result of an external study to evaluate the feasibility of the development of an enhanced tool to support Member States in their preparedness and operational decision-making process of mobilising and deploying oil pollution response resources at sea.*

*Report* ☞


*A research study led by the University of Aberdeen has identified areas of a North Sea gas 'super basin' with the greatest potential for storing industrial carbon emissions, a key aim of the energy transition.*


*With reporting of data in compliance with the IMO’s Carbon Intensity Indicator (CII) regulation well underway, shipowners and operators are focused on how to optimise their operations and gain improvement in CII ratings.*


*The Global Centre for Maritime Decarbonisation (GCMD) and Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. (MOL) announced today the signing of a five-year Impact Partnership agreement.*


*The Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF) has successfully completed the first phase of the ‘four-phased’ roll-out and testing of the digitalised tanker inspection regime, SIRE 2.0, which will replace all existing SIRE inspections for tankers.*
Crowley, Port of San Diego Celebrate Groundbreaking for All-Electric Tugboat Charging Station. Crowley Maritime. 9 August 2023. Available from: https://tinyurl.com/5e3287ce
The charging station is a microgrid charging facility that will allow vessels to recharge quickly while reducing peak loads on the community energy grid.


Korean Gov’t Launches CCS R&D Project in East Sea’s Ulleung Basin. Yoon Young-sil. Business Korea (South Korea). 14 August 2023. Available from: https://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=120235. As the importance of carbon neutrality has been growing globally, major Korean companies are focusing on the carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) business.


When blue fuels masquerade as green. Andrew Craig-Bennett. Splash 247.com. 29 August 2023. Available from: https://splash247.com/when-blue-fuels-masquerade-as-green/ Andrew Craig-Bennett questions who’s going to properly certify the origins of all these new fuels hitting the market.

Ocean-based negative emissions technologies: A governance framework review. Phys.org. 29 August 2023. Available from: https://phys.org/news/2023-08-ocean-based-negative-emissions-technologies-framework.html The ocean will play a key role in efforts to tackle the climate crisis, according to scientists and IPCC.

Wärtsilä offers onboard carbon capture and storage feasibility studies. Wärtsilä Corporation. 29 August 2023. Available from: https://www.wartsila.com/media/news/29-08-2023-wartsila-offers-onboard-carbon-capture-and-storage-feasibility-studies-3315848 Technology group Wärtsilä is now offering carbon capture and storage (CCS) feasibility studies to shipowners and operators, in another milestone on its journey to research, develop and bring to market maritime CCS technologies.

MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING


Understanding autonomous and remote-controlled shipping can dispel job loss fears. 

With a dedicated 18-year tenure in the Coast Guard, Mr Conde has built a solid foundation in regulatory compliance, ensuring safety and environmental protection within the maritime industry.


In this regard, training on cutting-edge technologies and alternative fuels is essential, coupled with a strategic plan and clear communication.


On 3 July, the Maritime Business Integrity and Corruption Awareness (CORA) Seminar took place at WMU in partnership with the Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN), a global business network working towards the vision of a maritime industry free of corruption.


With the aim of offering enhanced training to seafarers and upgrading the country’s workforce, Guyana’s premier maritime training school – the Atlantic Alliance Maritime and Offshore Training Institute (AAMOTI) – inked an MoU with a Dominican Republic-based University.


The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships, Ballast Water and Sediments is used to prevent the spread of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens in ship ballast water from one region to the other.


The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) have disclosed that it signed memorandum of understandings (MoUs) with 16 countries in three years on the recognition of Certificate of Competency (CoC) and Training of seafarers.


The Regional Maritime University (RMU) has inaugurated the Train-the-Trainer Course on the Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping Course for Fishers (STCW-F) course.


The Disney Wish served as a classroom for a group of Bahamian students who embarked on the ship to learn first-hand about careers at sea from Disney Cruise Line crew members.
Sailors’ Society Maritime Schools’ Conference gives new insight into Gen Z seafarers. 
Sailors’ Society has launched its 2023 Maritime Schools’ Conferences with record numbers of cadets and new insight into the minds of Generation Z seafarers.

Liberian Registry establishes ‘The Yoram Cohen Memorial Scholarship’ at WMU. 
The scholarship will promote wide-ranging research in maritime and ocean-related studies, focusing on areas such as safe decarbonisation of international shipping, innovation and seafarer safety and well-being.

In a historically male-dominated field such as maritime law enforcement, female officers face various difficulties in their mundane operations that eventually also transpire to limitations on their career prospects.

The Ag. Vice Chancellor of the Regional Maritime University (RMU), Dr. Jethro W. Brooks Jnr. has signed a memorandum of understanding with Sierra Leone Maritime Administration (SLMA) in its bid to strengthen maritime education across member countries and within the sub region.

Ro-ro owners need to step up training of on board firefighting to combat new threats from electric vehicle fires.

