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.

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IMO NEWS & EVENTS

STATEMENTS BY THE IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL

Statement on the attack on the True Confidence bulk carrier

Statement by IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez, 6 March 2024:

"It is deeply saddening to follow the horrific reports of the casualties on the merchant vessel True Confidence, following an attack on the ship southwest of Aden, in Yemen.

I extend my deepest condolences and those of the entire IMO family to the families of those who have lost their lives, and our thoughts are with those who have been injured. Innocent seafarers should never become collateral victims.

I want to thank the efforts of all ships in the area in assisting the vessel and particularly its crew. We all need to do more to protect seafarers.

I once again call for collective action to fortify the safety of those who serve at sea. International trade depends on international shipping and international shipping cannot go on without seafarers."

Red Sea crisis - Rubymar and Galaxy Leader

Speaking at the opening of the tenth session of the IMO's Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment at IMO Headquarters in London, United Kingdom on 4 March, 2024, IMO Secretary-General Mr. Arsenio Dominguez said:

"In view of the situation in the Red Sea, I want to urge the immediate release of the Galaxy Leader and its crew.

The first impact of this crisis, before it has an impact on trade, falls on seafarers. It is the responsibility of this Organization and its Member States to protect all seafarers.

I reiterate my firm belief that the exercise of navigational rights and freedom by merchant vessels must be respected. I join the calls for caution and restraint to avoid further escalation of the situation.

The recent sinking of the vessel Rubymar represents an additional risk for the environment and maritime security. We are in contact with the Government of Yemen and other UN organizations to provide necessary assistance.

IMO will continue to contribute to enhancing the safety of seafarers and transit of vessels of all States through the Red Sea and will closely monitor the situation, in collaboration with Member States and partners from the industry."
MEETING SUMMARIES AND SCHEDULE  Programme of Meetings for 2024

Previous Meetings

Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Construction (SDC 10) 22-26 January 2024
Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW 10) 5-9 February 2024
Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR 11) 19-23 February 2024
Joint ILO/IMO Tripartite Working Group (JTWG 2) 27-29 February 2024
Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE 10) 4-8 March 2024

Forthcoming Meetings

Intersessional Working Group on the Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships (ISWG-GHG 16) 11-15 March 2024
Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 81) 18-22 March 2024
UNITED NATIONS


Passenger air traffic surpasses pre-pandemic levels. *International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).* 27 February 2024. Available from: [https://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/Passenger-air-traffic-surpasses-pre-pandemic-levels.aspx](https://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/Passenger-air-traffic-surpasses-pre-pandemic-levels.aspx). In the first quarter of 2024, ICAO projects that passenger air traffic levels will be around 2% higher than in 2019, with airlines expected to sustain their operating profitability seen in 2023.

CASUALTIES


Turkish pilot falls to his death while boarding vessel in Bosphorus. Harry Papachristou. TradeWinds. 5 February 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/turkish-pilot-falls-to-his-death-while-boarding-vessel-in-bosphorus/2-1-1593479 Oguz Kok believed to have died of hypothermia in cold Istanbul waters.


The Lloyd’s List Podcast: The lingering scandal of Brilliante Virtuoso. Lloyd’s List 5 February 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1148171/ The murder of David Mockett, the maritime surveyor at the heart of the Brilliante Virtuoso scandal, continues to cast a long shadow over the shipping and insurance sectors.

Another ship in the Red Sea has been attacked by a suspected Yemen Houthi rebel drone. Jon Gambrell. Associated Press. 6 February 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/yemen-houthi-rebels-ship-attack-iran-us-e1c74b063a59fa4417d47fe5ab369cc Two ships traveling in Middle East waters were targeted by Yemen Houthi rebel ballistic missile fire early Tuesday, authorities said, in the latest assaults in the Iranian-backed fighters’ campaign of targeting vessels over Israel’s war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Houthis Fire Missiles at Two Ships in the Red Sea, One Sustains Minor Damage. Asharq Al-Awsat. 6 February 2024. Available from: https://english.aawsat.com/arab-world/4836316-houthis-fire-missiles-two-ships-red-sea-one-sustains-minor-damage Yemen’s Iran-aligned Houthis fired missiles at two vessels in the Red Sea, they said on Tuesday, causing minor damage to a cargo ship that was sailing off the coast of Yemen’s Hodeidah.


Fatigue blamed as two seafarers killed by huge waves on Greek reefer. Gary Dixon. TradeWinds. 9 February 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/fatigue-blamed-as-two-seafarers-killed-by-huge-waves-on-greek-reefer/2-1-1596400 A tired bosun made a tragic error in leading his team back out on to the deck of a Greek reefer in dangerous weather off South Africa, an accident report has revealed.
Cargo ship runs aground for second time at same port. Jonny Manning and John Bowness. BBC News. 11 February 2024. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpdek4rkzy8o
The Zapadny ran aground on sand as it made its way to Silloth, in Cumbria, from Bremen, in Germany, according to online ship tracking information.


Yemen’s Houthis fire missiles at British oil tanker bound for India. Al Jazeera. 17 February 2024. Available from: https://www.aljazeera.com/amp/news/2024/2/17/yemens-houthis-fire-missiles-at-british-oil-tanker-bound-for-india Yemen’s Iran-aligned Houthi group has claimed a new missile attack on Western interests amid Israel’s war on Gaza, this time on a British oil tanker that the United States identified as a Panamanian-flagged vessel carrying crude oil bound for India.

Mega container ships — what if they threaten to sink? How can this be prevented? Deutsche Welle (Germany). 17 February 2024. Available from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_64yqTUhI&ab_channel=DWN News What happens if mega container ships threaten to sink - such as the MV Golden Ray, the MSC Zoe and the MV Modern Express.
Yemen’s Houthis say ship attacked in Gulf of Aden may sink. Jonathan Saul and Ahmed Tolba. Reuters. 19 February 2024. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/world/yemens-houthis-say-ship-attacked-gulf-aden-may-sink-2024-02-19/ Yemen’s Houthi militants said on Monday they had attacked the Rubymar cargo vessel in the Gulf of Aden which was at risk of sinking, raising the stakes in their campaign to disrupt global shipping in solidarity with Palestinians in the Gaza war.

Houthi rebels’ attack severely damages a Belize-flagged ship in key strait leading to the Red Sea. Jon Gambrell. Associated Press. 20 February 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/yemen-houthi-rebels-attack-israel-hamas-war-gaza-67cf1acc17f4e17d04075a99688e4da8 A missile attack by Yemen’s Houthi rebels that damaged a Belize-flagged ship traveling through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait that connects the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden has forced the crew to abandon the vessel, authorities said Monday.


Abandoned bulker struck by Houthis still afloat off Yemen, say sources. Harry Papachristou. TradeWinds. 21 February 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/bulkers/abandoned-bulker-struck-by-houthis-still-afloat-off-yemen-say-sources/2-1-1601319 A general cargo vessel abandoned by its crew after a Houthi missile strike late on Sunday is still afloat, despite a statement by the Yemeni militant group that it has sunk.

Ship abandoned in Red Sea faces unknown fate, sources say. Jonathan Saul. Reuters. 21 February 2024. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/world/ship-abandoned-red-sea-faces-unknown-fate-sources-2024-02-21/ A cargo ship abandoned four days ago in the Gulf of Aden after it was hit by missiles fired by Yemen’s Houthis is still floating despite taking in water, and could be towed to nearby Djibouti, industry sources said on Wednesday.

Red Sea: New images show British ship Rubymar has not sunk. BBC News. 21 February 2024. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-68363692 A British-registered ship attacked in the Red Sea has been damaged but has not sunk, BBC Verify has discovered.

Houthi Attacks on International Shipping. US Department of State. 21 February 2024. Available from: https://www.state.gov/houthi-attacks-on-international-shipping/ The United States condemns the reckless and indiscriminate attacks on civilian cargo ships by the Houthis.

Houthi rebel attack sets cargo ship ablaze, forces Israel to intercept another attack near Eilat. Jon Gambrell. Associated Press. 22 February 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/israel-yemen-houthi-hamas-war-gaza-strip. Yemen’s Houthi rebels launched attacks Thursday on both Israel and a ship traveling through the Gulf of Aden, setting the vessel ablaze and again demonstrating their ability to launch assaults despite facing U.S.-led airstrikes targeting their forces.


The Stellar Daisy - some progress on real responsibility. Michael Grey. Seatrade Maritime News. 23 February 2024. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/opinions-analysis/stellar-daisy-some-progress-real-responsibility. Who is responsible when a major casualty occurs and should top executives take the rap when the company is found negligent?


ENVIRONMENT

Atoll nations, predicted to sink, have kept pace with sea-level rise. Pacific Islands News Association (PINA). 30 January 2024. Available from: https://pina.com.fi/2024/01/30/atoll-nations-predicted-to-sink-have-kept-pace-with-sea-level-rise. For an attention-grabbing speech to the 2022 UN climate conference, a Tuvalu cabinet minister stood on one of atoll nation’s smallest islands and predicted it could be the first to be submerged by rising seas.

Is the world 1.3°C or 1.5°C warmer? Historical ship logs hold answers. Paul Voosen. Science. 31 January 2024. Available from: https://www.science.org/content/article/world-1-3%C2%B0C-or-1-5%C2%B0C-warmer-historical-ship-logs-hold-answers. Last month’s announcement that 2023 was the hottest year in history was no surprise.
Peace, Prosperity And Ocean Conservation Of The Indian Ocean Region. *Indian Ocean Strategic Research Centre (IOSRC)*. 1 February 2024. Available from: [https://iosrc.org/2024/02/01/peace-prosperity-and-ocean-conservation-of-the-indian-ocean-region/](https://iosrc.org/2024/02/01/peace-prosperity-and-ocean-conservation-of-the-indian-ocean-region/)
The Indian Ocean is of incomparable worth due to its diversity of rich culture and incomparable resources.

Bellona meets with Arctic Council officials on black carbon and alternative energy in the polar region. *Bellona Foundation*. 5 February 2024. Available from: [https://tinyurl.com/44fnpwny](https://tinyurl.com/44fnpwny)
As new environmental priorities fill the agenda of the Arctic Council under Norway’s leadership, Bellona met last week with its chair, Morten Høgland, to discuss battling climate change in the earth’s most vulnerable and rapidly heating region.


