About the MKC Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)

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

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

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

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STATEMENT BY THE IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL

Recent piracy incidents and attacks on international shipping

Speaking at the opening of the eight-first session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee on 18 March 2024, IMO Secretary-General Mr. Arsenio Dominguez stated:

"The continued attacks by the Houthis against seafarers in the Red Sea are categorically unacceptable.

I would like to express my deepest condolences to the families of the victims of the attack on the vessel True Confidence. I would also like to extend my condolences to the delegations of the Philippines and Vietnam. My thoughts and those of the entire IMO family are with the families of the victims and with the seafarers who suffered serious injuries.

I strongly condemn all attacks. There should be no more casualties.

The pollution caused by the sinking of the Rubymar after it was attacked is another example of the negative and unnecessary effects. And whilst we work tirelessly in reducing emissions from international maritime transport, ships are being forced to navigate longer routes, thereby increasing such emissions in order to guarantee the safety of seafarers and maintain the global distribution of essential goods for the benefit of the world’s population.

The whole world depends on international shipping and seafarers. Without seafarers there will be no shipping and therefore no trade.

It is unacceptable to hold innocent seafarers as hostages. I call for the immediate release of the Galaxy Leader and its crew. Tomorrow these seafarers will have been held hostage for four months.

The situation is now even further complicated by the fact that 23 crew members of Bangladesh nationality aboard the MV Abdullah are being held hostage after the attack carried out by Somali pirates on 11 March 2024, approximately 500 nautical miles off the coast of Somalia. I am closely monitoring the situation and express my appreciation for the efforts of Member States involved in Operation ATALANTA to coordinate the most efficient and effective action.

After this negative news, I would like to congratulate the Indian Navy on the successful release of the 17 crew members of MV Ruen, who had been held by pirates since December 2023.

I call on all of you to redouble your efforts and reach out to those holding seafarers and ships hostage - and causing these attacks - to stop and allow the necessary trade for everyone on this planet to continue in the customary safe and secure manner."
Future marine fuels and technology - new website launched

Access to latest information on zero and near-zero marine fuels and technologies, including pricing information and the latest research, can be found on futurefuels.imo.org.

The website has been developed by the Future Fuels and Technology Project (FFT Project), a partnership project between IMO and the Republic of Korea, supporting the development of new regulation within the possible IMO Net Zero Framework to achieve the targets contained in the 2023 IMO GHG Strategy.

More...

IMO agrees possible outline for maritime “net-zero framework”

IMO has agreed on an illustration of a possible draft outline of an “IMO net-zero framework" for cutting greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from international shipping.

This marks a step forward in the legal process towards adopting global regulations, referred to as “mid-term GHG reduction measures”, that will help achieve the targets contained in the 2023 IMO Strategy on the Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships.

At the conclusion of the eighty-first session of the Maritime Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 81), held in London from 18 to 22 March 2024, IMO Secretary-General Mr. Arsenio Dominguez said: “Your Committee is indeed a forum to consider issues of critical relevance for all parts of the marine environment, and this week you made very important progress.”

More...

MEETING SUMMARIES AND SCHEDULE    Programme of Meetings for 2024

Previous Meetings

Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE 10) 4-8 March 2024

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

Forthcoming Meetings

Facilitation Committee (FAL 48) 8-12 April 2024

Legal Committee (LEG 111) 22-26 April 2024
NEW IMO PUBLICATIONS

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GMDSS Manual, 2024 Edition
Hard copy format: IJ970E

The GMDSS Manual provides, in a single comprehensive publication, an explanation of the principles upon which the GMDSS is based, including the radiocommunication requirements and recommendations for its implementation, the operational performance standards and technical specifications to be met by GMDSS equipment, and the procedures for and method of operation of the various radio services that form the GMDSS and the Master Plan for the GMDSS.

The 2024 edition contains the latest information emanating from the IMO project on the modernization of the GMDSS, which was completed in 2022 and led to the overall revision of relevant SOLAS regulations and many other mandatory and non-mandatory IMO instruments related to the GMDSS. This edition also includes:

- An introduction to the GMDSS, including a description of the GMDSS concept;
- A description of the components of the GMDSS, carriage requirements and operational procedures;
- Detailed information regarding terrestrial and satellite-based radiocommunication systems used in the GMDSS;
- Information concerning ongoing work at IMO related to future radiocommunication systems and services;
- Information on promulgation of maritime safety information and search and rescue related information, including NAVTEX and enhanced group call services;
- Excerpts from the relevant SOLAS regulations for the GMDSS;
- Supporting IMO resolutions relevant to the GMDSS;
- The current GMDSS Master Plan, giving the details of the coastal infrastructure and services provided by Member States; and
- Extracts from the ITU-R Radio Regulations giving the radio regulatory background.

The Manual is intended for use by ship personnel, shore operators, trainers, administrations, regulators and anyone concerned with ship radiocommunications.
GMDSS Operating Guidance Card, 2024
Hard copy format: IA969E

This useful A4 (297 mm x 210 mm) card provides guidance on the procedures to be followed under the global maritime distress and safety system (GMDSS) by masters of ships in distress. A tough plastic lamination and strips of double-sided adhesive tape on the back make the card ideal for display on ships' bridges and other suitable locations.

Guidance on GMDSS distress alerts, 2024
Hard copy format: IF971E

This useful A4 portrait card provides guidance on distress alerts. A tough plastic lamination (you can write the ship's name, call sign and MMSI on it with any pen) and strips of double-sided adhesive tape on the back make the card ideal for display on ships' bridges and other suitable locations.

Digital format: KC701A

UNITED NATIONS

Senior officials call for action and solutions at UN Environment Assembly UN News. 29 February 2024. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/02/1147087 Leaders attending a major UN environmental conference in Nairobi must drive forward solutions to combat climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, Secretary-General António Guterres said on Thursday.

From AI to fast fashion, ‘world’s environment parliament’ adopts bold action plans. UN News. 1 March 2024. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/03/1147147 The UN Environment Assembly adopted a ministerial declaration as it wrapped up on Friday in the Kenyan capital, together with 17 resolutions and decisions aimed at redefining the way humankind interacts with nature.

Strengthening ocean efforts to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). 1 March 2024. Available from: https://documents.un.org/api/symbol/access?j=K2400705&t=pdf Reaffirming UNGA Resolution 76/296 which endorsed the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”, recognizing that the ocean is fundamental to life on our planet and to our future, and affirmed the need to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources,...

UN chief appeals for greater support for small islands fighting climate change. UN News. 2 March 2024. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/03/1147177 Mr. Guterres visited a project that is helping the Caribbean nation to combat the effects of coastal erosion and rising seas, which are among the impacts of global warming.

Stories from the UN Archive: UN General Assembly’s first female president. UN News. 6 March 2024. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/03/1147327 In 1953, UN Member States elected India’s political dynamo Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit as the eighth President of the General Assembly, the first woman ever elected to the role.

Women at the UN: Everything you need to know about #CSW68. UN News. 7 March 2024. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/03/1147362 The work of the Commission began in 1946, days after the UN General Assembly’s inaugural meetings heard former US First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and part of the country’s delegation, read an open letter addressed to “the women of the world”.


‘The patriarchy may be pushing back, but so are we’, UN chief tells CSW68. *UN News.*
13 March 2024. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/03/1147537](https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/03/1147537). Pointing to several ominous examples, he said women’s rights are severely restricted in Afghanistan, sexual violence is being reported during the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict and the patriarchy is pushing back against hard-won rights women have striven to achieve.

**General Assembly adopts landmark resolution on artificial intelligence.** *UN News.*
21 March 2024. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/03/1147831](https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/03/1147831). The UN General Assembly on Thursday adopted a landmark resolution on the promotion of “safe, secure and trustworthy” artificial intelligence (AI) systems that will also benefit sustainable development for all.

**Sexual exploitation and abuse: UN intensifying efforts to uphold victims’ rights.** *UN News.*
**CASUALTIES**

**Damaged ship Rubymar at risk of sinking near Red Sea without port assistance.** *Hellenic Shipping News.* 29 February 2024. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/damaged-ship-rubymar-at-risk-of-sinking-near-red-sea-without-port-assistance/ The exclusive chartering broker to the owner of the damaged *Rubymar* ship that is now only partly afloat is still looking for a safe port to accept it before it completely sinks, opening the possibility of even more environmental damage from the fertilizers on board and ship fuel.