The Nautical Institute Webinar report: Seamanship is not dying but dynamic, concluded a recent Nautical Institute webinar to mark the launch of the latest edition of The Admiralty Manual of Seamanship.

Professor Maximo Mejia Jr, who assumed office in June as the eighth president of the World Maritime University, based in Malmö, Sweden, has set out his key aspirations for the future of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)-supported university.
**MARITIME SAFETY**


**Insurers demand names of dozens of newbuildings fitted with potentially unsafe fire panels.** David Osler and Rob Willmington. *Lloyd’s List.* 2 August 2023. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1146121/](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1146121/) Marine insurers are demanding the names of all ships fitted with a specific type of fire-resistant panel manufactured by Finland’s Paroc, following the withdrawal of its safety certification.


**Annual CIC has extra edge as ship fire safety levels deteriorate.** Nick Savvides. *Seatrade Maritime News.* 15 August 2023. Available from: [https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/ship-operations/annual-cic-has-extra-edge-ship-fire-safety-levels-deteriorate](https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/ship-operations/annual-cic-has-extra-edge-ship-fire-safety-levels-deteriorate) As the burnt-out hull of the *Fremantle Highway* settles in the Dutch port of Eemshaven the Paris and Tokyo Memoranda of Understanding are collaborating to inspect the fire safety arrangements on the world’s fleet over a period of three months starting on 1 September.

**S. Korea calls on N. Korea to withdraw plan to launch satellite.** Song Sang-ho. *Yonhap News Agency (South Korea).* 22 August 2023. Available from: [https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20230822000754325](https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20230822000754325) South Korea’s foreign ministry on Tuesday called on North Korea to abandon its plan to launch a satellite, as the North reportedly notified Japan of its plan to put a satellite into orbit in the coming days.
S. Korea issues maritime safety warnings over N.K. satellite launch plan. Oh Seok-min. Yonhap News Agency (South Korea). 22 August 2023. Available from: https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20230822004351320 South Korea on Tuesday issued a navigational warning for vessels over North Korea’s planned launch of a satellite later this month.

Application of human factors principles essential to help lower risks of ammonia as a shipping fuel. Lloyd’s Register. 22 August 2023. Available from: https://www.lr.org/en/knowledge/insights-articles/application-of-human-factors-principles-essential-to-help-lower-risks-of-ammonia-as-a-shipping-fuel/ A joint study by the LR Maritime Decarbonisation Hub and the Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping has found that while the shipping industry is able to build upon existing experience with using low-flashpoint fuels and transporting ammonia as cargo, it is critical that the various safety risks, including those associated with human factors, are understood so that appropriate operational and design safeguards can be put in place. Human Factors Considerations: Ammonia Fuel End-of-Stage Report.


Reputation management lies behind failure to report safety incidents. Richard Clayton. Lloyd’s List. 24 August 2023. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1146347/ A 2020 survey found 95.5% of seafarers thought near-misses should be reported, but just 38.5% reported each observed near-miss.


**MARITIME SECURITY**

EU to share maritime security info with PH amid rising tensions in Indo-Pacific. CNN Philippines. 31 July 2023. Available from: https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2023/7/31/eu-commits-sharing-info-on-maritime-security.html European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the European Union (EU) is ready to extend more assistance to the Philippines, including sharing data to beef up its maritime security, as she warned that the illegal use of force in the Indo-Pacific cannot be tolerated.

Britain extends weapons removal deadline for floating armouries. Paul Peachey. TradeWinds. 1 August 2023. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/britain-extends-weapons-removal-deadline-for-floating-armouries/2-1-1493584 The British government has extended a deadline for removing 3,000 weapons from three unlicensed floating armouries following a possible Russian sanctions breach after the industry warned that the plan was unworkable.

MPA cautions Singapore-registered ships while operating off Coast of West Africa. Manifold Times (Singapore). 3 August 2023. Available from: https://www.manifoldtimes.com/news/mpa-cautions-singapore-registered-ships-while-operating-off-coast-of-west-africa/ There have been ongoing security concerns for ships operating off the coast of West Africa, including the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) due to piracy and hijacking incidents.


3,000 Sailors and Marines Arrive in Middle East aboard USS Bataan, USS Carter Hall. *United States Navy.* 7 August 2023. Available from: https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/3484776/ More than 3,000 U.S. Sailors and Marines of the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) and 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) arrived in the Middle East, Aug. 6, as part of a pre-announced Department of Defense deployment.

Ghana hosts ECOWAS Inter-Departmental meeting to check illicit maritime activities. Ghana News Agency. 10 August 2023. Available from: https://gna.org.gh/2023/08/ghanahosts-ecowas-inter-departmental-meeting-to-check-illicit-maritime-activities/ Ghana is hosting an inter-departmental meeting of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to dissect the draft Supplementary Act aimed at supressing illicit maritime activities in the sub-region.