The global average temperature in January 2024 was 1.6°C above pre-industrial levels for the month, meaning the planet has breached the 1.5°C benchmark for the past 12 months.

If we can’t untangle this mess, Norway’s blue industry will never be green. Sølvi Normannsen. *Norwegian SciTech News*. 13 February 2024. Available from: [https://norwegianscitechnews.com/2024/02/if-we-cant-untangle-this-mess-norways-blue-industry-will-never-be-green](https://norwegianscitechnews.com/2024/02/if-we-cant-untangle-this-mess-norways-blue-industry-will-never-be-green/)
For the first time, researchers have investigated how ropes and fishing lines are handled by the Norwegian commercial fishing industry.

In the ongoing battle against climate change, the ocean’s significance is unparalleled.

“The idea is to bring investment in the blue sector and the government has already done a lot of work to provide positive regulatory frame work”.

Tuvalu, a picturesque island nation nestled in the vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean, is currently grappling with a relentless onslaught of storm surges and towering waves, wreaking havoc on coastal communities.

Another endangered whale was found dead off East Coast. This one died after colliding with a ship. Patrick Whittle. *Associated Press*. 17 February 2024. Available from: [https://apnews.com/article/endangered-right-whale-death-georgia-f3335ddb0326bf3e9880a8962c83efce](https://apnews.com/article/endangered-right-whale-death-georgia-f3335ddb0326bf3e9880a8962c83efce) Federal authorities said the second critically endangered North Atlantic right whale found dead in the last month showed injuries consistent with a collision with a ship.
Environmental groups sue to force government to finalize ship speed rules that protect rare whales. Patrick Whittle. Associated Press. 14 February 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/right-whale-protection-ships-fishing-73c862746306a15263f67a3ab7f9255d A coalition of environmental groups has sued the federal government to try to force the finalization of ship speed rules that the groups say are critically important to save a vanishing species of whale.


To keep whales safe, Coast Guard launches boat alert system in Seattle. Manuel Valdes. Associated Press. 22 February 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/orcas-humpbacks-ferries-seattle-ca034b8cb584f9aca7200a83a51cd0a2 Photographer Matt McDonald had lived on Puget Sound for years, but had never seen a whale, so he was elated when he spotted a giant marine mammal just off Seattle’s waterfront one evening.


**ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION**


Brazil investigates alleged oil spill from tanker in 2023. Lisandra Paraguassu. Reuters. 1 February 2024. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/brazil-investigates-alleged-oil-spill-tanker-2023-2024-02-01/ Brazil is looking for information on an alleged September 2023 tanker oil spill off its northern coast, after non-governmental organization Arayara Institute on Thursday said satellite images showed an apparent 170-square-kilometer (66-square-mile) spill.

The beginning of the end for plastics pollution? Sulan Chen, Mirja Neumann and Murat Okumah. *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*. 6 February 2024. Available from: https://www.unpd.org/blog/beginning-end-plastics-pollution This is a monumental year for multilateralism to prevail in the fight against plastic pollution, as the United Nations has committed to deliver a legally binding agreement by the end of 2024.

More oil spilled from Orlen’s terminal than first reported, some reached Latvia’s waters. *Lithuanian National Radio and Television*. 8 February 2024. Available from: https://www.lrt.lt/en/news-in-english/19/2191116/more-oil-spilled-from-orlen-s-terminal-than-first-reported-some-reached-latvia-s-waters The amount of oil released into the Baltic Sea from the Būtingė crude terminal on Wednesday was larger than reported by Orlen Lietuva and some of it has reached Latvian territorial waters, the Environmental Protection Department (AAD) said on Thursday as cleanup efforts continued.

Oil spill in Lithuania reaches Latvian waters. *LSM.lv (Latvian Public Broadcasting)*. 8 February 2024. Available from: https://eng.lsm.lv/article/society/environment/08.02.2024-oil-spill-in-lithuania-reaches-latvian-waters.a542201/ A crude oil spill occurred at the Lithuanian Būtingė oil terminal in the Baltic Sea, by the oil refinery Orlen Lietuva, at around 8 AM on Wednesday February 7 with about 1,400 - 1,800 liters of oil leaking into the sea.

Mysterious Capsized Cargo Ship Causes Oil Spill Emergency in Tobago. *Maritime Executive*. 9 February 2024. Available from: https://maritime-executive.com/article/mysterious-capsized-cargo-ship-causes-oil-spill-emergency-in-tobago Officials on the Caribbean island of Tobago are scrambling to clean up a growing oil spill while they also investigate the mysterious capsized vessel that is causing the growing environmental disaster.

PM weighing foreign help if oil spill worsens. Elizabeth Gonzales. *Guardian (Trinidad & Tobago)*. 11 February 2024. Available from: https://www.guardian.co.tt/news/pm-weighing-foreign-help-if-oil-spill-worsens-6.2.1923219.50bcf5d956 Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley says while the Tobago oil spill isn’t completely under control, it remains manageable and the situation should improve with additional resources.

IMA assesses areas affected by oil spill in Tobago. *Loop News (Trinidad and Tobago)*. 12 February 2024. Available from: https://tt.loopnews.com/content/ima-assesses-areas-affected-oil-spill-tobago The Institute of Marine Affairs has conducted initial ecological assessments of mangroves, beaches and other areas affected by the February 7 oil spill caused by an unmanned vessel which capsized nearshore Cove Bay on the Atlantic side of Tobago.

Government to the rescue: PM promises to spare no expense to help Tobago after oil spill. Corey Connelly. *Newsday (Trinidad and Tobago)*. 11 February 2024. Available from: https://newsday.co.tt/2024/02/11/government-to-the-rescue-pm-promises-to-spare-no-expense-to-help-tobago-after-oil-spill/ Describing the oil spill in Tobago as "a national emergency," the Prime Minister says the government will spare no expense to help rehabilitate the island, which is heavily dependent on tourism.

TEMA says progress being made in Tobago oil spill clean-up. *Loop News (Trinidad and Tobago)*. 13 February 2024. Available from: https://tt.loopnews.com/content/tema-says-progress-being-made-tobago-oil-spill-clean The Tobago Emergency Management Agency said it’s making progress with clean-up activities following an oil spill affected parts of the island’s coastline.

TT Coast Guard Confirms Two Vessels Involved In Oil Spill Incident Off Tobago. TTT Live Online (Trinidad and Tobago). 13 February 2024. Available from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cohz04oMV28 The Ministry of National Security is collaborating with other local and regional agencies, including Caricom IMPACS, the Guyana Coast Guard, the Maritime Services Division, and IR Consilium, through Consultant Dr. Ian Ralby to identify the vessels and their owners.

Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard confirms two vessels involved in oil spill incident 14.02.2024. Government of Trinidad and Tobago. 14 February 2024. Available from: https://nationalsecurity.gov.tt/mediarelease/media-release-trinidad-and-tobago-coast-guard-confirms-two-vessels-involved-in-oil-spill-incident-14-02-2024/ The Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard (TTCG) has confirmed that at least two vessels were involved in the oil spill incident that has been engaging the attention of multiple agencies in Trinidad and Tobago.

DOJ indicts ship owners, maritime officers over Mindoro oil spill. Benjamin Pulta. Philippine News Agency (PNA). 14 February 2024. Available from: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1218858 The Department of Justice (DOJ) on Wednesday ordered the filing of criminal charges against the owners of the M/T Princess Empress and several others for their part in the oil spill that hit Oriental Mindoro and Batangas provinces last year.

More needed to contain spreading oil leak in Tobago. Gary Aboud. Trinidad Express. 15 February 2024. Available from: https://trinidadexpress.com/opinion/letters/more-needed-to-contain-spreading-oil-leak-in-tobago/article_e5341ce6-cb9a-11ee-9a4f-5f0ac8d26f56.html According to the Tobago Emergency Management Agency (TEMA), booms have been successfully deployed in the vicinity of the leaking Gulfstream vessel, but isn’t more oil still leaking from the vessel?

Tobago spill enters Grenada’s marine space. Kalain Hosein. Guardian (Trinidad & Tobago). 15 February 2024. Available from: https://guardian.co.tt/news/tobago-spill-enters-grenadas-marine-space-6.2.1926836.f49699d2c8 Grenada has contacted the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency and other partners, as possible oil from the Tobago oil spill has entered their marine area of responsibility.

Grenada contacts Trinidad about potential impact of Tobago oil spill. Loop News Caribbean. 15 February 2024. Available from: https://caribbean.loopnews.com/content/grenada-contacts-trinidad-about-potential-impact-tobago-oil-spill Grenada said it has contacted the Trinidadian Government to ascertain how an oil spill in Tobago will affect the Spice Isle.

Tobago Oil Spill Spreads Across Southeastern Caribbean Sea. Environment News Service. 16 February 2024. Available from: https://ens-newswire.com/tobago-oil-spill-spreads-across-southeastern-caribbean-sea/ At least two vessels were involved in an incident that is spilling gobs of black crude oil across a widening area of the Caribbean Sea off the coast of South America.

**Grenada continues to monitor Tobago oil spill.** *Loop News Caribbean*. 17 February 2024. Available from: https://caribbean.loopnews.com/content/grenada-continues-monitor-tobago-oil-spill The National Disaster Management Agency (NaDMA) says it continues to carefully monitor the ongoing oil spill which occurred off the coast of Tobago.

**Oil spill impact could be profound, long term.** *Guardian (Trinidad & Tobago)*. 17 February 2024. Available from: https://guardian.co.tt/business/oil-spill-impact-could-be-profound-long-term-6.2.1928343.30d6f7977d The long-term economic impact of the oil spill in Tobago could be profound, as it could lead to the deepening of the island’s dependence on Trinidad, depending on the extent of the contamination of the island’s ecosystem, Tobago economist, Dr Vanus James said on Friday.

**Tobago oil spill: Ministry engages oil spill removal specialists.** *Loop News (Trinidad and Tobago)*. 20 February 2024. Available from: https://tt.loopnews.com/content/tobago-oil-spill-ministry-engages-oil-spill-removal-specialists As oil recovery efforts continue off the southern coast of Cove, Tobago, the Energy Ministry has engaged the services of licensed oil spill removal organisations T&T Salvage LLC and QT Environmental Inc.


