



**INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION
MARITIME KNOWLEDGE CENTRE (MKC)**

“Sharing Maritime Knowledge”

**CURRENT AWARENESS BULLETIN
DECEMBER 2023**

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**NAVIGATING
THE FUTURE:
SAFETY FIRST!**

About the MKC Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)

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

The MKC *Current Awareness Bulletin* is disseminated monthly and issues from the current and the past years are free to download from this [page](#).

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

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IMO NEWS & EVENTS

WHAT'S NEW

IMO Secretary-General announces new senior team

Mr. Arsenio Dominguez, who took up office as the 10th elected Secretary-General of IMO on 1 January, named the Senior Management Committee members on 8 January:

Director of Administrative Division – Ms. Azara Prempeh
Director of Maritime Safety Division – Mr. Hiroyuki Yamada
Director of Legal Affairs and External Relations Division – Ms. Dorota Lost-Sieminska
Director of Marine Environment Division – Ms. Heike Deggim
Director of Technical Cooperation Division – Mr. Jose Matheickal
Director of Conference Division – Mr. Xiaojie Zhang
Chief of Staff - Mr. Damien Chevallier [More...](#)

IMO Assembly adopts budget, strategic plan

IMO 33rd Assembly adopted resolutions, including on budget, strategic plan and appointment of Secretary-General.

The IMO Assembly met for its 33rd session from 27 November - 6 December 2023. ([photos](#)). For the first time, plenary sessions were live-streamed to the public ([watch recordings](#)).

Strategic Plan

The Assembly adopted the Strategic Plan for the six-year period 2024 to 2029. [More...](#)

IMO Secretary-General condemns attacks against international shipping

IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez has strongly condemned attacks against international shipping in the Red Sea area, while reiterating the commitment of IMO to protect seafarers, ships and cargoes to ensure the safety and security of global supply chains. [More...](#)

MEETING SUMMARIES AND SCHEDULE

Previous Meetings

[IMO Council \(C 130\)](#) 21-24 November 2023

[IMO Assembly \(A 33\)](#) 27 November – 6 December 2023

[IMO Council \(C 131\)](#) 7 December 2023

Forthcoming Meetings

Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Construction (SDC 10) 22-26 January 2024

[Programme of Meetings for 2024](#) 📄

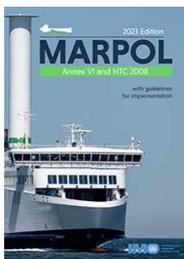
NEW IMO PUBLICATIONS



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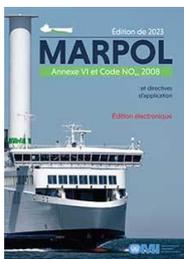
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MARPOL Annex VI & NTC 2008, 2023 Edition

Hard copy format: ID664E

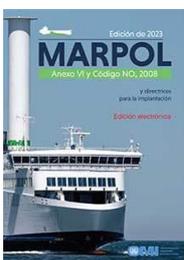
ISBN: 978-92-801-1752-3



MARPOL Annex VI & NTC 2008, 2023 Edition, French Edition

Digital format only: KD664F

ISBN: 978-92-801-2557-3



MARPOL Annex VI & NTC 2008, 2023 Edition, Spanish Edition

Digital format only: KD664S

ISBN: 978-92-801-3199-4

MARPOL Annex VI, Regulations for the prevention of air pollution from ships, covers the requirements in respect of both control of emissions of air pollutants from ships (chapter 3) and carbon intensity of international shipping (chapter 4). The requirements for control of nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions, given by chapter 3, are supplemented by the mandatory NOx Technical Code 2008, which covers the testing, survey and certification of marine diesel engines.

This fifth edition of the consolidated texts of MARPOL Annex VI and the NOx Technical Code 2008 includes all amendments through to those adopted at MEPC 76 in June 2021, in particular those on the IMO short-term greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction measures (EEXI, CII and enhanced SEEMP).

Also contained are the current versions of the Guidelines and other information relevant to the application of MARPOL Annex VI and the NOx Technical Code 2008. These include all those related to:

- exhaust gas treatment systems and measures for reduction of NOx and SOx emissions from ships;
- improvement of energy efficiency to reduce GHG emissions from ships, related to chapter 4 of MARPOL Annex VI; and
- sulphur content of fuel oil used by ships.

This publication is intended to be of use to maritime administrations, recognized organizations, shipping companies, classification societies, educational institutes, shipbuilders and equipment manufacturers together with others with an interest in the prevention of air pollution from ships and in the technical and operational measures to improve the energy efficiency of ships.



Life-Saving Appliances (LSA Code), 2023 Edition

Digital format: KF982E
ISBN: 978-92-801-1753-0



Life-Saving Appliances (LSA Code), 2023 Edition, French Edition

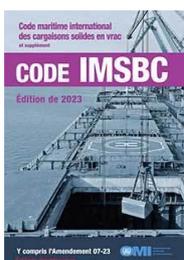
Digital format only: KF982F
ISBN: 978-92-801-2559-7



Life-Saving Appliances (LSA Code), 2023 Edition, Spanish Edition

Digital format only: KF982S
ISBN: 978-92-801-3200-7

This publication contains the three most important IMO instruments dealing with life-saving appliances, as updated, namely the *International Life-saving Appliance (LSA) Code (resolution MSC.48(66))*, the *Revised recommendation on testing of life-saving appliances (resolution MSC.81(70))* and the *Code of practice for evaluation, testing and acceptance of prototype novel life-saving appliances and arrangements (resolution A.520(13))*.



IMSBC Code, 2023 Edition (Amdt. 07-23), French Edition

Digital format only: KL260F

ISBN: 978-92-801-2554-2



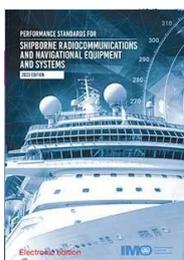
IMSBC Code, 2023 Edition (Amdt. 07-23), Spanish Edition

Digital format only: KL260S

ISBN: 978-92-801-3197-0

The *International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes Code* (IMSBC Code), adopted on 4 December 2008 by resolution MSC.268(85), entered into force on 1 January 2011, from which date it was made mandatory under the provisions of the SOLAS Convention. The present edition incorporates Amendment 07-23, which may be applied from 1 January 2024 on a voluntary basis, anticipating its envisaged official entry into force on 1 January 2025.

This publication also presents additional information that supplements the IMSBC Code, such as the *Code of Practice for the Safe Loading and Unloading of Bulk Carriers* (BLU Code), BLU Manual and recommendations on the safe use of pesticides in ships applicable to the fumigation of cargo holds. The IMSBC Code and supplement is commended to Administrations, shipowners, shippers and masters and all others concerned with the standards to be applied in the safe stowage and shipment of solid bulk cargoes, excluding grain.



Performance Standards, 2023 Edition

Digital format only: KD978E

ISBN: 978-92-801-1754-7

As a result of the modernization of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) in 2022, several performance standards have been revised, consolidated, revoked or newly adopted. Most of these performance standards will be implemented as from 1 January 2024, in line with the entry into force of the amendments to SOLAS chapter IV and other related instruments.

The latest developments under SOLAS chapter V include amendments to the performance standards for shipborne voyage data recorders and simplified voyage data recorders, and revised performance standards for electronic chart display and information systems, which will introduce new IHO S-100 product specifications.

The present publication incorporates all performance standards for shipborne radiocommunications and navigational equipment and systems, including revisions or amendments thereto adopted up to June 2023.



MARPOL Consolidated Edition 2022, Russian Edition

Digital format only: KF520R

ISBN: 978-92-801-4278-5

The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (MARPOL Convention), is concerned with preserving the marine environment through the prevention of pollution by oil and other harmful substances and the minimization of accidental discharge of such substances. Its technical content is laid out in six Annexes, the first five of which were adopted by the 1973 Convention, as modified by a 1978 Protocol. These Annexes cover pollution of the sea by oil, by noxious liquid substances in bulk, by harmful substances in packaged form, by sewage from ships and by garbage from ships. Annex VI was adopted by a further Protocol in 1997 and covers air pollution from ships.

The 2022 consolidated edition provides an easy and comprehensive reference to the up-to-date provisions and unified interpretations of the articles, Protocols and Annexes of the MARPOL Convention, including the incorporation of all of the amendments that have been adopted by the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) with entry into force up to 1 November 2022.



Basic Documents, Volume II, 2022 Edition, Chinese Edition

Digital format only: KC007C

ISBN: 978-92-801-6124-3

Basic Documents Volume II is a compendium of basic documents on the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and its Training Institutions and Regional Centre. It also includes agreements between IMO and other intergovernmental organizations.



Load Lines Convention, 2021 Edition, Chinese Edition

Digital format only: KC701C

ISBN: 978-92-801-6126-7

The *International Convention on Load Lines, 1966*, adopted by the International Conference on Load Lines on 5 April 1966, entered into force on 21 July 1968 and has been modified by the 1988 Protocol relating thereto and amended by Assembly and Maritime Safety Committee resolutions over the past 50 years.

This 2021 edition includes up-to-date, consolidated text in line with amendments adopted up to 1 July 2021, as well as updated unified interpretations that have been keyed to relevant articles and regulations.

UNITED NATIONS

COP28 talks open in Dubai with breakthrough deal on loss and damage fund. *UN News.* 30 November 2023. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/11/1144162> Delegates meeting in Dubai agreed Thursday on the operationalization of a fund that would help compensate vulnerable countries coping with loss and damage caused by climate change, a major breakthrough on the first day of this year's UN climate conference.

Security Council Press Statement on Houthi Threats to Security at Sea. *United Nations.* 1 December 2023. Available from: <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15513.doc.htm> The members of the Security Council condemned in the strongest terms recent Houthi attacks against a commercial vessel in the Red Sea.

COP28: Extraction of minerals needed for green energy must be 'sustainable and just', says Guterres. *UN News.* 2 December 2023. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1144267> UN Secretary-General António Guterres on Saturday announced his plan to set up a panel aimed to ensure the move from fossil fuels towards renewable energy is just, sustainable and benefits all countries.

COP28: Bring the vulnerable to 'front of the line' for climate funding. *UN News.* 4 December 2023. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1144297> Advocates showcased the devastating impacts of climate upheaval on their communities at COP 28 on Monday as the focus of the world's largest climate gathering turned to financial support for those most at risk – first and foremost youth and women in developing countries.

General Assembly Adopts Two Resolutions on Oceans, Highlighting Mounting Threats to Marine Resources, Need to Tackle Rising Sea Levels, Damage to Ecosystems. *United Nations.* 5 December 2023. Available from: <https://press.un.org/en/2023/ga12569.doc.htm> Member States today called for collective will to address cumulative pressures on oceans and their resources, which pose direct threats to people who depend on them, as the General Assembly adopted two draft resolutions in a joint debate on oceans and the law of the sea as well as sustainable fisheries.

UN cites 'alarming surge' in climate change over the past decade as COP28 pushes for global emissions cuts. *UN News.* 5 December 2023. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1144372> Marked by record breaking land and ocean temperatures, the decade between 2011-2020 saw continued rising concentrations of greenhouse gasses that "turbo charged" dramatic glacier loss and sea-level rise, according to a new report from the UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

COP28 is about action, not politics and point scoring, says UN climate chief. *UN News.* 6 December 2023. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1144427> Mr. Stiell's strong message to government negotiators comes as the latest UN climate conference, running in the UAE's main city, Dubai, since last Thursday, reaches the halfway mark with agreement on financing for climate adaptation and the fate of fossil fuels still up in the air.

Stop 'kicking the can down the road,' UN chief urges COP28 deal on phaseout of fossil fuels. *UN News.* 11 December 2023. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1144642> As COP28 entered its final 48 hours, the UN chief delivered a clear message to government negotiators: "We must conclude the conference with an ambitious outcome that demonstrates decisive action and a credible plan to keep 1.5-degree goal alive, protecting those on the frontlines of the climate crisis."

COP28 ends with call to ‘transition away’ from fossil fuels; UN’s Guterres says phaseout is inevitable. *UN News*. 13 December 2023. Available from:

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1144742> 🗉 Nations at COP28 in Dubai approved earlier on Wednesday a roadmap for “transitioning away from fossil fuels” – a first for a UN climate conference – but the deal still stopped short of a long-demanded call for a “phaseout” of oil, coal and gas.

DPR Korea urged to ‘embrace diplomacy’ after latest ballistic missile launch. *UN News*. 19 December 2023. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1144957> 🗉

Repeated long-range ballistic missile launches by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) represent a serious threat to international air and sea transportation, a senior UN official told the Security Council on Tuesday.

Rebuild trust and restore hope in 2024: UN chief’s call. *UN News*. 28 December 2023.

Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1145137> 🗉 United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called for global unity to make 2024 a year for “building trust and hope” following the immense suffering, violence, and climate chaos that characterized 2023.

CASUALTIES

Grounding of general cargo vessel *BBC Marmara*. *UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB)*. 30 November 2023. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/maib-reports/grounding-of-general-cargo-vessel-bbc-marmara> At 0332 on 25 July 2021, the cargo vessel *BBC Marmara* ran aground on the island of Eilean Trodday while transiting the Little Minch, off the west coast of Scotland. [MAIB investigation report 8-2023: *BBC Marmara*](#)

Freighters Collide in Kerch Strait. *Maritime Executive*. 30 November 2023. Available from: <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/freighters-collide-in-kerch-strait> Last week, Russian maritime safety authorities closed the Kerch Strait to navigation through November 30 due to severe stormy weather.

Unmanned Sierra Leone vessel stranded in central Vietnam. *Dac Thanh. VnExpress International (Vietnam)*. 2 December 2023. Available from: <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/unmanned-sierra-leone-vessel-stranded-in-central-vietnam-4683946.html> An unmanned Sierra Leonean vessel carrying liquid, weighing almost 14,000 tons, was found stranded at Cu Lao Cham Island off central Quang Nam Province on Friday.

3 commercial ships hit by missiles in Houthi attack in Red Sea, US warship downs 3 drones. *John Gambrell. Associated Press*. 4 December 2023. Available from: <https://apnews.com/article/red-sea-houthi-yemen-ships-attack-israel-hamas-war-gaza-strip-716770f0a780160e9abed98d3c48fbde> Ballistic missiles fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels struck three commercial ships Sunday in the Red Sea, while a U.S. warship shot down three drones in self-defense during the hourslong assault, the U.S. military said.

Tribunal says shipping company at fault for 2017 sinking of cargo ship. *Yoo Cheong-mo. Yonhap News Agency (South Korea)*. 5 December 2023. Available from: <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20231205008100315> The tragic sinking of a South Korean bulk carrier in the South Atlantic in 2017, which left as many as 22 crewmembers missing, was caused by neglect of maintenance by its operator, a state maritime tribunal ruled Tuesday.

Japanese ro-ro remains stuck hard aground in the Inland Sea. *Adam Corbett. TradeWinds*. 6 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/japanese-ro-ro-remains-stuck-hard-aground-in-the-inland-sea/2-1-1566669> As TradeWinds earlier reported, Shunzan Kaiun's 2,200-lane-metre Suou (built 2019) ran into trouble after hitting a rock on 21 November, 19 km off Matsuyama prefecture on the island of Shikoku.

Shadow-Fleet Tanker With Venezuela Oil Grounds Near Singapore. *Bloomberg*. 8 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/shadow-fleet-tanker-with-venezuela-oil-grounds-near-singapore-1.2009016> A shadow-fleet oil tanker that had previously falsified its location to avoid detection on digital ship-tracking systems ran aground near Singapore, a stark reminder of the environmental risks that such vessels pose.

Yemen's Houthis claim missile attack on Norwegian ship *Strinda*. *Al Jazeera*. 12 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/12/12/tanker-attacked-by-cruise-missile-as-it-traverses-bab-el-mandeb-strait> Yemen's Houthi rebels say they hit a Norwegian tanker in the Iran-aligned group's latest military operation amid Israel's war on Gaza.

A missile fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels strikes a Norwegian-flagged tanker in the Red Sea.

Jon Gambrell. *Associated Press*. 13 December 2023. Available from:

<https://apnews.com/article/yemen-ship-attack-houthi-rebels-red-sea-946b40e6393af6216c0b6ef734311be9>

A missile fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels slammed into a Norwegian-flagged tanker in the Red Sea off the coast of Yemen near a key maritime chokepoint, the rebels and authorities said Tuesday.

Attacks from Houthi-controlled Yemen hit two ships. *Reuters*. 15 December 2023. Available

from: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/uk-maritime-agency-probing-reports-further-incident-near-bab-al-mandab-strait-2023-12-15/>

Attacks from Houthi-controlled Yemen struck two Liberian-flagged ships in the Bab al-Mandab Strait on Friday, the U.S. military said, underlining the threat to vessels in shipping lanes being targeted by the Iran-aligned group.

Large Hapag-Lloyd container ship on fire after missile attack. Sebastian Schlüter Jacobsen and Jens Thomsen. *ShippingWatch*. 15 December 2023. Available from:

<https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article16689732.ece>

Tensions are rising in the region near The Red Sea, where one of the German shipping company Hapag-Lloyd's container ships was hit today.

Two seafarers missing after cargo ship sinks off Vietnam. Gary Dixon. *TradeWinds*.

18 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/two-seafarers-missing-after-cargo-ship-sinks-off-vietnam/2-1-1573080>

Two crew members were missing on Monday after a general cargo ship sank off Vietnam.

Fire on Hapag-Lloyd ship has been extinguished after attack. Liv Almer. *ShippingWatch*.

18 December 2023. Available from:

<https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article16696254.ece>

German shipping company Hapag-Lloyd's container ship *Al Jasrah*, which was in flames after being attacked on Friday, is safe and sound and on its way to Singapore, the carrier confirms to ShippingWatch.

Eight seafarers missing after cargo ship reported lost off Indonesia. Gary Dixon. *TradeWinds*.

21 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/eight-seafarers-missing-after-cargo-ship-reported-lost-off-indonesia/2-1-1575035>

Metro TV News cited local authorities as saying the 8,200-dwt *Vision Global* (built 1995) was lost on Tuesday, 25 nautical miles south of Panjang Island, East Java.

Cruise Ship Loses Navigation Ability in North Sea During Storm. Jacob Gronholt-Pedersen.

MarineLink. 21 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.marinelink.com/news/cruise-ship-loses-navigation-ability-510345>

The Norwegian cruise ship *MS Maud* suffered a power outage after a rogue wave shattered windows on the bridge while it sailed in the North Sea, causing the vessel to lose its ability to navigate, Danish authorities and the ship's owner said on Thursday.

Drone strikes Ace Quantum tanker far from Houthis as Iran threatens to widen blockade.

Eric Priante Martin. *TradeWinds*. 23 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/drone-strikes-ace-quantum-tanker-far-from-houthis-as-iran-threatens-to-widen-blockade/2-1-1576319>

A drone has struck an Ace Quantum Chemical Tankers vessel in the Indian Ocean far from the Houthi-controlled corner of Yemen that has been the launchpad for attacks against shipping for more than two months.

Israel-affiliated merchant vessel hit by aerial vehicle off India. Arpan Chaturvedi and Krishn Kaushik. *Reuters*. 23 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/israel-affiliated-merchant-vessel-hit-by-aerial-vehicle-off-india-uk-firm-2023-12-23/> An Israel-affiliated merchant vessel was struck by an uncrewed aerial vehicle off India's west coast, British maritime security firm Ambrey said on Saturday, in the first such known attack so far away from the Red Sea since the Gaza war.