In pictures: Firefighters battle blaze on MSC ship hit by Houthi missile. Paul Peachey. *Trade Winds.* 5 March 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/containers/in-pictures-firefighters-battle-blaze-on-msc-ship-hit-by-houthi-missile/2-1-1607865 A specialist firefighting team was seen hosing down a burning container on a MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company-controlled boxship after it was hit by a Houthi missile.


Collision between general cargo vessel *Scot Explorer* and gas carrier *Happy Falcon.* UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB). 5 March 2024. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/maib-reports/collision-between-general-cargo-vessel-scot-explorer-and-gas-carrier-happy-falcon At 1043 on 24 October 2023, the general cargo ship *Scot Explorer* collided with the gas carrier *Happy Falcon* about 12 nautical miles (nm) north-west of Thyborøn, Denmark.

Volkswagen Faces Pair of Lawsuits Over Claim Porsche EV Battery Sparked Ship Fire. Karin Matussek. *Bloomberg.* 5 March 2024. Available from: https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/volkswagen-faces-pair-of-lawsuits-over-claim-porsche-ev-battery-sparked-ship-fire-1.2042672 Volkswagen AG faces a pair of lawsuits in Germany over claims it was the battery in a Porsche electric vehicle that triggered the 2022 fire onboard a massive cargo ship that eventually sank with thousands of cars on board.

Philippine and Chinese vessels collide in disputed South China Sea and 4 Filipino crew are injured. Jim Gomez. *Associated Press.* 5 March 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/phillipines-china-south-china-sea-collision-e69d9506e85d1d23685db4f220b50d71 Chinese and Philippine coast guard vessels collided in the disputed South China Sea and four Filipino crew members were injured in high-seas confrontations Tuesday as Southeast Asian leaders gathered for a summit that was expected to touch on Beijing’s aggression at sea.
Crew head for lifeboats after US-linked bulker damaged in suspected Houthi attack.  
Paul Peachey. *Trade Winds*. 6 March 2024. Available from:  
https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/crew-head-for-lifeboats-after-us-linked-bulker-damaged-in-suspected-houthi-attack/2-1-1608624  
Attack on Barbados-flagged *True Confidence* followed suspected Houthi radio messages urging change of course.

7 March 2024. Available from:  
Top officials from across the shipping industry have expressed their feelings about the first loss of lives from the five-month old Red Sea shipping crisis.

Joint Industry Statement on the attack on *MV True Confidence*. International Chamber of Shipping (ICS). 7 March 2024. Available from:  
https://www.ics-shipping.org/statement/joint-industry-statement-on-the-attack-on-mv-true-confidence/  
Industry Associations express their deep concern over the tragic loss of life and injuries suffered by the crew of *MV True Confidence* in an attack in the Red Sea on 6 March 2024.

*True Confidence*: Union calls for halt to Red Sea transits to safeguard seafarers. *Nautilus International*. 7 March 2024. Available from:  
The fatal attack on the bulk carrier *True Confidence* on 6 March has once again highlighted the extreme risks that seafarers are exposed to while transiting the volatile Red Sea area.

Investigation into fire onboard aircraft carrier *HMS Queen Elizabeth*. BBC News.  
17 March 2024. Available from:  
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-68586852  
An investigation has been launched into the cause of a fire which broke out onboard *HMS Queen Elizabeth* while it was moored in Argyll and Bute.

Efforts to limit environmental damage from a cargo vessel that sank after a Houthi missile strike and another abandoned during a fiery assault are on hold until attacks on ships ease, the United Nations’ maritime shipping regulatory agency said on Monday.

Manganese bulk carrier smashes into remote Northern Territory port during Cyclone Megan. Daniel Fitzgerald and Matt Brann. *ABC (Australia)*. 19 March 2024. Available from:  
A bulk carrier loaded with 41,000 tonnes of manganese ore has crashed into mining company South32’s loading wharf on the remote Groote Eylandt in the Northern Territory, causing “severe damage”.

Norwegian safety body criticizes cruise ship that nearly ran aground in 2019 storm. *Associated Press*. 19 March 2024. Available from:  
https://apnews.com/article/cruise-ship-storm-norway-viking-sky-report-20ceb002d89d8b0b60b0565213e336888  
A cruise ship at the center of a dramatic evacuation off north Norway five years ago should never have left port because it was not up to safety standards, officials said Tuesday, adding that it could have developed into one of the worst disasters at sea in modern times.
Maritime Knowledge Centre (MKC)


Shadow-Fleet Oil Tanker Damaged in Collision Near Denmark. Alex Longley and Sherry Su. Bloomberg. 19 March 2024. Available from: https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/shadow-fleet-oil-tanker-damaged-in-collision-near-denmark-1.2048822 A tanker from the shadow fleet of ships assembled to carry Russian oil was involved in a collision near Denmark, casting fresh light on the risks vessels with unknown ownership pose to the world’s oceans.

Eight seafarers killed and two missing after tanker capsizes off Japan. Gary Dixon. TradeWinds. 20 March 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/eight-seafarers-killed-and-two-missing-after-tanker-capsizes-off-japan/2-1-1614925 The country’s coastguard said one Indonesian seafarer was rescued safely from the 1,200-dwt Keoyoung Sun (built 1996), which overturned off Yamaguchi prefecture on the south-west coast.

At least eight dead as South Korean-flagged tanker capsizes off Japan. Al Jazeera. 20 March 2024. Available from: https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/3/20/several-missing-as-south-korean-flagged-tanker-capsizes-off-japan/2 The Keoyoung Sun with 11 crew members turned over on Wednesday near Mutsure Island, just off southwestern Japan’s Honshu main island, about 1,000km (620 miles) from the capital, Tokyo.

8 dead, 2 missing as South Korean chemical tanker capsizes off west Japan. Kyodo News (Japan). 20 March 2024. Available from: https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2024/03/fd54faaa916c-5-missing-after-s-korean-chemical-tanker-capsizes-off-japan.html Eight crew members perished, and two others remain un accounted for after a South Korean chemical tanker capsized off the western Japanese city of Shimonoseki on Wednesday, a local coast guard office said.

South Korean-flagged tanker capsizes in rough seas off the coast of Japan. BBC News. 20 March 2024. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-asia-68615126 Eight people have been confirmed dead after a South Korean-flagged tanker capsized off the west coast of Japan.

S. Korea-flagged tanker capsizes off Japan’s Yamaguchi Prefecture. NHK World (Japan Broadcasting Corporation). 20 March 2024. Available from: https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20240320_12/ The local coast guard station says it received a distress signal at a little past 7 a.m. from the chemical tanker Keoyoungsun in waters west of Mutsurejima, an island that is part of Shimonoseki City. The tanker was reportedly tilting.

PH resupply boat heavily damaged after another CCG water cannon attack. Priam Nepomuceno and Joyce Ann L. Rocamora. Philippine News Agency (PNA). 23 March 2024. Available from: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1221404 The Philippine resupply boat Unaizah May 4 (UM4) sustained “heavy damage” after a water cannon attack by the China Coast Guard on Saturday as it was en route to bring fresh supplies to Filipino troops manning the BRP Sierra Madre in Ayungin Shoal.
Maersk confirms charter of ship in bridge collapse: “We are horrified”. Niklas Krigslund. *ShippingWatch*. 26 March 2024. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article16971227.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article16971227.ece). Maersk confirms that it is leasing the ship that crashed into a highway bridge in the US on Tuesday.


**NTSB Media Briefing - Francis Scott Key Bridge struck by Cargo Ship Dali. US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).** 26 March 2024. Available from: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFBtLXSweE3A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFBtLXSweE3A). NTSB Chair Jennifer Homendy briefs the media on the NTSB investigation of a cargo ship striking and subsequent collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, Maryland.


Baltimore bridge collapses after powerless cargo ship rams into support column; 6 presumed dead. Lea Skene. *Associated Press*. 27 March 2024. Available from: [https://apnews.com/article/baltimore-bridge-collapse-53169b379820032f832de4016c655d1b](https://apnews.com/article/baltimore-bridge-collapse-53169b379820032f832de4016c655d1b). A cargo ship lost power and rammed into a major bridge in Baltimore early Tuesday, destroying the span in a matter of seconds and plunging it into the river in a terrifying collapse that could disrupt a vital shipping port for months.

**NTSB Media Briefing 2 - Francis Scott Key Bridge struck by Cargo Ship Dali. US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).** 27 March 2024. Available from: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FczgLhdqw0M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FczgLhdqw0M). NTSB Chair Jennifer Homendy briefs the media on the NTSB investigation of a cargo ship striking and subsequent collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, Maryland.