**Preliminary IMA Fingerprinting reports indicate ‘Intermediate Fuel Oil’.** *Government of Trinidad and Tobago*. 23 February 2024. Available from: https://www.energy.gov.tt/preliminary-ima-fingerprinting-reports-indicate-intermediate-fuel-oil/ The Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries (MEEI) would like to advise that preliminary fingerprinting reports submitted to the MEEI from the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA), have indicated that the hydrocarbon discharge affecting the south-east coast of Tobago is an ‘intermediate fuel oil.’


‘Environmental disaster’: Yemeni govt demands help to secure Houthi-hit ship.  


‘Lessons must be learned from Tobago Spill’. Joshua Seemungal. *Guardian* (Trinidad & Tobago). 26 February 2024. Available from: [https://guardian.co.tt/news/lessons-must-be-learned-from-tobago-spill-6.2.1934642.1802c09824](https://guardian.co.tt/news/lessons-must-be-learned-from-tobago-spill-6.2.1934642.1802c09824) Local environmental scientists say while the country failed to learn lessons from the 2013 Petrotrin oil disaster, it must seize the opportunity to learn from Tobago’s February 7 oil spill or next time the consequences could be far more severe.


**Oil spill from capsized barge near Tobago soils beaches hundreds of miles away.** Dánica Coto. *Associated Press.* 28 February 2024. Available from: [https://apnews.com/article/bonaire-oil-spill-tobago-trinidad-9b9a5b76a8da777b27ab8b6e110fa86](https://apnews.com/article/bonaire-oil-spill-tobago-trinidad-9b9a5b76a8da777b27ab8b6e110fa86) An offshore oil spill that prompted Trinidad and Tobago to declare a national emergency earlier this month involves hundreds of thousands of gallons of fuel, some of which has reached the shores of the Dutch Caribbean island of Bonaire hundreds of miles away, authorities said.
HEALTH & SAFETY


Ten years ago I wrote an essay in *Maritime Executive* about my testimony before a Congressionally mandated panel examining sexual assault in the military and in the Coast Guard.


The Seafarers’ International Union of Canada (SIU) have published a report on workplace harassment and bullying within the Canadian marine sector, which indicates that 46% of seafarers have experienced harassment or bullying at some point in their career as a seafarer. Harassment at Sea SIU Canada Membership Survey


The UK Trades Union Congress (TUC) has called for maritime employers to ensure the safety and welfare of seafarers is respected during the current crisis in the Red Sea.


A ground-breaking partnership between Sailors’ Society and the United Kingdom Maritime Pilots’ Association (UKMPA) will see a first for all UK maritime pilots - access to their own dedicated mental health and wellbeing support.


The focus of this week’s column was going to be on seafarer welfare, which was the subject of a conference I attended last week.


The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) launches “Industry Principles for Establishing Effective Measures to Combat and Eliminate Harassment and Bullying in the Maritime Sector”.


A new set of guidelines, adopted at a joint meeting of the ILO and the IMO, will improve the medical examination process of fishers.


When one seafarer experienced his ship coming under fire in the Red Sea, it was as if he had found himself thrust from one warzone to another.


**IMO**


Arsenio Dominguez wants to make IMO more open after years of criticism. Nidaa Bakhsh. *ShippingWatch*. 5 February 2024. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article16818993.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article16818993.ece) Arsenio Dominguez is clear about his ambitions for the IMO, the UN body that regulates the shipping industry.


IMO’s Arsenio Dominguez is comfortable talking the talk. David Hughes. *Business Times (Singapore)*. 6 February 2024. Available from: [https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/opinion-features/imos-arsenio-dominguez-comfortable-talking-talk](https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/opinion-features/imos-arsenio-dominguez-comfortable-talking-talk) There was a time when any press event at the London headquarters of the IMO would pull in the same, now rather dwindling, band of shipping journalists – including yours truly.


International Maritime Organization chief stresses need for dialogue to resolve Red Sea crisis. Agence France-Presse (AFP). 11 February 2024. Available from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79WHJ1HkDn4 Secretary General of the IMO Arsenio Dominguez stresses the need for dialogue between all parties to deescalate the situation in the Red Sea.

IMO Secretary-General Visits WMU. World Maritime University (WMU). 13 February 2024. Available from: https://www.wmu.se/news/imo-sg-visits-wmu On 12 February, Mr Arsenio Dominguez, Secretary-General of the IMO and WMU Chancellor was welcomed by Professor Max Mejia, WMU President, on his first official visit to the University since assuming the role of Secretary-General at the beginning of this year.


What the IMO needs to do to meet its newest targets? Transport & Environment. 15 February 2024. Available from: https://www.transportenvironment.org/discover/what-the-imo-needs-to-do-to-meet-its-newest-targets/ T&E assesses how much energy efficiency needs to be improved and how much green fuel uptake should happen by 2030, 2040 and 2050 for the IMO to meet its climate targets. Briefing 🎯

Global shipping carbon price proposals to be discussed at IMO. Radio New Zealand. 15 February 2024. Available from: https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/509268/global-shipping-carbon-price-proposals-to-be-discussed-atIMO The United Nation’s global shipping regulator is set to discuss fresh proposals for the world’s first global carbon levy in any sector, including submission from the Pacific, next month.

Resilience and Cooperation: Keys to the industry According to Arsenio Domínguez, IMO Secretary General. MundoMaritimo. 21 February 2024. Available from: https://www.mundomaritimo.net/noticias/resilience-and-cooperation-keys-to-the-industry-according-to-arsenio-dominguez-imo-secretary-general In an exclusive interview with MundoMaritimo, Arsenio Domínguez, Secretary General of the IMO, discusses the current outlook for the maritime industry in the context of the Red Sea crisis.


PPR 11: Progress Made, But IMO Fails to Act on Black Carbon Emissions, Despite Credible and Direct Pathway. Clean Arctic Alliance. 23 February 2024. Available from: https://cleanarctic.org/2024/02/23/ppr-11-progress-made-but-imo-fails-to-act-on-black-carbon-emissions-despite-credible-and-direct-pathway/ As a meeting of the IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR 11) closed today in London, the Clean Arctic Alliance called on the IMO to urgently adopt a mandatory regulation requiring ships to move to distillate fuels while operating in and near to the Arctic, and for the maritime sector to follow a 2021 IMO resolution above 60 degrees north.


**LAW & POLICY**


John Podesta will take over for John Kerry as top international adviser on climate change. Colleen Long and Matthew Daly. Associated Press. 31 January 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/biden-podesta-climate-3da3fdd2b9d4fba542ff16f87eb4f10e White House senior adviser John Podesta will add international climate policy to his job responsibilities, replacing special climate envoy John Kerry as the top U.S. official on international climate issues, the White House said Wednesday.


“The Oceans Treaty covers issues that connect us more than divide us.” Siva Thambisetty and Helena Vieira. *London School of Economics.* 5 February 2024. Available from: [https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/businessreview/2024/02/05/siva-thambisetty-the-oceans-treaty-covers-issues-that-connect-us-more-than-divide-us/](https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/businessreview/2024/02/05/siva-thambisetty-the-oceans-treaty-covers-issues-that-connect-us-more-than-divide-us/) In this Q&A, Siva Thambisetty spoke with Helena Vieira (LSE Business Review) about next steps and the business implications of the treaty.

Tonga signs Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement. *Matangi Tonga Online.* 5 February 2024. Available from: [https://matangitonga.to/2024/02/05/tonga-signs-biodiversity-beyond-national-jurisdiction-agreement](https://matangitonga.to/2024/02/05/tonga-signs-biodiversity-beyond-national-jurisdiction-agreement) Tonga becomes the 85th country to sign the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement to protect 2/3 of our ocean, or the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.


Two men charged after 139kg of cocaine allegedly found hidden inside luxury buses on international cargo ship. Josephine Lim. *ABC (Australia).* 5 February 2024. Available from: [https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-02-05/cocaine-hidden-in-luxury-buses-on-board-cargo-ship/103426894](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-02-05/cocaine-hidden-in-luxury-buses-on-board-cargo-ship/103426894) Two Victorian men will face court after 139 kilograms of cocaine were found hidden inside luxury buses in an international shipment that arrived in Adelaide, with border force officials saying cocaine shipments are being seized in the country at “unprecedented levels.”


Trade leaders urge governments around the world to join Red Sea military effort. Lori Ann LaRocco. CNBC (US). 8 February 2024. Available from: https://www.cnbc.com/2024/02/08/trade-leaders-urge-governments-around-world-to-join-red-sea-defense.html Trade associations representing sectors across the global economy have joined an open letter urging more governments around the world to join Red Sea maritime security efforts.

Global Coalition Aligns Around Safeguarding Red Sea Commerce. American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA). 8 February 2024. Available from: https://www.aafaglobal.org/AAFA/AAFA_News/2024_Press_Releases/GLOBAL_COALITION_SAFEGUARD_RED_SEA_COMMERCE.aspx The AAFA and the International Apparel Federation (IAF) have released a letter with more than 100 signatories drawn from associations representing all corners of the globe calling for a wider government cooperation to keep shipping lanes open and safe. Full Letter


Greek Troops Board Tanker, Arresting Captain on “Abduction” Charges. Maritime Executive. 12 February 2024. Available from: https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/video-greek-troops-board-tanker-arresting-captain-on-abduction-charges A Special Missions Unit of the Greek military boarded a product tanker on Saturday arresting the vessel’s captain and releasing three inspectors who reportedly were aboard the ship against their will.


**Australia and UNDP Partner with Bangladesh Govt to Strengthen NGO Affairs Bureau to accelerate SDGs.** *Daily Sun (Bangladesh).* 15 February 2024. Available from: [https://www.dailysun.com/post/735091](https://www.dailysun.com/post/735091) In a collaborative effort to enhance the development initiatives in Bangladesh for achieving SDGs, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have joined hands with the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) for the "Institutional Strengthening for Promoting Accountability and Transparency-ISPAT" project.


We told you so: Repeated warnings Houthis would attack shipping ignored, says Yemen. Paul Peachey. TradeWinds. 19 February 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/we-told-you-so-repeated-warnings-houthis-would-attack-shipping-ignored-says-yemen/2-1-1600564 In a submission to the International Maritime Organization, the United Nations-backed administration, the rival of the Houthi regime, said that it did not receive “any serious response” after it warned of the dangers during the country’s civil war.