Japan-owned tanker attacked by drone fired from Iran in Indian Ocean. *Kyodo News (Japan)*. 24 December 2023. Available from: <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2023/12/508678d3f3b8-japan-owned-tanker-attacked-by-drone-fired-from-iran-in-indian-ocean.html> A Japanese-owned commercial tanker was attacked by a drone launched from Iran in the Indian Ocean on Saturday, causing a fire but leaving no one injured, the U.S. Department of Defense said.

Two seafarers hurt as Greek-managed cargo ship hits Black Sea mine. Paul Peachey and Harry Papachristou. *TradeWinds*. 28 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/bulkers/two-seafarers-hurt-as-greek-managed-cargo-ship-hits-black-sea-mine/2-1-1576923> Two seafarers were injured early on Wednesday when a general cargo ship hit a mine in the Black Sea as it headed to load grain at a port on the Danube river.

Cargo ship hits naval mine in Black Sea en route to Ukraine. *France 24*. 28 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20231228-cargo-ship-hits-naval-mine-in-black-sea-en-route-to-ukraine> The unnamed Panama-flagged ship was heading towards Ukraine's Danube ports when it hit a mine, causing it to lose speed and control and sparking a fire on the upper deck, Ukraine's border guards said.

Cargo ship carrying burning lithium-ion batteries reaches Alaska, but kept offshore for safety. Mark Thiessen. *Associated Press*. 30 December 2023. Available from: <https://apnews.com/article/cargo-ship-fire-alaska-safety-precautions-38e7a4e5e882617d184eb73ec928814e> A large cargo ship with a fire in its hold is being kept 2 miles (3.22 kilometers) offshore of an Alaska port as a precaution while efforts are undertaken to extinguish the flames, the U.S. Coast Guard said Saturday.

Collision between Singapore-flagged tanker and Chinese-flagged Fishing Vessel. *Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)*. 30 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.mpa.gov.sg/media-centre/details/collision-between-singapore-flagged-tanker-and-chinese-flagged-fishing-vessel> The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) was notified that a Singapore-flagged tanker, *PEARL KENZO*, had collided with a Chinese-flagged fishing vessel, *SUIYUPU 0183*, on 26 December at about 12:08 am (Singapore Time) near Chengshan Jiao, China.

Unified Command reports no immediate risk of fire aboard *M/V Genius Star XI*. *United States Coast Guard*. 31 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.news.uscg.mil/Press-Releases/Article/3628804/> The Unified Command confirmed that the *M/V Genius Star XI* remains safely anchored in Broad Bay, Alaska, complying with the latest Captain of the Port Order.

ENVIRONMENT

Podcast: Tackling the rainfall crisis that's crimping the Panama Canal. Eric Priante Martin.

TradeWinds. 27 November 2023. Available from:

<https://www.tradewindsnews.com/sustainability/podcast-tackling-the-rainfall-crisis-that-s-crimping-the-panama-canal/2-1-1561242> Nearly 150 ships are waiting outside the Panama Canal as a rainfall crisis has led officials to ratchet down the number of vessels that can make it through the 100-year-old waterway.

Rising Tides, Rising Solutions: Tuvalu's Innovative Climate Adaptation Strategies. John Augé.

The Diplomat. 29 November 2023. Available from: <https://thediplomat.com/2023/11/rising-tides-rising-solutions-tuvalu-innovative-climate-adaptation-strategies/> Ahead of COP28, the world can learn from Tuvalu's unique approach to the existential threat of climate change.

Warming, acidification, dropping oxygen levels threaten Europe's seas. *European Environment Agency (EEA)*.

30 November 2023. Available from:

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/newsroom/news/warming-acidification-dropping-oxygen-levels>

The EEA briefing 'How climate change impacts marine life' summarises how increasing levels of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere are affecting marine ecosystems in Europe.

How climate change impacts marine life. *European Environment Agency (EEA)*.

30 November 2023. Available from: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/how-climate-change-impacts>; Report; <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/how-climate-change-impacts/how-climate-change-impacts-marine-life/download.pdf> The main factors of climate change influencing Europe's seas are increasing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, rising global temperatures and lower oxygen levels in the water.

Why vulnerable coastal communities need climate adaptation. Amy Barnes.

Marsh. 4 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.marsh.com/uk/risks/climate-change-sustainability/insights/adaptation-safeguard-blue-economy.html> The "blue economy" – economic activity that relies on oceans and seas – could be worth up to US\$ 3 trillion by 2030. However, climate change is putting this complex network at risk.

Fireside chat with Peter Thomson, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). 5 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7yoWu0a0JE> UN DESA spoke with the Special Envoy for the Ocean about the need to end our reliance on fossil fuels now for the health of the ocean.

The impact of IUU fishing on blue economy prospects of GoG States. Godwin Oritse.

Vanguard (Nigeria). 7 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/12/the-impact-of-iuu-fishing-on-blue-economy-prospects-of-gog-states/> One major identified setback is IUU fishing, a short form of describing Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing, which is a notable maritime crime that impacts adversely on marine ecosystems through pollution, over fishing and reduction in the expected gains from blue economy.

Facing climate calamity, Vanuatu takes on big polluters at COP28. David Fogarty. *Straits Times*.

9 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.straitstimes.com/world/facing-climate-calamity-vanuatu-takes-on-big-polluters-at-cop28> At the COP28 climate talks in Dubai, one of the smallest nations has one of the most powerful voices in calling for climate action.

Ocean Vessels May Trigger Lightning Strikes. Nathaniel Scharping. *Eos Earth and Space Science News*. 11 December 2023. Available from: <https://eos.org/articles/ocean-vessels-may-trigger-lightning-strikes> Since ancient times, sailors have feared sudden lightning strikes that could set ships alight and doom crews.

Storm hitting Chinese ports is a wakeup call for climate risk to markets. Katy Daigle and Simon Jessop. *Reuters*. 12 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/sustainable-finance-reporting/storm-hitting-chinese-ports-is-wakeup-call-climate-risk-markets-2023-12-11/> As Typhoon Doksuri aimed toward mainland China, major southeast ports were forced to turn away dozens of vessels for days.

Nine breakthroughs for climate and nature in 2023 you may have missed. *BBC Future*. 14 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20231214-nine-breakthroughs-for-climate-and-nature-in-2023-you-may-have-missed> In a tumultuous year, the positive milestones for the climate and nature might well have gone under your radar.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Oil Spill Course – Shoreline Cleanup & Assessment Technique. *Government of Bermuda*. 4 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.gov.bm/articles/oil-spill-course-shoreline-cleanup-assessment-technique> The Pollution Control Section of the Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR) recently hosted a course for the Bermuda Government, KBB, and colleagues from four UK Overseas Territories in the Caribbean on how to clean a shoreline oil spill.

Largest spill-response ship being readied to work off of B.C. coast. Carla Wilson. *Vancouver Sun (Canada)*. 6 December 2023. Available from: <https://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/largest-spill-response-ship-being-readied-to-work-off-b-c-coast> A quick-response offshore supply vessel billed as Canada's largest spill-response ship is being readied at Ogden Point for deployment early in the new year.

Beluga whales' calls may get drowned out by shipping noise in Alaska's Cook Inlet. *University of Washington (US)*. 11 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.washington.edu/news/2023/12/11/beluga-whales-calls-may-get-drowned-out-by-shipping-noise-in-alaskas-cook-inlet/>  New research from the University of Washington, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Alaska Fisheries Science Center and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is the first to document the complex vocal repertoire of the Cook Inlet beluga whale population.

Philippines oil spill may reverberate long after cleanup declared complete. Jewel S. Cabrera. *Mongabay*. 13 December 2023. Available from: <https://news.mongabay.com/2023/12/philippines-oil-spill-may-reverberate-long-after-cleanup-declared-complete/> Working together to lift an outrigger from the clear, teal water onto a white sand beach, a group of fishers had just returned home to Verde Island with their catch.

Combating marine pollution. *Seychelles Nation*. 13 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.nation.sc/articles/20437/combating-marine-pollution-> Seychelles is hosting a three-day workshop to explore opportunities for a full cycle management of plastics and their associated chemicals and wastes in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region.

Pacific faces new battle: plastic addiction. *Pacific Islands News Association (PINA)*. 21 December 2023. Available from: <https://pina.com.fj/2023/12/21/pacific-faces-new-battle-plastic-addiction/> While Pacific negotiators recently emerged disappointed but resolute over the result of the climate change negotiations in Dubai, they are also engaged on a new front.

The attacks on merchant ships are also an environmental crisis. Lars Jensen. *ShippingWatch*. 22 December 2023. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article16709371.ece> The Suez Canal route is de facto closed for container shipping between Asia and Europe after all global carriers have decided it is too risky to sail past Yemen at the southern entrance to the Red Sea.

Maersk Loses Containers Overboard in North Sea with Debris Washing Ashore. *Maritime Executive*. 23 December 2023. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/maersk-losses-containers-overboard-in-north-sea-with-debris-washing-ashore> There are widespread reports of debris washing up on beaches along the northern part of Denmark's North Sea shoreline after a Maersk containership lost boxes overboard.

Maersk is ready to foot bill for cleanup after lost containers wash ashore. Af Ritzau and Sofie Højlund. *ShippingWatch*. 27 December 2023. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article16713910.ece> Shoes, refrigerators, syringes and everything in between have washed up on the beaches between Bulbjerg and Blokhus in Northern Jutland, Denmark after more than 40 containers from a Maersk ship fell overboard during a storm last week.

HEALTH & SAFETY

US Coast Guard leaders long concealed a critical report about racism, hazing and sexual misconduct. Blake Ellis and Melanie Hicken. *CNN*. 30 November 2023. Available from: <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/11/30/politics/coast-guard-culture-of-respect-report-misconduct-invs/index.html> For nearly a decade, US Coast Guard leaders have concealed a critical report that exposed racism, hazing, discrimination and sexual assault across the agency.

U.S. Coast Guard Under Pressure From Congress Over Abuse Investigations. *Maritime Executive*. 12 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/u-s-coast-guard-under-pressure-from-congress-over-abuse-investigations> The U.S. Coast Guard is coming under increasing pressure from the Senate Homeland Security Subcommittee, which wants to get hold of the agency's past email correspondence about a long-hidden investigation into sexual assault at the Coast Guard Academy.

WSC calls for decisive action to protect seafarers in the Red Sea region. *World Shipping Council*. 15 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.worldshipping.org/news/wsc-calls-for-decisive-action-to-protect-seafarers-in-the-red-sea-region> The World Shipping Council is deeply alarmed and concerned about the escalating security crisis unfolding in the Red Sea region.

Sexual Violence Against Seafarers. Becky Newdick and Paula Edwards. *Sea Views*. 28 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/2148311/14213155> In this episode of Sea Views podcast, I am talking with the CEO's of two vital charities which support seafarers who have suffered sexual violence.

IMO

Green Power: Tristan Smith says 2023 was a game changer for the IMO. Now comes the tricky bit. Paul Peachey. *TradeWinds*. 30 November 2023. Available from:

<https://www.tradewindsnews.com/sustainability/green-power-tristan-smith-says-2023-was-a-game-changer-for-the-imo-now-comes-the-tricky-bit/2-1-1563398> The next 18 months marks a crucial period in deciding if the International Maritime Organization can succeed with its drive for cleaner, greener ships.

IMO ‘will thrive in delivering its full agenda’, says next secretary-general. Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*. 1 December 2023. Available from: <https://splash247.com/imo-will-thrive-in-delivering-its-full-agenda-says-next-secretary-general/> Arsenio Dominguez Velasco has been confirmed as the next secretary-general of the IMO with attendees at this week’s IMO Assembly endorsing the Panamanian who will take on the role in exactly one month’s time.

STCW for the future. Malek Pourzanjani. *Nautical Institute*. 5 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.nautinst.org/resources-page/free-article-stcw-for-the-future.html> The ongoing comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and Code is an opportunity to shape training and crewing requirements for decades to come – and NI members are invited to take part.

UN ship agency adopts tougher resolution to tackle illicit ‘shadow’ fleet. Jonathan Saul. *Reuters*. 6 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/world/un-ship-agency-adopts-tougher-resolution-tackle-illicit-shadow-fleet-2023-12-06/> The United Nations’ shipping agency on Wednesday adopted a resolution targeting illicit shipping practices from the so-called unregulated “shadow fleet” in an effort to clamp down on unsafe activities at sea.

Green Seas: A mountain to climb at COP28 after new targets shift IMO from laggard to leader. Eric Priante Martin. *TradeWinds*. 6 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/sustainability/green-seas-a-mountain-to-climb-at-cop28-after-new-targets-shift-imo-from-laggard-to-leader/2-1-1566167> It was only two years ago that the International Maritime Organization found itself under pressure at the annual United Nations climate conference in Glasgow for dragging its feet.

NextGEN Connect-Green Voyage2050 Project points to critical role of regional energy hubs in supporting maritime decarbonisation. *Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)*. 7 December 2023. Available from: <http://tinyurl.com/mryjkw9v> A collaboration between Singapore, Norway and the IMO, NextGEN Connect-Green Voyage2050 Project, identified a key role for regional hubs to help connect large demand clusters and remote locations, with regional fuel supply sources, in order to enable a more inclusive and effective transition to a low-carbon maritime future.

Delivering net zero by 2050: The Cornerstones of Effective IMO Climate Regulations. World Shipping Council. *Hellenic Shipping News*. 8 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/delivering-net-zero-by-2050-the-cornerstones-of-effective-imo-climate-regulations/> To deliver on the goal of net zero emissions for shipping by 2050, IMO greenhouse gas regulations must rest on solid foundations.

The price just went up: Major flag state raises stakes in shipping levy battle. Paul Peachey. *TradeWinds*. 10 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/interviews/the-price-just-went-up-major-flag-state-raises-stakes-in-shipping-levy-battle/2-1-1568700> One of the world’s largest flag states has sharply increased its demands over a shipping carbon levy as it faces becoming a registry without a home because of climate catastrophe, a senior official tells TradeWinds.

IMO and marine insurer warn against sailing in the Red Sea after new attack. Daniel Logan Berg-Munch. *ShippingWatch*. 12 December 2023. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article16679817.ece> Houthi rebels in Yemen with links to Iran have threatened that all commercial ships in the Red Sea are potential targets, prompting the UN's maritime organization IMO to call for action.

The challenges of Víctor Jiménez in his renewed presidency of the IMO council. *Naucher Global (Spain)*. 12 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.naucher.com/los-retos-de-victor-jimenez-en-su-renovada-presidencia-en-el-consejo-de-la-omi/> Víctor Jiménez will preside over the council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the second consecutive biennium after the decision made last week in London.

Shipping lines urge IMO to accelerate regulations for green fuel transition. Adaku Onyenucheya. *Guardian (Nigeria)*. 13 December 2023. Available from: <https://guardian.ng/saturday-magazine/travel-a-tourism/shipping-lines-urge-imo-to-accelerate-regulations-for-green-fuel-transition/> Major global shipping lines have urged the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to create regulatory conditions for accelerating the transition to green fuels.

Facing challenges together. Carlos Salinas. *Manila Times*. 13 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2023/12/13/business/maritime/facing-challenges-together/1923914> We bid a grateful farewell to outgoing IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim, who has led the IMO for eight years.

Shipping will 'get there by 2050', industry heavyweights tell Lloyd's List Outlook Forum. David Osler. *Lloyd's List*. 13 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1147596/> Shipping will manage to meet the International Maritime Organization's goal of net-zero emissions sometime around the mid-century, an industry audience was told in London this morning.

COP28 ensures IMO shines. Tristan Smith. *Splash 247.com*. 15 December 2023. Available from: <https://splash247.com/cop28-ensures-imo-shines/> My two takeaways from COP28 are: what a relief that the IMO makes decisions by consensus and can invoke decision making by voting, and that COP continues to grow as a 'world's fair' for shipping decarbonisation.

Greek shipowners call for governments to back IMO green transition policies. David Glass. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 21 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/regulation/greek-shipowners-call-governments-back-imo-green-transition-policies> It has also called for a common approach to regional measures, such as the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).

TradeWinds Person of Year: Kitack Lim who lead the world to decarbonisation deal. Julian Bray. *TradeWinds*. 21 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/opinion/tradewinds-person-of-year-kitack-lim-who-lead-the-world-to-decarbonisation-deal/2-1-1573250> 2023 will go down as the year of the deal: agreed mergers, the division of spoils and political agreement on an unprecedented global scale.

IMO in 2024: Working on the policies to turn net-zero target into reality. Eric Priante Martin. *TradeWinds*. 22 December 2023. Available from: <https://soundcloud.com/greenseas-309133450/episodeimo2024> In 2023, the International Maritime Organization adopted a new strategy for shipping's greenhouse gas emissions, targeting net zero emissions by around 2050.

Year Ahead: IMO sets the stage for decarbonisation policy. Eric Priante Martin. *TradeWinds*. 29 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/year-ahead-imo-sets-the-stage-for-decarbonisation-policy/2-1-1570976> The International Maritime Organization used the last year to lay out a goal to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by the middle of the century, but 2024 will be key to developing the policy mechanisms that would turn that target into a reality.

LAW & POLICY

Initiative to enhance maritime law enforcement launched in Accra. *Business Ghana*.

29 November 2023. Available from:

<https://www.businessghana.com/site/news/general/298024/Initiative-to-enhance-maritime-law-enforcement-launched-in-Accra> An initiative to strengthen regional cooperation to tackle maritime security threats in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) has been launched in Accra.

Yemen's Houthi rebels say any US action would be a 'declaration of war'. Ismaeel Naar.

The National (UAE). 30 November 2023. Available from: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/gulf-news/2023/11/30/yemens-houthi-rebels-say-any-us-action-would-be-a-declaration-of-war/>

Yemen's Houthi rebels have said that any US measures against the group would be considered as a declaration of war, as fears widen that Israel's war on Gaza has hindered US and UN efforts towards a lasting peace deal in Yemen.

Climate summit opens with world watching for signs of progress. *United Nations Environment*

Programme (UNEP). 30 November 2023. Available from: <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/climate-summit-opens-world-watching-signs-progress> World leaders, business luminaries and civil society members are descending on Dubai today for the opening of the United Nations' annual climate change conference (COP28).

Countries pledge \$400m to set up loss and damage fund. Matteo Civillini. *Climate Home News*.

30 November 2023. Available from: <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2023/11/30/countries-pledge-400m-to-set-up-loss-and-damage-fund/> Governments have collectively pledged more than \$400 million to establish a loss and damage fund for the victims of climate disaster.

From surviving to thriving marine ecosystems: Strengthening maritime law enforcement for ocean climate mitigation. *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)*. 1 December 2023.

Available from: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/frontpage/2023/December/from-surviving-to-thriving-marine-ecosystems-strengthening-maritime-law-enforcement-for-ocean-climate-mitigation.html>

Oceans play an indispensable role in our survival, providing us with jobs, medicines, food, and recreation.

COP28's UAE president defends climate science comments. *Al Jazeera*. 4 December 2023.

Available from: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/12/4/cop28s-uae-president-defends-climate-science-comments>

The Emirati head of the United Nations climate conference has insisted that he respects climate science after he came under fire over a leaked video in which he questioned the science on fossil fuels.

COP28: European Commission commits €1 million to Blue Mediterranean Partnership.

European Commission. 4 December 2023. Available from: https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/news/cop28-european-commission-commits-eu1-million-blue-mediterranean-partnership-2023-12-04_en On Saturday 2 December, at the Blue Mediterranean Partnership's pledging conference, the European Commission committed to pledge €1 million to the recently established Blue Mediterranean Partnership.