**MIGRANTS**


At least six people dead and dozens rescued as migrant boat crossing Channel capsizes. *Sky News.* 13 August 2023. Available from: [https://news.sky.com/story/at-least-one-person-dead-and-dozens-rescued-as-migrant-boat-crossing-channel-capsizes-12938447](https://news.sky.com/story/at least one person dead and dozens rescued as migrant boat crossing Channel capsizes-12938447) At least six people have died and dozens of others have been rescued after a migrant boat crossing the English Channel capsized.


**NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS**


Captain Explains How He Docks the World’s Biggest Cruise Ship. Wall Street Journal. 5 August 2023. Available from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9hlqVrVIsyU Royal Caribbean’s Wonder of the Seas is the largest cruise ship in the world, coming in five times larger than the Titanic.


After attacking Ukraine wheat exports, Russia faces own shipping challenge. Jonathan Saul and Nigel Hunt. Reuters. 8 August 2023. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/after-attacking-ukraine-wheat-exports-russia-faces-own-shipping-challenge-2023-08-08/. Russia’s lack of ships and Western grain traders’ shrinking appetite for business with Moscow are adding to rising costs of moving Russian wheat, at a time when the war in Ukraine has spilled perilously close to vital Black Sea supply routes.

Russia’s Black Sea Fleet Has Never Been More Vulnerable. Brendan Cole. Newsweek. 8 August 2023. Available from: https://www.newsweek.com/russia-ukraine-black-sea-fleet-strikes-vulnerability-1818270. Two strikes on Moscow’s ships in the Black Sea in consecutive days were followed by a warning from Kyiv that Russian ports in the region were at “war risk” signalling how Ukraine was taking its fight against occupation to the water.


‘This is going to get worse before it gets better’: Panama Canal pileup due to drought reaches 154 vessels. Lori Ann LaRocco. CNBC (US). 9 August 2023. Available from: https://www.cnbc.com/2023/08/09/panama-canal-shipping-pileup-due-to-drought-reaches-154-vessels.html. The number of vessels waiting to cross the Panama Canal has reached 154, and slots for carriers to book passage are being reduced in an effort to manage congestion caused by ongoing drought conditions that have roiled the major shipping gateway since the spring.


Russian warship fires warning shots at cargo ship in Black Sea. Guy Faulconbridge, Huseyin Hayatsever and Dan Peleschuk. Reuters. 13 August 2023. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russian-warship-fires-dry-cargo-ship-black-sea-defence-ministry-2023-08-13/ A Russian warship on Sunday fired warning shots at a cargo ship in the southwestern Black Sea as it made its way northwards, the first time Russia has fire on merchant shipping beyond Ukraine since exiting a landmark UN-brokered grain deal last month.

Shippers warned to stay away from Iranian waters over seizure threat as US-Iran tensions high. Jon Gambrell. Associated Press. 13 August 2023. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/persian-gulf-tensions-hormuz-iran-us-shipping-6d33ae164cb5fd89a0347634b2ed45ae7 Western-backed maritime forces in the Middle East on Saturday warned shippers traveling through the strategic Strait of Hormuz to stay as far away from Iranian territorial waters as possible to avoid being seized, a stark advisory amid heightened tensions between Iran and the U.S.


Hong Kong-flagged boxship the first to break out of Odesa. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com 16 August 2023. Available from: https://splash247.com/hong-kong-flagged-boxship-the-first-to-break-out-of-odesa/ The Joseph Schulte, a 10-year-old, 9,400 teu boxship, will be today’s most watched ship via multiple vessel tracking sites as it becomes the first ship to trial Ukraine’s recently announced ‘humanitarian corridor’ to allow the many international ships stranded since war began in February 2022.

Drilling rig arrives to start search for Lebanese energy reserves. Jamie Prentis. The National (UAE). 16 August 2023. Available from: https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/lebanon/2023/08/16/drilling-rig-arrives-to-start-search-for-lebanese-energy-reserves/ An offshore drilling rig has arrived in Lebanese waters to begin oil and gas exploration, 10 months after a landmark deal that mapped out the hotly contested maritime boundary between Lebanon and Israel.


More stranded ships set to leave Ukraine. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 17 August 2023. Available from: https://splash247.com/more-stranded-ships-set-to-leave-ukraine/ As the Joseph Schulte nears its safe harbour destination in Turkey, other ships in Ukraine are readying their voyage plans to exit the war-torn country having been stranded for more than 530 days.


Russia’s ghost ships and the evolution of a grain-smuggling operation. Lloyd’s List. 21 August 2023. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1146312/](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1146312/) On June 3, 2023, bulk carrier *Mikhail Nenashev* (IMO: 9515539) was heading north in the Black Sea towards the Kerch Strait between occupied Crimea and Russia.