More than 350 join forces in Athens to forge a sustainable blue economy future for the Mediterranean. Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). 19 February 2024. Available from: https://ufmsecretariat.org/more-than-250-join-forces-in-athens-to-forge-a-sustainable-blue-economy-future-for-the-mediterranean/ The 2nd UfM Stakeholder Conference on Sustainable Blue Economy took place on February 19 and 20 in the Greek capital, with over 350 participants evaluating the progress made within the framework of the 10 Sustainable Blue Economy priority areas adopted in 2021 and discussing next steps.

Shipping associations welcome EU Red Sea operation Aspides. Gary Howard. Seatrade Maritime News. 20 February 2024. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/containers/shipping-associations-welcome-eu-red-sea-operation-aspides The Council of the EU announced that the defensive operation will have an initial one year duration and a mandate to protect commercial vessels against attacks at sea by providing situational awareness and accompanying ships in the region.
Jennifer Spence and Hannah Chenok. Harvard University. Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. 20 February 2024. Available from: https://www.belfercenter.org/publication/future-arctic-council-innovation-charting-course-working-level-cooperation On February 14, 2024, the Russian Federation announced that it would suspend its annual payments to the Arctic Council “until the resumption of real work in this format with the participation of all member countries.”


US blacklists Russia’s state-owned tanker carrier Sovcomflot. Liv Almer. ShippingWatch. 26 February 2024. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Tanker/article16879763.ece The US Treasury Department has added Russia’s largest state-owned shipping company and fleet operator, Sovcomflot, to its sanctions list, according to a statement.

Hong Kong budget ‘to offer incentives to turn city into green maritime hub’. Olga Wong. South China Morning Post. 27 February 2024. Available from: https://tinyurl.com/y4mb232w
Hong Kong’s finance chief will tap into the US trillion-dollar clean energy market in Wednesday’s budget by setting up a regional green fuel bunkering centre, with financial incentives and infrastructure being offered to vessel owners and the maritime industry to make them more environmentally friendly, the Post has learned.

Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Monday (Feb 26) that without new US military aid his country would be unable to defend a Black Sea shipping corridor that has allowed Kyiv to export millions of tons of grain to global markets.

Tariq Saleh calls for empowering the Yemeni gov’t to enforce its control over the country’s seashores. Yemen News Agency (SABA). 27 February 2024. Available from: https://www.sabanew.net/story/en/107464
Member of the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) Brigadier General Tariq Saleh called for supporting the internationally recognized Yemeni government’s capacities in order to effectively exercise its sovereignty over the Yemeni seashores.

This guidance is produced by the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI), part of HM Treasury, the authority for the implementation of financial sanctions in the UK.

MARINE TECHNOLOGY

Ocean freight transport requires large amounts of fuel, mainly made up of fossil fuels today.

Alternative fuels, green steel and renewable energy are fundamental to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction during the life cycle of a vessel, reveals a study carried out by an LR, Knutsen, HDKSOE and HHI Joint Development Project (JDP).

Switching to ammonia as a marine fuel, with the goal of decarbonisation, can instead create entirely new problems.
EU to prioritise maritime access to renewable fuels in revised climate strategy. Enes Tunagur. Lloyd’s List. 6 February 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1148187/ The European Commission has recommended a 90% greenhouse gas reduction target for 2040 from a 1990 baseline, as part of its upcoming climate strategy revision that will also aim to prioritise low-carbon fuel access to maritime and aviation sectors.

EU Policy. Carbon capture key to reaching net-zero, but climate chief urges caution. Robert Hodgson. Euronews. 6 February 2024. Available from: https://www.euronews.com/green/2024/02/07/carbon-capture-key-to-reaching-net-zero-but-climate-chief-urges-caution A warning from the climate commission Wopke Hoekstra that carbon capture is no magical cure for global heating comes as new policies show the EU is banking on a huge and rapid deployment of the ‘unproven’ technology to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by mid-century.


The lack of pace in the green transition worries Wärtsilä’s maritime chief. Mette Grube Condru. ShippingWatch. 12 February 2024. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article16839053.ece The number of new orders and net sales skyrocketed due in part to the sale of technology and efficiency improvements that help reduce ship emissions, but the company is still concerned about the green transition.


EU climate policy is dangerously reliant on untested carbon-capture technology. Nature. 13 February 2024. Available from: https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-00391-3 Last week, the European Commission published its long-awaited recommendations for climate targets for 2040.


**MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING**


Dedicated training ships aim to tackle seafarer shortage. Amy McLellan. *Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST)*. 1 February 2024. Available from: [https://www.imarest.org/resource/dedicated-training-ships-aims-to-tackle-seafarer-shortage.html](https://www.imarest.org/resource/dedicated-training-ships-aims-to-tackle-seafarer-shortage.html) To address the seafarer shortage issue, the US Department of Transportation’s Maritime Administration (MARAD) has ordered five new purpose-built modern training vessels, known as National Security Multi-Mission Vessel (NSMVs), for the country’s state maritime academies.


African countries praise PM Hasina for IMO scholarships. Bangladesh Post. 15 February 2024. Available from: https://bangladeshpost.net/posts/african-countries-praise-pm-hasina-for-imo-scholarships-131748 Ambassadors, High Commissioners, and Permanent Representatives of more than 40 African countries, members of the IMO praised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for offering 10 marine cadetship scholarships from Bangladesh for African LDCs and SIDS at IMO.

Use of navigation systems and good seamanship are crucial. Dutch Safety Board. 15 February 2024. Available from: https://onderzoeksraad.nl/en/use-of-navigation-systems-and-good-seamanship-are-crucial/ This is the conclusion of the Dutch Safety Board after investigating a collision between the seagoing vessels Helge and the Wild Cosmos on September 9, 2022 near Denmark. Investigation Page


Jamaica hosts oil spill contingency planning workshop. The Gleaner (Jamaica). 27 February 2024. Available from: https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/shipping/20240227/jamaica-hosts-oil-spill-contingency-planning-workshop “States such as Jamaica which depend on international shipping for our foreign trade, are particularly very vulnerable to marine pollution from ships and other marine vessels” said Rear Admiral (ret’d) Peter Brady, director general of the Maritime Authority of Jamaica (MAJ), in his opening remarks to stakeholders in attendance at a three-day national workshop on Oil Spill Contingency Planning, from February 19-21.
Sharing user experience for better design. *Nautical Institute.* 28 February 2024. Available from: [https://www.nautinst.org/resources-page/free-article-sharing-user-experience-for-better-design.html](https://www.nautinst.org/resources-page/free-article-sharing-user-experience-for-better-design.html)

A survey conducted by The Nautical Institute in collaboration with the OCEAN Project suggests that the industry is approaching training in Human Centred Design from the wrong angle.

**MARITIME SAFETY**


High waves, high claims: New study on container losses. *Gard.* 15 February 2024. Available from: [https://www.gard.no/web/articles?documentId=36713383](https://www.gard.no/web/articles?documentId=36713383) In a comprehensive new study, we delve into the impact of weather on container stack collapses.

On the **USS Eisenhower**, 4 months of combat at sea facing Houthi missiles and a new sea threat. Bernat Armangue and Tara Copp. *Associated Press*. 15 February 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/houthis-red-sea-eisenhower-carrier-yemen-ad3a711299759de23627f6daa17f45d6. Sailors aboard the aircraft carrier *USS Dwight D. Eisenhower* and its accompanying warships have spent four months straight at sea defending against ballistic missiles and flying attack drones fired by Iranian-backed Houthis, and are now more regularly also defending against a new threat — fast unmanned vessels that are fired at them through the water.

**RMI: Manufacturers need to certify that pilot ladders comply with SOLAS requirements.** Safety4Sea. 26 February 2024. Available from: https://safety4sea.com/rmi-manufacturers-need-to-certify-that-pilot-ladders-comply-solas-requirements/. The Republic of the Marshall Islands Maritime Administrator has been notified of a marine casualty which occurred aboard an RMI-registered ship and issued marine notice to highlight lessons learned for correct pilot ladder and embarkation ladder markings.

**Many Different Vessels but One Goal – Passenger Safety.** Tom Ewing. *MarineLink*. 26 February 2024. Available from: https://www.marinelink.com/news/different-vessels-one-goal-pasenger-511796. Because there are so many different kinds of passenger vessels, the critical topic of passenger safety can sometimes appear as a set of niche topics, each one just distantly connected to another.


MARITIME SECURITY

Djibouti steps up coast guard patrols amidst the Red sea crisis. Africanews. 2 February 2024. Available from: https://www.africanews.com/2024/02/06/djibouti-steps-up-coast-guard-patrols-amidst-the-red-sea-crisis/ The narrow Bab al-Mandab strait is all that separates Djibouti from Yemen, from where the Houthi fighters have launched a series of attacks on Israeli-linked ships since November.


U.S. Coast Guard conduct joint patrol with Kiribati partners under Operation Blue Pacific. United States Coast Guard. 23 February 2024. Available from: https://www.news.uscg.mil/Press-Releases/Article/3686135/us-coast-guard-conduct-joint-patrol-with-kiribati-partners-under-operation-blue/ In a significant advancement of regional maritime cooperation, the USCGC Oliver Henry (WPC 1140) crew successfully concluded a pivotal leg of its current expeditionary patrol in the Kiribati exclusive economic zone (EEZ) from Feb. 11 to 16, 2024.
Maritime security boost | US Coast Guard's inaugural visit strengthens regional co-operation. Talebula Kate. Fiji Times. 23 February 2024. Available from: https://www.fijitimes.com.fj/maritime-security-boost-us-coast-guards-inaugural-visit-strengthens-regional-co-operation/ The US Coast Guard Cutter Harriet Lane this week made its inaugural visit to the country, as part of the Shiprider Agreement Fiji has been a part of since 2018.


**MIGRANTS**


Greek authorities rescue 84 migrants in two separate incidents, arresting 4 alleged traffickers. Demetris Nellas. Associated Press. 11 February 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/crete-rhodes-migrants-boats-libya-turkey-traffickers-93ec754408a3f47a9f006b471ac0e58 Greek authorities found 84 migrants arriving by sea and arrested four individuals, accusing them of being the traffickers that transported them, the coast guard said Sunday.