COP28 crowds: a dangerous distraction or sign of success? Valerie Volcovici. *Reuters*.

4 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/cop28-crowds-dangerous-distraction-or-sign-success-2023-12-04/> Flashy country pavilions, corporate-sponsored cocktail parties and a smorgasbord of side events have turned the annual U.N. climate summit into what some say is a trade show or circus.

Indian Customs Detains Bulker and Crew After First Discovery of Cocaine. *Maritime Executive*.

4 December 2023. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/indian-customs-detains-bulker-and-crew-after-first-discovery-of-cocaine> Indian customs along with the police, drug authority, and security forces, are detaining the crew of a bulker while they investigate the details of a large shipment of cocaine found hidden on the vessel.

UNHCR calls for urgent global action at COP28, highlighting climate change's impact on the displacement crisis. *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*.

4 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.unhcr.org/uk/news/press-releases/unhcr-calls-urgent-global-action-cop28-highlighting-climate-change-s-impact> UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is calling for immediate and collective action to confront the unparalleled impact of climate change and its profound effects on displaced populations and their host communities at the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai.

Kenya to get Sh336m from EU maritime transport plan. Mercy Simiyu. *Business Daily (Kenya)*.

5 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/bd/markets/market-news/kenya-to-get-sh336m-from-eu-maritime-transport-plan-4454854> Kenya is set to receive Sh336 million (€2 million) from a programme funded by the European Union (EU) to improve energy efficiency in the rapidly growing maritime transport industry.

High Seas Treaty: Africa's role in saving the world's blue lungs. Ilhan Dahir and David Willima.

Institute for Security Studies (ISS). 5 December 2023. Available from: <https://issafrica.org/iss-today/high-seas-treaty-africas-role-in-saving-the-worlds-blue-lungs> The High Seas Treaty – officially known as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty – must be signed and ratified by 20 September 2025.

India- Kenya Joint Vision Statement on Maritime Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region – “BAHARI”. *Government of India*. 5 December 2023. Available from:

<http://tinyurl.com/25bpefta> Recalling that India and Kenya are maritime neighbours and sea faring nations situated on two sides of the Indian Ocean.

US officials want ships to anchor farther from California undersea pipelines, citing 2021 oil spill. Amy Taxin. *Associate Press*. 6 December 2023. Available from:

<https://apnews.com/article/california-oil-spill-pipeline-rupture-huntington-beach-eb5e5b4c8ba735e6bb4311b7314056ab> Federal officials on Tuesday recommended increasing the distance from undersea pipelines that vessels are allowed to anchor in Southern California, citing a 2021 oil spill they said was caused by ships whose anchors were dragged across a pipeline after a storm.

UN slams COP28 ‘posturing’ as negotiators spar over ending fossil fuels. *France 24.*

6 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.france24.com/en/environment/20231206-un-slams-cop28-posturing-as-negotiators-spar-over-ending-fossil-fuels> 🗞️ Countries at the COP28 climate talks need to stop posturing, aim high and agree on a way to end the “fossil fuel era as we know it”, UN climate chief Simon Stiell said on Wednesday, as tension over the future of coal, oil and gas came to the fore.

Cop28 bulletin: Fossil fuel phase-out language takes shape. Matteo Civillini and Joe Lo.

Climate Home News. 6 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.climatechangenews.com/2023/12/06/cop28-bulletin-fossil-fuel-phase-out-language-takes-shape/> Negotiators are locked in feverish marathon talks to hammer out the final technical draft of the global stocktake.

Feds call for sweeping changes in Southern California shipping after 2021 oil spill.

Grace Toohey. *Los Angeles Times.* 6 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2023-12-06/dangerous-proximity-of-ships-pipelines-led-to-huntington-beach-oil-spill-investigators-urge-safety-measures> A federal agency wants changes in how container ships are anchored off Southern California as well as new safety measures for vessels near offshore pipelines to help prevent or minimize ruptures like the one that spilled 25,000 gallons of crude oil off Huntington Beach.

NTSB Recommends New Alarms, Procedures and a Change to the Anchorage Area off California Coast Following Oil Leak. *US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).*

5 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.nts.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/NR20231205.aspx>

The National Transportation Safety Board recommended new notification alarms and procedures for potential incursions on pipelines and a change to an anchorage off the California coast following a crude oil release in 2021 caused by ship anchors damaging an underwater pipeline. [Investigation webpage](#)

US responds to Houthi attacks with sanctions on Iranian backers and ‘illicit shipping agent’.

Eric Priante Martin. *TradeWinds.* 7 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.tradewindsnews.com/law/us-responds-to-houthi-attacks-with-sanctions-on-iranian-backers-and-illicit-shipping-agent-/2-1-1567731> 🗞️ The US has issued sanctions against a string of individuals that officials said are responsible for facilitating Iran’s support of the Houthi militant group in Yemen, including a businessman accused of arranging shipping deals.

Pacific SIDS face uphill battle as negotiator warns of unresolved issues and financial challenges. Pita Ligaiula. *Pacific Islands News Association (PINA).* 8 December 2023.

Available from: <https://pina.com.fj/2023/12/08/pacific-sids-face-uphill-battle-as-negotiator-warns-of-unresolved-issues-and-financial-challenges/> Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) brace for an uphill battle as a key negotiator issues a warning about remaining unresolved issues and financial hurdles as COP28 negotiations pass midway.

‘Stunned’: OPEC urges members to block action on fossil fuels at COP28. *France 24.*

9 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.france24.com/en/environment/20231209-french-energy-minister-angry-after-opec-urges-pushback-on-fossil-fuels-at-cop28> French Energy Minister Agnès Pannier-Runacher said Saturday she was “stunned” after the oil cartel OPEC urged its members to thwart any deal targeting fossil fuels at the COP28 conference.

Emerging investment streams will unlock blue economy potential. *The Commonwealth.*

9 December 2023. Available from: <https://thecommonwealth.org/news/emerging-investment-streams-will-unlock-blue-economy-potential> The Commonwealth, in collaboration with the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA) and the UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) held a high level panel discussion today to highlight new and emerging finance for sustainable investment in the ocean.

IEA assessment of the evolving pledges at COP28. *International Energy Agency (IEA).*

10 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.iea.org/news/iea-assessment-of-the-evolving-pledges-at-cop28> At the COP28 climate change conference in Dubai, pledges have been made in three key areas – by many countries on renewables and energy efficiency, and by a significant number of companies on methane.

Largest industry gathering at COP28 set out plans to deliver a net zero future. *International Chamber of Shipping (ICS).* 11 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.ics-shipping.org/press-release/largest-industry-gathering-at-cop28-set-out-plans-to-deliver-a-net-zero-future/> Following a day of active discussions at the Shaping the Future of Shipping: Delivering a Net Zero World summit yesterday, a course was set to deliver on the International Maritime Organization's net zero strategy.

Philippines: Statement by the Spokesperson on provocative actions in the South China Sea.

European Union External Action Service (EEAS). 11 December 2023. Available from: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/philippines-statement-spokesperson-provocative-actions-south-china-sea_en The European Union is increasingly concerned by the provocative and dangerous behaviour of the Chinese Coast Guard and Maritime Militia against Philippine vessels in the South China Sea on 9 and 10 December.

South China Sea incidents, December 2023: FCDO statement. *UK Government.*

11 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fcdo-spokesperson-statement-on-incidents-in-the-south-china-sea> The UK condemns the unsafe and escalatory tactics deployed by Chinese vessels against the Philippines on 9 and 10 December in the South China Sea.

COP28 forced into overtime as fossil fuel phase-out divides countries. Valerie Volcovici, Kate Abnett and Jake Spring. *Reuters.* 12 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/cop28-presidency-wants-historic-mention-fossil-fuels-text-up-nations-2023-12-12/> The COP28 climate talks went into overtime on Tuesday as countries engaged in shuttle diplomacy to bridge deep international divisions over how to deal with fossil fuels in the summit's final text.

Cop28 bulletin: Presidency draft text draws angry response. Megan Darby. *Climate Home*

News. 12 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2023/12/12/cop28-bulletin-presidency-draft-text-draws-angry-response/> Sultan Al Jaber's resolve that Cop28 would be wrapped up by 11am this morning feels like wishful thinking now.

Pacific Oceans Commissioner stresses urgency in embedding Oceans in COP agenda.

Pita Ligaiula. *Pacific Islands News Association (PINA).* 12 December 2023. Available from: <https://pina.com.fj/2023/12/12/pacific-oceans-commissioner-stresses-urgency-in-embedding-oceans-in-cop-agenda/> At COP28, Pacific Ocean Commissioner Dr Filimon Manoni Monday emphasised the need for increased attention to oceans and their vital role in addressing climate change.

Arctic Council Must Show Leadership on Reduction of Black Carbon Emissions from Shipping. *Clean Arctic Alliance*. 12 December 2023. Available from: <https://cleanarctic.org/2023/12/12/arctic-council-must-show-leadership-on-reduction-of-black-carbon-emissions-from-shipping/>. In a letter to Morten Høglund, the Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials of the Arctic Council, today the Clean Arctic Alliance and its member organisation, Norway-based Bellona, called on the Arctic Council to take action to reduce black carbon and greenhouse gas emissions from shipping in the Arctic. [Letter to Morten Høglund, Chair, Arctic Council](#) 📄

Global trade expected to shrink by nearly 5% in 2023 amid geopolitical strains and shifting trade patterns. *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*. 12 December 2023. Available from: <https://unctad.org/news/global-trade-expected-shrink-nearly-5-2023-amid-geopolitical-strains-and-shifting-trade> The outlook for 2024 remains “highly uncertain and generally pessimistic,” UNCTAD says in the Global Trade Update released on 11 December, citing factors like ongoing geopolitical tensions, escalating debt, and widespread economic fragility.

Spain seizes 11 tons of cocaine in shipping containers. Most of the drugs found among frozen tuna. *Associated Press*. 12 December 2023. Available from: <https://apnews.com/article/spain-cocaine-frozen-tuna-police-26a0143fe2822db3dce247db43a431fb> Spanish authorities have confiscated 11 tons of cocaine and arrested 20 people in two different operations against the smuggling of the illegal drugs inside shipping containers, Spain’s National Police said Tuesday.

“We didn’t turn the page on the fossil fuel era, but this outcome is the beginning of the end”: UN Climate Change Executive Secretary at COP 28 Closing. *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*. 13 December 2023. Available from: <https://unfccc.int/news/we-didn-t-turn-the-page-on-the-fossil-fuel-era-but-this-outcome-is-the-beginning-of-the-end-un-0> The following is a transcript of a speech delivered by UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell at the closing of COP28 in Dubai on 13 December 2023.

No ‘phase-out’, but Dubai deal puts oil and gas sector on notice. Megan Darby. *Climate Home News*. 13 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2023/12/13/no-phase-out-but-dubai-deal-puts-oil-and-gas-sector-on-notice/> Countries have agreed on the need to shift away from burning fossil fuels for the first time in the UN climate process, at Cop28 talks in Dubai.

COP28 nations adopt first-ever climate deal to ‘transition away’ from fossil fuels. *France 24*. 13 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.france24.com/en/middle-east/20231213-new-un-climate-draft-agreement-calls-for-transitioning-away-on-fossil-fuels> 📄 US President Joe Biden hailed a deal secured on Wednesday at UN climate talks in Dubai as a “historic milestone” in transitioning away from fossil fuels but said there was still work to do.

The COP28 Deal Tackles the Elephant in the Room: Fossil Fuels. Fiona Harvey. *PassBlue*. 13 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.passblue.com/2023/12/13/the-cop28-deal-tackles-the-elephant-in-the-room-fossil-fuels/> As temperatures broke records around the world this summer, António Guterres, the United Nations secretary-general, warned in September: “Humanity has opened the gates of hell.”

The Uncomfortable Geopolitics of the Clean Energy Transition. Matt Ince and Erin Sikorsky. *The Lawfare Institute*. 13 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.lawfaremedia.org/article/the-uncomfortable-geopolitics-of-the-clean-energy-transition> Every time UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres speaks about the climate crisis, he ups the ante with his admonishments - and rightly so.

Beijing reiterates position on South China Sea. Wang Qingyun. *China Daily*. 14 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202312/14/WS657a637aa31040ac301a7b9a.html> China defended its recent maritime law enforcement activities in waters near Ren'ai Reef and Huangyan Island on Wednesday, and decried the United States' endorsement of the Philippines' maritime provocation.

COP28 key takeaways. Wood Mackenzie. 14 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.woodmac.com/news/the-edge/cop28-key-takeaways/> There's more than one measure of success. Our team was there and witnessed an organisational triumph.

Why Denmark Can't "Block" Dark Tankers. Kristina Siig and Richard L. Kilpatrick. *EJIL:Talk! Blog of the European Journal of International Law*. 14 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.ejiltalk.org/why-denmark-cant-block-dark-tankers/> A dangerous proposal is on the table as sanctioning authorities grasp for answers on how to improve enforcement of the Russian oil price cap.

COPs may be useless now, but they have a crucial future role. Gwynne Dyer. *Cyprus Mail*. 17 December 2023. Available from: <https://cyprus-mail.com/2023/12/17/cops-may-be-useless-now-but-they-have-a-crucial-future-role/> The poet Horace foreshadowed the COP28 climate summit by more than 2,000 years when he wrote "Mountains will labour."

The big picture – Climate change and the supply chain. George Lauriat. *American Journal of Transportation (AJOT)*. 18 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.ajot.com/premium/ajot-the-big-picture-climate-change-and-the-supply-chain> On November 20th the United Nations Environment Program released its Emissions Gap Report 2023 - the 14th, which was published ahead of the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention Climate Change, better known as COP 28, which was held in Dubai, UAE November 30 - December 12th.

Explainer: COP28 deal on fossil fuels gives impetus to 'just transition'. Megan Rowling. *Reuters*. 18 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/cop28-deal-fossil-fuels-gives-impetus-just-transition-2023-12-18/> The hard-won agreement at the COP28 climate summit to transition away from fossil fuels for energy was heralded as the "beginning of the end" for the production and use of oil, coal and gas, and a key step in limiting global warming.

Questions and Answers: twelfth package of restrictive measures against Russia. *European Commission*. 18 December 2023. Available from: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_23_6642 As a result of our internationally coordinated sanctions, Russia's budgetary revenues from oil have dropped, thereby limiting its resources to continue waging its war of aggression.

UNCTAD study shows trade's untapped potential in climate action. *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*. 18 December 2023. Available from: <https://unctad.org/news/unctad-study-shows-trades-untapped-potential-climate-action> An UNCTAD study released at COP28 examines how 60 developing countries have integrated trade into their national pledges under the Paris Agreement, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

US pushes naval coalition as Yemen rebels vow to attack more ships. *France 24*. 19 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20231219-yemen-rebels-vow-to-keep-up-red-sea-attacks-despite-new-task-force> The United States pushed Tuesday to build up a multinational naval task force to protect a key global shipping lane from Yemen's Huthi rebels, who pledged to keep up their attacks on cargo ships in the Red Sea.

Red Sea: Joint Statement on Houthi Attacks. *European Union External Action Service (EEAS).* 19 December 2023. Available from: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/red-sea-joint-statement-houthi-attacks_en The undersigned condemn Houthi interference with navigational rights and freedoms in the waters around the Arabian Peninsula, particularly the Red Sea.

HMS Diamond joins new international task force to protect shipping in the Red Sea. *UK Government.* 19 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hms-diamond-joins-new-international-task-force-to-protect-shipping-in-the-red-sea> As Houthi attacks against commercial vessels continue, Royal Navy Destroyer *HMS Diamond* has joined Operation Prosperity Guardian, a new international task force to ensure freedom of navigation in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

What's behind the attacks on ships in the Red Sea. Ellen Wald. *Atlantic Council.* 20 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/whats-behind-the-attacks-on-ships-in-the-red-sea/> For years, a Yemen-based Islamist group called the Houthi have periodically attacked ships traversing the Bab el-Mandeb Strait at the opening of the Red Sea.

The U.S. Initiates Extended Continental Shelf Claims. Trine Jonassen. *High North News (Norway).* 20 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.highnorthnews.com/en/us-initiates-extended-continental-shelf-claims> Tuesday, the US Department of State released the geographic coordinates defining the outer limits of the U.S. continental shelf in areas beyond 200 nautical miles from the coast, known as the extended continental shelf (ECS).

Ireland Makes Large Cocaine Bust Aboard Arriving Bulker. *Maritime Executive.* 20 December 2023. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/ireland-makes-second-large-cocaine-bust-aboard-arriving-bulker> A bulker arriving in Ireland from Canada is part of an ongoing operation as the Irish police and revenue service search the vessel for illegal drugs.

Maritime spatial planning: Commission refers GREECE to the Court of Justice for its failure to establish and communicate its Maritime Spatial Plans. *European Commission.* 21 December 2023. Available from: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/da/ip_23_6345 Today, the European Commission decided to refer Greece (INFR(2021)2226) to the Court of Justice of the European Union for its failure to ensure the correct implementation of Directive (EU) 2014/89 on maritime spatial planning.

ICJ authorises Pacific Islands Forum and AOSIS to participate in the Climate Change proceedings. *Pacific Islands News Association (PINA).* 21 December 2023. Available from: <https://pina.com.fj/2023/12/21/icj-authorises-pacific-islands-forum-and-aosis-to-participate-in-the-climate-change-proceedings/> The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has authorised the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), at their request, to participate in the advisory proceedings on the Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change.

Iran Dismisses US Claims It Is Involved in Houthi Ship Attacks. *Voice of America.* 23 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.voanews.com/a/iran-dismisses-us-claims-it-is-involved-in-houthi-ship-attacks-/7410427.html> Iran's deputy foreign minister Saturday dismissed U.S. accusations that Tehran was involved in attacks by Yemeni rebels on commercial ships, saying the group was acting on its own.

Year in review: Top 10 UNCTAD stories of 2023. *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*. 27 December 2023. Available from: <https://unctad.org/news/year-review-top-10-unctad-stories-2023> From analysing the ups and downs of global trade and investment to measuring progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, these are the most-read UNCTAD stories of the year.

First Nations Climate Initiative signs green shipping corridor agreement. Seth Forward. *Northern View (Canada)*. 28 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.thenorthernview.com/news/first-nations-climate-initiative-signs-green-shipping-corridor-agreement-7290622> More than 11,000 kilometres away from Northwest B.C., the West Green Shipping Corridor agreement was signed on Dec. 6 by the First Nations Climate Initiative (FNCI), a group comprising Lax Kw'alaams, Metlakatla, Nisga'a and Haisla.

ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement on Maintaining and Promoting Stability in the Maritime Sphere in Southeast Asia. *Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)*. 30 December 2023. Available from: <https://asean.org/asean-foreign-ministers-statement-on-maintaining-and-promoting-stability-in-the-maritime-sphere-in-southeast-asia/> We recall and reaffirm our shared commitment to maintaining and promoting peace, security, and stability in the region, as well as to the peaceful resolution of disputes, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
[Full Statement](#) 

MARINE TECHNOLOGY

News: Maritime UK launches Version 7 of the Industry Code of Practice for Maritime Autonomous Ship Systems. *Maritime UK*. 29 November 2023. Available from: <https://www.maritimeuk.org/media-centre/news/news-maritime-uk-launches-version-7-industry-code-practice-maritime-autonomous-ship-systems/> Maritime UK has launched Version 7 of the Industry Code of Practice for Maritime Autonomous Ship Systems.
[MASS UK Industry Conduct Principles and Code of Practice 2023 \(V7\)](#)

The Maritime Technologies Forum (MTF) Expands Global Leadership with the Addition of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore. *Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)*. 1 December 2023. Available from: <http://tinyurl.com/mr2mcxx3> The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore has joined as an associate member, bringing regulatory and technological expertise to further support MTF's objectives.