Forest fire shuts Turkey’s Dardanelles Strait for maritime traffic. Ece Toksabay. *Reuters.* 22 August 2023. Available from: [https://www.reuters.com/world/forest-fire-shuts-down-turkeys-dardanelles-strait-maritime-traffic-2023-08-22/](https://www.reuters.com/world/forest-fire-shuts-down-turkeys-dardanelles-strait-maritime-traffic-2023-08-22/) Maritime traffic from the Aegean Sea to the Sea of Marmara has been suspended due to the ongoing forest fire in the Turkish northwestern province of Canakkale, the transport ministry and a shipping agency said on Tuesday.

Türkiye’s Çanakkale Strait resumes maritime traffic. Daily Sabah (Türkiye). 24 August 2023. Available from: https://www.dailysabah.com/turkiye/turkiyes-canakkale-strait-resumes-maritime-traffic/news The Çanakkale Strait resumed maritime traffic from the Aegean Sea to the Marmara Sea (south-north) as of 11:00 a.m. after it was suspended due to the ongoing forest fire in the northwestern province of Çanakkale, the Transport Ministry and a shipping agency said Thursday.

Ship queue lengthens in Turkey as forest fire rages on. Trade Winds. 24 August 2023. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/news/ship-queue-lengthens-in-turkey-as-forest-fire-rages-on/2-1-1505890 An unrelenting blaze in Turkey’s Çanakkale region has been blocking ship traffic for a third day at the Turkish Straits.

The economic impact of the Panama Canal jam: Inflation and shipping losses. Isabella Cota. El País (Spain). 24 August 2023. Available from: https://tinyurl.com/3ps9e3k9 More than 100 cargo ships are waiting to cross the Panama Canal, which has been forced to reduce capacity due to a devastating drought.

Second vessel leaves Odesa through temporary Black Sea corridor: Minister. Dan Peleschuk. Reuters. 27 August 2023. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/second-vessel-leaves-odesa-through-temporary-black-sea-corridor-minister-2023-08-27/ A vessel carrying steel products to Africa has left Ukraine’s Odesa port through a temporary Black Sea corridor, the second ship to do so since Russia withdrew last month from a U.N.-brokered deal that allowed for grain to be safely exported, a senior Ukrainian government official said on Sunday.


Ships caught up in Gabon military coup. Adis Ajdin. Splash 247.com. 30 August 2023. Available from: https://splash247.com/ships-caught-up-in-gabon-military-coup/ Movements in and out of Gabon have been closed down after a group of senior military officers announced a coup following the country’s presidential election result.


PIRACY


PORT STATE CONTROL

Antwerp detains ‘dark fleet’ Gatik tanker after STS transfers with Greece-owned ships. Michelle Wiese Bockmann. Lloyd's List. 31 July 2023. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1146085/ A tanker, which is part of the high-profile Gatik Ship Management fleet of Russia-trading vessels, was detained in Antwerp last week after carrying out three ship-to-ship transfers during the past three months with Greece-owned ships in international waters in the Red Sea.


South Korea to monitor Fukushima ballast water on ships. Carol Yang and Cichen Shen. Lloyd's List. 29 August 2023. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1146401/ South Korea has imposed checks on ships taking ballast water near Fukushima amid concerns about Japan releasing treated wastewater from the nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean.

Spliethoff and MSC respond to ship bans in Australia. Richard Clayton. Lloyd's List. 31 August 2023. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1146436/ Australia’s banning of the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier MSXT Emily (IMO: 9923302) from its waters for one year is the latest, and most serious of several by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, which has stepped up enforcement in recent years.
**PORTS & HARBOURS**


Irish ports will need to spend €20m each to provide green power for cruise liners. Sean O’Riordan. *Irish Examiner*. 1 August 2023. Available from: [https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/41196058.html](https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/41196058.html) Irish ports must invest up to €20m each to provide electricity power points for visiting cruise liner ships by 2030 or be restricted to no more than 25 visits a year.


Russia strikes Ukraine’s Danube port, driving up global grain prices. *Reuters*. 2 August 2023. Available from: [https://www.reuters.com/article/ukraine-crisis-odesa-idAFKBN2ZD05Z](https://www.reuters.com/article/ukraine-crisis-odesa-idAFKBN2ZD05Z) Russia attacked Ukraine’s main inland port across the Danube River from Romania on Wednesday, sending global food prices higher as it ramped up its use of force to prevent Ukraine from exporting grain.


B.C. port dispute ends as workers vote to accept new deal. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). 5 August 2023. Available from: https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/port-workers-vote-result-august-4-1.6928803 Port workers in British Columbia have accepted a new tentative deal with their employers, bringing an end to a tumultuous, weeks-long contract dispute that has paralyzed industries and supply chains across Canada.

Several injured as blast hits grain silos at Turkey’s Derince port. Al Jazeera. 7 August 2023. Available from: https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/8/7/explosion-rocks-grain-silos-at-turkeys-derince-port At least 12 people have been injured when an explosion rocked grain silos near the port of Derince in western Turkey, according to state media.

