**About the MKC Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)**

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

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

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

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

**Table of Contents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IMO NEWS &amp; EVENTS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW IMO PUBLICATIONS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNITED NATIONS</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASUALTIES</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVIRONMENT</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEALTH &amp; SAFETY</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMO</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAW &amp; POLICY</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARINE TECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARITIME EDUCATION &amp; TRAINING</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARITIME SAFETY</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARITIME SECURITY</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIGRANTS</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAVIGATION &amp; COMMUNICATIONS</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIRACY</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORT STATE CONTROL</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORTS &amp; HARBOURS</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGULATIONS</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALVAGE</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEAFARERS</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEARCH &amp; RESCUE</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIP RECYCLING</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIPBUILDING &amp; SHIPREPAIR</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIPPING</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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  

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.  

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.  

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  

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Digital format only: KD664S

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

Digital format only: KF982F

Digital format only: KF982S

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)).
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.

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.
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.

Digital format only: KC007C

*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.

Digital format only: KC701C


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.


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.”


CASUALTIES


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](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.


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

**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.


**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.


**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.


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 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.


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.


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.


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.


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](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**


Pacific faces new battle: plastic addiction. *Pacific Islands News Association (PINA).*

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](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 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](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**


IMO ‘will thrive in delivering its full agenda’, says next secretary-general. Sam Chambers. *Splash 247*. 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.


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.


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.


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.


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](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**


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.


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-ebee5b4c8b735e6bb4311b7314056ab 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.


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](https://cleanarctic.org/2023/12/12/arctic-council-must-show-leadership-on-reduction-of-black-carbon-emissions-from-shipping/)


“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](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) 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.


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.


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.


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.


Full Statement

MARINE TECHNOLOGY


MASS UK Industry Conduct Principles and Code of Practice 2023 (V7)


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.

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.


**MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING**


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

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.


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


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.


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.


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**


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 $6 billion in daily commerce being held up.


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.


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.


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/](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](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**


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/houthis-shipping-red-sea-navy-israel-6dc5fbff6d28fead5d6e1224cba5a14 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 Houthis 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.”


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.

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.


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-1727d3d95e548c6e4d20b51f096268f 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.


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](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.


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.


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


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](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**


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](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 *New 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](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.


**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/](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.


**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](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.


**Maersk ship attacked near the Red Sea.** Sebastian Schlüter Jacobsen. *ShippingWatch.* 14 December 2023. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article16687752.ece](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.


**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.


**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.


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.


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.


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.


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/](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.


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](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**


**PORT STATE CONTROL**


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.


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).


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-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.samoaobserver.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-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-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.


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](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](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.


**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](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.

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


Shipping emissions under the European Union Emissions Trading System.


**SALVAGE**


**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.


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.


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.


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.


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-ombudsman-s-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.”


**SHIP RECYCLING**


Shipbreakers have improved – but low pay and dangerous conditions persist. Liv Almer. *ShippingWatch*. 8 December 2023. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article16670091.ece](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.


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.


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.

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](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.


Any fossil fuel phase-out deal at COP28 must include global shipping (commentary). Shaama Sandooyea. 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.


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.


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.


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.


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.

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.lloydslist.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.


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.


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.


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](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.


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.


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.

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.


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.


**RESEARCH**


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.


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.