France stops 140 migrants from crossing English Channel. InfoMigrants. 19 February 2024. Available from: https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/55290/france-stops-140-migrants-from-crossing-english-channel In northern France, officials confirmed on February 18 that rescue boats patrolling the region had saved nearly 140 people trying to cross the English Channel over the weekend.

One dead and two missing after Channel crossing rescue. Hugh Schofield and Lou Newton. BBC News. 28 February 2024. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-68429901 According to French maritime authorities, the boat had 50 migrants on board when it got into difficulty off the French coast on Wednesday.
NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS


Red Sea supply chain inflation may be peaking already, new trade data suggests. Lori Ann LaRocco. CNBC (US). 31 January 2024. Available from: https://www.cnbc.com/2024/01/31/red-sea-freight-rate-inflation-may-be-peaking-already.html The sharp, sudden spike in supply chain inflation caused by the Red Sea crisis and ongoing attacks on shipping vessels by Houthi rebels may have peaked on key global trade routes, based on analysis of the latest data from Xeneta, a leading ocean and air freight benchmarking platform.

Red Sea tanker traffic falls after Houthi missile strike on Marlin Luanda. Paul Peachey. TradeWinds. 31 January 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/red-sea-tanker-traffic-falls-after-houthi-missile-strike-on-marlin-luanda/2-1-1591418 Crude tanker voyages through the Red Sea have plummeted after the Houthi missile strike on Friday that set fire to a Traftigura-operated ship, according to data from Clarksons.


Red Sea attacks increase shipping times and freight rates. US Energy Information Administration (EIA). 1 February 2024. Available from: https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=61363 After Yemen-based Houthi militia attacks on commercial ships transiting the Red Sea started in November 2023, some vessels began opting to avoid the Bab el-Mandeb chokepoint - a narrow strait that borders the Yemeni coast and is the southern entrance to the Red Sea.

Red Sea disruptions could be avoided in future by Arctic shipping, which may trouble ecosystems. Kemal Akbayirli and Gokcay Balci. Arctic Today. 1 February 2024. Available from: https://www.arctictoday.com/red-sea-disruptions-could-be-avoided-in-future-by-arctic-shipping-which-may-trouble-ecosystems/ Planned port expansion, which got a $250 million allocation through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, would extend and rearrange the causeway on the right and the breakwater on the left to create a much larger protected area that could accommodate deeper-draft vessels traveling in and out of the Arctic.

Concerns over Cape re-routes and West African piracy. Nick Savvides. Seatrade Maritime News. 2 February 2024. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/piracy/concerns-over-cape-re-routes-and-west-african-piracy Industry concerns have been raised that pirates in West Africa, who have seen shipping trade shifting from the Al-Mandeb strait to around the Cape, could also refocus their operations into the Gulf of Guinea.


USCENTCOM Red Sea Operational Update. US Central Command. 2 February 2024. Available from: https://twitter.com/CENTCOM/status/1753772895241969967?s=20 On Feb. 2, at approximately 10:30 a.m. (Sanaa time), USS Carney (DDG 64) engaged and shot down one unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) over the Gulf of Aden.


‘Like going to the moon’: The world’s most terrifying ocean crossing. Julia Buckley. CNN. 5 February 2024. Available from: https://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/drake-passage-rough-sea-scen/index.html Once the preserve of explorers and sea dogs, the Drake is today a daunting challenge for an ever-increasing number of travellers to Antarctica – and not just because it takes up to 48 hours to cross it.

Taking the long way around. S&P Commodity Insights. 5 February 2024. Available from: https://www.spglobal.com/commodityinsights/PlattsContent/_assets/_files/en/specialreports/shipping/ships-divert-from-panama-canal.html Seaway disruptions are converging along routes headed through key chokepoints such as the Panama and Suez Canal, as intensifying effects of climate change and war risks in the Red Sea have tightened shipping logistics globally.
Chinese Ships Get Cheaper Insurance to Navigate Red Sea. Alex Longley and Áine Quinn. Bloomberg. 6 February 2024. Available from: https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/chinese-ships-get-cheaper-insurance-to-navigate-red-sea-1.2031493 Chinese-owned merchant ships are getting hefty discounts on their insurance when sailing through the Red Sea, another sign of how Houthi attacks in the area are punishing the commercial interests of vessels with ties to the west.

Cruise voyages from the UAE cancelled as Red Sea tensions ramp up. Katy Gillett. The National (UAE). 7 February 2024. Available from: https://www.thenationalnews.com/travel/2024/02/07/cruises-red-sea-uae-cancelled/ Major global cruise companies are rerouting or even cancelling voyages through the Red Sea as tensions rise between Yemen’s Houthi militants and British and US forces.

Indonesian Ship Sails in the Red Sea, Aid for Gaza Lands in Egypt. AsiaToday.id (Indonesia). 8 February 2024. Available from: https://asiatoday.id/read/indonesian-ship-sails-in-the-red-sea-aid-for-gaza-lands-in-egypt The Indonesian Ministry of Defense stated that the KRI Dr Radjiman Wedyodiningrat-992 (KRI RJW-992), which was carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza, Palestine from Indonesia, was sailing in the waters of the Gulf of Aden and would soon enter the Red Sea.

Keeping the lights on for lighthouses. Zola Hargreaves. BBC News. 9 February 2024. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6pxl87nxk3o They have guided ships in the sea and kept sailors safe for centuries.


These are the world's most vital waterways for global trade. Spencer Feingold and Andrea Willige. *World Economic Forum*. 15 February 2024. Available from: https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/02/worlds-busiest-ocean-shipping-routes-trade/ 

In recent years, numerous incidents have disrupted the world’s most important trade waterways, impacting supply chains across industries and economies.

Hamdi Ghalib, 32, has been a fisherman for over a decade in Yemen’s Al-Hodeidah province, which overlooks the Red Sea.

In an effort to pave the way for year-round transport of liquefied natural gas (LNG) on the Northern Sea Route, the Russian government eased the requirements for icebreaker escorts.

Feb. 16, to 1 a.m., Feb 17, four anti-ship ballistic missiles launched from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen into the Red Sea.

Following the initiative with the French government to detect oil spills in Sri Lankan waters using satellite surveillance, Sri Lanka has detected the first such incident and fined Rs. 15 million to the responsible company, the Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) said.

On February 19, between 12:30 p.m. and 1:50 p.m. (Sanaa time), Iranian-backed Houthi terrorists fired two anti-ship ballistic missiles at M/V *Sea Champion*, a Greek-flagged, U.S.-owned bulk carrier bound for the port of Aden in Yemen.

Red Sea disruptions and diversions appear to have stabilized with commercial shipping traffic through the narrow Bab el Mandeb chokepoint registering a week-on-week rise of 7%.

Between 4:30 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. (Sanaa time), on Feb 22, U.S. aircraft and a coalition warship shot down six Iranian-backed Houthi one-way attack (OWA) unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) in the Red Sea.


Up to Four Subsea Cables Have Been Damaged Off Yemen. Maritime Executive. 26 February 2024. Available from: https://maritime-executive.com/index.php/article/up-to-four-subsea-cables-have-been-damaged-in-the-red-sea Just weeks after a warning about potential Houthi threats to subsea cables in the Red Sea, at least one fibre-optic line has been severed at a position off the coast of Yemen, and damage has been reported (but not confirmed) on three more.

Greenpeace’s Arctic Sunrise ship arrives in the Galápagos for research expedition.

Greenpeace International. 27 February 2024. Available from: https://www.greenpeace.org/international/press-release/65533/greenpeace-arctic-sunrise-ship-galapagos-research-expedition/ The Greenpeace ship Arctic Sunrise has embarked on a six-week expedition around the Galápagos Islands to showcase the amazing benefits of strong marine protection for one of the world’s most celebrated natural treasures and its iconic local species, and to support the urgent ratification of last year’s historic UN Ocean Treaty.

Sudan: IRC faces an over 40% increase in aid shipping costs amid Red Sea disruption.

International Rescue Committee. 28 February 2024. Available from: https://www.rescue.org/uk/press-release/sudan-irc-faces-over-40-increase-aid-shipping-costs-amid-red-sea-disruption Due to escalating security concerns and attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea, our carrier has made the difficult decision to suspend operations to Port Sudan through the Red Sea route.


PIRACY

Houthi militant attacks in the Red Sea raise fears of Somali piracy resurgence.


Piracy situation in northeast of Seychelles’ EEZ is unstable, according to maritime authorities. Rita Joubert-Lawen. Seychelles News Agency. 1 February 2024. Available from: http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/category/3/articles/20016/Piracy+situation+in+northeast+of+Seychelles+EEZ+is+unstable%2C+according+to+maritime+authorities The piracy situation in the northeast of the Seychelles’ Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is a bit unstable and local authorities are urging the fishing community to stay closer to the main island of Mahe.

Hijacking of vessels by pirates. Government of India. 2 February 2024. Available from: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2001844 Seven incidents of hijacking of vessels on high seas by pirates have been reported during the last three years.
As Navies Focus on Red Sea Houthis, There Are Worrying Signs Somali Pirates Are Making a Comeback. Alex Longley. *Bloomberg*. 3 February 2024. Available from: [https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/as-navies-focus-on-red-sea-houthis-there-are-worrying-signs-somali-pirates-are-making-a-comeback-1.2030249](https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/as-navies-focus-on-red-sea-houthis-there-are-worrying-signs-somali-pirates-are-making-a-comeback-1.2030249) With western navies focused on trying to quell Houthi militants’ attacks on merchant shipping in the Red Sea, Somali pirates are quietly showing signs of making a comeback.


Somali pirates are back on the attack at a level not seen in years, adding to global shipping threats. Lori Ann LaRocco. *CNBC (US)*. 6 February 2024. Available from: [https://www.cnbc.com/2024/02/06/somali-pirates-are-back-on-the-attack-at-a-level-not-seen-in-years.html](https://www.cnbc.com/2024/02/06/somali-pirates-are-back-on-the-attack-at-a-level-not-seen-in-years.html) Somali pirates are back on the attack, with piracy around the Horn of Africa rising sharply in recent months and adding to concerns for shipping vessels, government forces and private security already locked in a battle in the Red Sea with Houthi rebels.