King Abdullah Port partners with marine fuel providers to reduce ships waiting time. Arab News (Saudi Arabia). 7 August 2023. Available from: https://www.arabnews.com/node/2351041/ Ships entering Saudi Arabia’s King Abdullah Port can expect reduced waiting times after the facility partnered with two marine fuel supply and services providers.


VPS: Houston contaminated VLSFO bunker fuel was also supplied in Singapore. Manifold Times (Singapore). 8 August 2023. Available from: https://www.manifoldtimes.com/news/vps-houston-contaminated-vlsfo-bunker-fuel-was-also-supplied-in-singapore/ Marine fuel testing firm VPS on Monday (7 August) delivered an update on the recent VLSFO marine fuel contamination in Houston, revealing out of 14 vessels, two vessels were supplied with contaminated fuel oil in Singapore and 12 vessels received it in Houston.

Panama Canal draught restrictions start to bite, sparking liner surcharges. Ian Putzger. The Loadstar. 8 August 2023. Available from: https://theloadstar.com/panama-canal-draught-restrictions-start-to-bite-sparking-liner-surcharges/ Evergreen’s latest addition to its neo-panamax fleet had to offload 1400 containers to pass through the Panama Canal, due to low-water restrictions.

Delays, Cancellations and Costs Mount as Panama Canal Reduces Transits. Maritime Executive. 8 August 2023. Available from: https://maritime-executive.com/article/delays-cancellations-and-costs-mount-as-panama-canal-reduces-daily-transits Concern is growing across the shipping industry as well as the potentially broader impact following the recent decision by the Panama Canal Authority to reduce the daily number of transits to conserve water.

Port to Build Landmark Maritime Innovation Center. Port of Seattle. 8 August 2023. Available from: https://www.portseattle.org/news/port-build-landmark-maritime-innovation-center The Port of Seattle Commission approved $32,600,000 to achieve a long-standing goal of transforming the historic Ship Supply Building at Fishermen's Terminal, one of the oldest existing Port facilities, into a new globally recognized home for maritime innovation.


Transnet’s National Ports Authority celebrates with all-women shifts. *South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC).* 11 August 2023. Available from: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLH1Fu6lME0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLH1Fu6lME0) The maritime industry has for decades been a male-dominated sector, but women are now increasingly being included.

Singapore investigates cases of contaminated marine fuel. Tomas Kristiansen. *ShippingWatch.* 13 August 2023. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article16351065.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article16351065.ece) The case of contaminated bunker oil that spread from Houston to Singapore is now being investigated by the latter’s Maritime and Port Authority (MPA).


TNPA celebrates appointment of first female security chief in the Port of Durban. Thabile Majizi. *Transnet National Ports Authority South Africa (TNPA)*. 18 August 2023. Available from: [https://tinyurl.com/ye29vbbn](https://tinyurl.com/ye29vbbn)  Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) has made history with the appointment of Sinazo Tiya as the first female Port Security Officer at the Port of Durban.


Trade appears to temporarily slow at Izmail after Russia attack. Bridget Diakun. *Lloyd’s List*. 23 August 2023. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1146343/Trade-appears-to-temporarily-slow-at-Izmail-after-Russia-attack](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1146343/Trade-appears-to-temporarily-slow-at-Izmail-after-Russia-attack)  Granaries, a private grain terminal and a transhipment complex at the Ukrainian port of Izmail along the Danube river were among the targets hit by Russian drone strikes overnight, according to Ukraine’s Minister of Infrastructure.


**REGULATIONS**


Ballast water compliance is possible: the last steps. Lisa Drake. Riviera Maritime. 28 August 2023. Available from: https://www.rivieramms.com/news-content-hub/ballast-water-compliance-is-possible-the-last-steps-77457 Further, the existing IMO references for ‘trial use’ are limited (eg Guidelines G2 and BWM.2/Circ.42/Rev.2), and they may need to be revised given the lessons learned thus far.

**SALVAGE**


Fire-stricken Fremantle Highway anchored for salvage with no sign of fire still burning. Rob Willingdon. Lloyd’s List. 1 August 2023. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1146089/ The 6,200 car capacity pure car and truck carrier Fremantle Highway has been anchored clear of shipping lanes 16 km north of the Dutch islands of Schiermonnikoog and Ameland.

Damaged freighter Fremantle Highway to be towed to Groningen port. NL Times (Netherlands). 3 August 2023. Available from: https://nltimes.nl/2023/08/03/damaged-freighter-fremantle-highway-towed-groningen-port The burnt-out, damaged freighter Fremantle Highway will be towed to the Eemshaven in Groningen on Thursday morning.

**Fremantle Highway: Disaster averted as burnt car carrier reaches port.** Paul Kirby. *BBC News.* 3 August 2023. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-66393507. More than a week after fire swept through a cargo ship carrying almost 4,000 cars in the North Sea, the crippled ship has been towed into port in the north-east of the Netherlands.