Looking beyond the engine: COP28 needs to focus on the availability and scalability of fuels. Christopher Wiernicki. *TradeWinds*. 5 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/opinion/looking-beyond-the-engine-cop28-needs-to-focus-on-the-availability-and-scalability-of-fuels/2-1-1564198> As all eyes turn to Dubai for COP28, the magnitude of the clean energy shipping challenge before us is daunting.

Carbon calculators proliferate ahead of imminent EU ETS inclusion. Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*. 6 December 2023. Available from: <https://splash247.com/carbon-calculators-proliferate-ahead-of-imminent-eu-ets-inclusion/> With 26 days to go until shipping is included in the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) brokers and tech firms are falling over themselves to offer clients carbon calculators.

Shipping leaders and green hydrogen producers agree on ambitious uptake targets for 2030 to enable a net zero maritime sector. *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*. 6 December 2023. Available from:

<https://climatechampions.unfccc.int/maritime-green-hydrogen-call-to-action/> Shipping sector leaders have committed to scaling up zero-emissions fuel derived from renewables-based hydrogen to nearly 11 million tonnes by 2030, sending a clear signal to the nascent industry.

Shipping sector lands deal for supply of 11 million tons of green fuel. Mette Grube Condrup. *ShippingWatch*. 7 December 2023. Available from:

<https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article16667689.ece> Companies such as Bunker Holding, Trafigura and MAN have signed the agreement, committing them to work towards a large-scale production of green fuel.

Harnessing the oceans to 'bury' carbon has huge potential – and risk – so NZ needs to move with caution. Rebecca J McLeod and Cliff Law. *The Conversation*. 7 December 2023. Available from:

<https://theconversation.com/harnessing-the-oceans-to-bury-carbon-has-huge-potential-and-risk-so-nz-needs-to-move-with-caution-217553> Climate change might not be high on its immediate agenda, but New Zealand's new government does have one potentially significant and innovative policy.

Future-proofing competency standards on autonomous surface ships. Sam Andrews. *Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST)*. 7 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.imarest.org/resource/future-proofing-competency-standards-on-autonomous-surface-ships.html> MASSPeople is an initiative that began in 2021 with the view that people and skills are always the last things to be considered whenever legislation changes to facilitate the adoption of new technology in the maritime industry.

Carbon capture becomes focus for divisions at climate conference. John Kemp. *Reuters*.

8 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/carbon-capture-becomes-focus-divisions-climate-conference-kemp-2023-12-07/> Carbon capture and storage has emerged as flashpoint at the UN climate conference in Dubai about how big a role it is destined to play in reaching the target of net zero emissions.

Market Perspectives: Marine Fuel Market is in Transition and so are Alternative Fuels.

Julian Macqueen. *Ship & Bunker*. 14 December 2023. Available from:

<https://shipandbunker.com/news/emea/617635-market-perspectives-marine-fuel-market-is-in-transition-and-so-are-alternative-fuels> Shipping's choice of alternative bunker fuel will be framed by a host of factors but led by price and, on current showing, it seems that both liquefied natural gas and oil-derived fuels should stay in the running for the foreseeable future, according to energy transition analyst Rhidoy Rashid.

Red Sea cargo ship hijack: How to keep merchant vessels safe from attack. Chris Baraniuk.

BBC Future. 17 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20231215-red-sea-cargo-ship-hijack-how-to-keep-merchant-vessels-safe-from-attack> 🚢 A growing number of cargo vessels have come under attack in the Red Sea in recent weeks – can new technologies help to keep commercial shipping safe?

China: DNV, SDST launch Joint Innovation Studio to explore maritime decarbonisation and digitalisation. *Manifold Times (Singapore)*. 19 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.manifoldtimes.com/news/china-dnv-sdst-launch-joint-innovation-studio-to-explore-maritime-decarbonisation-and-digitalisation/> Classification society DNV and Shandong Shipping Tanker Co., Ltd (SDST) on Monday (18 December) announced the launch of a new Joint Innovation Studio at the recent Marintec China trade fair to explore, develop and promote maritime projects in the digital and sustainability space.

Shipping gears up to meet 5-10% low carbon fuel target, but will fuels be available?

Niels Rasmussen. *BIMCO*. 20 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.bimco.org/news-and-trends/market-reports/shipping-number-of-the-week/20231220-snow> The IMO targets for the use of zero or near-zero fuels in 2030 can be met using sustainable biofuels.

Alternative Fuels Ammonia. *Lloyd's Register*. 28 December 2023. Available from:

<https://vimeo.com/898295558> 📺 Liam Blackmore gives an introduction and overview of Ammonia as a fuel for shipping including technical challenges, safety elements and sustainability in this video.

Viewpoint: Bunkers to go alternative in 2024. Anya Fielding. *Argus Media*. 29 December 2023.

Available from: <https://www.argusmedia.com/en/news/2523318-viewpoint-bunkers-to-go-alternative-in-2024?> The coming year will be foundational in shipping's decarbonisation, with demand and supply for conventional fuels likely to dwindle and marine gasoil (MGO) prices to rise as regulations steer the sector away from conventional fuels.

Cleaner Oceans, Greener Future: The Impact of Sustainable Marine Fuels. Felicity Bradstock.

OilPrice.com. 31 December 2023. Available from: <https://oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/Cleaner-Oceans-Greener-Future-The-Impact-of-Sustainable-Marine-Fuels.html> Sustainable marine fuels are finally gaining more traction as governments and private companies around the world look to decarbonise the shipping industry.

The Role of E-fuels in Decarbonising Transport. *International Energy Agency (IEA)*.

December 2023. Available from: <https://www.iea.org/reports/the-role-of-e-fuels-in-decarbonising-transport>; Rapid deployment of low-emission fuels during this decade will be crucial to accelerate the decarbonisation of the transport sector. [Report](#) 📄

MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING

Training seafarers for a decarbonized future. *UN Global Compact*. 30 November 2023.

Available from: <https://unglobalcompact.org/news/5198-11-30-2023> A new training project will prepare seafarers for zero or near-zero emission ships, helping the global shipping industry decarbonize and ensure a just transition for seafarers.

Maritime Academy trains over 24,000 seafarers in five years. Tola Adenubi. *Nigerian Tribune*.

30 November 2023. Available from: <https://tribuneonlineng.com/maritime-academy-trains-over-24000-seafarers-in-five-years/> Despite growing concerns with regards to employment of seafarers, the Maritime Academy of Nigeria (MAN) Oron has revealed that it has trained over 24,000 seafarers between 2017 and 2022.

Groundbreaking review of UK cadet syllabus could shape future of training worldwide.

UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA). 3 December 2023. Available from:

<https://maritimecoastguard.blogspot.com/2023/12/groundbreaking-review-of-uk-cadet.html>

A groundbreaking review of the UK's cadet syllabus, which could shape the future of training worldwide, has been completed by the Cadet Training & Modernisation (CT&M) Programme.

Integrated Training to Tackle Maritime Crimes Through Strengthened Judicial and Law Enforcement Capacity by UNODC's Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP).

United Nations Bangladesh. 6 December 2023. Available from: <https://bangladesh.un.org/en/254904-integrated-training-tackle-maritime-crimes-through-strengthened-judicial-and-law-enforcement>

Coastal states within the Indian Ocean, notably Bangladesh, confront various maritime security threats, including illicit drug trafficking and human trafficking.

GIFF urged to champion local content policy in the maritime industry.

GhanaWeb. 11 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/business/GIFF-urged-to-champion-local-content-policy-in-the-maritime-industry-1896302> A maritime law consultant & legal practitioner with Alliance Partners, Dr. Kofi Mbiah has charged the Ghana Institute of Freight Forwarders (GIFF) to push for a local content policy in the maritime industry.

157 cadets pass out of Maritime Academy.

Uwakwe Benson. *The Times (Nigeria)*. 12 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.thetimes.com.ng/2023/12/157-cadets-pass-out-of-maritime-academy/> A total of 157 cadets Tuesday passed out of the Maritime Academy of Nigeria, Oron, from different programs, including: Higher National Diploma, (HND) in Maritime Transportation, Maritime Engineering Nautical Science and Marine Department.

Seafarer shortages - Greece makes 2024 year of 'Naval Education'.

David Glass. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 20 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/crewing/seafarer-shortages-greece-makes-2024-year-naval-education>

Speaking in parliament on 16 December Shipping and Island Policy Minister Christos Stylianides said legislation is being prepared to support the initiative on education and keep the industry adequately staffed.

MARITIME SAFETY

Disasters at sea trigger ship-safety advances. Tom Cassauwers. *HORIZON - the EU Research & Innovation Magazine*. 30 November 2023. Available from: <https://ec.europa.eu/research-and-innovation/en/horizon-magazine/disasters-sea-trigger-ship-safety-advances> When one of the world's largest container ships crashed into the bank of the Suez Canal in 2021, a major gateway for global trade became blocked with an estimated \$9.6 billion in daily commerce being held up.

November 2023: lithium batteries and supply chain security.

Mike Yarwood. *TT Club*. 30 November 2023. Available from: <https://www.ttclub.com/news-and-resources/tt-live-a-tt-club-podcast/tt-live-highlighting-risk/tt-live-highlighting-risk-lithium-batteries-and-supply-chain-security/> Join TT Club's Managing Director Loss Prevention, Mike Yarwood, and Risk Management Director, Peregrine Storrs-Fox, as they discuss key risk areas for the transport and logistics industry.

How the Cape Town Agreement Can Improve Fisher Safety.

Pew Charitable Trusts. 6 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2023/12/how-the-cape-town-agreement-can-improve-fisher-safety> In an effort to maximize profits, operators who fish illegally or under report catch often cut corners with how they manage their vessels, further endangering workers in one of the world's most hazardous professions.

Focused Inspection Campaign on Pilot Transfer Arrangements. *Paris MoU on Port State Control*. 6 December 2023. Available from: <https://parismou.org/2023/12/focused-inspection-campaign-pilot-transfer-arrangements> From 10 July to 9 August 2023 the Paris Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Port State Control conducted a Focused Inspection Campaign (FIC) on Pilot Transfer Arrangements (PTAs). [Full Press Release](#) 

2023/07 - Guidance for the safe carriage of battery powered vehicles on ships. *Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)*. 12 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.amsa.gov.au/about/regulations-and-standards/marine-notice/202307-guidance-safe-carriage-battery-powered> This marine notice advises ship operators and owners of the hazards of transporting battery-powered electric vehicles (BEVs).

Deaths in enclosed spaces must be prevented. *InterManager*. 14 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.intermanager.org/2023/12/deaths-in-enclosed-spaces-must-be-prevented/> With eight deaths over the past seven days in enclosed spaces on ships, InterManager has called on the shipping industry to work together to improve safety in these challenging onboard areas.

North Korea launches ICBM, ballistic missile within hours of each other. *Kyodo News (Japan)*. 18 December 2023. Available from: <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2023/12/0fe7db7a154a-update2-n-korea-fires-ballistic-missile-falls-outside-japans-eez.html> North Korea fired a solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile toward the Sea of Japan, the South Korean government said Monday, just hours after another missile was launched in the same direction.

MARITIME SECURITY

Eunavfor Atalanta Successfully tackles a Maritime Security Incident in the North Western Indian Ocean. *EU NAVFOR Operation ATALANTA*. 1 December 2023. Available from: <https://eunavfor.eu/news/eunavfor-atalanta-successfully-tackles-maritime-security-incident-north-western-indian-ocean> The European Union Naval Force Operation (EUNAVFOR) ATALANTA has successfully tackled the alleged piracy-related incident involving the Iranian-flagged fishing boat “AL-MERAJ 1” off the coast of Somalia.

Houthi Attacks on Commercial Shipping in International Water Continue. *US Central Command*. 3 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.centcom.mil/MEDIA/PRESS-RELEASES/Press-Release-View/Article/3605010/houthi-attacks-on-commercial-shipping-in-international-water-continue/> Today, there were four attacks against three separate commercial vessels operating in international waters in the southern Red Sea.

Houthis claim attack on two Israeli ships in Red Sea as US says warship targeted. *The National (UAE)*. 3 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/gulf-news/2023/12/03/houthis-uss-carney-attack-red-sea/> An American warship and several commercial vessels came under attack on Sunday in the Red Sea, the Pentagon said, potentially marking a major escalation in a series of maritime attacks in the Middle East linked to the Israel-Gaza war.

Red Sea security situation worsens. Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*. 4 December 2023. Available from: <https://splash247.com/red-sea-security-situation-worsens/> Rockets and drones rained down on international merchant shipping in the Red Sea on Sunday with war risk surcharges now becoming more common and naval coalitions struggling to keep up with the volume of attacks in the Middle East.

Viewpoint: What Red Sea attacks mean for shipping. Lori Ann LaRocco. *FreightWaves*. 4 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.freightwaves.com/news/viewpoint-what-red-sea-attacks-mean-for-shipping> Geopolitical tensions and attacks in the Red Sea have increased since the commencement of the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Global shipping on alert after Houthi attack vessels. Jo Harper. *Deutsche Welle (Germany)*. 4 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.dw.com/en/global-shipping-on-alert-after-houthi-attack-vessels/a-67549872> A major escalation in maritime attacks in the Middle East unfolded this weekend when ballistic missiles fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels struck three commercial ships Sunday in the Red Sea.

US, allies in talks on naval task force to protect shipping in Red Sea after Houthi attacks. Zeke Miller. *Associated Press*. 5 December 2023. Available from: <https://apnews.com/article/houthi-shipping-red-sea-navy-israel-6dc5fbff6d28fead5d6ef1224cba5a14> The White House said Monday that the U.S. may establish a naval task force to escort commercial ships in the Red Sea, a day after three vessels were struck by missiles fired by Iranian-back Houthi in Yemen.

Iran rejects involvement in Yemeni attacks on Israeli ships. *Tehran Times (Iran)*. 5 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/492209/Iran-rejects-involvement-in-Yemeni-attacks-on-Israeli-ships> "These claims are raised with specific political motives and indicate the efforts of the British authorities to distort the realities of the region and their susceptibility to the preferences of third parties, including the child-killing Zionist regime," Nasser Kanaani said on Tuesday.

Israel-Palestine war: Western officials privately warn Houthi attacks on shipping lanes will continue. Sean Mathews. *Middle East Eye*. 5 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/western-officials-warn-houthi-attacks-shipping-lanes-will-continue> Western officials are privately telling members of the shipping industry to continue to expect Houthi attacks on vessels in the Red Sea, according to two senior Arab and western officials, who requested anonymity when speaking with Middle East Eye about the private conversations.

Call for governments to protect shipping in the Red Sea. Nick Savvides. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 6 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/ship-operations/call-governments-protect-shipping-red-sea> Initial attacks on Israeli-linked vessels have now seen vessels from non-Israeli carriers also targeted as Dynamar consultant Darron Wadey points out: "in the past couple of weeks we have seen an audacious hijacking of a car carrier, an attempted hijacking of a product tanker, a drone strike on the 15,300 teu CMA CGM Symi and the successful interception by US Navy vessels of multiple drone and missile attacks against both commercial shipping and US naval assets."

HMS Trent deploys to hunt drugs smugglers. *Royal Navy*. 7 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news-and-latest-activity/news/2023/december/07/230723-trent-heads-for-the-caribbean> A Royal Navy warship has been deployed to hunt drugs smugglers in the Caribbean Sea.

Israel-Gaza conflict: Impact on shipping. *Gard*. 8 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.gard.no/web/articles?documentId=36097505> The situation in Israel and Gaza and the surrounding sea areas remains volatile and we recommend assessing all port calls in Israel on a case-by-case basis, particularly when the voyage includes transiting the Southern Red Sea.

Securing the Maritime Domain in the Red Sea. Raul (Pete) Pedrozo. *Lieber Institute at West Point*. 8 December 2023. Available from: <https://lieber.westpoint.edu/securing-maritime-domain-red-sea/> Since the brutal Hamas-led massacre of over 1,300 innocent Israeli citizens on October 7, 2023, Houthi rebels based in Yemen have increased their attacks on Israeli and U.S. ships in the Red Sea.

Shipping seeks safe waters in era of deadly geopolitics. *New Straits Times (Malaysia)*. 9 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.nst.com.my/opinion/columnists/2023/12/988464/shipping-seeks-safe-waters-era-deadly-geopolitics> As tankers, car-carriers and other merchant vessels pass through the Straits of Malacca, unlit fishing boats criss-cross the shipping lanes at night, making it one of the most challenging sea areas of the world to transit, even during peacetime.

Re-Imagining Africa's Agency in Global Maritime Security. Brian Gicheru Kinyua. *Maritime Executive*. 10 December 2023. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/re-imagining-africa-s-agency-in-global-maritime-security> Over the past month, the global maritime community has woken up to the possible re-emergence of Somali piracy, following the capture of the fishing vessel *Almeraj 1* off the coast of Somalia.

French frigate downs drones over Red Sea in 'legitimate defence'. *France 24*. 11 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20231210-french-frigate-downs-drones-over-red-sea-military> The French general staff reported on Sunday that the *Languedoc* frigate, operating in the Red Sea, had opened fire on two drones heading straight towards it from the Yemen coast, destroying both.

Bullets and missiles fired at Ardmore tanker in latest Houthi attack. Harry Papachristou, Gary Dixon and Matt Coyne. *TradeWinds*. 13 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/insurance/bullets-and-missiles-fired-at-ardmore-tanker-in-latest-houthi-attack/2-1-1570234> Houthi rebels are believed to have launched at least one fresh attack on an Ardmore Shipping vessel on Wednesday.

Missiles from rebel-held Yemen miss a ship loaded with jet fuel near the key Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Jon Gambrell. *Associated Press*. 13 December 2023. Available from: <https://apnews.com/article/yemen-houthi-rebels-ship-attacks-us-navy-1727df3d95e548c6e4d20b51f096268f> Two missiles fired from territory held by Yemen's Houthi rebels missed a commercial tanker loaded with Indian-manufactured jet fuel near the key Bab el-Mandeb Strait on Wednesday, two U.S. officials said.

SHADE MED 2023 Navigating through the Challenges of Mediterranean Security. *NATO Allied Maritime Command (MARCOM)*. 13 December 2023. Available from: <https://mc.nato.int/media-centre/news/2023/shade-med-2023-navigating-through-the-challenges-of-mediterranean-security> EUNAVFOR MED and MARCOM have co-organized the SHADE MED conference, between 6 and 7 December in Rome to discuss Mediterranean maritime security.

EUNAVFOR Operation Atalanta and the Shipping Industry Meet in London. *EU NAVFOR Operation ATALANTA*. 13 December 2023. Available from: <https://eunavfor.eu/news/eunavfor-operation-atalanta-and-shipping-industry-meet-london> The European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) Operation ATALANTA Commander, Vice Admiral Ignacio Villanueva Serrano, chaired the XIV Industry Strategy Meeting in London.