**MPA continues to extend its support to the US Coast Guard and local authorities.** *Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)*. 27 March 2024. Available from: [https://www.mpa.gov.sg/media-centre/details/mpa-continues-to-extend-its-support-to-the-us-coast-guard-and-local-authorities](https://www.mpa.gov.sg/media-centre/details/mpa-continues-to-extend-its-support-to-the-us-coast-guard-and-local-authorities). The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) is deeply saddened by the incident involving the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, and our thoughts are with the affected families during this very difficult time.
Update 5 Multimedia Release: First vessel passes through temporary alternate channel around Key Bridge wreckage. *Unified Command Key Bridge Response 2024*. 1 April 2024. Available from: https://www.keybridgetresponse2024.com/post/update-5-multimedia-release-first-vessel-passes-through-temporary-alternate-channel-around-key-brid. The tugboat *Crystal Coast* pushing a fuel barge, transited the temporary alternate channel created by the Key Bridge Response Unified Command, at 3 p.m., today and is the first vessel to use the channel since the bridge collapsed into the federal waterway on Tuesday.

**ENVIRONMENT**


1st baby right whale of season dies from injuries caused by ship collision. Patrick Whittle. *CTV News (Canada)*. 5 March 2024. Available from: https://www.ctvnews.ca/climate-and-environment/1st-baby-right-whale-of-season-dies-from-injuries-caused-by-ship-collision-1.6795233 The first confirmed baby right whale of the year has been found dead from a collision with a ship, a devastating blow for the vanishing species.


Do you know what ocean roadkill is? *Safety4Sea*. 12 March 2024. Available from: https://safety4sea.com/cm-do-you-know-what-ocean-roadkill-is/ Ocean roadkill is a term sometimes used to describe the accidental deaths or injuries of marine animals due to collisions with vessels, similar to the way terrestrial animals can be affected by road traffic.

Satellites detect effect of shipping pollution on clouds. *European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT)*. 13 March 2024. Available from: https://www.eumetsat.int/satellites-detect-effect-shipping-pollution-clouds A recent case study written in collaboration with EUMETSAT’s Dr Rob Roebeling shows how satellite observations can detect the impact of pollution on clouds, which in turn, reveal insights into the climate.

Climate models can’t explain 2023’s huge heat anomaly — we could be in uncharted territory. Gavin Schmidt. *Nature*. 19 March 2024. Available from: https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-00816-z When I took over as the director of NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies, I inherited a project that tracks temperature changes since 1880.

Mitigating the impact of climate change and shipping in the Arctic: uOttawa Killam Fellow and local Inuit are taking action. University of Ottawa (Canada). 19 March 2024. Available from: https://www.uottawa.ca/faculty-arts/news-all/mitigating-climate-change-shipping-trends-uottawa-killam-inuit-taking-action. Arctic shipping in Canada has more than tripled since 1990, and is expected to increase exponentially as climate change causes more sea ice to melt, making waterways easier to navigate.

Records smashed – new WMO climate report confirms 2023 hottest so far. UN News. 19 March 2024. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/03/1147716. Records were once again broken for greenhouse gas levels, surface temperatures, ocean heat and acidification, sea level rise, ice cover and glacier retreat, a new global report issued by the UN weather agency (WMO) on Tuesday shows.

Climate change indicators reached record levels in 2023: WMO. World Meteorological Organization (WMO). 19 March 2024. Available from: https://wmo.int/media/news/climate-change-indicators-reached-record-levels-2023-wmo. A new report from the WMO shows that records were once again broken, and in some cases smashed, for greenhouse gas levels, surface temperatures, ocean heat and acidification, sea level rise, Antarctic sea ice cover and glacier retreat.

Fossil fuel giants fall short on climate goals. Martin Kuebler. Deutsche Welle (Germany). 19 March 2024. Available from: https://www.dw.com/en/fossil-fuel-majors-miss-the-mark-on-climate-targets/a-68617638. Nearly a decade on from the historic 2015 Paris Agreement, oil and gas companies are nowhere near meeting targets to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) – a goal that itself is becoming increasingly unlikely.

Oil and gas companies are way off-track from Paris Agreement goals, finds new combined alignment scorecard. Carbon Tracker. 20 March 2024. Available from: https://carbontracker.org/oil-and-gas-companies-are-way-off-track-from-paris-agreement-goals-finds-new-combined-alignment-scorecard/. To further empower investors and regulators, a new assessment scorecard is being released today to enable investors to judge whether oil and gas companies are aligned with the Paris Agreement.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Soldiers deployed to assist oil clean-up efforts in Bonaire. *Loop News Caribbean.* 29 February 2024. Available from: https://caribbean.loopnews.com/content/soldiers-deployed-assist-oil-clean-efforts-bonaire A team of 15 soldiers have been deployed on Bonaire to help clean up oil that washed up on the Dutch Caribbean island’s shorelines earlier this week.

Containment efforts ramped up as Tobago oil spill recovery continues. *Loop News (Trinidad and Tobago).* 3 March 2024. Available from: https://tt.loopnews.com/content/containment-efforts-ramped-tobago-oil-spill-recovery-continues NOFI Current Buster Technology has been deployed off the coast of Cove, Tobago as part of containment efforts following an oil spill there almost a month ago.


China calls for strengthening int’l supervision over Fukushima nuclear wastewater discharge. *Xinhuanet (China).* 5 March 2024. Available from: https://english.news.cn/20240305/a88e43b92b554309a72f37216591101a/c.html A Chinese envoy on Monday reiterated China’s firm opposition to Japan’s discharge of nuclear-contaminated wastewater from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant into the ocean, calling for strengthening international supervision over the water release.

TEMA: No more oil leaking from vessel. *Guardian (Trinidad & Tobago).* 6 March 2024. Available from: https://www.guardian.co.tt/news/tema-no-more-oil-leaking-from-vessel-6.2.1942863.6d8cde9f31 Nearly a month since the Gulfstream barge ran aground off the coast of Cove spewing bunker fuel, officials have announced that the leaking has stopped.


UPDATE 2: Unified Command continues response to sheen offshore of Huntington Beach. 
United States Coast Guard. 9 March 2024. Available from: https://tinyurl.com/yt63y52s
An overflight on the morning of March 9 did not observe any remaining recoverable sheen.

UPDATE Final: Unified Command concludes response to sheen offshore of Huntington Beach. United States Coast Guard. 11 March 2024. Available from: https://www.news.uscg.mil/Press-Releases/Article/3703679/ Over the weekend, cleanup crews recovered approximately 85 gallons of product from offshore recovery efforts and removed roughly 1,050 pounds of oily waste/sand and tar balls from the shoreline.

4 ways geopolitical tensions are increasing carbon emissions. World Economic Forum. 12 March 2024. Available from: https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/03/geopolitics-carbon-emissions-ukraine-red-sea/ In today’s complex global landscape, geopolitical tensions have far-reaching implications across a variety of sectors.

Danish Shipping adopts policy on underwater radiated noise. Danish Shipping. 13 March 2024. Available from: https://danishshipping.dk/en/all-press-releases/2024/danish-shipping-adopts-policy-on-underwater-radiated-noise/ Commercial shipping is one of the main contributors to underwater radiated noise, which has adverse effects on a wide range of marine life, including whales and fish.


Japan completes 4th round of Fukushima treated water discharge. Kyodo News (Japan). 17 March 2024. Available from: https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2024/03/3a8c24e8bfa3-japan-completes-4th-round-of-fukushima-treated-water-discharge.html The release of the fourth batch of treated radioactive water from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the sea concluded Sunday, with the next round possibly starting next month, the plant’s operator said.


Oil slicks reported off Tuas Port, authorities say port operations ‘not significantly’ impacted. Channel News Asia. 26 March 2024. Available from: https://www.channelnewsasia.com/singapore/oil-slick-tuas-port-investigations-mpa-nea-jtc-4221741 Authorities are investigating reports of periodic oil slicks in the waters off Tuas Port, with initial findings suggesting that the source was inland.

Massive oil spill prevention effort launched after shipwreck. Dac Thanh. VN Express International (Vietnam). 26 March 2024. Available from: https://tinyurl.com/bdy9s2n7 Seven thousand liters of oil will be removed from a shipwrecked vessel in central Vietnam after a cargo ship crashed into a reef, endangering the ocean with a possible spill.

HEALTH & SAFETY

'We are scared': Deadly Houthi missile attack on ship sparks fear among Indian sailors. Taniya Dutta. The National (UAE). 7 March 2024. Available from: https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/asia/2024/03/07/indian-sailors-houthi-missile-attack-red-sea/ Indian sailors say they are scared to continue with their jobs amid increasingly dangerous attacks on commercial ships in and around the Red Sea.