**Salvage Operations on Grande Costa D’Avorio reach significant milestones at Port Newark.** United States Coast Guard. 7 August 2023. Available from: https://www.news.uscg.mil/Press-Releases/Article/3486234/. Salvage and post fire recovery operations continue at an efficient pace on the Grande Costa D’Avorio as crews work to safely transfer vehicles and cargo from the vessel to the port facility.

**Fact Check-Fire extinguished on car carrier off Dutch coast and ship moved to port, not sunk.** Reuters. 8 August 2023. Available from: https://tinyurl.com/5dzny4b4. A fire on a car carrier sailing off the coast of the Netherlands on July 25 was extinguished, according to Dutch authorities and "K" Line, the ship's charter company.

**Salvage Teams Board Fremantle Highway as Investigation Begins.** Maritime Executive. 8 August 2023. Available from: https://maritime-executive.com/article/salvage-teams-board-fremantle-highway-as-investigation-begins. Salvage teams boarded the burnt-out car carrier Fremantle Highway on Monday as the next step in the efforts to fully assess the damage while a comprehensive investigation has also been launched to understand the cause of the fire.

**FSO Safer saga not over despite oil being offloaded, experts say.** *The National (UAE).* 9 August 2023. Available from: https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/2023/08/09/fsosafersaga-may-not-be-over-despite-oil-being-offloaded-experts-say/. With almost all of the 1.14 million barrels of oil aboard the FSO Safer offloaded on to the crude carrier Nautica, experts are wondering what is next for the decaying tanker and its replacement.

**Adm. Rabiee: “We've successfully recovered the sunken tugboat FAHD”.** Suez Canal Authority (SCA). 9 August 2023. Available from: https://www.suezcanal.gov.eg/English/MediaCenter/News/Pages/sca-8-8-2023.aspx. Adm. Ossama Rabiee, Chairman and Managing Director of the Suez Canal Authority, has announced today that the recovery operation of the sunken tugboat FAHD by the SCA crane INKAZ was successful, and that the waterway is now clear.

**‘As we celebrate FSO SAFER oil transfer, we demand companies pay up’ – Greenpeace.** *Greenpeace International.* 11 August 2023. Available from: https://www.greenpeace.org/international/press-release/61297/celebrate-fso-safer-oil-transfer-demand-companies-pay-un-greenpeace/. As a three-week operation to drain a million-plus barrels of oil from the decaying FSO SAFER ends, Greenpeace celebrates efforts to avoid a major oil spill in the Red Sea and calls for the industry to be held accountable for disposal of the vessel and its toxic load.

**All hands on deck: UN averts massive Red Sea oil spill.** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). 11 August 2023. Available from: https://stories.undp.org/all-hands-on-deck. For eight years a floating time bomb has been moored off the coast of Yemen.


**SEAFARERS**


Panama Signs Agreement with Canada to Promote Job Opportunities. *Maritime Executive.* 1 August 2023. Available from: [https://www.maritime-executive.com/corporate/panama-signs-agreement-with-canada-to-promote-job-opportunities](https://www.maritime-executive.com/corporate/panama-signs-agreement-with-canada-to-promote-job-opportunities) The Panama Maritime Authority (AMP) is committed to the opening of new markets and promotes the initiative of signing Agreements with other Maritime Administrations and MOU with shipping companies of national and international prestige, aimed at exchanging experiences and knowledge technicians, that allow the execution of the powers of Panamanian seafarers, which will positively impact the performance of their duties.


Seafarers go hungry as shipping maintains pandemic attitudes. Richard Clayton. *Lloyd’s List.* 7 August 2023. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1146174/](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1146174/) At times, one anonymous contributor confides in the Seafarers Happiness Index, only basic items like meat and rice are available, and there is sometimes a lack of fruit and vegetables for two or even three weeks.


From grit to glory: Setting sail against all the odds. Iona Stanley. *Gulf News (UAE)*. 25 August 2023. Available from: [https://gulfnews.com/uae/from-grit-to-glory-setting-sail-against-all-the-odds-1.1692961032508](https://gulfnews.com/uae/from-grit-to-glory-setting-sail-against-all-the-odds-1.1692961032508) Captain Sahar Al Rasti nursed a desire to turn her love for the sea into a career, and she had the determination to enter an exclusively male dominated world.

Family demand answers over seafarer’s disappearance from dark tanker. Michelle Wiese Bockmann. Lloyd’s List. 29 August 2023. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1146416/ The family of an Indian seafarer who went missing while working aboard a Cook Islands-flagged tanker that was shipping non-price cap compliant Russian oil say they cannot establish the basic facts about his disappearance from his employers.