Shipping industry urges caution on use of armed guards on Red Sea vessels. Jonathan Saul. *Reuters*. 15 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/world/shipping-industry-urges-caution-use-armed-guards-red-sea-vessels-2023-12-15/> Shipping companies should use caution when deploying private armed guards onboard vessels sailing through the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden because of the risk of escalation amid growing attacks on ships, an industry advisory said on Friday.

US, UK say they shot down 15 drones from Yemen's Houthis over Red Sea. *Al Jazeera*. 16 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/12/16/us-uk-say-they-shot-down-15-drones-from-yemens-houthis-over-red-sea> 🇺🇸🇬🇧 The United States and United Kingdom authorities say their warships have shot down 15 attack drones over the Red Sea as Israel's war on Gaza threatens to spread in the region.

Japan, ASEAN agree to boost maritime security cooperation. *Channel News Asia*. 17 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/asia/japan-asean-agree-boost-maritime-security-commemorative-summit-3994856> Southeast Asian and Japanese leaders agreed on Sunday (Dec 17) to boost dialogue and cooperation in "maritime security" in the face of China's growing assertiveness in the region.

Houthi drone attacks and hijackings - Who controls the seas? Michael Grey. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 18 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/opinions-analysis/houthi-drone-attacks-and-hijackings-who-controls-seas> Here is a question for policy makers, international agencies, ministers of trade, transport and naval strategists.

US launches international task force to counter Houthi attacks. Shannon Crawford. *ABC News (US)*. 19 December 2023. Available from: <https://abcnews.go.com/International/us-launches-international-task-force-counter-houthi-attacks/story?id=105788661> 🇺🇸 The U.S. is responding to the escalating crisis in the Red Sea by announcing Tuesday it has launched an international task force for maritime security, but so far only nine other politically similar nations are confirmed to have joined on - sparking doubt that the coalition can put an end to militia attacks on vessels in the region and calm anxious shipping companies.

BIMCO and others publish security guidelines for Southern Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. *BIMCO*. 19 December 2023. Available from: <http://tinyurl.com/c6w9c78b> Industry associations have come together to publish security guidance applicable to navigating in the Southern Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. [Full Guidance](#) 📄

Operation Sea Guardian Special Operations Command and Control Element successfully executes activation exercise. *NATO Allied Maritime Command (MARCOM)*. 20 December 2023. Available from: <https://mc.nato.int/media-centre/news/2023/operation-sea-guardian-special-operations-command-and-control-element-successfully-executes-activation-exercise> In a strategic display of capability and readiness, Operation Sea Guardian (OSG) conducted a rigorous activation exercise this week, demonstrating the deployment of standby maritime special forces unit under the control of Special Operations Command and Control Element (SOCCE) in Türkiye.

ECOWAS MMCC Zone F has commemorated the 10th anniversary of Yaoundé code of conduct with a conference and exhibition. Collins Adzraku. *Regional Maritime University (Ghana)*. 20 December 2023. Available from: <https://rmu.edu.gh/ecowas-mmcc-zone-f-has-commemorated-the-10th-anniversary-of-yaounde-code-of-conduct-with-a-conference-and-exhibition/> The ECOWAS Multinational Maritime Coordination Centre Zone F yesterday celebrated the 10th anniversary of Yaoundé code of conduct at the Holiday Inn -Accra.

Shipping industry in the dark over US-led Red Sea navy force. Jonathan Saul. *Reuters*. 21 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/business/shipping-industry-dark-over-us-led-red-sea-navy-force-2023-12-20/> Shipping companies remain in the dark over a new international navy coalition being assembled by the United States to combat attacks in the Red Sea, with many vessels continuing to avoid the area or cancelling contracts, sources said on Wednesday.

Cyber-security rules will safeguard the seas. Martyn Wingrove. *Riviera Maritime*. 21 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/cybersecurity-rules-will-safeguard-the-seas-79026> Shipowners, builders, operators and managers will be challenged by two stringent cyber-security regulations when they come into force on 1 July 2024.

Denmark Plans to Send Frigate to Support Ships and Crews Transiting Red Sea. *Maritime Executive*. 29 December 2023. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/denmark-plans-to-send-frigate-to-support-ships-and-crews-transiting-red-sea> Denmark's Ministry of Defense, Forsvarsministeriet, and its Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen announced plans to further support the maritime security efforts in the Red Sea.

U.S. Navy Helo Crews Kill Houthi Assault Boat Teams After Red Sea Attack. Sam LaGrone. *US Naval Institute News*. 31 December 2023. Available from: <https://news.usni.org/2023/12/31/u-s-navy-helo-crews-kill-houthi-assault-boat-teams-after-red-sea-attack> Ten Houthi fighters are dead after attempted attacks on U.S. Navy forces and a merchant ship in the Red Sea, U.S. Central Command announced early Sunday morning.

Guards had to fire handguns at Houthis following new attack on Maersk vessel. Niklas Krigslund. *ShippingWatch*. 31 December 2023. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article16720413.ece> Less than 24 hours after the attack, armed guards aboard the ship *Maersk Hangzhou* had to fire small arms at Houthi-rebels that attempted to board the vessel from several small boats.

MIGRANTS

Greek authorities accused of insufficient investigation into fatal migrant boat sinking. *Euronews*. 14 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.euronews.com/2023/12/14/greek-authorities-accused-of-insufficient-investigation-into-fatal-migrant-boat-sinking> Greek authorities are under scrutiny from international human rights groups as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch accuse them of inadequately investigating the circumstances surrounding a migrant boat sinking that claimed the lives of hundreds six months ago.

Greece: 6 Months On, No Justice for Pylos Shipwreck. *Amnesty International*. 14 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/12/greece-6-months-on-no-justice-for-pylos-shipwreck/> Official investigations into credible allegations that the Hellenic Coast Guard's actions and omissions contributed to the catastrophic shipwreck and loss of life off Pylos, Greece six months ago have made little meaningful progress, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch said today.

At least 61 migrants drown after shipwreck off Libya. *France 24*. 16 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20231216-at-least-61-migrants-drown-after-shipwreck-off-libya> IOM, in a post on social media platform X, quoted survivors as saying the boat, carrying around 86 people, departed the Libyan city of Zwara, about 110 km (68 miles) from the capital, Tripoli.

Mediterranean Shipwreck Sounds Alarm for Lifesaving Action. *International Organization for Migration (IOM)*. 19 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-shipwreck-sounds-alarm-lifesaving-action> A shipwreck off the coast of Libya Saturday that claimed the lives of 61 migrants is a stark reminder of the need for states to urgently address the mounting death toll on the world's most dangerous maritime crossing where 2,571 people have died so far this year.

NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS

'Dark' tanker oil transfers rise further with suspected sanctioned trades. Max Lin. *S&P Global*. 30 November 2023. Available from: <https://www.spglobal.com/commodityinsights/en/market-insights/latest-news/shipping/113023-dark-tanker-oil-transfers-rise-further-with-suspected-sanctioned-trades> Shadowy oil transfers at sea with tankers switching off their transponders to hide their location continued to rise in the third quarter with increased activities suspected to be linked to Russia, Iran and Venezuela—all of whose exports are subject to Western sanctions.

Finland Demands Investigators on Vessel That Broke Gas Pipeline. Kati Pohjanpalo. *Bloomberg*. 2 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/finland-demands-investigators-on-vessel-that-broke-gas-pipeline-1.2006277> Finland will demand its investigators be allowed on board the *NewNew Polar Bear*, a Hong Kong-flagged vessel whose anchor ripped up a subsea gas pipeline near Finnish waters in October, President Sauli Niinisto said.

Container ship that suffered malfunction while transiting Suez Canal repaired, moved again. *Ahram Online (Egypt)*. 6 December 2023. Available from: <https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/1235/513577/Egypt/Urban--Transport/Container-ship-that-suffered-malfunction-while-tra.aspx> The container ship that sustained malfunction while transiting the Suez Canal earlier on Wednesday has resumed its journey after being repaired, the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) said.

Houthi Ship Attacks Are Affecting Red Sea Trade Routes. Noam Raydan. *Washington Institute for Near East Policy*. 7 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/houthi-ship-attacks-are-affecting-red-sea-trade-routes> According to recent maritime data, Houthi attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea, particularly those with Israeli links, have led some companies to reroute their ships away from the Suez Canal and the strategic Bab al-Mandab chokepoint.

Yemen's Houthis warn they will target all Israel-bound ships in Red Sea. *Al Jazeera*. 9 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/12/9/yemens-houthis-warn-they-will-target-all-israel-bound-ships-in-red-sea> Yemen's Houthi movement says it will target all ships heading to Israel, regardless of their nationality, and warned all international shipping companies against dealing with Israeli ports.

UK Warns of "Yemeni Authorities" Contacting Vessels in the Red Sea. *Maritime Executive*. 9 December 2023. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/uk-warns-of-yemeni-authorities-contacting-vessels-in-the-red-sea> Unidentified individuals claiming to be "Yemeni authorities" appear to be attempting to command vessels sailing in the southern Red Sea area by issuing commands over the radio.

CENTCOM Statement on missile attack in the Bab-el-Mandeb. *US Central Command.*

11 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.centcom.mil/MEDIA/STATEMENTS/Statements-View/Article/3614265/centcom-statement-on-missile-attack-in-the-bab-el-mandeb/> At around 4 p.m. EST on December 11, the Motor Tanker *STRINDA* was attacked by what is assessed to have been an Anti-Ship Cruise Missile (ASCM) launched from a Houthi controlled area of Yemen while passing through the Bab-el-Mandeb.

British minehunting ships to bolster Ukrainian Navy as UK and Norway launch maritime support initiative. *UK Government.* 11 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-minehunting-ships-to-bolster-ukrainian-navy-as-uk-and-norway-launch-maritime-support-initiative> Two Royal Navy minehunter ships are being transferred from the Royal Navy to the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) in a move to strengthen Ukraine's ability to operate at sea.

Yemen: Houthis Attack Civilian Ships. *Human Rights Watch.* 12 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/12/13/yemen-houthis-attack-civilian-ships> The Houthi armed group that controls part of Yemen has targeted several commercial ships carrying civilian crews in the Red Sea over the last few weeks, Human Rights Watch said today.

Yemen's Houthis warn ships in Red Sea to avoid Israel or face attack. *The Guardian.*

13 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/dec/13/yemen-houthis-red-sea-ship-israel-attack> A senior official from Yemen's Houthis has warned cargo ships in the Red Sea to avoid travelling towards Israel and the occupied territories, after the Iran-aligned group claimed an attack on a commercial tanker earlier in the day.

Red Sea Tanker Guards Exchange Fire With Small Boat Near Yemen. Rakteem Katakey and Alex Longley. *Bloomberg.* 13 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/red-sea-tanker-guards-exchange-fire-with-small-boat-near-yemen-1.2011100> Armed guards on a fuel tanker exchanged gunfire with a small boat in the Red Sea, another sign of escalating risks in one of the world's most crucial waterways.

Scientists assess global maritime traffic during COVID-19. *Marine Biological Association (UK).*

13 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.mba.ac.uk/scientists-assess-global-maritime-traffic-during-covid-19/> The study, led by researchers at the Marine Biological Association and the COVID-19 Bio-Logging Initiative, assessed changes to global shipping and fishing activity, revealing in unprecedented detail how the rapid implementation of restrictions and lockdowns affected human mobility on the ocean in 2020.

Pressure grows on Liberia and Marshall Islands to take action against the dark tanker fleet.

Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com.* 14 December 2023. Available from: <https://splash247.com/pressure-grows-on-liberia-and-marshall-islands-to-take-action-against-the-dark-tanker-fleet/> Pressure is growing on two of the world's largest flags – both of whom are headquartered in Virginia in the United States – to take action against the dark fleet.

Maersk ship attacked near the Red Sea. Sebastian Schlüter Jacobsen. *ShippingWatch.*

14 December 2023. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article16687752.ece> The Danish shipping company's ship Maersk Gibraltar was attacked with a missile on Thursday afternoon, but it did not hit the ship.

Iran warns US will face ‘problems’ with Red Sea task force plans. *Al Jazeera.*

14 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/12/14/iran-warns-us-of-problems-in-response-to-red-sea-task-force-plans> 🗣️ Iran’s Defence Minister Mohammad Reza Ashtiani has warned that a planned United States-backed multinational task force to protect shipping in the Red Sea would face “extraordinary problems”.

Sri Lanka National Hydrographic Office opened. *News 1st (Sri Lanka).* 14 December 2023.

Available from: <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2023/12/14/sri-lanka-national-hydrographic-office-opened>
Charting a new course towards maritime security and economic prosperity, the Sri Lanka National Hydrographic Office (SLNHO) was declared open at the Welisara Naval Complex today (14th December 2023), under the patronage of the State Minister of Defence, Premitha Bandara Tennakoon.

International Chamber of Shipping statement on the Red Sea ship attacks. *International Chamber of Shipping (ICS).* 15 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.ics-shipping.org/statement/international-chamber-of-shipping-statement-on-the-red-sea-ship-attacks/>

The Bahamas flagged *Galaxy Leader*, operated by Japanese company NYK, and owned by British Company Ray Car Carriers was seized by Houthi forces on 19 November.

ECSA and ETF express deep concerns over recent attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. *European Community Shipowners’ Associations (ECSA).*

15 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.ecsa.eu/index.php/node/5322> European shipowners and seafarers’ unions are deeply concerned by the recent surge in attacks against commercial vessels in the Red Sea area and the Gulf of Aden.

Yemen: Maersk halts Red Sea shipping after another attack. *Deutsche Welle (Germany).*

15 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.dw.com/en/yemen-maersk-halts-red-sea-shipping-after-another-attack/a-67728286> 🗣️ Danish shipping giant A.P. Moller-Maersk said on Friday that it was pausing container shipments through the Red Sea off the coast of Yemen until further notice.

How are Houthi attacks on ships in the Red Sea affecting global trade? Courtney Bonnell and David Mchugh. *Associated Press.* 15 December 2023. Available from:

<https://apnews.com/article/red-sea-yemen-houthis-attack-ships-f67d941c260528ac40315ecab4c34ca3> 🗣️ Yemen’s Houthi rebels have escalated attacks on ships passing through the Red Sea during the Israel-Hamas war, raising concerns about the impact on the flow of oil, grain and consumer goods through a major global trade artery.

Global shipping firms to avoid Suez Canal as attacks from Yemen’s Huthi rebels increase.

France 24. 16 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.france24.com/en/middle-east/20231216-french-shipping-group-cma-cgm-pauses-all-container-shipments-through-the-red-sea>
The announcement by Italian-Swiss giant MSC and France’s CMA CGM follows a similar decision on Friday by two of the world’s largest shipping companies, Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd, in response to a warning by the Iran-backed Huthi rebels.

Why suspending shipping operations in the Red Sea matters for global trade. Alvin R Cabral.

The National (UAE). 16 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/business/2023/12/16/why-suspending-shipping-operations-in-the-red-sea-matters-for-global-trade/> Four of the world’s five biggest shipping companies have suspended their operations in the Red Sea after missile attacks by Yemeni Houthi rebels, risking disruption to trade.

MSC PALATIUM III Incident in Red Sea - Rerouting Suez Traffic to Cape. *Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC)*. 16 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.msc.com/en/newsroom/customer-advisories/2023/december/msc-palatiium-iii-incident-in-red-sea---rerouting-suez-traffic-to-cape> On 15 December 2023 the container ship *MSC PALATIUM III* was attacked at approximately 09.37 UTC while transiting the Red Sea under sub charter to Messina Line.

CMA CGM Group's preventive measures for navigation in the Red Sea. *CMA CGM*. 16 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.cma-cgm.com/news/4520/cma-cgm-group-039-s-preventive-measures-for-navigation-in-the-red-sea> The CMA CGM Group is deeply concerned about the recent attacks on commercial vessels unfolding in the Red Sea Region.

Shipping companies face costly route changes after Red Sea attacks. *Jeppe Maagaard Holm. ShippingWatch*. 17 December 2023. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/article16693115.ece> There is an important but expensive decision to be made among the world's largest shipping companies, who must now decide whether to send their container ships on a long journey south of Africa.

55 ships divert to Cape of Good Hope and 2,128 cross Suez Canal since 19 Nov: SCA. *Ahram Online (Egypt)*. 17 December 2023. Available from: <https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContentP/1/514193/Egypt/-ships-divert-to-Cape-of-Good-Hope-and--cross-Sue.aspx> Chairman of the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) Osama Rabie stated on Sunday that 55 ships diverted from the Suez Canal route to the Cape of Good Hope route since 19 November, considering it a small percentage compared to the crossing of 2,128 ships during the same period.

US warship responds to an attack on commercial ship in Red Sea. *Haley Britzky. CNN*. 18 December 2023. Available from: <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/12/18/politics/uss-carney-red-sea/index.html> The *USS Carney* responded Monday to a distress call from a commercial vessel after it was attacked by "multiple projectiles" in the southern Red Sea, a US military official said.

Yemen's Houthis say they attacked two more vessels in the Red Sea. *Al Jazeera*. 18 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/12/18/oil-tanker-m-v-swan-atlantic-hit-by-houthi-projectile-in-the-red> Yemen's Houthi rebels say they have launched a drone attack targeting two cargo vessels in the Red Sea, the latest in a series of assaults that have disrupted maritime trade as freight companies seek to avoid the area.

Statement from Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III on Ensuring Freedom of Navigation in the Red Sea. *US Department of Defense*. 18 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3621110/statement-from-secretary-of-defense-lloyd-j-austin-iii-on-ensuring-freedom-of-n/> The recent escalation in reckless Houthi attacks originating from Yemen threatens the free flow of commerce, endangers innocent mariners, and violates international law.

LNG Vessels Begin to Reroute Away From Red Sea on Rising Tension. *Ruth Liao, Anna Shiryayevskaya and Stephen Stapczynski. Bloomberg*. 18 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/lng-vessels-begin-to-reroute-away-from-red-sea-on-rising-tension-1.2013345> Liquefied natural gas tankers are diverting from the Red Sea due to violence linked to the Israel-Hamas war, threatening longer journeys and delays of the super-chilled fuel.

BIMCO calls for immediate end to attacks on international shipping. Mette Kronholm Fraende. *BIMCO*. 18 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.bimco.org/news/priority-news/20231218-attacks> One month ago, a series of unprovoked attacks on merchant ships began in the Southern Red Sea, Bab El-Mandeb, Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea.

UPDATE n°II: Situation in the Red Sea and Notice of Force Majeure. *CMA CGM*. 18 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.cma-cgm.com/news/4522/update-n-ii-situation-in-the-red-sea-and-notice-of-force-majeure> The CMA CGM Group remains deeply concerned about the attacks on commercial vessels unfolding in the Red Sea Region.

Red Sea Attacks: Hapag-Lloyd Reroutes Ships. *Bloomberg*. 19 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2023-12-19/red-sea-attacks-hapag-lloyd-reroutes-ships-video> 🗣️ Rolf Habben Jansen, Hapag-Lloyd CEO, says he has stopped sending ships through the Red Sea after several came under attack.

Red Sea Chaos Has Shippers Bracing for Weeks Without Key Trade Route. Alex Longley, Áine Quinn and Jack Wittels. *Bloomberg*. 19 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/red-sea-chaos-has-shippers-bracing-for-weeks-without-key-trade-route-1.2013683> Even as the US works to pull together a task force to stop Houthi militants in Yemen from attacking commercial vessels, shippers are still waiting for details, and worry about implementation.