With drop in illegal fishing comes rise in piracy, study in Indonesia finds. Basten Gokkon. *Mongabay*. 22 February 2024. Available from: [https://news.mongabay.com/2024/02/indonesia-illegal-fishing-maritime-piracy-study/](https://news.mongabay.com/2024/02/indonesia-illegal-fishing-maritime-piracy-study/) The Indonesian government’s efforts to tackle illegal fishing in its vast waters have had the unintended consequence of driving an increase in maritime piracy, according to a new study.
PORT STATE CONTROL


Mauritius stops Norwegian Cruise Line ship from docking, cites health risk. Villen Anganan. Reuters. 25 February 2024. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/world/mauritius-stops-norwegian-cruise-ship-docking-cites-health-risk-2024-02-25/ Mauritius stopped a ship belonging to Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings from docking at its ports due to what it said was a health risk and took samples from about 15 passengers who were in isolation on board, its port authority said on Sunday.

US cruise ship finally allowed to dock in Mauritius after tests show no cholera aboard. Gerald Imray. Associated Press. 26 February 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/mauritius-79341477cc1c82d0884055e044f35679 The Mauritius government cleared the Norwegian Dawn, which is owned and run by the Miami-based Norwegian Cruise Line company, to dock at the harbor in the capital, Port Louis, after health officials found no traces of cholera in tests conducted on the ship’s water.

PORTS & HARBOURS


Capacity gaps slow competitiveness of South Africa’s ports [Business Africa]. Ronald Lwere Kato. Africanews. 1 February 2024. Available from: https://www.africanews.com/2024/02/01/capacity-gaps-slow-competitiveness-of-south-africas-ports-business-africa/ As container ships re-route their voyages away from the Red Sea, a windfall was anticipated for South Africa’s ports.


Green shipping corridors between Korea, U.S. and Japan can reduce emissions equivalent to 9 million cars, study reveals. Hellenic Shipping News. 14 February 2024. Available from: https://www.hellenichShippingnews.com/green-shipping-corridors-between-korea-u-s-and-japan-can-reduce-emissions-equivalent-to-9-million-cars-study-reveals/ Implementing the green corridor initiative between key ports in South Korea, the United States and Japan is critical to accelerating the global shipping decarbonization, according to a new report from Solutions for Our Climate.


Navigating Change: A Timeline of Recent & Future Progress at the Panama Canal. Panama Canal Authority. 14 February 2024. Available from: https://pancanal.com/en/navigating-change-a-timeline-of-recent-future-progress-at-the-panama-canal/. It’s no secret that the accelerating implications of climate change have had economic, social and environmental impacts worldwide, including waterways such as the Panama Canal, the Rhine River, the Amazon and the Mississippi.

H.E. Admiral Ossama Rabiee meets with the CEO of MSC Group to discuss developments in the situation in the Red Sea region. Suez Canal Authority (SCA). 14 February 2024. Available from: https://www.suezcanal.gov.eg/English/MediaCenter/News/Pages/Sca_14-2-2024.aspx. The meeting tackled developments in the situation in the Red Sea and Bab Al-Mandab region, and reviewed the navigation policies of MSC in the Suez Canal.

Piraeus Port shows resilience to the Red Sea crisis. Port News. 19 February 2024. Available from: https://en.portnews.ru/news/359847/. The container terminal of the port of Piraeus seems resilient despite the fact that the Red Sea crisis and Houthi rebels’ attacks on merchant ships have forced most ships to circumnavigate Africa rather than transit through its canal Suez, according to Naftemporiki.


Suez Canal shipping volumes drop 55% in a week as Red Sea crisis continues. Deena Kamel. The National (UAE). 23 February 2024. Available from: https://www.thenationalnews.com/business/economy/2024/02/23/suez-canal-shipping-volumes-drop-55-in-a-week-as-red-sea-crisis-continues/. Shipping volumes through the Suez Canal more than halved last week, while volumes on the alternative route around the Cape of Good Hope surged, as attacks by Houthi rebels on commercial vessels force major operators to divert away from the key global trade artery.


European ethanol producers raise legal challenge to EU maritime legislation.
ePURE: European renewable ethanol association. 31 January 2024. Available from: https://www.epure.org/press-release/european-ethanol-producers-raise-legal-challenge-to-eu-maritime-legislation/ European renewable ethanol producers have launched a legal challenge to the EU’s FuelEU Maritime Regulation on the grounds that it fails to properly recognise the proven benefits of sustainable crop-based biofuels and has therefore violated several key EU legislative procedures.

Senate passes port law in bid to meet international standards. Barbados Today. 1 February 2024. Available from: https://barbadostoday.bb/2024/02/01/senate-passes-port-law-in-bid-to-meet-international-standards/ The Senate has approved a law to tighten the Bridgetown Port’s compliance with several outstanding international port regulations.

Singapore Tightens Bunker Fuel Quality Standards After Contamination Incident. Mike Schuler. gCaptain. 8 February 2024. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/singapore-tightens-bunker-fuel-quality-standards-after-contamination-incident/ Singapore has announced stringent new regulations for bunker fuel quality as it seeks to safeguard its reputation as a world-leading maritime hub. This move comes in response to a significant bunker fuel contamination incident that took place in 2022.

Finland’s policies on procedures for the promulgation of the mandatory instruments of the IMO and for ensuring the compliance of the maritime administration. Government of Finland. 9 February 2024. Available from: https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/165437 The Ministry of Transport and Communications appointed a national preparation and coordination group for auditing in accordance with the IMO auditing framework (IMSAS) for 2024, which prepared this publication. Policies and Procedures


Delivering net-zero shipping by 2050: Introducing the Green Balance Mechanism. World Shipping Council. 15 February 2024. Available from: https://www.worldshipping.org/news/ux4y5j4dfjnpjn36ls5r52gfl33uy The global shipping regulator, the UN International Maritime Organisation, has set a target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 for the industry, and now needs to develop climate regulations by 2025 that make it possible to reach that target.

Did you know that a lack of Arctic shipping regulation has detrimental environmental effects? A. Stella Ebbersmeyer. European Geosciences Union (EGU). 20 February 2024. Available from: https://blogs.egu.eu/divisions/cr/2024/02/20/lack-of-arctic-shipping-regulation/ Increased maritime transport in the Arctic, facilitated by the reduction in sea ice cover, is causing tremendous harm to an already vulnerable part of the world.


SALVAGE

T&T Salvage team heading to wrecked barge in Tobago. Stephon Nicholas. Newsday (Trinidad and Tobago). 21 February 2024. Available from: https://newsday.co.tt/2024/02/21/tt-salvage-team-heading-to-wrecked-barge-in-tobago/ T&T Salvage experts are on their way to Tobago to begin phase one of their response to the oil spill.


SEAFARERS

New index names companies that abuse seafarers’ rights. ITF Seafarers. 31 January 2024. Available from: https://www.itfseafarers.org/en/news/new-index-names-companies-abuse-seafarers-rights The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) has launched a new online index to tackle the exploitation and abuse of workers at sea. Seafarers’ Breach of Rights Index


Minister Chambers Signs a MoU with Ukraine for Mutual Recognition of Seafarers Certificates. Government of Ireland. 1 February 2024. Available from: https://tinyurl.com/497xn9rd Minister Jack Chambers T.D., on behalf of Ireland today concluded and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ukraine for the mutual recognition of seafarer’s qualifications.

War dangers leave industry struggling to recruit ‘innocent victim’ seafarers. Paul Peachey. TradeWinds. 1 February 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/war-dangers-leave-industry-struggling-to-recruit-innocent-victim-seafarers/2-1-1592246 Shipping faces an uphill task to attract seafarers as attacks in the Red Sea highlight the vulnerability of frontline workers in global trade, the head of the IMO said on Thursday.


Kidnapped Bulgarian sailors in Yemen are alive and well, they are kept on land. Bulgarian National Radio. 2 February 2024. Available from: https://bnr.bg/en/post/101943579/ The Bulgarian sailors kidnapped by Yemen’s Houthis are not on board the “Galaxy Leader” anymore.

Indonesia and Spain sign agreement to protect migrant fishing workers. Basten Gokkon. Mongabay. 5 February 2024. Available from: https://news.mongabay.com/2024/02/indonesia-spain-fishing-agreement-migrant-workers-protection/ Indonesia and Spain have signed an agreement on accrediting Indonesian migrant deckhands, as part of efforts to beef up protection against modern slavery aboard fishing vessels.


IBF Warlike Operations Area Committee: Increased support for IBF covered seafarers. 

**Seafarers can refuse to sail through Red Sea as Houthis step up attacks -industry.**
Jonathan Saul. *Reuters.* 16 February 2024. Available from: [https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/seafarers-can-refuse-sail-through-red-sea-houthis-step-up-attacks-industry-2024-02-16/](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/seafarers-can-refuse-sail-through-red-sea-houthis-step-up-attacks-industry-2024-02-16/) Seafarers have the right to refuse to sail on ships passing through the Red Sea in a new industry agreement as the situation escalates and further vessels are attacked by Yemen’s Iran-aligned Houthis, a labor union and industry groups said on Friday.

**Abandoned at sea, part 1: Syrian crew stranded for two years at Libyan port.**


**The Red Sea crisis and the attacks on commercial vessels.** *European Transport Workers’ Federation.* 19 February 2024. Available from: [https://www.etf-europe.org/the-red-sea-crisis-and-the-attacks-on-commercial-vessels](https://www.etf-europe.org/the-red-sea-crisis-and-the-attacks-on-commercial-vessels) For months now, seafarers navigating in the red sea and the narrow Bab- el-Mandeb Strait that links Mediterranean Sea to Asia, have faced a growing threat of drone strikes, missile attacks and even hijackings.

**Crew abandon UK-registered cargo ship after Houthi attack off Yemen.** David Gritten and Joshua Cheetham. *BBC News.* 20 February 2024. Available from: [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-68337027](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-68337027) The *Rubymar* was in the Gulf of Aden near the Bab al-Mandab Strait when it was hit and the crew abandoned ship.

**Iran releases 1 of 18 Filipinos aboard seized oil tanker, DFA says.** Joyce Ann L. Rocamora. *Philippine News Agency (PNA).* 20 February 2024. Available from: [https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1219199](https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1219199) One of the 18 Filipinos aboard the oil tanker *ST Nikolas* that was seized by Iranian authorities in January has been released, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) confirmed Tuesday.