Seafarers need safeguarding before Odesa grain exports restart. Adam Corbett. TradeWinds. 31 August 2023. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/opinion/comment-seafarers-need-safeguarding-before-odesa-grain-exports-restart/2-1-1508060 The safe passage of two ships out of Ukraine has raised hopes that there may be a route open to resume grain exports from the country’s main Black Sea port.

SEARCH & RESCUE

Iran rescues 22 crew from fire on veteran LPG tanker. Paul Peachey. TradeWinds. 11 August 2023. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/iran-rescues-22-crew-from-fire-on-veteran-lpg-tanker/2-1-1499946 Twenty-two crew members have been rescued from a 51-year-old LPG tanker that caught fire off Iran’s Gulf coast, according to state media.

The Inside Story of an NGO Rescue Ship That Saves Migrants From Dying at Sea. Mark Leon Goldberg. UN Dispatch. 21 August 2023. Available from: https://undispatch.com/the-inside-story-of-an-ngo-rescue-ship-that-saves-migrants-from-dying-at-sea/ The first eight months of 2023 have been the deadliest on record since 2017, with over 2,000 deaths and counting.

Should government or NGOs save migrants at sea? What does the law say? Giulia Carbonaro. Euronews. 23 August 2023. Available from: https://www.euronews.com/2023/08/23/should-government-or-ngos-save-migrants-at-sea-what-does-the-law-say The number of migrants arriving on Italy’s shores has more than doubled this year, forcing the government to ask for help from the very NGOs it has tried to stop.

Italy impounds three rescue ships as migrant numbers soar. Crispian Balmer. Reuters. 23 August 2023. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italy-impounds-three-rescue-ships-migrant-numbers-soar-2023-08-23/ Italy impounded a rescue ship operated by a German NGO on Wednesday, the third charity boat sequestered this week under tough new migration rules introduced by the country’s right-wing government.

SHIP RECYCLING

More Turkish Shipbreakers Added to European List of Approved Ship Recycling Facilities. Mike Schuler. gCaptain. 31 July 2023. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/more-turkish-shipbreakers-added-to-european-list-of-approved-ship-recycling-facilities/ The European Commission has updated its list of approved ship recycling facilities, which now contains 48 yards located primarily in Europe and Turkey.


Ten times more container ships scrapped this year than in all of 2022. Daniel Logan Berg-Munch. ShippingWatch. 16 August 2023. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article16356325.ece So far in 2023, container shipping companies have sent 55 ships for scrapping.

Navigating the recycling challenges of ship owners. Hellenic Shipping News. 24 August 2023. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/navigating-the-recycling-challenges-of-ship-owners/ Ship recycling is a complex and hazardous process as ships contain a wide range of hazardous materials and have intricate structures that include numerous compartments, systems, and components; also, ship recycling can have significant environmental repercussions if dangerous items are not removed and disposed of correctly.

SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR


The return of cargo-carrying sail ships. Suzanne Bearne. BBC News. 31 July 2023. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-66300187 Jorne Langelaan is beaming as he shows me around De Tukker, a traditional two-mast Dutch sail barge that was built in 1912.


Record high ship deliveries boost container fleet capacity by 4.3%. Niels Rasmussen. BIMCO. 10 August 2023. Available from: https://www.bimco.org/news-and-trends/market-reports/shipping-number-of-the-week/20230810-snow The contracting of new ships has slowed since its record in 2021 but has year-to-date remained twice as high as during the 2010s.


Wallenius Wilhelmsen orders vessels ready for methanol and ammonia. Idha Toft Valeur. ShippingWatch. 15 August 2023. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article16350858.ece Norwegian car carrier Wallenius Wilhelmsen orders four new car carriers that can sail on green methanol, as well as ammonia, with an option of eight vessels.

Cunard fits entire fleet with shore power capabilities. Jasmina Ovcina Mandra. Offshore Energy. 16 August 2023. Available from: https://www.offshore-energy.biz/cunard-fits-entire-fleet-with-shore-power-capabilities/ Namely, the company’s Queen Elizabeth cruise ship has been fitted with shore power capabilities and now all three Cunard ships – Queen Mary 2, Queen Victoria, and Queen Elizabeth – have the ability to plug into shore power, where available.


China Follows Close Behind South Korea With Second Methanol Containership Launch.


SHIPPING


Cutting ships’ pollution has climate downside. Nature. 3 August 2023. Available from: https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-02430-x Cleaning up air pollution from ships can exacerbate global warming.


Maersk warns of container shipping demand drop. Reuters. 4 August 2023. Available from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tNtrnkEADY. Shipping group Maersk warned of a steeper decline in global demand for shipping containers by sea this year, prompted by muted economic growth and customers reducing inventories.

Shippers and carriers unite against Ship It Zero’s green shipping shaming. Nick Savvides. Seatrade Maritime News. 7 August 2023. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/containers/shippers-and-carriers-unite-against-ship-it-zeros-green-shipping-shaming. In a rare example of shippers and carriers agreeing both groups said that the broader decarbonisation process was beyond their control, pointing to regulatory failures, in the case of the IMO and to the consortia regulations that are failing to create the economic conditions to see green shipping flourish.