Wallenius Wilhelmsen Reroutes Ships Around Africa After Red Sea Attacks. *Ship & Bunker*. 19 December 2023. Available from: <https://shipandbunker.com/news/world/265280-wallenius-wilhelmsen-reroutes-ships-around-africa-after-red-sea-attacks> The company is rerouting all vessels planned for Red Sea traffic to voyage around the Cape of Good Hope in Africa instead.

Companies rush to avert disruption from Red Sea attacks as shipping rates rise. Marie Mannes, Jonathan Saul and Lisa Baertlein. *Reuters*. 19 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/business/retail-consumer/electrolux-readies-alternative-routes-after-red-sea-attacks-2023-12-19/> Global shipping rates rose sharply and companies scrambled to avoid disruption to shipments after attacks on vessels in the Red Sea on Tuesday stymied traffic through the key Suez Canal trade artery.

Greece advises vessels to avoid Yemeni waters after Red Sea attacks. *Ekathimerini (Greece)*. 20 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.ekathimerini.com/economy/1227606/greece-advises-vessels-to-avoid-yemeni-waters-after-red-sea-attacks/> Greece has advised commercial vessels sailing in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden to avoid Yemeni waters, keep only the necessary crew on the bridge and follow alerts issued by maritime authorities to avoid attacks in the area.

Houthi rebel attacks prompt shipping firms to avoid Red Sea routes. *BBC News*. 20 December 2023. Available from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFOJcmz9JI4&ab_channel=BBCNews 🗣️ Several shipping firms have rerouted their vessels from the Red Sea after ships were attacked by Houthi rebels in Yemen.

More than 100 container ships rerouted from Suez canal to avoid Houthi attacks. Jasper Jolly. *The Guardian*. 20 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/dec/20/more-than-100-container-ships-rerouted-suez-canal-red-sea-houthi-attacks-yemen> More than 100 container ships have been rerouted around southern Africa to avoid the Suez canal, in a sign of the disruption to global trade caused by Houthi rebels attacking vessels on the western coast of Yemen.

Navigating the High Seas: A Plea for UN-Led Action against Piracy and Geopolitical Exploitation. Bjorn Hojgaard. *Anglo-Eastern*. 20 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.angloeastern.com/content-hub/navigating-the-high-seas-a-plea-for-un-led-action-against-piracy-and-geopolitical-exploitation/> In the vast realm of the open seas, where the winds of freedom should guide every vessel, a dual threat casts a dark shadow – piracy and geopolitical exploitation.

Vessels still heading into Red Sea war zone. Nick Savvides. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 21 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/containers/vessels-still-heading-red-sea-war-zone> Houthi Group missile and drone attacks on commercial vessels have seen many vessels already diverted, but some ships continue to use the critical Red Sea waterway, which has at its northern extremity the southern entrance to the Suez Canal.

Twin Crises Send Cargo Ships Back to 18th Century Trade Routes. Brendan Murray. *Bloomberg*. 21 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/twin-crises-send-cargo-ships-back-to-18th-century-trade-routes-1.2014555> A year that started with smooth sailing for the global economy – vanishing supply snarls, slower inflation and fading pandemic gloom – is ending with another gathering storm as the maritime industry and retailers that rely on it confront crises in the world's two big ocean-to-ocean canals.

Houthis Fired Ballistic Missiles into Red Sea, Iranian Drone Strikes Merchant Ship Off India, Says Pentagon. Sam LaGrone. *US Naval Institute News*. 23 December 2023. Available from: <https://news.usni.org/2023/12/23/houthis-fired-ballistic-missiles-more-drones-at-merchant-ships-in-red-sea-says-centcom> Houthi forces in Yemen fired two anti-ship ballistic missiles into shipping lanes in the Red Sea and launched drone attacks at two merchant tankers in the region, U.S. Central Command announced late Saturday.

MSC container ship attacked in Red Sea, owner confirms. Yannick Guerry. *TradeWinds*. 26 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/containers/msc-container-ship-attacked-in-red-sea-owner-confirms/2-1-1576414> A statement from the group confirmed earlier claims made by Yemen's Houthi rebels that they had attacked 8,204-teu MSC United VIII (built 2006) at approximately 12:25 UTC.

US Tries to Persuade Shippers to Sail Red Sea Despite Houthi Attacks. Courtney McBride and Daniel Flatley. *Bloomberg*. 28 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/us-tries-to-persuade-shippers-to-sail-red-sea-despite-houthi-attacks-1.2016200> The US military is trying to reassure shipping companies that a multinational force is making it safe to sail through the Red Sea and Suez Canal even though attacks from Yemen-based Houthi rebels show no sign of stopping.

Europe-bound diesel, jet fuel cargoes divert from Red Sea. *EurActiv*. 30 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/europe-bound-diesel-jet-fuel-cargoes-divert-from-red-sea/> Diversions around the Cape of Good Hope can lengthen tanker voyages to Europe by up to three weeks, leading to higher freight costs and potentially supply disruption.

Panama Canal backup forces detours for Asia-bound grain ships. *Hellenic Shipping News*. 30 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/panama-canal-backup-forces-detours-for-asia-bound-grain-ships/> A severe drought that has cut ship traffic through the Panama Canal is having ripple effects on the global food supply chain, forcing U.S. grain carriers bound for Asia to take lengthy detours through the Suez Canal or around southern Africa.

Ukraine says 13 million tonnes exported through Black Sea corridor. *France 24*. 30 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20231230-ukraine-says-13-million-tonnes-exported-through-black-sea-corridor> Ukraine has exported about 13 million tonnes of merchandise on some 400 ships since setting up a protected maritime corridor in August to fend off Russian threats, a government minister said Saturday.

Houthis show no sign of ending 'reckless' Red Sea attacks as trade traffic picks up, commander says. Rebecca Santana. *Associated Press*. 31 December 2023. Available from: <https://apnews.com/article/red-sea-shipping-houthi-attacks-drones-missiles-1acc4ca5ebcaf6fee932a2061d451f59> Yemen's Houthi rebels show no signs of ending their "reckless" attacks on commercial ships in the Red Sea, the top commander of U.S. naval forces in the Middle East says, even as more nations join the international maritime mission to protect vessels in the vital waterway and trade traffic begins to pick up.

PIRACY

The Indian Navy is shadowing a bulk carrier likely taken by Somali pirates in the Arabian Sea. *Associated Press*. 16 December 2023. Available from: <https://apnews.com/article/hijacked-ruen-somalia-pirates-india-navy-56d6f7c6c174590d20c6125fcfa81449> The Indian Navy said Saturday that it is shadowing a bulk carrier that was boarded by unknown attackers - likely Somali pirates - in the Arabian Sea.

Is Somali piracy back? Theory gains traction as hijacked bulker nears Puntland coast. Harry Papachristou. *TradeWinds*. 17 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/bulkers/is-somali-piracy-back-theory-gains-traction-as-hijacked-bulker-nears-puntland-coast/2-1-1572678> A Bulgarian-owned handysize vessel boarded and hijacked by unknown assailants in the Arabian Sea three days ago was sailing towards the Somali coast late on Sunday.

Development of the Hijack Incident Involving the Maltese Flagged Merchant Vessel *Ruen*. *EU NAVFOR Operation ATALANTA*. 19 December 2023. Available from: <https://eunavfor.eu/news/development-hijack-incident-involving-maltese-flagged-merchant-vessel-ruen> The European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) continues monitoring closely the situation of the hijack of the Maltese-flagged merchant vessel *RUEN* in close cooperation with Somali local authorities.

Piracy Attack On *MV Ruen* In Central Arabian Sea. *Government of India*. 21 December 2023. Available from: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1989252> On the night of 14 Dec 23, a report regarding potential piracy incident onboard Malta flagged vessel, *MV Ruen*, was monitored on UKMTO portal.

Somali Pirates Hijack Fishing Boat in Fourth Attack This Month. *Maritime Executive*. 25 December 2023. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/somali-pirates-hijack-fishing-boat-in-fourth-attack-this-month> Security authorities are confirming reports from over the weekend that a Yemeni fishing boat was hijacked and last seen in Somali waters.

Al Shabab shows its reach on land as it ventures into piracy on the high seas. Hassan-kafi Mohamed and Jonathan Clayton. *The National (UAE)*. 29 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/africa/2023/12/29/al-shabab-shows-its-reach-on-land-as-it-ventures-into-piracy-on-the-high-seas/> Somalia's Al Shabab militant group fired a mortar at the presidential palace in Mogadishu on Wednesday, showing its continued threat on land as it seeks to profit from a resurgence in piracy off the country's coast.

PORT STATE CONTROL

RMU partners Abuja MOU to provide Port State Control officers training. *GhanaWeb*. 5 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/pressreleases/RMU-partners-Abuja-MOU-to-provide-Port-State-Control-officers-training-1893038> The Abuja Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Port State Control for the West and Central African Region, has partnered with the Regional Maritime University (RMU) to provide International Maritime Organization (IMO) specialized training courses for Port State Control officers at the university.

U.S. Coast Guard conducts security boarding at Port of Guam, bolstering maritime security. *United States Coast Guard*. 7 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.news.uscg.mil/Press-Releases/Article/3609749/> The U.S. Coast Guard Sector Boarding Team, a key component of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, conducted a thorough security boarding of the 380-foot (116-meter) motor vessel *Papa Mau*, flagged from Antigua Barbuda, at the Port of Guam on Dec. 6, 2023.

Iran seizes two more vessels in Persian Gulf for 'fuel smuggling'. Syed Zafar Mehdi. *Anadolu Agency (Türkiye)*. 7 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iran-seizes-two-more-vessels-in-persian-gulf-for-fuel-smuggling/3076211> Iranian judicial authorities on Thursday announced the seizure of two vessels over alleged smuggling of fuel in the Persian Gulf.

Foreign flagged ships detained in the UK during November 2023 under Paris MOU. *UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency*. 14 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-flagged-ships-detained-in-the-uk-during-november-2023-under-paris-mou> During November, there were six new detentions of a foreign flagged vessel in a UK port.

Govt bans Israeli-owned ships from docking in Malaysia. Luqman Hakim. *New Straits Times (Malaysia)*. 20 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2023/12/992512/govt-bans-israeli-owned-ships-docking-malaysia> The government has imposed a ban on Israeli shipping company ZIM from docking at any Malaysian port, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today.

PORTS & HARBOURS

Port of Auckland fined more than \$500k after stevedore killed by falling container. *Radio New Zealand*. 1 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/503710/port-of-auckland-fined-more-than-500k-after-stevedore-killed-by-falling-container> Port of Auckland has been fined more than half a million dollars after pleading guilty to two charges over the death of stevedore Pala'amo Kalati, who was killed by a falling container in August 2020.

Protect Med ports from EU environmental taxes - Salvini. *ANSA (Italy)*. 4 December 2023. Available from: https://www.ansa.it/english/news/general_news/2023/12/04/protect-med-ports-from-eu-environmental-taxes-salvini_5bebf87a-93eb-4b3d-91f7-13eb25614b2d.html# New green taxes affecting Mediterranean ports damage maritime transport and European Union competitiveness, Deputy Premier and Transport and Infrastructure Minister Matteo Salvini said on Monday.

Panama Canal Jam Sends Ships Sailing Continents Out of the Way. Ruth Liao. *Bloomberg*. 4 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/panama-canal-jam-sends-ships-sailing-continents-out-of-the-way-1.2006864> The Panama Canal, the century-old engineering marvel that revolutionized global trade, is being squeezed shut by drought and forcing shippers worldwide to face a painful choice.

Lagos Port Receives World Largest Container-RORO Vessel. Yusuf Babalola. *Leadership (Nigeria)*. 5 December 2023. Available from: <https://leadership.ng/lagos-port-receives-world-largest-container-roro-vessel-2/> Largest Container-RORO (CON-RORO) Vessel, in the world, *MV Great Lagos*, yesterday, berthed at the Ports and Terminal Multiservice Limited (PTML), Tin-Can Island Port, Lagos.

Alternative Fuels A.P. Møller-Maersk plans to build green bunker fuel infrastructure in Southeast Asia. *Manifold Times (Singapore)*. 5 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.manifoldtimes.com/news/a-p-moller-maersk-plans-to-build-green-bunker-fuel-infrastructure-in-southeast-asia/> Maersk said it was working closely with authorities to explore opportunities in building green bunker fuel infrastructure as part of USD 500 million investments in Southeast Asia to support its future fleet.

Was Suez Canal affected by Red Sea tension in November? Mohammad Farid and Mahmoud Abdullah. *Anadolu Agency (Türkiye)*. 5 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/was-suez-canal-affected-by-red-sea-tension-in-november/3073472> The ongoing tension in the Red Sea was expected to take a toll on the maritime movement in Egypt's Suez Canal amid threats by Yemen's Houthi group to target Israel-affiliated vessels, especially near Bab al-Mandab Strait.

EU ports fret they will lose business because of CO2 tax. David Hughes. *Business Times (Singapore)*. 5 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/international/eu-ports-fret-they-will-lose-business-because-co2-tax> As often happens when bureaucracies impose their ideas on industries without really understanding the implications, an interesting situation is developing in Europe, or to be more precise within the European Union (EU).

Singapore, Los Angeles, Long Beach ports unveil green, digital shipping corridor partnership strategy. *Port of Los Angeles*. 6 December 2023. Available from:

[https://www.portoflosangeles.org/references/2023-news-](https://www.portoflosangeles.org/references/2023-news-releases/news_120623_partnership_strategy)

[releases/news_120623_partnership_strategy](https://www.portoflosangeles.org/references/2023-news-releases/news_120623_partnership_strategy)

Today, at the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), Port of Los Angeles and Port of Long Beach unveiled a Partnership Strategy for a green and digital shipping corridor across the Pacific Ocean.

Panama Canal Restrictions Hit US East and Gulf Coast Port Volumes. Mike Schuler. *gCaptain*.

7 December 2023. Available from: [https://gcaptain.com/panama-canal-restrictions-hit-us-east-and-](https://gcaptain.com/panama-canal-restrictions-hit-us-east-and-gulf-coast-port-volumes/)

[gulf-coast-port-volumes/](https://gcaptain.com/panama-canal-restrictions-hit-us-east-and-gulf-coast-port-volumes/) U.S. container imports experienced a 9% decrease in November 2023 compared to October 2023, according to the latest U.S. imports report from Descartes Systems Group.

Panama Canal drought to delay grain ships well into 2024. Karl Plume and Gus Trompiz.

Reuters. 11 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/panama-canal-drought-delay-grain-ships-well-into-2024-2023-12-11/>

Bulk grain shippers hauling crops from the U.S. Gulf Coast export hub to Asia are sailing longer routes and paying higher freight costs to avoid vessel congestion and record-high transit fees in the drought-hit Panama Canal, traders and analysts said.

Panama Canal to increase daily transits to 24 starting in January. *Panama Canal Authority*.

15 December 2023. Available from: [https://pancanal.com/en/panama-canal-to-increase-daily-](https://pancanal.com/en/panama-canal-to-increase-daily-transits-to-24-starting-in-january/)

[transits-to-24-starting-in-january/](https://pancanal.com/en/panama-canal-to-increase-daily-transits-to-24-starting-in-january/) Through Advisory to Shipping No. A-54-2023, the Panama Canal announced today that it will increase the number of daily transits to 24 starting in January, for the benefit of its customers.

Ports gear up for maritime changes. Shalveen Chand. *Samoa Observer*. 18 December 2023.

Available from: <https://www.samoobserver.ws/category/samoa/107220> From 1 January 2024, amendments to the Facilitation Convention (FAL Convention) enter into force which implements the mandatory use of Maritime Single Windows (MSWs) by ports including in Samoa.

Calls to restrict heavily-polluting ships from landing at EU ports. Sean Goulding Carroll.

EurActiv. 20 December 2023. Available from: [https://www.euractiv.com/section/maritime/news/calls-](https://www.euractiv.com/section/maritime/news/calls-to-restrict-heavily-polluting-ships-from-landing-at-eu-ports/)

[to-restrict-heavily-polluting-ships-from-landing-at-eu-ports/](https://www.euractiv.com/section/maritime/news/calls-to-restrict-heavily-polluting-ships-from-landing-at-eu-ports/) Ships with a low environmental grade should face penalties, such as restrictions from entering EU ports, an environmental advocacy group has said, arguing that doing so will incentivise global maritime companies to cut their carbon footprint.

IAPH and International Chamber of Shipping bring clean energy marine hubs to COP28.

American Journal of Transportation (AJOT). 20 December 2023. Available from:

[https://www.ajot.com/news/iaph-and-international-chamber-of-shipping-bring-clean-energy-marine-](https://www.ajot.com/news/iaph-and-international-chamber-of-shipping-bring-clean-energy-marine-hubs-to-cop28)

[hubs-to-cop28](https://www.ajot.com/news/iaph-and-international-chamber-of-shipping-bring-clean-energy-marine-hubs-to-cop28) At the recent COP28 Shaping the Future of Shipping summit organised by the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) in Dubai on 10 December with over 300 maritime industry CEOs, government ministers and NGOs present, IAPH President and Hamburg Port Authority CEO Jens Meier called on ports to actively collaborate with each other on knowledge sharing between themselves and the maritime community to accelerate decarbonisation.

Lam sets course for green and smart ports. Ayra Wang. *The Standard (Hong Kong)*. 21 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.thestandard.com.hk/section-news/section/4/258964/Lam-sets-course-for-green-and-smart-ports> Hong Kong will build green and smart ports to further enhance its status as an international maritime center, Secretary for Transport and Logistics Lam Sai-hung said.

Changing climate casts a shadow over the future of the Panama Canal – and global trade. Jonathan Yerushalmy. *The Guardian*. 22 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/dec/22/changing-climate-casts-a-shadow-over-the-future-of-the-panama-canal-and-global-trade> From his office perched on the edge of the Pacific Ocean, Steven Paton looks over the entrance to the Panama Canal.

KPA clears the air on oil tanker vessel explosion at the port. Chari Suche. *Kenya News Agency (KNA)*. 27 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.kenyanews.go.ke/kpa-clears-the-air-on-oil-tanker-vessel-explosion-at-the-port/> An explosion onboard an oil tanker vessel, *MT East Wind*, at the Port of Mombasa temporarily disrupted business within a section of the Port of Mombasa yesterday after a fire broke out following the incident.

Ports Transformative Agenda Renewed Hope for The Gambia. *The Standard (Gambia)*. 29 December 2023. Available from: <https://standard.gm/ports-transformative-agenda-renewed-hope-for-the-gambia/> The Gambia Ports Authority, GPA, has come under pressure over its lack of adequate capacity to handle vessels, resulting in cargo bound for Banjul being diverted through Dakar, but in this exclusive interview with *The Standard*, the authority's Managing Director, Ousman M Jobarteh, said GPA is poised to implement infrastructure improvements that will reverse this trend.

2023 Ends With Two Major Shipping Passages Experiencing Disruptions. *Hellenic Shipping News*. 30 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/2023-ends-with-two-major-shipping-passages-experiencing-disruptions/> Shipping's two major shipping passages, forged through decades of works and lives lost under construction, the Panama Canal and the Suez Canal, facing serious disruption, thus, impacting freight rates and the flow of goods.

Mombasa container cargo up 12pc as Dar struggles with congestion. Anthony Kitimo. *East African (Kenya)*. 31 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/business/mombasa-container-cargo-up-12pc-as-dar-struggles-with-congestion-4477988> Mombasa Port registered a 12 percent annual growth this year, compared with last year, as it continues to benefit from increasing delays at the regional ports, especially Dar es Salaam.