Red Sea could be a seafarer no-go area following crew killings. David Hughes. Business Times (Singapore). 12 March 2024. Available from: https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/international/red-sea-could-be-seafarer-no-go-area-following-crew-killings Because of the economic importance to world trade of ships and their cargoes, news coverage on the Red Sea crisis has mainly been on the vessels that have been attacked and the re-routing of many others.


IMO to adopt practical mid-term measures to put decarbonisation back on track.  
Enes Tunagur. Lloyd’s List. 29 February 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydslist.com(LL1148377/IMO-to-adopt-practical-mid-term-measures-to-put-decarbonisation-back-on-track The IMO aims to adopt “practical and achievable” mid-term economic and technical measures, as work gets under way to prepare for their implementation, according to the UN body’s new secretary-general Arsenio Dominguez.

The IMO is speaking softly on greenhouse gases. The time may come to use the big stick.  

Enough talk: Crunch time for IMO shipping measures to cut climate impacts.  
American Journal of Transportation (AJOT). 7 March 2024. Available from: https://www.ajot.com/news/Enough-talk-Crunch-time-for-IMO-shipping-measures-to-cut-climate-impacts Ahead of next week’s meeting of the IMO’s Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships (IMO, IWSG-GHG-16, March 11-15) and the subsequent Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 81, March 18-22), the Clean Shipping Coalition is calling on the IMO to take action in three key areas.

IMO ponders new GHG policies, while shipping sector awaits low-carbon economic incentive.  
Hellenic Shipping News. 8 March 2024. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/imo-ponders-new-ghg-policies-while-shipping-sector-awaits-low-carbon-economic-incentive/ Global shipping regulators will soon have to decide whether and how to penalise the use of fossil fuel and whether and how to incentivise the use of greener fuel.

How a universal greenhouse gas price for shipping could future-proof global trade.  
Angie Farrag-Thibault and Panos Spiliotis. TradeWinds. 13 March 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/opinion/how-a-universal-greenhouse-gas-price-for-shipping-could-future-proof-global-trade/2-1-1610917 As shipping’s global regulator, the IMO is responsible for the environmental and societal impact of global shipping and next week at the 81st session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee, its member states will gather in London to discuss the sustainable future of the sector.

Infographic: Why the IMO and international shipping needs a strong revised Carbon Intensity Indicator (CII).  

What to expect from MEPC81?  

Delegates doubt next week’s MEPC meeting will bring concrete results.  
Mette Grube Condrup. ShippingWatch. 15 March 2024. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article16939755.ece Ahead of next week’s IMO climate meeting, there is far from consensus on which instruments are needed to reduce shipping’s climate footprint.
Opposing teams line up for next week's MEPC. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 15 March 2024. Available from: https://splash247.com/opposing-teams-line-up-for-next-weeks-mepc/ The eighty-first session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) will take place next week where the focus will be on developing legally-binding measures to ensure last year’s milestone agreement to phase out greenhouse gases (GHG) from shipping by 2050 is made possible.


IMO’s 2030 and 2040 GHG reduction targets now explicitly linked to fuel standard, whilst momentum builds on a universal GHG price (levy), but all options remain on the table. University Maritime Advisory Services (UMAS). 15 March 2024. Available from: https://tinyurl.com/yxcydht7 The Sixteenth Meeting of the Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships has just concluded with some progress made on the finalisation of mid-term measures, and without a decisive shift in the landscape of positions and preferences. ISWG 16 Overview.

Three rival camps pitch up at key IMO decarbonisation meeting. Craig Eason. Trade Winds. 18 March 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/news/three-rival-camps-pitch-up-at-key-imo-decarbonisation-meeting/2-1-1613587 Talks are expected to go to the “11th hour” as the International Maritime Organization’s Marine Environment Protection Committee meets in London this week to seek consensus over an emissions pricing mechanism that will fit with its “basket of measures” to drive decarbonisation.

Shipping industry starts fresh negotiations on the road to climate goals. Mette Grube Condrup. ShippingWatch. 18 March 2024. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article16944969.ece Today, March 18, IMO member states gather for a major meeting in the climate committee MEPC81 to further negotiate how exactly the shipping industry’s CO2 emissions should go net-zero by 2050.


MEPC81: Carbon Intensity Indicator: Demands for UN Shipping Body To Strengthen Efficiency Rules. Clean Shipping Coalition (CSC). 18 March 2024. Available from: https://cleanshipping.org/news/mepc81-carbon-intensity-indicator-demands-for-un-shipping-body-to-strengthen-efficiency-rules/ Ahead of this week’s meeting of the International Maritime Organization’s Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 81, March 18-22), the Clean Shipping Coalition is calling on the IMO to urgently step up ship climate action by improving its Carbon Intensity Indicator (CII), which would quantify and raise ship efficiency while fostering greater transparency and driving deep and lasting reductions in pollution.
EU urged to lead the way in global maritime decarbonization efforts. Naida Hakirevic Prevljak. Offshore Energy. 18 March 2024. Available from: https://www.offshore-energy.biz/eu-urged-to-lead-the-way-in-global-maritime-decarbonization-efforts/ The Carbon Intensity Indicator (CII), integral to global efforts to enhance energy efficiency in shipping and cut emissions, will be on the table for discussion as the IMO members convene in London at MEPC 81.

Red Sea tensions on display at IMO meeting. Enes Tunagur. Lloyd’s List. 18 March 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1148571/Red-Sea-tensions-on-display-at-IMO-meeting Tensions over the Red Sea and Middle East were on display at the IMO today as Yemen’s government called for international help to salvage the sunken Rubymar (IMO: 9138898).


IMO confident net zero pathway will be finalised by next year. Nick Savvides. Seatrade Maritime News. 19 March 2024. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/opinions-analysis/imo-confident-net-zero-pathway-will-be-finalised-next-year In a statement that could see the IMO held as a hostage to fortune Dominguez said he is “confident” that an economic pricing mechanism will be agreed by this time next year, “but I’m just not sure what form it will take,” he added.

IMO dismisses industry call to come clean on CII failings. Enes Tunagur. Lloyd’s List. 20 March 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1148594/IMO-dismisses-industry-call-to-come-clean-on-CII-failings The IMO has shot down a request for it to tell the world not to rely on its flawed Carbon Intensity Indicator.


IMO inches closer to agreeing world’s first emissions levy as momentum shifts. Gary Dixon. Trade Winds. 22 March 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/sustainability/imo-inches-closer-to-agreeing-worlds-first-emissions-levy-as-momentum-shifts/2-1-1616673 Momentum is building behind IMO members’ efforts to agree on legally binding measures on global greenhouse (GHG) gas pricing, according to environmental lobby groups.

Is a consensus or a storm brewing at the IMO? Craig Eason. *TradeWinds.* 22 March 2024. Available from: [https://www.tradewindsnews.com/opinion/is-a-consensus-or-a-storm-brewing-at-the-imo/-2-1-1616866](https://www.tradewindsnews.com/opinion/is-a-consensus-or-a-storm-brewing-at-the-imo/-2-1-1616866) This week’s meeting of IMO delegates in London was never expected to deliver the back-slapping results seen in 2023 when decarbonisation targets were set.


Statement from the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) following the conclusion of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC81) Meeting. *International Chamber of Shipping (ICS).* 22 March 2024. Available from: [https://tinyurl.com/ynk6u7jc](https://tinyurl.com/ynk6u7jc) We welcome the progress made during these intensive negotiations to achieve net zero emissions from shipping, and the support received from around 60 Member States for a flat rate contribution system per tonne of GHG.

WSC statement following MEPC 81. *World Shipping Council.* 22 March 2024. Available from: [https://www.worldshipping.org/news/wsc-statement-following-mepc-81](https://www.worldshipping.org/news/wsc-statement-following-mepc-81) Over the past two weeks, IMO member states and organisations have collaborated to align and organise the work towards mid-term measures to decarbonise the shipping industry.


IMO progress and GHG levy momentum increases the imminence of the endgame for shipping’s use of fossil fuels. *University Maritime Advisory Services (UMAS).* 22 March 2024. Available from: [https://www.u-mas.co.uk/imo-progress-and-ghg-levy-momentum-increases-the-imminence-of-the-endgame-for-shippings-use-of-fossil-fuels/](https://www.u-mas.co.uk/imo-progress-and-ghg-levy-momentum-increases-the-imminence-of-the-endgame-for-shippings-use-of-fossil-fuels/) The MEPC 81 meeting concluded on 22nd March 2024, further clarifying the risk and opportunity both for the international shipping value chain’s commercial decision making, and for this sector’s contribution to minimise the risks of dangerous climate change. [UMAS MEPC 81 Readout](https://umasadvisoryservices.com/meetings/imo-meeting-summary/meeting-summary-imo-meeting-81)
MEPC81: vulnerable island nations see much deferred and little agreed. Charlie Bartlett.  
Despite vocal advocacy from vulnerable island nations, such as the Cook Islands, Marshall Islands and Fiji, bringing a personal tone to proceedings at the IMO, consensus on key issues was not forthcoming.