Filipino seafarers get protection under expanded HRA in Gulf of Aden. Marita Moaje. *Philippine News Agency (PNA).* 23 February 2024. Available from: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1219448 The Department of Migrant Workers has lauded the expansion of the scope of “high-risk areas” (HRAs) to the entire Gulf of Aden as it would provide better protection for seafarers, including Filipinos.

Navigating equality: Female seafarers’ journeys to leadership positions. Ina Alleco R. Silverio. *Maritime Fairtrade.* 26 February 2024. Available from: https://maritimefairtrade.org/navigating-equality-female-seafarers-journeys-to-leadership-positions/ In an industry long defined by its male-centric culture, the presence of women at the helm used to be considered an anomaly.

Marcos holds back, delays signing of Magna Carta for Seafarers into law. Dwight de Leon. *Rappler (Philippines).* 26 February 2024. Available from: https://www.rappler.com/philippines/marcos-delays-signing-magna-carta-seafarers-under-review/ President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. was scheduled to sign into law a measure that codifies the rights of Filipino seafarers, but appeared to have backed out at the last minute.

UK Ratings’ jobs down to 8%, new shipping industry stats show. *National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT).* 27 February 2024. Available from: https://www.rmt.org.uk/news/uk-ratings-jobs-down-to-8-new-shipping-industry-stats-show/ Seafarers union RMT, today lambasted government inaction over challenging super exploitation in the shipping industry after new figures showed that only 11% of employees in the British shipping industry are UK residents.

Jobs worry over proposal to scrap Danish net salary scheme. *Nautilus International.* 27 February 2024. Available from: https://www.nautilusint.org/en/news-insight/news/jobs-worry-over-proposal-to-scrap-danish-net-salary-scheme/ Unions are warning that if the income tax arrangements under the Danish international shipping register, DIS, are abolished as a cost-cutting measure, it will lead to a loss of jobs as owners reflag abroad.
Saudi ship owner morally bankrupt; Bahrain maritime authorities look the other way.  


**SEARCH & RESCUE**

‘I was willing to risk it all, or die’: a week onboard a rescue vessel in the Mediterranean Sea. Stefanie Glinski. *The Guardian*. 1 February 2024. Available from: [https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/feb/01/i-was-willing-to-risk-it-all-or-die-a-week-onboard-a-rescue-vessel-in-the-mediterranean-sea](https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/feb/01/i-was-willing-to-risk-it-all-or-die-a-week-onboard-a-rescue-vessel-in-the-mediterranean-sea) After hours searching the grey waters of the Mediterranean, a small dot appeared on the horizon: an unseaworthy wooden boat that had left the Libyan coast the day before.


All 11 crew members rescued after cargo ship sinks off Jeju. Kim Hyun-soo. *Yonhap News Agency* (South Korea). 16 February 2024. Available from: [https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20240216001900315?section=search](https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20240216001900315?section=search) A cargo ship carrying 11 crew members sank off the southern island of Jeju, but all the people on board were safely rescued, the Coast Guard said Friday.

SHIP RECYCLING

Platform publishes list of ships dismantled worldwide in 2023. NGO Shipbreaking Platform. 1 February 2024. Available from: https://shipbreakingplatform.org/platform-publishes-list-2023/ According to new data released today by the NGO Shipbreaking Platform, 446 ocean-going commercial ships and offshore units were scrapped in 2023.


Scrapping ships in Bangladesh. Deutsche Welle (Germany). 3 February 2024. Available from: https://www.dw.com/en/scrapping-ships-in-bangladesh/video-68163450 After reaching the end of their service lives, most large ships from around the world are broken up along the coasts of South Asia.


Liner bosses discuss potential for nuclear. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 16 February 2024. Available from: https://splash247.com/liner-bosses-discuss-potential-for-nuclear/ The heads of two of the world’s largest containerlines have discussed how they see the role of nuclear power in the years ahead.

Sustainable Ship Recycling In India – Social, Technological and Environmental Analysis. Ayushi Srivastava and Debesh Lahiri. National Maritime Foundation (India). 20 February 2024. Available from: https://maritimeindia.org/sustainable-ship-recycling-in-india-social-technological-and-environmental-analysis/ This article is the second and concluding part of a two-part series on sustainable ship recycling which is the outcome of a project on “Sustainable Ship Recycling in India” being undertaken by a National Maritime Foundation team comprising Commodore Debesh Lahiri, Executive Director, Rhythma Kaul, Associate Fellow; and Ayushi Srivastava, Research Associate.

SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR


A naming ceremony was held on January 30 for an LNG-fuelled capesize bulk carrier that was ordered by NYK and will be deployed to transport iron ore and coal from Australia to Japan under a long-term consecutive voyage charter contract with JFE Steel Corporation (JFE).

In an historical wind propulsion deal, the French shipowner, Louis Dreyfus Armateurs and the Finnish mechanical sail company, Norsepower Oy Ltd, have announced that the Norsepower Rotor Sail™ technology will be installed on the new low-emission RoRo fleet to be chartered to Airbus.

Delivery of the CMA CGM MERMAID: First ship in a series of 10 container ships with a unique design in the world for better energy performance. CMA CGM. 16 February 2024. Available from: https://www.cmacgm-group.com/en/news-media/delivery-cma-cgm-mermaid-first-ship-series-10-container-ships-unique-design-world The CMA CGM Group, a global player in maritime, land, air, and logistics solutions, takes delivery of the CMA CGM MERMAID, the first ship in a series of 10 new 2,000 TEU container ships powered by Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), which will be progressively deployed in the Mediterranean and Northern Europe.


Plan emerges to remove some livestock from ship stranded off Perth and export others back to Middle East. Cason Ho and Rebecca Trigger. *ABC (Australia)*. 31 January 2024. Available from: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-01-31/mv-bahijah-live-sheep-export-vessel/103406578 Some of the animals on board the controversy-plagued live export ship *MV Bahijah* will be offloaded in Western Australia and the rest sent back to the Middle East, under a plan put forward by the export company.


CMA CGM denies Houthis missile strike on containership *Koi*. *Lloyd’s List*. 1 February 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1148128/ The Houthis claim to have hit another vessel commercially managed by Oceonix services, the 8,586 teu boxship *Koi*.

Fake flags, rogue registries and dark fleet spark calls for crackdown on ship oversight. Richard Meade and Michelle Wiese Bockmann. *Lloyd’s List*. 1 February 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1148141/ Governments failing to provide meaningful oversight of ships flying their flag are about to come under pressure to clean up their act.

‘Low number’ of animals dead on board live export ship *MV Bahijah*, federal government yet to decide fate of remaining livestock. Daryna Zadvirna and Tabarak Al Jrood. *ABC (Australia)*. 4 February 2024. Available from: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-02-04/number-of-livestock-dead-on-live-export-ship-mv-bahijah/103420900 A number of sheep stranded on a live export ship off Western Australia’s coast have died, as the federal government continues to grapple with the decision over the fate of thousands of remaining livestock onboard.

5 Live Science Podcast; ... the science of shipping *BBC Radio 5*. 4 February 2024. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0h8qc33 The science of shipping – we go to sea on a ship of the future to hear how the industry is trying to cut it’s carbon footprint. (Starts @ 26 min. approx.)

Freight Rates Begin to Settle as Shippers Adjust to Cape Diversions. Mike Wackett. *gCaptain*. 5 February 2024. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/freight-rates-begin-to-settle-as-shippers-adjust-to-cape-diversions/ Asia-North Europe shippers have adapted their supply chains to the longer transit times around Africa, but now they need freight rates to settle at an acceptable level.


‘Without shipping there will be no car industry in Europe, no Airbus’. Craig Eason. TradeWinds. 6 February 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/technology/-without-shipping-there-will-be-no-car-industry-in-europe-no-airbus/-2-1-1594047 Europe needs to give shipping a seat at the top table in the policy-making hub of Brussels if it wants to see the industry grow and sharpen its competitive edge globally.

Merchant Shippers Fear Another Tanker War Is Coming. Elizabeth Braw. Foreign Policy. 6 February 2024. Available from: https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/02/06/merchant-shippers-fear-another-tanker-war-is-coming/ The Strait of Hormuz is getting ever more dangerous as Washington and Tehran square off.

Houthi attacks on Red Sea shipping: Charterparty implications. Skuld. 6 February 2024. Available from: https://www.skuld.com/topics/legal/pi-and-defence/houthi-attacks-on-red-sea-shipping-charterparty-implications/ The shipping community is still coming to terms with the disruption following attacks by Houthi rebels on merchant vessels transiting the Red Sea, in particular when passing the Bab al-Mandab Strait, one of the most frequently used sea passages and a “chokepoint” for international trade.


HMS Richmond takes over from HMS Diamond to protect shipping in the Red Sea. Royal Navy. 6 February 2024. Available from: https://tinyurl.com/3c7en38z As Houthi attacks against commercial vessels continue, Royal Navy warship HMS Richmond takes over from HMS Diamond to ensure freedom of navigation in the Red Sea.
Opinion: Worse working conditions on ships are everyone’s problem to solve. Johannah Christensen. ShippingWatch. 7 February 2024. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/people/article16821431.ece There is no point in passing the blame back and forth, says the Global Maritime Forum after the recent debate about working conditions on ships.

Realising EU’s 2040 climate goals for the maritime sector will need strengthened global commitments. World Shipping Council. 7 February 2024. Available from: https://www.worldshipping.org/news/53qvsf0tdlnmu9hx7glrgdby76y4eu EU 2040 climate targets point to the importance of providing renewable marine fuels for maritime sector decarbonisation. Committing the EU to production of zero-GHG fuel pathways is essential, not least because European Member States account for one-fifth of global shipping energy sales.


Red Sea crisis shouldn’t spur inflation but the spillover to tankers is risky. ING Bank N.V. 8 February 2024. Available from: https://think.ing.com/articles/red-sea-crisis-shouldnt-spur-inflation-but-the-spill-over-to-tankers-is-risky The Red Sea shipping crisis has dragged on for two months, and a full resumption of transits is not in sight.