REGULATIONS

EU Emissions Trading System for Maritime Transport Explained - Part 4 of 6. *Clyde & Co LLP*. 29 November 2023. Available from: <https://www.clydeco.com/en/insights/2023/11/eu-emissions-trading-system-for-maritime-trans-1> In the fourth article of our six-part series reviewing the changes introduced by the new EU rules set to apply from 1 January 2024, we look at the exclusions to the EU ETS, the penalties for non-compliance, and how the EU plans to address any attempts to avoid the new measures.

Bureau Veritas unveils Rules for hydrogen-fuelled ships. Laurent Leblanc. *Bureau Veritas*. 30 November 2023. Available from: <https://marine-offshore.bureauveritas.com/newsroom/bureau-veritas-unveils-rules-hydrogen-fuelled-ships> Bureau Veritas (BV), a world leader in testing, inspection and certification, has launched its first classification Rules for hydrogen-fuelled ships (NR678) to support the safe development of hydrogen propulsion in the maritime sector.

Norway's chief IMO negotiator finds new ways to motivate owners to decarbonise.

Martyn Wingrove. *Riviera Maritime*. 11 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/regulator-finds-new-ways-to-motivate-owners-to-decarbonise-78775>

Mr Oftedal, the chief negotiator for green shipping in Norway's Department of Marine Management and Pollution Control, who is well-known as an active architect of decarbonisation regulation within the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee, said shipping will be encouraged to cut GHG emissions using both regulation and incentives to attract investment in decarbonisation technologies.

EU Emissions Trading System for Maritime Transport Explained – Part 5 of 6. Clare Hatcher, Marie-Anne Moussalli, Stephen Mackin, Maria Kaperoni, Alfred Theodorou, Ioanna Tsekoura and Puneet Sareen. *Clyde & Co LLP*. 13 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.clydeco.com/en/insights/2023/12/eu-emissions-trading-system-for-maritime-transport>

In the fifth article of our six-part series reviewing the impact of the new EU rules set to apply from 1 January 2024, we look at the regulatory interaction between the EU measures and the parallel IMO measures including their legal status, scope of application and geographical reach.

EU Emissions Trading System for Maritime Transport Explained – Part 6 of 6. *Clyde & Co LLP*.

19 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.clydeco.com/en/insights/2023/12/eu-emissions-trading-system-for-maritime-trans-1> Starting on 1 January 2024, the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS), the world's largest carbon market introduced in 2005, will start to apply to the maritime transport sector.

VN's fleet struggling with EU's new environmental laws. *Vietnam News*. 20 December 2023.

Available from: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1638247/vn-s-fleet-struggling-with-eu-s-new-environmental-laws.html> Việt Nam's fleet is grappling with significant challenges in adapting to global environmental shifts, said industry insiders and experts.

Shipping emissions under the European Union Emissions Trading System.

Liudmila Osipova and Camilla Carraro. *International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT)*.

20 December 2023. Available from: <https://theicct.org/publication/shipping-emissions-under-eu-ets-dec23/> The European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) is expanding to include the maritime sector as part of its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. [Policy Update](#)

Year Ahead: Regulatory hurdles leave shipowners to grapple with limited options for fuelling ammonia carriers. Craig Eason. *TradeWinds*. 27 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/year-ahead-regulatory-hurdles-leave-shipowners-to-grapple-with-limited-options-for-fuelling-ammonia-carriers/2-1-1573797>

Shipping companies building ammonia carriers to use the cargo as fuel for their ship engines may find it necessary to lobby port state control to allow the use of this fuel.

SALVAGE

Salvage teams in Indonesia attend to grounded shadow-fleet tanker. *Insurance Marine News*.

11 December 2023. Available from: <https://insurancemarineneews.com/insurance-marine-news/salvage-teams-in-indonesia-attend-to-grounded-shadow-fleet-tanker/> Indonesian salvage teams have managed to free suezmax *Liberty* (IMO 9207027), which grounded in the Singapore Strait west of Batam.

Salvage industry needs to prepare for new fuels. Nick Savvides. *Seatrade Maritime News*.

11 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/ship-operations/salvage-industry-needs-prepare-new-fuels> A panel of industry experts speaking at the Seatrade Maritime Salvage and Wreck conference in London, debated the issues with the discussion started by Jim Elliot, COO at the Teichman Group, pointing out that, unlike oil, there are no legal directives governing law as a fuel.

SEAFARERS

Philippine President Skips Climate Talks to Focus on Hijacked Seafarers. *Maritime Executive*. 30 November 2023. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/philippine-president-skips-climate-talks-to-focus-on-hijacked-seafarers> Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has suspended his trip to the UAE for the COP28 climate conference in order to give his full attention to negotiating the release of Filipino crewmembers of the car carrier *Galaxy Leader*, which was hijacked by Yemen's Houthi militia on Nov. 19.

Owner of hijacked car carrier calls for greater efforts to free seafarers. Kit Lindhardt. *ShippingWatch*. 4 December 2023. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article16657273.ece> 25 crew members are still being held by the Houthi rebels who seized the ship "Galaxy Leader" on Nov. 19.

Why does shipping have a problem trusting seafarers with the internet? Marcus Hand. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 5 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/crewing/why-does-shipping-have-problem-trusting-seafarers-internet> Attending Seatrade Maritime Crew Connect Global in Manila recently there was a jarring juxtaposition of an audience sat with their mobile phones, tablets, and laptops, while at the same time expressing serious concerns of allowing seafarers to do exactly the same thing, in their free time no less, while onboard ship.

ITF delegation supports Chilean seafarers' defence of cabotage. *ITF Seafarers*. 7 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.itfseafarers.org/en/news/itf-delegation-supports-chilean-seafarers-defence-cabotage> Delegates from across the world at the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) dockers' and seafarers' conferences in Santiago, Chile, joined with Chilean trade unionists to hand in a letter to the presidential palace in the capital of Santiago in protest at the government's plans to change the law on cabotage.

Foreign seafarers declared dead after being found unconscious in Pangasinan. *CNN Philippines*. 9 December 2023. Available from: <http://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2023/12/9/PCG--Foreign-seafarers-declared-dead-after-being-found-unconscious-in-Pangasinan.html> Three crew members of a Marshall Islands-flagged vessel have been declared dead after they were found unconscious while their ship was sailing in the waters off Bolinao, Pangasinan on Friday, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said on Saturday.

ITF adds San Marino to Flag of Convenience list. *ITF Seafarers*. 14 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.itfseafarers.org/en/news/itf-adds-san-marino-flag-convenience-list> During a recent meeting of the ITF Fair Practices Committee in Santiago, the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) expanded its list of Flag of Convenience (FOC) registries to include the landlocked country San Marino.

Bong Go: Senate's ratification of Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers a timely Christmas gift for them. Hannah Torregosa. *Manila Bulletin*. 17 December 2023. Available from: <https://mb.com.ph/2023/12/17/bong-go-senate-s-ratification-of-magna-carta-of-filipino-seafarers-a-timely-christmas-gift-for-them> Go, one of the authors and co-sponsors of the bill, highlighted its critical importance in protecting the rights and welfare of Filipino seafarers—the "unsung heroes" of the maritime industry.

Oceans minister wary of growing reliance on foreign sailors. *Korea Times (South Korea)*. 19 December 2023. Available from:

https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/tech/2023/12/419_365280.html The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries has unintentionally drawn huge public attention throughout this year as it was tasked with promoting the safety of domestic seafood after Japan began to release treated radioactive wastewater into the ocean in August from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

ITF calls for safety of seafarers following Red Sea attacks. *ITF Seafarers*. 19 December 2023.

Available from: <https://www.itfseafarers.org/en/news/itf-calls-safety-seafarers-following-red-sea-attacks> Following the attacks on commercial ships in the Red Sea, the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) is calling for the safety of seafarers to be paramount.

Indian Navy rescues injured Bulgarian sailor from hijacked ship. *Deccan Herald (India)*.

19 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.deccanherald.com/world/indian-navy-rescues-injured-bulgarian-sailor-from-hijacked-ship-2817962> The Indian Navy has evacuated one of the 18 crew members onboard a Malta-flagged hijacked cargo vessel off the coast of Somalia to provide medical care after he was injured by the pirates, officials said on Tuesday.

IMB calls for regional efforts to safeguard seafarers. *Nautilus International*. 21 December 2023.

Available from: <https://www.nautilusint.org/en/news-insight/news/imb-calls-for-regional-efforts-to-safeguard-seafarers/> The ICC International Maritime Bureau (IMB) revealed a rise in reported incidents in the Gulf of Guinea and concerns for the Singapore Straits in its latest report for January-September 2023.

Mariners need protection in today's challenging environment. Theodore Karasik.

Arab News (Saudi Arabia). 31 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2434481> Throughout the world's waterways, fishermen make a living, including around the Arabian Peninsula.

SEARCH & RESCUE

IMO/ICAO joint working group on SAR successfully concludes inaugural SA meeting in Cape Town: SAMSA. *South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA)*. 15 November 2023. Available

from: <https://blog.samsa.org.za/2023/11/15/imo-icao-joint-working-group-on-sar-successfully-concludes-inaugural-sa-meeting-in-cape-town-samsa/> Scores of international delegates to the IMO and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Joint Working Group on Search and Rescue (IMO/ICAO JWG) held in Cape Town wrapped up their meeting on Friday with several recommendations made for the consideration of the said parent organizations, to strengthen global collaboration on various initiatives to bolster search and rescue in especially maritime countries.

HRW Submission to The EU Ombudsman's Inquiry Into Frontex's Role in the Search and Rescue Operations. *Human Rights at Sea (HRAS)*. 6 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/12/06/hrw-submission-eu-ombudsmans-inquiry-frontexs-role-search-and-rescue-operations> In a letter to Human Rights Watch dated April 25, 2022, then-executive director Fabrice Leggeri stated that the agency "only issues an initial assessment of the situation [of a migrant boat] for the consideration" of the competent Maritime Rescue Coordination Centers (MRCCs) who have "the mandate to declare an event...a distress case."

Carnival Vista Rescues Six People After Cargo Vessel Capsizes. *Cruise Industry News*.

13 December 2023. Available from: <https://cruiseindustrynews.com/cruise-news/2023/12/carnival-vista-rescues-six-people-after-cargo-vessel-capsizes/> The *Carnival Vista* team saved six men stranded in the ocean near the Dominican Republic, the company announced in a statement.

Summary of the IMRF Attendance at the ICAO–IMO JWG on SAR. *International Maritime Rescue Federation*. 14 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.international-maritime-rescue.org/news/summary-of-the-imrf-attendance-at-the-icaoimo-jwg-on-sar> The Joint Working Group (commonly known as the SAR JWG) meets every year in an IMO or ICAO member state and discusses SAR matters related to ICAO and IMO convention requirements.

SHIP RECYCLING

Ship Recycling: Will There Be a Rise in EU-Approved Rise in Yard Capacity?

Nikos Roussanoglou. *Hellenic Shipping News*. 5 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/ship-recycling-will-there-be-a-rise-in-eu-approved-rise-in-yard-capacity/> A potential increase in EU-approved ship recycling capacity in India's Alang region, could be a significant shift in the market next year.

Shipbreakers have improved – but low pay and dangerous conditions persist.

Liv Almer. *ShippingWatch*. 8 December 2023. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article16670091.ece> When ships are put out of service, the vast majority end up at shipbreaking facilities in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

UAE bans ship beaching in new recycling regulation.

Jasmina Ovcina Mandra. *Offshore Energy*. 8 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.offshore-energy.biz/uae-bans-ship-beaching-in-new-recycling-regulation/> The UAE Ship Recycling Regulation (UAE SRR) explicitly prohibits beaching and landing activities, emphasizing the need for high-standard recycling facilities.

Comment: Shipping's COP28 message puts it in the decarbonisation ballpark.

Paul Peachey. *TradeWinds*. 12 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/opinion/comment-shipping-s-cop28-message-puts-it-in-the-decarbansation-ballpark/2-1-1569393> Compared with the bitter battle over the future of fossil fuels that dominated the COP28 climate change summit in Dubai, the shipping industry has appeared a model of unanimity and steadfast purpose.

Over 13 workers die a year in Bangladesh's shipbreaking industry.

Business Standard (Bangladesh). 19 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/over-13-workers-die-year-bangladeshs-shipbreaking-industry-760538> Disturbing statistics about Bangladesh's shipbreaking industry have emerged, revealing an alarming annual death rate of 13.47 workers.

Ship recycling in Aliğa under the spotlight.

NGO Shipbreaking Platform. 20 December 2023. Available from: <https://shipbreakingplatform.org/ngo-sbp-publishes-report-on-shiprecycling-in-turkey/> The NGO Shipbreaking Platform publishes today its report Ship Recycling in Turkey: Challenges and Future Direction. [Ship Recycling in Turkey: Challenges and Future Direction](#) 📄

SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR

The world's first clean ammonia-powered container ship. *Yara International ASA*. 30 November 2023. Available from: <https://www.yara.com/corporate-releases/the-worlds-first-clean-ammonia-powered-container-ship/> With global shipping accounting for 706 million tonnes of CO2 emissions last year*, it is imperative that we cooperate across value chains to reach the 1.5°C goal by 2030.

The world may be close to getting its first cargo ship that emits almost no carbon dioxide. Anna Cooban. *CNN*. 1 December 2023. Available from: <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/12/01/business/clean-ammonia-cargo-ship-co2-emissions/index.html> The world's first cargo ship that produces nearly zero planet-heating pollution is on track to set sail in 2026, according to one of the firms behind the project.

“How realistic is a Wind-assisted propulsion?” – Interview with Christoph Thiem and Martin Köpke. *Hapag-Lloyd*. 4 December 2023. Available from: <http://tinyurl.com/5cknfamv> Within a dedicated Research and Development study, we are currently evaluating the potential of wind power as a possible decarbonization measure for our future fleet.

Europe's largest rocket travels on a wind-powered cargo ship. Jacopo Prisco. *CNN*. 12 December 2023. Available from: <https://edition.cnn.com/travel/canopee-europe-largest-rocket-wind-powered-cargo-ship-spc-intl/index.html> With its four sails towering 121 feet (37 meters) over its main deck, *Canopée* is a cargo ship with an unusual design, and a very unusual cargo.

Port of Antwerp-Bruges & CMB.TECH launch the *Hydrotug 1*, world's first hydrogen-powered tugboat. *Port of Antwerp-Bruges*. 13 December 2023. Available from: <https://newsroom.portofantwerpbruges.com/port-of-antwerp-bruges--cmbtech-launch-the-hydrotug-1-worlds-first-hydrogen-powered-tugboat#> The *Hydrotug 1* is the first tugboat in the world to be powered by combustion engines that burn hydrogen in combination with traditional fuel.

In safe hands? Onboard the world's first ammonia-powered ship, billionaire Andrew Forrest's *Green Pioneer*. Paul Peachey and Leigh Collins. *Hydrogen Insight*. 27 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.hydrogeninsight.com/transport/in-safe-hands-onboard-the-world-s-first-ammonia-powered-ship-billionaire-andrew-forrest-s-green-pioneer/2-1-1576006> Iron-ore billionaire Andrew Forrest's Fortescue brought the world's first ammonia-powered ship to global attention earlier this month, when it was sailed to Dubai for the COP28 climate summit — with Forrest openly lamenting that it could not actually be fuelled with ammonia.

China Wants to Dominate the New Era of Clean Shipbuilding. *Bloomberg*. 29 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/china-wants-to-dominate-the-new-era-of-clean-shipbuilding-1.2016248> China wants to extend its lead in global shipbuilding to a new generation of vessels that burn cleaner fuels.

SHIPPING

Frontline: The question is whether the industry is ready for EU carbon quotas. Idha Toft Valeur. *ShippingWatch*. 1 December 2023. Available from:

<https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article16650771.ece> Lars Barstad, CEO of the Oslo-listed tanker carrier Frontline, questions whether the industry is ready for the change that being implemented in the EU's carbon trading system, EU ETS, will bring.

Joint private and public Commitments in favour of the decarbonisation of maritime transport.

CMA CGM. 1 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.cmacgm-group.com/en/news-media/joint-private-and-public-commitments-favour-decarbonisation-maritime-transport>

Acknowledging that decarbonising the global maritime transport in line with the revised 2023 IMO GHG Strategy will require unprecedented synergies as well as large investments from both public and private stakeholders.

Decarbonizing shipping: How to speed up the transition and ensure it's fair. *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*. 1 December 2023. Available from:

<https://unctad.org/news/decarbonizing-shipping-how-speed-transition-and-ensure-its-fair> Maritime transport is in the spotlight at COP28, the UN's annual climate change conference that kicked off on 30 November in Dubai.

Minister of Transport announces the Green Shipping Corridor Program to help cut pollution in marine shipping. *Government of Canada*. 1 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2023/12/minister-of-transport-announces-the-green-shipping-corridor-program-to-help-cut-pollution-in-marine-shipping.html> Today, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, announced the creation of the Green Shipping Corridor Program, an investment of \$165.4 million, and launched a call for proposals under this program.

Shipping Giants Want an End Date for Fossil Fuel-Only Vessels. Jack Wittels and Tara Patel. *Bloomberg*. 1 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/shipping-giants-want-an-end-date-for-fossil-fuel-only-vessels-1.2005958> The proposal was announced Friday in a joint statement from Mediterranean Shipping Co., A.P. Moller-Maersk A/S, CMA CGM SA and Hapag-Lloyd AG - four of the world's top five carriers

United States, Denmark and the Center Join Forces to Establish Green Corridors in Developing Countries. *Maersk Mc-Kinney Møller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping*.

1 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.zerocarbonsshipping.com/news/united-states-denmark-and-the-center-join-forces-to-establish-global-south-green-corridors/> The Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the Danish Government have joined forces to resource and execute pre-feasibility studies for green corridors in five countries in the Global South.

COP28: green shipping corridor collaboration. *UK Government*. 1 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cop28-green-shipping-corridor-collaboration> During the World Climate Action Summit of COP28, the US and UK reinforced their support for the Green Shipping Challenge. [Policy Paper](#)

Fuelling the Future of Shipping: Key Barriers to Scaling Zero-Emission Fuel Supply. *World Economic Forum*. 4 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.weforum.org/publications/fuelling-the-future-of-shipping-key-barriers-to-scaling-zero-emission-fuel-supply/> This report highlights the top 10 barriers limiting zero-emission fuel projects from getting past the final investment decision phase. [Report](#) 📄

INSIGHT: Shipping Industry Comes Out of the Shadows at COP28. *Ship & Bunker*. 4 December 2023. Available from: <https://shipandbunker.com/news/world/746472-insight-shipping-industry-comes-out-of-the-shadows-at-cop28> As environmental experts from around the world descend upon Dubai for the 2023 Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP28), the shipping industry has a better story to tell at this year's event.

Any fossil fuel phase-out deal at COP28 must include global shipping (commentary). Shaama Sandooeyea. *Mongabay*. 4 December 2023. Available from: <https://news.mongabay.com/2023/12/any-fossil-fuel-phase-out-deal-at-cop28-must-include-global-shipping-commentary/> Earlier this year, countries at the UN agreed to step up climate action on one of the world's greatest polluters: global shipping.

Cop: Shipping industry updates decarbonisation pledges. *Argus Media*. 4 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.argusmedia.com/en/news/2515600-cop-shipping-industry-updates-decarbonisation-pledges> Shipping industry participants have announced new or updated initiatives within the Green Shipping Challenge - aimed at lowering carbon emissions in shipping - at the Cop 28 UN climate summit.