Reducing carbon emissions across maritime shipping has been a focus in the spotlight this week as the IMO’s Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) meets in London following an exceptional year of climate-related incidents.

The international body that regulates shipping has approved new environmental protections for the Canadian Arctic that are expected to reduce emissions that hasten the melting of Arctic sea ice.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations (UN) specialized agency for regulating global shipping, has agreed on an illustration of a possible draft outline of an “IMO net-zero framework” for cutting greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from international shipping.

Last week, all member countries of the IMO’s Marine Environment Protection Committee met in London for the first time since those same countries last year adopted a groundbreaking and ambitious strategy stating that global shipping should be climate-neutral around 2050.

The UN body in charge of regulating global shipping has moved a small step closer to reaching its target of net-zero emissions by 2050.

**LAW & POLICY**

Husky pleads guilty to causing N.L.’s largest oil spill, faces $2.5M fine. Malone Mullin.  
Calgary-based Husky Energy pleaded guilty to three charges Wednesday in St. John’s, over five years after it caused the largest oil spill in Newfoundland and Labrador history.

High demand for seafood globally responsible for illegal, unregulated fishing – U.S. Charlie Bartlett.  
The United States says the global high demand for seafood is responsible for illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing.

Shipowners laud recall of key bill on seafarers. Tyrone J. Plad. Philippine Daily Inquirer. 2 March 2024. Available from: https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1912745/shipowners-laud-recall-of-key-bill-on-seafarers Local shipowners and operators on Friday lauded the House of Representatives for recalling the Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers and thanked President Marcos for not signing the bill.


Canada announces signing of UN agreement on conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. Government of Canada. 4 March 2024. Available from: https://tinyurl.com/5364xnx Canada is proud to have joined the agreement and encourages other nations to sign and ratify it as well.

UN Ocean Treaty one year old – Ratification processes must accelerate. Magali Rubino. Greenpeace International. 4 March 2024. Available from: https://www.greenpeace.org/africa/en/blog/54964/ The UN Ocean Treaty agreed a year ago this week has still only been ratified by two countries, underscoring an urgent need for more governments to write the historic Treaty into national legislation.


Iran seizes US cargo on oil tanker over sanctions: judiciary. *Arab News* (Saudi Arabia). 6 March 2024. Available from: [https://www.arabnews.com/node/2472161](https://www.arabnews.com/node/2472161) Iranian authorities have confiscated the American cargo of an oil tanker seized last year after US-led sanctions prevented the entry of medication into the Islamic republic, the judiciary said Wednesday.


Hong Kong’s Marine Department to offer decarbonization incentives to HK registered ships. Michael Grinter. *Hong Kong Maritime Hub*. 6 March 2024. Available from: [http://www.hongkongmaritimehub.com/hong-kongs-marine-department-to-offer-decarbonization-incentives-to-hk-registered-ships/](http://www.hongkongmaritimehub.com/hong-kongs-marine-department-to-offer-decarbonization-incentives-to-hk-registered-ships/) As announced in the budget speech delivered by Financial Secretary Paul Chan on 28 February, the Marine Department will this year and through to 2026, will offer cash incentives to registered ships based upon their carbon intensity performance.

Red Sea Attacks Disrupt Global Trade. Parisa Kamali, Robin Koepke, Alessandra Sozzi and Jasper Verschuur. *International Monetary Fund (IMF)*. 7 March 2024. Available from: [https://www.imf.org/en/Blogs/Articles/2024/03/07/Red-Sea-Attacks-Disrupt-Global-Trade](https://www.imf.org/en/Blogs/Articles/2024/03/07/Red-Sea-Attacks-Disrupt-Global-Trade) In the past few months, global trade has been held back by disruptions at two critical shipping routes.

Joint Statement from the European Commission, the Republic of Cyprus, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States Endorsing the Activation of a Maritime Corridor to Deliver Humanitarian Assistance to Gaza. *The White House*. 8 March 2024. Available from: [https://tinyurl.com/4urzfcfv](https://tinyurl.com/4urzfcfv) The humanitarian situation in Gaza is dire, with innocent Palestinian families and children desperate for basic necessities.


A Wave of Ocean Action in 2023. Peter Thomson. *International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)*. 12 March 2024. Available from: [https://enb.iisd.org/articles/wave-ocean-action-2023](https://enb.iisd.org/articles/wave-ocean-action-2023). At the end of 2023, I wrote these words in an article for TIME magazine, “Over the last two years, a positive wave of ocean action has been sweeping around the planet.”


**Ten organisations unite to combat illegal wildlife trafficking in global supply chains.** *WWF*. 20 March 2024. Available from: [https://wwf.panda.org/discover/our_focus/wildlife_practice/?10991966](https://wwf.panda.org/discover/our_focus/wildlife_practice/?10991966). Wildlife crime continues to pose a significant threat to biodiversity, local and national economies, as well as national and international security.

Watershed moment for world’s highest court to confirm that States must tackle climate impacts from international aviation and shipping beyond the ICAO & IMO. Opportunity Green. 21 March 2024. Available from: https://www.opportunitygreen.org/press-release-submission-to-the-international-court-of-justice Environmental NGO Opportunity Green has submitted a written statement to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), asking the court to confirm that States have legal obligations under international law to tackle climate impacts from international aviation and shipping (IAS) in accordance with the Paris Agreement’s 1.5°C temperature goal.

World’s highest court to deliberate whether states must tackle climate impacts from international shipping beyond the IMO. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 21 March 2024. Available from: https://splash247.com/worlds-highest-court-to-deliberate-whether-states-must-tackle-climate-impacts-from-international-shipping-beyond-the-imo/ While the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) meeting is still ongoing at the London headquarters of the IMO, the world’s highest court has been asked to deliberate on the United Nations body’s powers to govern green matters.

UN’s climate body faces “severe financial challenges” which put work at risk. Matteo Civillini. Climate Home News. 21 March 2024. Available from: https://www.climatechangenews.com/2024/03/21/uns-climate-body-faces-severe-financial-challenges-putting-work-at-risk/ The UN’s climate body (UNFCCC) is facing "severe financial challenges" as the ability to fulfil its expanding workload is being put at risk by governments’ failure to provide enough money.


Caribbean nations to implement fisheries agreement to combat overfishing. St. Vincent Times (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines). 25 March 2024. Available from: https://www.stvincintimes.com/caribbean-nations-to-implement-fisheries-agreement-to-combat-overfishing/ As the global discussion continues on the elimination of harmful subsidies to the fisheries sector, following the adoption of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference on 17 June 2022, Caribbean countries have been engaged on its far-reaching implications.

Deep-sea mining plans should not be rushed. *Nature.* 26 March 2024. Available from: [https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-00890-3](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-00890-3) For more than a week, representatives of nations around the world have been meeting at a session of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) in Kingston, Jamaica.

**Treasury Targets Qods Force, Houthi, and Hizballah Finance and Trade Facilitators.** *US Department of the Treasury.* 26 March 2024. Available from: [https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2209](https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2209) Today, the Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) is sanctioning six entities, one individual and two tankers that are based or registered in Liberia, India, Vietnam, Lebanon, and Kuwait that have engaged in facilitating commodity shipments and financial transactions for the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF), the Houthis, and Hizballah.


**Maritime is key to driving Indonesia’s economic development: Jokowi.** *Antara News (Indonesia).* 27 March 2024. Available from: [https://en.antaranews.com/news/309354/](https://en.antaranews.com/news/309354/) Indonesian President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) stated that maritime sectors are the key to developing Indonesia’s economy since they are routes for goods and people mobility.


**Latest talks fail to solve deep sea mining regulation spat.** Giada Ferragioni. *Carbon Pulse.* 30 March 2024. Available from: [https://carbon-pulse.com/273149/](https://carbon-pulse.com/273149/) Countries failed to reach an agreement on a consolidated text on commercial deep sea mining regulations at the first part of the 29th Council of the International Seabed Authority (ISA), as metal companies are pressing to apply for permits even in the absence of a framework.
China’s climate change envoy urges global efforts to address marine issues. Hou Liqiang. *China Daily*, 30 March 2024. Available from: https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202403/30/WS6607dbca31082fc043bf92d.html Liu Zhenmin, China’s special envoy for climate change, has called for intensified global efforts at different levels to address the fragmentation in marine governance amid maritime tensions that threaten the world’s economic prosperity and overexploitation that jeopardizes ocean sustainability.