Yemen aid groups say Red Sea crisis driving up costs. Hashem Osseiran. Al-Monitor. 8 February 2024. Available from: https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2024/02/yemen-aid-groups-say-red-sea-crisis-driving-costs Aid groups working in Yemen are warning of rising shipping costs and delivery delays due to the Red Sea attacks by Huthi rebels which threaten to aggravate one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises.


Maersk becomes first to have climate targets validated by SBTi under the new Maritime Guidance. Maersk. 9 February 2024. Available from: https://www.maersk.com/news/articles/2024/02/09/maersk-is-first-to-have-climate-targets-validated-by-sbt-under-new-maritime-guidance Maersk’s greenhouse gas emissions targets have been validated by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) to be in line with the 1.5-degree pathway from the Paris Agreement.


Freight costs have nearly tripled, Red Sea instability adding to woes of EU tax - Maritime Forum CEO. Isaac Saliba. Independent (Malta). 12 February 2024. Available from: https://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2024/02/09/freight-costs-have-nearly-tripled-Maritime-Forum-CEO-6736258531 It is currently difficult to truly assess the exact impacts of the recently implemented EU shipping tax due to the unstable situation in the Red Sea, the CEO of the Malta Maritime Forum Kevin J. Borg told The Malta Independent.


Russia’s shadow tanker fleet runs into trouble. Selwyn Parker. Lowy Institute (Australia). 13 February 2024. Available from: https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/russia-s-shadow-tanker-fleet-runs-trouble Barring new evasive techniques by Kremlin technocrats, the rapid rise in Russia’s shadow tanker fleet since the Ukraine war may be reversing as pressure is brought to bear on India and other countries that have discreetly helped Russia beat oil and gas shipping sanctions.

Beyond the box: Ep. 8 - Red Sea and the domino effect of disruptions. Maersk. 13 February 2024. Available from: https://open.spotify.com/episode/3OW4lqVzShWQtqkZXH9Whv?si=XqvUjILdSRN-0g&nd=1&dlsi=687f091c3c8c4e56 The threat of Houthi attacks on vessels in the Red Sea has led to most carriers prioritising the safety of their crews and bypassing this critical gateway for global trade.


Insurers cancel coverage for charterers in the Red Sea. Liv Almer. ShippingWatch. 15 February 2024. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article16850964.ece Several insurance companies are now cancelling their fixed-premium insurance policies, where coverage has been extended to include war risks.

Opinion: Can wind propulsion weather the approaching perfect storm? Gavin Allwright. Offshore Energy. 15 February 2024. Available from: https://www.offshore-energy.biz/opinion-can-wind-propulsion-weather-the-approaching-perfect-storm/ When taking time to reflect on the past year, I would argue that 2023 was the year in which our industry took the gloves off and got down to business when it came to decarbonization.

South Africa maritime sector decarbonisation roadmap on GHG Emissions Reduction is on the roll. South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA). 15 February 2024. Available from: https://blog.samsa.org.za/tag/mthunzi-madiya/ Development of South Africa Maritime Sector Decarbonisation Roadmap is now well on track following to an inaugural roundtable meeting of the sectors’ key role players, led by the Department of Transport (DoT) and the South African Maritime Authority (SAMSA); in Newlands, Cape Town, a week ago.


CMA CGM still transiting Bab el Mandeb. James Baker. Lloyd’s List. 19 February 2024. Available from: https://lloydslist.com/LL1148304/CMA-CGM-still-transiting-Bab-el-Mandeb CMA CGM is still transiting the dangerous Bab el Mandeb passage despite the company saying it was no longer using Red Sea routing.

Mersey Maritime hosts first regional WISTA UK event celebrating diversity. Ship Management International. 20 February 2024. Available from: https://shipmanagementinternational.com/mersey-maritime-hosts-first-regional-wista-uk-event-celebrating-diversity/ Mersey Maritime in collaboration with WISTA UK, successfully marked the first regional event for WISTA UK in 2024 with the conclusion of their ‘Diversity in Maritime’ networking evening held at HMS Eaglet in Liverpool last week.


Insurers find ways to reinstate charterer war risk cover for Red Sea. Nidaa Bakhsh. ShippingWatch. 20 February 2024. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article16860303.ece UK and Scandinavian insurers have said it is possible to buy back cover just days after advising cancellations.

Retailers prepare for protracted crisis in the Red Sea. Sebastian Schlüter Jacobsen. ShippingWatch. 21 February 2024. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article16866423.ece Ikea will increase its stockpiles to avoid shortages if container ships end up having to sail south of Africa throughout 2024.

The allaboutshipping.co.uk 100 top Women for Shipping for 2023. Anny Zade. All About Shipping. 21 February 2024. Available from: https://allaboutshipping.co.uk/2024/02/21/the-allaboutshipping-co-uk-100-top-women-for-shipping-for-2023/ This is our mid-week breaking news, with AllAboutShipping's 100 Top Women List in the Shipping Industry for 2023, following respective voting; 1,007 women were voted this time from more or less all sectors of the Shipping Industry.

Cabinet approves gender equality award in shipping. Souzana Psara. Cyprus Mail. 22 February 2024. Available from: https://cyprus-mail.com/2024/02/22/cabinet-approves-gender-equality-award-in-shipping/ The Cabinet this week approved the establishment of an annual award for gender equality in Cyprus' shipping sector, according to an announcement by the Deputy Ministry of Shipping.

Climate and conflict collide on the high seas: UN warns of soaring costs and delays. UN News. 22 February 2024. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/02/1146862 In a new study, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) estimated that over the past two months, the volume of trade through the Suez Canal has fallen by a whopping 42 per cent.


Why a greener maritime future is crucial for sustainable development. Gyorgyi Gurban. Economist Impact. 22 February 2024. Available from: https://impact.economist.com/ocean/sustainable-ocean-economy/why-a-greener-maritime-future-is-crucial-for-sustainable-development For more than a century, the sector has mainly relied on fossil fuels to power the huge engines that drive ships loaded with iron ore, fuel, grains and consumer goods across the ocean.


How world shipping has transformed in the two years since Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 23 February 2024. Available from: https://splash247.com/how-world-shipping-has-transformed-in-the-two-years-since-russias-full-scale-invasion-of-ukraine/ Saturday marks two years since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, a war that has dramatically changed the global seaborne map, some argue irrevocably.
Asian shipowners face hefty emissions liabilities of €1bn for EU-bound voyages, according to OceanScore. *Hellenic Shipping News.* 23 February 2024. Available from: [https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/asian-shipowners-face-hefty-emissions-liabilities-of-e1bn-for-eu-bound-voyages-according-to-oceanscore/](https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/asian-shipowners-face-hefty-emissions-liabilities-of-e1bn-for-eu-bound-voyages-according-to-oceanscore/) Asian shipowners with vessels sailing to and from Europe are likely to face estimated emissions liabilities of over €1 billion once the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) is fully implemented, with companies registered in China and Singapore bearing the highest burden, according to OceanScore.

**Charting the course: How the shipping industry is adapting to tensions in the Red Sea.** *World Economic Forum.* 23 February 2024. Available from: [https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/02/red-sea-crisis-global-shipping-industry-adapting-maersk/](https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/02/red-sea-crisis-global-shipping-industry-adapting-maersk/) The Suez Canal and the Red Sea channel approximately 30% of the world’s container traffic and facilitate the annual movement of over $1 trillion.

**Shortage of Oil Tankers at Hand as Red Sea Attacks Divert Trade.** Sharon Cho and Alex Longley. *Bloomberg.* 24 February 2024. Available from: [https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/shortage-of-oil-tankers-at-hand-as-red-sea-attacks-divert-trade-1.2038845](https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/shortage-of-oil-tankers-at-hand-as-red-sea-attacks-divert-trade-1.2038845) Longstanding warnings from the oil tanker industry that too few of the ships are being built are coming back to haunt the market after Houthi attacks on commercial shipping caused widespread diversions in global petroleum trades.


**Impacts of Red Sea attacks could get worse for NZ trade.** *TVNZ (New Zealand).* 24 February 2024. Available from: [https://youtu.be/eoHjtscINik](https://youtu.be/eoHjtscINik) As New Zealand’s trade market prepares for its peak exporting period, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is warning the impact of Red Sea attacks could get worse on New Zealand’s trade.


World's fastest-growing ship register doubles in size in the space of one month.
Gabon, a small Central African nation on the Atlantic coast, was last year’s fastest-growing shipping registry, a growth trajectory that has been massively boosted in the opening weeks of 2024 with the reflagging of a swathe of the Sovcomflot fleet.

Maersk has warned of disruptions to container shipping via the Red Sea dragging into the second half of the year and of heavy congestion and delays for U.S.-bound goods.

Escalating tensions in the Red Sea due to attacks by the Houthi rebels, according to reports, may hit South Asian economies, including Nepal.

The Liberian Registry, the world’s largest shipping registry, has furthered its commitment to the international shipping community by creating an Innovation & Energy Transition Team focused on reaching net-zero GHG emissions.

Founded in 2017 under a 10-year deal, the liner grouping comprised of CMA CGM, Cosco Shipping, Evergreen and OOCL has agreed to continue their vessel-sharing agreement until the end of March 2032.

Can a Master deviate from the Red Sea out of security concern for his crew or vessel?

It is not unusual when anchoring off ports in West Africa for ships to draw close attention from local craft, fishermen and others, looking to sell their produce in exchange for international currency and/or ship’s equipment.
RESEARCH


Identifying an obvious non-fossil fuel solution for all ship types for meeting the greenhouse gas reduction target in shipping is challenging.


Climate change has been inducing a continuous increase in temperatures within the Arctic region, consequently leading to an escalation in the rates of Arctic ice depletion.


Two types of maritime crime, piracy and illegal fishing, are common and pose risks to marine security.


Black carbon (BC) emissions from Arctic shipping are accelerating the melting of local glaciers, affecting the Arctic's fragile natural and ecological environment, and posing potential hazards to local public health.


Governments around the world are looking to ensure their transition to full low-carbon economies whilst tackling climate change by implementing offshore carbon capture and storage (CCS) - a method of permanently removing carbon dioxide (CO2) from the burning of fossil fuels and burying it deep below the seabed in suitable geological formations.
To subscribe or unsubscribe, send an email with your contact details to:
maritimeknowledgecentre@imo.org

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.