Denmark donates millions to support green shipping in developing countries. Mette Grube Condrup. *ShippingWatch*. 4 December 2023. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article16655856.ece> During the UN's annual climate summit, Denmark has taken the initiative to strengthen maritime cooperation with developing countries to ensure that they meet the IMO's 2030 target of a 40% reduction in carbon emissions from the global fleet.

2024 will be shipping's decarbonisation reality check. Mikko Kuosa. *Splash 247.com*. 5 December 2023. Available from: <https://splash247.com/2024-will-be-shippings-decarbonisation-reality-check/> There was no shortage of regulatory headlines in 2023 – with MEPC 80 adopting a revised GHG strategy, the IMO's Carbon Intensity Indicator (CII) taking effect, and the EU formally extending the Emissions Trading System (ETS) to shipping, it was the year when the conversation on decarbonisation moved from concept to implementation.

Sea Cargo Charter to align with new emission goals. *Sea Cargo Charter*. 5 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.seacargocharter.org/sea-cargo-charter-to-align-with-new-emission-goals/> The Sea Cargo Charter (SCC) will significantly revise its reporting ambition, aligning its trajectory with emission reduction goals in response to the IMO revised greenhouse gas (GHG) strategy adopted during MEPC80 in July 2023.

Green steel in shipping: How international shipping can lower emissions through progressive adoption of green steel. *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*. 5 December 2023. Available from: <https://climatechampions.unfccc.int/green-steel-in-shipping-how-international-shipping-can-lower-emissions-through-progressive-adoption-of-green-steel/> The 2023 Breakthrough Agenda, the annual collaboration between the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions, found that both total CO₂ emissions and direct CO₂ emission intensity from the steel sector need to fall by around 25 percent by 2030 to be on track for net zero by mid-century.

Early movers crucial in closing \$200 per container cost gap for zero emissions shipping in green corridors. *University Maritime Advisory Services (UMAS)*. 6 December 2023.

Available from: <https://www.u-mas.co.uk/early-movers-crucial-in-closing-200-per-container-cost-gap-for-zero-emissions-shipping-in-green-corridors/> A new report released today at the margins of COP28, details the annualised total costs of zero emission container vessels and the cost difference on a per container basis for transpacific and coastal ships under different fuel pathways. [Executive summary and Full report](#) 

Danish shipping in focus at COP28. *Danish Shipping*. 6 December 2023. Available from:

<https://danishshipping.dk/en/all-press-releases/2023/danish-shipping-in-focus-at-cop28/> HRH The Crown Prince Frederik brought royal radiance to the event, when State of Green presented their white paper on “Denmark’s push to decarbonise global shipping” at COP28.

A global comparison of national shipping emissions and green shipping measures. *Transport & Environment*. 7 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.transportenvironment.org/discover/a-global-comparison-of-national-shipping-emissions-and-green-shipping-measures/> With COP28 underway in Dubai, T&E looks at how the global shipping community can cut emissions in line with the Paris Agreement. [Briefing](#) 

NGOs React to Shipping Companies COP28 Call For End Date of Fossil-Only Ship Construction. *Clean Arctic Alliance*. 7 December 2023. Available from:

<https://cleanarctic.org/2023/12/07/ngos-react-to-shipping-companies-cop28-call-for-end-date-of-fossil-only-ship-construction/> The Clean Arctic Alliance notes with interest the joint statement from five of the largest shipping companies, calling for the creation of appropriate regulatory conditions to accelerate the transition to green fuels and decarbonise the shipping industry, and urges these industry leaders to add their voices to the 13-year-old discussions at the IMO on control measures aimed at reducing emissions of black carbon – a potent climate forcer which makes up around one-fifth of shipping’s climate impact on a 20 year global warming potential basis.

Opinion: Shipping can tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution head-on.

Andrew Dumbrille and Elissama Menezes. *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*. 9 December 2023. Available from: <https://climatechampions.unfccc.int/heres-how-shipping-can-tackle-climate-change-biodiversity-loss-and-pollution-head-on/> Andrew Dumbrille & Elissama Menezes from maritime solutions organization, Equal Routes discuss the 2030 Shipping Pact for People and Nature (2030 SPPaN) which envisions a future where sustainable shipping practices benefit nature, people, and the planet, overcoming hurdles through partnerships, accountability measures, and a holistic approach to governance.

2030 shipping pact for people and nature (SPPaN) launched at COP28. *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*. 9 December 2023. Available from:

<https://climatechampions.unfccc.int/2030-shipping-pact-for-people-and-nature-sppan-launched-at-cop28/> Amidst the discussions at COP28 in Dubai, the pressing need to decarbonize the shipping sector takes centre stage.

Plans for new levy on shipping industry to support net-zero goals. Nick Webster.

The National (UAE). 10 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/climate/2023/12/10/plans-for-new-levy-on-shipping-industry-to-support-net-zero-goals/> Decarbonising the shipping industry is a goal of climate talks at Cop28, with leaders meeting to discuss the urgency of cutting emissions.

Shipping industry rallies for net-zero future at COP28. *Seatrade Maritime News.*

11 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/sustainability-green-technology/shipping-industry-rallies-net-zero-future-cop28> In a rallying opening keynote of the “Shaping the Future of Shipping: Delivering a Net Zero World”, during COP28 in Dubai, Mrs. Melina Travlos, President of the Union of Greek Shipowners & Chair of the Board of Neptune Group of Companies, told attendees: “Our purpose and inspiration is our own survival, the survival of humanity.”

One Hundred People 2023: Industry influencers adjust outlook as the difficult detail kicks in. Richard Meade. *Lloyd's List.* 11 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.lloydlist.com/LL1147562/One-Hundred-People-2023-Industry-influencers-adjust-outlook-as-the-difficult-detail-kicks-in> For an industry that proudly boasts its credentials as the carrier of 90% of everything, it is perhaps surprising how little influence it has.

How shipping can go full steam ahead towards net zero. Damien Mcelroy. *The National (UAE).*

12 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/opinion/comment/2023/12/11/how-shipping-can-go-full-steam-ahead-towards-net-zero/> Energy transition may not be smooth sailing for the industry, but hydrogen has its promises.

Red Sea shipping costs rising after Houthis target more commercial vessels. Jonathan Saul.

Reuters. 12 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/red-sea-shipping-costs-rising-after-houthis-target-more-commercial-vessels-2023-12-12/> The cost of shipping goods through the Red Sea is rising as Yemen's Houthis step up attacks on ships they deem connected to Israel with fears of a spillover that could disrupt global supplies sailing through the region, industry sources said.

NEAS on board with transition to renewable energy shipping. *Nunatsiaq News (Canada).*

12 December 2023. Available from: <https://nunatsiaq.com/stories/article/neas-on-board-with-transition-to-renewable-energy-shipping/> The head of NEAS Group, Inc., a sealift company serving Nunavut and Nunavik, agrees with leaders of some of the world's largest ship operators in calling for a phasing out of building new ships powered by fossil fuels.

Overview: Here are the top maritime highlights from the climate summit. Mette Grube Condrup. *ShippingWatch.* 13 December 2023. Available from:

<https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article16681997.ece> Although the UN has described this year's climate conference the most important since 2015, world leaders have struggled to agree on climate efforts.

Shadow-Fleet Oil Tanker Insurer Gets Shut Down by Marshall Islands. Alaric Nightingale.

Bloomberg. 13 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/shadow-fleet-oil-tanker-insurer-gets-shut-down-by-marshall-islands-1.2011099> A company that offers insurance to the burgeoning shadow fleet of oil tankers - including one that ran aground off the coast of Indonesia - was shut down by the Marshall Islands, the firm's only published address.

Shipping urged to do more on carbon capture as COP28 diverts from fossil fuels.

Paul Peachey. *TradeWinds.* 13 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/shipping-urged-to-do-more-on-carbon-capture-as-cop28-diverts-from-fossil-fuels/2-1-1570632> The United Nations' global climate change summit in Dubai has ended with a call to industries such as shipping to rapidly expand carbon capture technologies as part of the shift from fossil fuels.

The Poseidon Principles 2023 Annual Disclosure Report sets a new standard for climate reporting. *Global Maritime Forum*. 14 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.globalmaritimeforum.org/press/the-poseidon-principles-2023-annual-disclosure-report-sets-a-new-standard-for-climate-reporting> Amidst a pivotal year for the maritime industry, marked by the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) revised greenhouse gas emissions strategy, the Poseidon Principles have emerged as a driving force for change. [Report](#) 📄

Johannah Christensen, CEO of the Global Maritime Forum: Green Shipping Corridors are bridges between shipping industry and governments. *Xinde Marine News (China)*. 14 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.xindemarineneews.com/en/PEOPLE/2023/1214/51939.html> Decarbonization is an clear development trend of the shipping industry, but why does the shipping industry embark on Decarbonization?

What does COP28 mean for shipping? *Lloyd's Register*. 14 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.lr.org/en/knowledge/horizons/december-2023/what-does-cop28-mean-for-shipping/> Growing partnerships which drive shipping's decarbonisation, an expanding role for the IMO, creating security for investments and striving for short-term improvements were the focus of shipping at this year's COP climate summit.

MOL to Become World's 1st Shipping Company to Issue Blue Bonds. *Mitsui O.S.K. Lines (MOL)*. 15 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.mol.co.jp/en/pr/2023/23150.html> Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. (MOL; President & CEO: Takeshi Hashimoto) today announced that it has decided to issue "blue bonds" through a public offering in Japan's domestic market in January 2024

Shipping companies pause Red Sea journeys after Houthi attacks. *Al Jazeera*. 15 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/12/15/yemen-rebels-hit-cargo-ship-in-latest-red-sea-attack> 📄 Two shipping companies have announced they will pause all journeys through the Red Sea after a series of attacks on shipping by Yemen's Houthi rebels. [Yemen Houthis: Shipping Companies Halts Journeys](#) 📄

MSC, the world's largest shipping carrier, joins shipping giants Hapag-Lloyd and Maersk in Red Sea travel pause amid attacks. Lori Ann LaRocco. *CNBC (US)*. 15 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.cnbc.com/2023/12/15/shipping-giants-hapag-lloyd-and-maersk-pause-red-sea-travel.html> MSC, the world's largest shipping carrier, said it is no longer traveling through the Suez Canal after its container ship, the *MSC PALATIUM III*, was attacked Friday while transiting the Red Sea under a subcharter to Messina Line.

Podcast: At COP28, shipping grapples with challenges of 'transitioning away' from fossil fuels. Eric Priante Martin. *TradeWinds*. 15 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/sustainability/podcast-at-cop28-shipping-grapples-with-challenges-of-transitioning-away-from-fossil-fuels/2-1-1571660> 🎧 The COP28 climate conference has concluded with a new global goal: "transitioning away" from fossil fuels.

BP pauses all Red Sea shipments after rebel attacks. Lora Jones. *BBC News*. 18 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-67748605> Oil giant BP will pause all shipments of oil through the Red Sea after recent attacks on vessels by Houthi rebels.

What attacks in the Red Sea could mean for the global economy. Hung Tran. *Atlantic Council*. 18 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/econographics/shipping-disrupted-by-attacks-in-the-red-sea/> In the past week, Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen have fired missiles at container ships in the Red Sea in addition to attacking US and allied warships.

Green shipping corridors gaining momentum. Jorn Madslie. *BBC News*. 18 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-67690392> The powerful diesel engine roars as the water taxi cuts through the choppy water that connects Rotterdam's gritty port areas to what remains of the city's historic maritime grandeur.

EU sanctions Russian "shadow fleet": Calls for more control of tankers. Peter Thomsen. *ShippingWatch*. 18 December 2023. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Tanker/article16696792.ece> Months of circumvention of the European sanctions against the sale and transport of crude oil are now prompting the EU to tighten control requirements, according to a statement issued by EU member states on Monday afternoon following the adoption of a 12th package of sanctions against Russia following the invasion of Ukraine.

Steering shipping towards a sustainable future. Charlie Fardon. *Hydro International*. 18 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.hydro-international.com/content/article/steering-shipping-towards-a-sustainable-future> Ocean data has a vital but underappreciated role to play as an enabler in shipping's energy transition.

New Report Released on Flag States of Ships in the Arctic. *Arctic Council*. 19 December 2023. Available from: <https://arctic-council.org/news/new-report-released-on-flag-states-of-ships-in-the-arctic/> The Arctic Council's Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group (PAME) releases Arctic Shipping Status Reports that illustrate diverse topics related to Arctic shipping. [Full Report](#) 📄

WSC thanks coalition for action to protect seafarers and trade in the Red Sea region. *Hellenic Shipping News*. 20 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/wsc-thanks-coalition-for-action-to-protect-seafarers-and-trade-in-the-red-sea-region/> The World Shipping Council today expressed its thanks to the member nations of the Operation Prosperity Guardian coalition formed to address the maritime security crisis in the Red Sea region.

Green Seas: Passenger vessels have more work to do to get on Poseidon Principles carbon track. Eric Priante Martin. *TradeWinds*. 20 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/finance/green-seas-passenger-vessels-have-more-work-to-do-to-get-on-poseidon-principles-carbon-track/2-1-1574073> After the Covid-19 pandemic brought cruise to a screeching halt in 2020, one of the side effects was that it delivered a blow to emissions data reported by the shipping banks signed up for the Poseidon Principles.

Shipping braces for long haul as Red Sea crisis escalates. Ian Lewis. *TradeWinds*. 21 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/containers/shipping-braces-for-long-haul-as-red-sea-crisis-escalates/2-1-1574632> The impact of Red Sea vessel attacks on shipping markets will depend on how long companies continue to avoid the area - and that could be some time yet.

Freight forwarders warn of up to four weeks of delays as more ships divert. Dag Holmstad, Sebastian Schlüter Jacobsen and Liv Almer. *ShippingWatch*. 21 December 2023. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/logistics/article16705882.ece> Delays of up to three to four weeks are expected after container lines responded to a series of attacks in the Red Sea by sailing around the tip of Africa instead of the Suez Canal.

Shipping Costs Soar as War and Climate Risks Choke Key Waterways. Sharon Cho, Elizabeth Low and Serene Cheong. *Bloomberg*. 21 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/shipping-costs-soar-as-war-and-climate-risks-choke-key-waterways-1.2014452> Global shippers of crude and fuels are grappling with a spike in booking costs for some tankers taking lengthy diversions to avoid disruptions at the Suez and Panama canals.

Container rates hit \$10,000 as ocean freight inflation soars in Red Sea crisis. Lori Ann LaRocco. *CNBC (US)*. 21 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.cnb.com/2023/12/21/container-prices-hit-10000-freight-inflation-soars-in-red-sea-chaos.html> With the Red Sea diversions by shipping companies including Maersk continuing amid the risk of attacks by the Houthis, global logistics managers are faced with a two-front storm of rising ocean and air freight prices and stranded cargo.

Year in Review: 23 highlights of 2023 at a glance. *Safety4Sea*. 22 December 2023. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/cm-year-in-review-23-highlights-of-2023-at-a-glance/> In the face of challenges, the industry once again demonstrated unwavering determination, utilising innovative technological advancements, and engaging in collaborative initiatives to address the 3Ds of shipping – Decarbonization, Digitalization and Diversity.

Looking ahead: Marine insurance in an increasingly volatile world. Christen Guddal and Mark Russell. *Gard*. 27 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.gard.no/web/articles?documentId=36472910> As 2023 is ending we look back at a year with more war, increasing geopolitical tension and more persistent inflation than expected.

World Business Report - Hapag-Lloyd keeps Red Sea shipping on hold. Vivienne Nunis. *BBC World Service*. 27 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0h1tc4j> Shipping companies are weighing the risks of sailing through the Red Sea and the Suez Canal, following attacks by Houthi rebels based in Yemen in solidarity with Palestinians.

Joint committee launched to follow up on Red Sea transportation developments. *Jordan News Agency*. 28 December 2023. Available from: https://petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=55805&lang=en&name=en_news Jordan Chamber of Commerce (JCC) and Minister of Transport, Wissam Tahtamouni, agreed to form a joint committee, representing the Kingdom's public and private sectors to follow up on developments in the Red Sea region with regard to ship passage, especially those bound to the Jordanian port of Aqaba.

The Maritime Stories That Made 2023. Mike Schuler. *gCaptain*. 28 December 2023. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/the-maritime-stories-that-made-2023/> As Russia continues its war in Ukraine, the implementation of a price cap on Russian oil by G7 nations, the European Union, and Australia has led to the emergence of a “shadow fleet” of tankers being used to transport Russian oil over the price cap and under the radar.

These will be shipping's most important climate initiatives in 2024. Mette Grube Condrup. *ShippingWatch*. 29 December 2023. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article16718094.ece> The need for a binding agreement on how the maritime sector should reduce its greenhouse gas emissions will and must become more important in 2024.

Shipping firms react to Houthi attacks in the Red Sea. Paolo Laudani, Izabela Niemiec and Jesus Calero. *Reuters*. 31 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/shipping-firms-avoid-red-sea-houthi-attacks-increase-2023-12-18/> Iranian-backed Houthi militants in Yemen have stepped up attacks on vessels in the Red Sea to show their support for Palestinian Islamist group Hamas fighting Israel in Gaza.

New Zealanders face paying higher prices over Red Sea shipping threat. *Radio New Zealand*. 31 December 2023. Available from: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/new-category-test/505837/new-zealanders-face-paying-higher-prices-over-red-sea-shipping-threat> Retailing representatives are warning that New Zealand businesses and customers face the prospect of paying higher prices and prolonged delays for goods as the conflict in the Middle East hits global shipping.

RESEARCH

Kim J-K and Park D-J. **Understanding of sailing rule based on COLREGs: Comparison of navigator survey and automated collision-avoidance algorithm.** *Marine Policy*.

8 November 2023. Available from:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0308597X2300427X> The Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs) comprises rules to prevent collisions at sea and is based on the qualitative rules and ordinary practice of seamen.

Fricaudet M, Parker S, et al. **Exploring financiers' beliefs and behaviours at the outset of low-carbon transitions: A shipping case study.** *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*. 18 November 2023. Available from:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2210422423000989> Ship financiers play an important role in the shipping industry's transition to a low carbon economy as they shape the financing terms provided to shipowners and the type of assets that are financed, but their transition-related beliefs are unclear.

Moura R, Pessanha Santos N, et al. **Georeferenced dataset of maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea from 2010 to 2021.** *Scientific Data*. 7 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41597-023-02706-x> Piracy has been a global concern and a threat to the safety of people performing maritime trade around the globe.

Okafor-Yarwood I, Eastwood O, et al. **Technology and maritime security in Africa: Opportunities and challenges in Gulf of Guinea.** *Marine Policy*. 20 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X23005092> Maritime security threats undermine safety and security at sea and, in turn, coastal states' efforts to harness the resources in their maritime domain.

Bullock S, Mason J, et al. **Are the IMO's new targets for international shipping compatible with the Paris Climate Agreement?** *Climate Policy*. 21 December 2023. Available from:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14693062.2023.2293081> In this perspective article, we analyse the remaining carbon budgets available to the international shipping sector, to assess whether these new targets constitute a sufficient contribution to meeting the overarching Paris Agreement goal to limit global heating to 1.5°C.

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About the cover

The CAB Cover is a photograph of the international memorial to the world's seafarers, past, present and future which graces the entrance to IMO Headquarters in London. The memorial, a seven-metre high, ten-tonne bronze representation of the bow of a cargo ship with a lone seafarer on the deck, is the work of internationally renowned British sculptor Michael Sandle.