**MARINE TECHNOLOGY**


ESG Economist - LNG is not the holy grail for shipping. Georgette Boele. *ABN AMRO Bank N.V.* 7 March 2024. Available from: https://www.abnamro.com/research/en/our-research/esg-economist-lng-is-not-the-holy-grail-for-shipping In the aim of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees, the shipping industry has an important role to play.


Pioneering ‘Shipfuel’ Initiative To Steer Irish Maritime Sector Towards Low-Carbon Future. MaREI, the SFI Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine (Ireland). 13 March 2024. Available from: https://www.marei.ie/pioneering-shipfuel-initiative-to-steer-irish-maritime-sector-towards-low-carbon-future/ As the world grapples with the urgent need to reduce carbon emissions, the maritime industry has been lagging in its efforts to transition the shipping sector from relying on traditional fossil fuels to low-carbon alternatives.


Landmark study on offloading onboard captured carbon dioxide identifies low port readiness as key barrier to large-scale commercialisation. Lloyd’s Register. 19 March 2024. Available from: https://www.lr.org/en/knowledge/press-room/press-listing/press-release/landmark-study-on-offloading-onboard-captured-carbon-dioxide-identifies-low-port-readiness-as-key-barrier-to-large-scale-commercialisation/ A recent study commissioned by the Global Centre for Maritime Decarbonisation (GCMD), in collaboration with Lloyd’s Register and ARUP, has identified low port readiness as a major hurdle bottlenecking the adoption of Onboard Carbon Capture and Storage (OCCS) system as a practicable decarbonisation solution.

Concept Study to Offload Onboard Captured CO2 Key Findings and Executive Summary. Lloyd’s Register. 19 March 2024. Available from: https://maritime.lr.org/gcmd-co2-offloading-study-key-findings-and-executive-summary Nine months ago, we embarked on this study as part of a larger initiative to unlock the value chain of onboard captured carbon dioxide (CO2).
Can onboard carbon capture tech clean the shipping sector? Reuters. 21 March 2024. Available from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4xn3WbVGNs. What looks like crates on a ship is actually an onboard carbon capture system to suck carbon emissions from the air and turn them into stone.


Ship financing speeds the age of greener propulsion. Elodie Tarby and Paul Taylor. ShipTechnology. 25 March 2024. Available from: https://www.ship-technology.com/comment/ship-financing-speeds-the-age-of-greener-propulsion/ When the Pyxis Ocean cargo ship fitted with giant, rigid sails set out on its maiden voyage from China to Brazil in August 2023, it may well have heralded the end of the era of the combustion engine in shipping that has lasted since the 1850s.


Startup Plans Largest Ocean Geoengineering Plant. Mark Harris. IEEE Spectrum. 27 March 2024. Available from: https://spectrum.ieee.org/ocean-geoengineering California startup Ebb Carbon could start using seawater to remove hundreds of tonnes of carbon dioxide from the air as soon as this year, according to plans and permit applications filed with the city of Port Angeles in Washington state.


MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING


Alternative fuels - meeting the seafarer training gap. Marcus Hand. Seatrade Maritime News. 29 February 2024. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/crewing/alternative-fuels-meeting-seafarer-training-gap. As shipowners plough investments into dual-fuel vessels there are increasing questions about who is going to train the crew to handle alternative fuels.


Princess Anne calls for more women to join maritime workforce at Dubai conference. Nick Webster. The National (UAE). 1 March 2024. Available from: https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/2024/03/01/princess-anne-calls-for-more-women-to-join-maritime-workforce-at-dubai-conference. More women should be encouraged to take up careers at sea to increase the woefully low numbers of female seafarers around the world, the UK’s Princess Anne told a Dubai audience on Friday.


Women in Maritime continue to #InspireInclusion. Evette Smith Johnson. Jamaica Observer. 7 March 2024. Available from: https://www.jamaicaobserver.com/2024/03/07/women-maritime-continue-to-inspireinclusion. Yes, thirty-five years down the road, #gender is still trending. This is especially so in seafaring where worldwide, women represent only 1.2 per cent of the global seafarer workforce, according to the BIMCO/ICS 2021 Seafarer Workforce Report.


Breaking Waves: Empowering Women at the Port of Tema. *Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority.* 10 March 2024. Available from: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxdoYUdX4o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxdoYUdX4o) Sandra Opoku, the first female director of the thriving Port of Tema, Ghana, shares the stories of some remarkable women shaping the future within the port.


Training seafarers to use green fuels could cost shipping a billion dollars. Nidaa Bakhsh. *ShippingWatch*. 19 March 2024. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article16925508.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article16925508.ece) The shipping industry will have to spend more than USD 1bn over the next 10 years to retrain seafarers on how to handle new fuels being developed for the green transition, says Martin White, founder and chief executive of Glasgow-based Stream Marine Group, a training provider.


**MARITIME SAFETY**

Inaccurate cargo declaration for solid bulk cargoes. Gard. 6 March 2024. Available from: [https://www.gard.no/articles/inaccurate-cargo-declaration-for-solid-bulk-cargoes](https://www.gard.no/articles/inaccurate-cargo-declaration-for-solid-bulk-cargoes) Despite mandatory requirements for shipper information on solid bulk cargoes, inaccurate or incomplete cargo declarations are still common in shipments leaving Brazilian ports.


**MARITIME SECURITY**


Red Sea security: EU task force looks to bolster naval presence. *Al Jazeera*. 7 March 2024. Available from: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQo0ZEsmmNU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQo0ZEsmmNU) Maritime security rises in global concern amidst Houthi missile threats and piracy.


Focus on the Fundamentals: The Siren Song of Technology in Maritime Security. Jamie Jones and Ian Ralby. *Center for International Maritime Security (CIMSEC)*. 11 March 2024. Available from: [https://cimsec.org/focus-on-the-fundamentals-the-siren-song-of-technology-in-maritime-security/](https://cimsec.org/focus-on-the-fundamentals-the-siren-song-of-technology-in-maritime-security/) What good is the world’s most advanced “dark targeting” platform to uncover previously untraceable vessels if the local navy, coast guard, or marine police cannot stop the crime?


Pirate ship capture showcases India’s world-class special forces, analysts say. Brad Lendon. CNN. 19 March 2024. Available from: https://edition.cnn.com/2024/03/19/india/india-pirate-ship-capture-intl-hnk-mi/index.html The Indian Navy’s rescue of a commercial ship from pirates off Somalia’s coast last weekend shows how Delhi’s military has developed special forces capabilities on par with some of the world’s best, analysts say.


Satellite tech vital in maritime security, disaster mitigation. Jose Rodel Clapano. Philippine Star. 31 March 2024. Available from: https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/03/31/2344159/ Officials of the Philippine Navy, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) agreed that space-based technology, such as satellites, have been vital in strengthening maritime security and disaster mitigation in the country.

MIGRANTS


The EU’s border agency has a duty to inform Libya’s coast guard about migrant boats, official says. Associated Press. 5 March 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/migration-libya-eu-frontex-migrants-rescue-leijtens-33f506bf3d199028af9e054472190c870 The European Union’s border and coast guard agency has a duty to inform Libyan authorities about migrant boats in trouble in the country’s waters and will keep doing so, the head of Frontex insisted Tuesday, after a charity accused Libya’s coast guard of threatening its crew during a rescue.

60 migrants die in dinghy in Mediterranean, survivors say. Nick Beake and Robert Plummer, BBC News. 14 March 2024. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/europe-68564971 At least 60 migrants have died after a rubber dinghy ran into trouble in the Mediterranean Sea, according to survivors.

Libya coastguard accused of hampering attempt to save more than 170 people. Lisa O’Carroll. The Guardian. 18 March 2024. Available from: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/mar/18/libya-coastguard-accused-hampering-rescue-attempt An NGO performing search and rescue missions in the Mediterranean has accused the Libyan coastguard of hampering an attempt to save more than 170 people making the perilous journey across the sea to Europe.

UK-funded French forces putting migrants’ lives at risk with small-boat tactics. Nicola Kelly, May Bulman, Tomas Statius, Bashar Deeb and Fahim Abed. The Guardian. 23 March 2024. Available from: https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/mar/23/uk-funding-french-migrants-small-boat-border-forces French police funded by the UK government have endangered the lives of vulnerable migrants by intercepting small boats in the Channel, using tactics that search and rescue experts say could cause a “mass casualty event”.

**NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS**

Shipping speed and waste are an ‘urgent’ threat in Great Bear Sea, WWF-Canada study finds. WWF Canada. 29 February 2024. Available from: https://wwf.ca/media-releases/shipping-speed-and-waste-are-an-urgent-threat-in-great-bear-sea-wwf-canada-study-finds A new report by WWF-Canada uses data on ship speed and waste generated in B.C.’s Northern Shelf Bioregion, also known as the Great Bear Sea, to show the extent to which significant shipping traffic in one of the country’s rapidly developing coastal regions poses a direct and urgent threat to the region’s endangered cetacean species. B.C. Northern Shelf Bioregion Speed and Discharge Analysis


Thousands of livestock previously stuck on board MV Bahijah to be re-exported from WA to Middle East. Rebecca Trigger. ABC (Australia). 1 March 2024. Available from: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-03-01/livestock-aboard-mv-bahijah-to-be-reexported-to-middle-east/103536604 The MV Bahijah set out for the Middle East on January 5, but about two weeks into its journey the Australian government ordered it to turn back due to increased attacks on cargo ships in the Red Sea.

Red Sea detours make ships more late on key trades than during Covid. Liv Almer. ShippingWatch. 4 March 2024. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article16901002.ece  On some routes, the impact of the Red Sea crisis is far worse than the pandemic in terms of reliability and average delays, reports Sea-Intelligence.


3 Red Sea data cables cut as Houthis launch more attacks in the vital waterway. Jon Gambrell. Associated Press. 5 March 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/red-sea-undersea-cables-yemen-houthi-rebels-attacks-b53051f61a41bd6b357860bbf0b0860a  Three cables under the Red Sea that provide global internet and telecommunications have been cut as the waterway remains a target of Yemen’s Houthi rebels, officials said Monday.

Ships entering Yemeni waters must obtain permit, Houthi minister says. Arab News (Saudi Arabia). 5 March 2024. Available from: https://www.arabnews.com/node/2471256/  Ships will have to obtain a permit from Yemen’s Houthi-controlled Maritime Affairs Authority before entering Yemeni waters, Houthi Telecommunications Minister Misfer Al-Numair said on Monday.

Crucial Red Sea data cables cut, telecoms firm says. David Gritten. BBC News. 5 March 2024. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-68478828  Several undersea communications cables in the Red Sea have been cut, affecting 25% of data traffic flowing between Asia and Europe, a telecoms company and a US official say.

Satellite connectivity backups put to use over Red Sea. Jason Rainbow. Space News. 5 March 2024. Available from: https://spacenews.com/satellite-connectivity-backups-put-to-use-over-red-sea/  Satellite operators are being called in to help keep Europe and Asia connected after subsea internet cables in the Red Sea were severed last week.

Indonesia unveils plan to launch a satellite network for maritime monitoring. Basten Gokkon. Mongabay. 6 March 2024. Available from: https://news.mongabay.com/2024/03/indonesia-maritime-fisheries-satellite-monitoring-patrol-iiu-remote-sensing/  Indonesia is developing a satellite constellation to beef up monitoring of its marine and fisheries resources with the maiden launch of a nanosatellite scheduled this July.

Russia’s shadow fleet is changing flags following sanctions. Mette Grube Condrup. ShippingWatch. 7 March 2024. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article16912982.ece  Several tankers that are part of Russia’s shadow fleet are no longer sailing under the flags of Liberia and the Marshall Islands, Reuters reports.

Kenya’s Tea Exports to Sudan Hit by Red Sea Crisis, Shipping Costs Soar 133pc.
Kenya’s tea export to Sudan is grappling with the repercussions of the Red Sea crisis, as ships navigate longer routes to evade Houthi missile threats along the channel.

A ship bearing humanitarian aid was making preparations to leave Cyprus and head for Gaza, the European Commission president said Friday as international donors launched a sea corridor to supply the besieged territory that is facing widespread hunger after five months of war.

Between 8:50 a.m. and 12:50 p.m. (Sanaa time) on March 11, Iranian-backed Houthi terrorists fired two anti-ship ballistic missiles from Houthi-controlled areas of into the Red Sea toward merchant vessel Pinocchio, a Singaporean-owned, Liberian-flagged ship.

A new threat has emerged from the attacks by Iran-backed Houthis on shipping in the Red Sea that have caused delays to goods arriving in Europe from Asia.

An aid ship that has been docked in Cyprus for close to a month has finally set sail for Gaza, taking almost 200 tonnes of aid in a pilot project to open a new sea route for aid to a population on the brink of famine.

A barge loaded with food is on its way to Gaza from the Mediterranean island of Cyprus in a test of a possible maritime aid corridor meant to help avert what United Nations officials say is imminent famine after five months of war and Israeli restrictions on aid.

On the morning of February 21, a cargo ship rammed a bridge in Guangzhou, China - one of the world’s busiest seaports - causing the structure to partially collapse.

Although Asia’s longest river is making a slow recovery from the late-2022 drought that stopped some of the traffic up the “golden waterway” that transports more than three billion tonnes of goods every year, there are mounting concerns about the effects of climate change on the future navigability of the Yangtze.
Cyprus says second aid ship ready to leave for Gaza. *Le Monde (France).* 16 March 2024. Available from: https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2024/03/16/cyprus-says-second-aid-ship-ready-to-leave-for-gaza_6626209_4.html A second ship loaded with aid for Gaza was ready to depart, Cyprus said on Saturday, March 16, as the first vessel returned from the war-ravaged territory after successfully delivering its cargo.


Yemen’s Houthis Tell China, Russia Their Ships Won’t Be Targeted. Sam Dagher and Mohammed Hatem. *Bloomberg.* 21 March 2024. Available from: https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/yemen-s-houthis-tell-china-russia-their-ships-won-t-be-targeted-1.2049883 The Yemen-based Houthis have told China and Russia their ships can sail through the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden without being attacked, according to several people with knowledge of the militant group’s discussions.


Maersk Operations through Red Sea / Gulf of Aden – Update 08. *Maersk.* 22 March 2024. Available from: https://www.maersk.com/news/articles/2023/12/15/maersk-operations-through-red-sea-gulf-of-aden Over the recent weeks, European Union security operation Aspides has taken shape and we welcome this as a very positive development to increase the safety in the region and reduce in the future the risk of threat to the vessels passing through the Red Sea and the Bab el Mandeb Strait specifically.
From 2:50 to 4:30 a.m. (Sanaa time) March 23, the Iranian-backed Houthis launched four anti-ship ballistic missiles (ASBM) into the Red Sea in the vicinity of M/V Huang Pu, a Panamanian-flagged, Chinese-owned, Chinese-operated oil tanker.

Rumours of Houthi truce with China and Russia fall flat with latest tanker attack. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 25 March 2024. Available from: https://splash247.com/rumours-of-houthi-truce-with-china-and-russia-fall-flat-with-latest-tanker-attack/ Putting paid to reports last week that Chinese and Russian ships were to be given safe passage through the Red Sea by the Houthis, a Chinese tanker was attacked by missiles fired from Yemen on Saturday.


Logistics companies scramble after bridge collapse closes Port of Baltimore until further notice. Lori Ann LaRocco. CNBC (US). 26 March 2024. Available from: https://www.cnbc.com/2024/03/26/logistics-companies-scramble-after-bridge-collapse-closes-port-of-baltimore.html / Logistics providers are urgently working to update clients on the status of their imports and exports after the Port of Baltimore was shut down.


There’s a shadow fleet sneaking Russian oil around the world. It’s an ecological disaster waiting to happen. Joshua Keating. Vox. 28 March 2024. Available from: https://www.vox.com/world-politics/24113745/ On March 2, just as it was rounding the northern tip of Denmark, an oil tanker called the Andromeda Star collided with another ship.
PIRACY


West Africa’s coast was a haven for piracy and illegal fishing - how technology is changing the picture. Ifesinachi Okafor-Yarwood. The Conversation. 6 March 2024. Available from: https://theconversation.com/west-africas-coast-was-a-haven-for-piracy-and-illegal-fishing-how-technology-is-changing-the-picture-222803. The Gulf of Guinea – a coastal region that stretches from Senegal to Angola – is endowed with vast reserves of hydrocarbon, mineral and fisheries resources.