Shippers face challenge in measuring carbon footprint. Lars Jensen. ShippingWatch. 7 August 2023. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article16327751.ece. With the new agreement made in IMO recently, the ambition is for shipping to become fully decarbonized in 2050 – or thereabouts.

MGN 653 (M) Amendment 1 electric vehicles onboard passenger roll-on/roll-off (ro-ro) ferries. UK Maritime& Coastguard Agency. 7 August 2023. Available from: https://tinyurl.com/3mhuyujb. This Marine Guidance Note provides the UK shipping industry with best practice guidance to facilitate safe carriage, and potential charging of, electric vehicles onboard roll-on roll-off (ro-ro) passenger ferries.


China overtakes Greece as largest shipowner. Zhong Nan. *China Daily*. 13 August 2023. Available from: [https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202308/13/WS64d8e615a31035260b81bd80.html](https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202308/13/WS64d8e615a31035260b81bd80.html) China has overtaken Greece to become the world’s largest ship-owning country in terms of gross tonnage, according to information released over the weekend by the Shanghai-based China Shipowners’ Association.


Hapag-Lloyd is unhappy with low grade in new climate rating. Tomas Kristiansen. ShippingWatch. 16 August 2023. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article16356429.ece With a failing grade of F, German container shipping company Hapag-Lloyd is among the worst at taking care of the climate.


Dr Edmund Hughes steps in as New IMO Representative. International Bunker Industry Association (IBIA). 17 August 2023. Available from: https://ibia.net/dr-edmund-hughes-steps-in-as-new-imo-representative/ The IBIA is very pleased to announce that Dr Edmund Hughes will be taking up the mantle as our IMO Representative, beginning 1 September 2023.

Researcher: Maersk should lead global battle against drugs in shipping. Dag Holmstad. ShippingWatch. 17 August 2023. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article16361164.ece The smuggling of cocaine and other drugs is such an overwhelming problem for shipping that Maersk and other shipping companies alone cannot solve the problem of combating illegal activities that take place in ports, on ships, and in containers.


Shipping risks: Lessons from Wakashio disaster for island states – Event Summary. Safe Seas. 21 August 2023. Available from: https://www.safeseas.net/wakashio-workshop/ The Charles Telfair Centre, in partnership with the University of Copenhagen and the SafeSeas network for maritime security research, hosted a public event on “Shipping Risks: Lessons from the Wakashio for Western Indian Ocean Islands” on Friday, August 18, 2023 in Mauritius.

Three shipowners take on new absolute zero emissions challenge. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com 21 August 2023. Available from: https://splash247.com/three-shipowners-take-on-new-absolute-zero-emissions-challenge/ Three shipowners have accepted to take up the absolute zero emissions challenge posed by the Zero Emissions Ship Technology Association (ZESTA), a global industry body representing technologies and fuel providers who are already committed to absolute zero.
Danish Shipping: Shipping industry's investment in LCO2 transport hinges on market certainty. Jasmina Ovcina Mandra. Offshore Energy. 22 August 2023. Available from: https://www.offshore-energy.biz/danish-shipping-shipping-industrys-investment-in-lco2-transport-hinges-on-market-certainty/ This was the message from Danish Shipping, a trade and employer organisation for more than 90 shipowners and offshore companies, welcoming the move from the Danish government to provide state aid to expedite carbon capture and storage projects.

Shipping companies at the bottom of climate ranking for second year in a row. Idha Toft Valeur. ShippingWatch. 23 August 2023. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article16373531.ece Once again this year, several large shipping companies are at the bottom of consultancy PwC Norway’s assessment of the hundred largest companies in Norway in terms of their respective climate efforts.


Arctic Shipping: Trends, Challenges and Ways Forward. Andrey Todorov. Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University. 23 August 2023. Available from: https://www.belfercenter.org/publication/arctic-shipping-trends-challenges-and-ways-forward The Arctic is continuing to warm three to four times faster than the global average and the sea ice extent is declining precipitously during all months of the year.


What the BRICS Expansion Means to Shipping. Maritime Executive. 27 August 2023. Available from: https://maritime-executive.com/article/what-the-brics-expansion-means-to-shipping The major news last week was the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Summit in Johannesburg.

RESEARCH


Kaandorp MLA, Lobelle D, et al. **Global mass of buoyant marine plastics dominated by large long-lived debris.** *Nature Geoscience.* 7 August 2023. Available from: [https://www.nature.com/articles/s41561-023-01216-0#citeas](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41561-023-01216-0#citeas) The fate of plastics that enter the ocean is a longstanding puzzle.


To subscribe or unsubscribe, send an email with your contact details to: maritimeknowledgecentre@imo.org

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.