EU maritime force says it is shadowing a Bangladesh-flagged ship seized by pirates off Somali coast. Associated Press. 13 March 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/somalia-piracy-bangladesh-vessel-seized-e2c44611f12d85b2213cea627285a8c4. The 23 crew members of a Bangladesh-flagged cargo ship boarded by pirates off Somalia this week have been taken hostage, and a European Union vessel is tracking the ship as it heads toward the coast, the EU’s maritime security force said Wednesday.

Somalia piracy resurgence makes kidnap & ransom cover necessary. David Osler. Lloyd’s List. 13 March 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1148536/Somalia-piracy-resurgence-makes-kidnap--ransom-cover-necessary. The return of Somali piracy means that shipowners trading in the region should obtain kidnap & ransom cover if they do not have it already, according to lawyers specialising in ransom negotiations.


Cornered pirates surrender as Indian Navy rescues 17 hostage seafarers from hijacked Ruen. Eric Priante Martin. TradeWinds. 16 March 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/bulkers/cornered-pirates-surrender-as-indian-navy-rescues-17-hostage-seafarers-from-hijacked-ruen/21-1-1613513. The Indian Navy has scored a dramatic victory against resurgent Somali piracy, cornering a hijacked Navibulgar bulker and rescuing all 17 crew members, who had been held hostage for months.

Indian navy captures ship from Somali pirates, rescuing 17 crew members. Al Jazeera. 16 March 2024. Available from: https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/3/16/indian-navy-captures-ship-from-somali-pirates-rescues-crew-members. Indian naval forces including special commandos have seized a cargo vessel that had been hijacked by Somali pirates and rescued 17 crew members, a spokesperson for the navy said.

Hijacking of MV Abdullah: Pirates yet to make any contact even after 6 days. Dhaka Tribune (Bangladesh). 17 March 2024. Available from: https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/foreign-affairs/342017/hijacking-of-mv-abdullah-pirates-made-no-contact. Despite six days passing, the pirates who hijacked the Bangladeshi-flagged ship MV Abdullah have made no contact with the ship’s owner and have not issued any demands.


Pirates make first contact with owners of MV Abdullah. Dhaka Tribune (Bangladesh). 20 March 2024. Available from: https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/342258/. The pirates who had hijacked the Bangladeshi ship MV Abdullah with 23 crew contacted the owners of the vessel for the first time after nine days on Wednesday.


Royal Navy’s Middle East piracy control room in Portsmouth 'busier than ever'. ITV News (UK). 21 March 2024. Available from: https://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2024-03-21/royal-navys-middle-east-piracy-control-room-in-portsmouth-busier-than-ever. The Royal Navy has revealed that its emergency control centre for Middle East shipping emergencies has seen an "unprecedented" 475% increase in demand since attacks on commercial ships in the region began last year.


**PORT STATE CONTROL**


PORTS & HARBOURS

ABB to supply shore connection solution to Portsmouth International Port. *Portsmouth International Port (UK).* 28 February 2024. Available from: https://portsmouth-port.co.uk/news/abb-to-supply-shore-connection-solution-to-portsmouth-international-port ABB has won an order with Portsmouth International Port to supply a shore connection solution for visiting ferries and cruise ships.


Crises at Panama and Suez Canals threaten global shipping. *CBS News (US).* 11 March 2024. Available from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYbAI8140Z8 Nearly 20% of global trade goes through two canals and both are in crisis.

How African countries became casualties of Sudan war and Red Sea maritime mayhem. Robert Bociaga. *Arab News (Saudi Arabia).* 14 March 2024. Available from: [https://www.arabnews.com/node/2476361/world](https://www.arabnews.com/node/2476361/world) Already plagued by complex internal problems, the economies of East Africa have perhaps been the most affected among regional states by the unfolding crisis in Sudan and the attacks on trade passing through the Red Sea.


U.S. Still Developing Gaza Pier Details as Crews Work to Prepare Components. Sam LaGrone. *US Naval Institute News.* 18 March 2024. Available from: [https://news.usni.org/2024/03/18/us-still-developing-gaza-pier-details-as-components-are-assembled](https://news.usni.org/2024/03/18/us-still-developing-gaza-pier-details-as-components-are-assembled) Two weeks after President Joe Biden ordered the Pentagon to build a pier to ferry humanitarian aid to the war-torn residents of Gaza, the steel chunks that will make up the promised lifeline have been coming together in Newport News, Va.

Suez Canal revenue down more than 50% due to Red Sea tensions: Madbouly. *Ahram Online (Egypt).* 25 March 2024. Available from: [https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/1234/519920/Egypt/Foreign-Affairs/Suez-Canal-revenue-down-more-than--due-to-Red-Sea-.aspx](https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/1234/519920/Egypt/Foreign-Affairs/Suez-Canal-revenue-down-more-than--due-to-Red-Sea-.aspx) Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly said the annual revenue of Egypt’s Suez Canal declined by more than 50 percent due to the Red Sea conflict, noting that Egypt has borne the brunt of these events.


Green shipping corridor initiatives mushroom. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 28 March 2024. Available from: https://splash247.com/green-shipping-corridor-initiatives-mushroom/ In the months since member states agreed at the London headquarters of the IMO to turbocharge shipping’s green targets, the number of so-called green corridors around the world has rocketed.

Baltimore port crisis: World’s largest container ship company, MSC, dumps diverted cargo problem on U.S. companies. Lori Ann LaRocco. CNBC (US). 28 March 2024. Available from: https://www.cnbc.com/2024/03/28/worlds-biggest-shipping-firm-dumps-port-cargo-problem-on-us-companies.html MSC, the largest ocean carrier in the world, has joined the list of ocean carriers terminating the delivery of diverted containers outside of the port for shipping clients as a result of the container ship accident near the Port of Baltimore that led to the tragic bridge collapse.


REGULATIONS


Decarbonization Trajectories. Bureau Veritas. 29 February 2024. Available from: https://marine-offshore.bureauveritas.com/newsroom/decarbonization-trajectories Bureau Veritas highlights the need for a realistic, bottom-up approach to understand decarbonization scenarios that align with IMO’s GHG emissions reduction targets.

Shipping constraints shackle Korea’s auto export boom Korea Herald (South Korea). 4 March 2024. Available from: [https://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20240304050722](https://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20240304050722) Korean automakers are grappling to maintain their export momentum due to a shortage of car carriers to transport them, driven by the increasing volume of Chinese automotive exports and stringent maritime environmental regulations.


New York City Council Votes to Require Cruise Ships to Connect to Shore Power When Docked at Terminals. New York City Council. 7 March 2024. Available from: [https://council.nyc.gov/press/2024/03/07/2568/](https://council.nyc.gov/press/2024/03/07/2568/) Today, the New York City Council voted to pass legislation requiring cruise ships with shore power capability to connect to shore power, where such connections are available and it is safe and practicable to do so.

EU to protect seafarers and hold carriers accountable for pollution. Mette Grube Condrup. ShippingWatch. 11 March 2024. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article16924055.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article16924055.ece) It will become easier to penalize shipping companies when their ships have emitted illegal pollution.


Patchwork international regulations govern cargo ships like the one that toppled Baltimore bridge. Josh Funk. *Associated Press.* 28 March 2024. Available from: [https://apnews.com/article/baltimore-bridge-collapse-shipping-regulations-safety-89eeb0ec311f2e1a5fac0674660fe450](https://apnews.com/article/baltimore-bridge-collapse-shipping-regulations-safety-89eeb0ec311f2e1a5fac0674660fe450) The patchwork system of safety regulations pertaining to massive cargo ships like the one that toppled a major bridge in Baltimore this week can allow freight transporters to skirt oversight, critics say, making maritime shipping what one expert called “the weakest link in the transportation system.”

**SALVAGE**


Houthi-hit bulker True Confidence opts for sanctioned salvor after it is refused refuge in Djibouti. Richard Meade. *Lloyd’s List.* 20 March 2024. Available from: [https://lloydsslist.com/LL1148592/Houthi-hit-bulker-True-Confidence-opts-for-sanctioned-salvor-after-it-is-refused-refuge-in-Djibouti](https://lloydsslist.com/LL1148592/Houthi-hit-bulker-True-Confidence-opts-for-sanctioned-salvor-after-it-is-refused-refuge-in-Djibouti) Efforts to salvage the Barbados-flagged bulker *True Confidence* (IMO: 9460784), which was hit by Houthi rockets two weeks ago, killing three crew, are being hampered by security concerns and a refusal by the Port of Djibouti to grant the abandoned ship port of refuge.

SEAFARERS

What are some of the unique issues that senior seafarers face onboard ship? *Spinnaker Global Ltd.* 28 February 2024. Available from: [https://tinyurl.com/cwhpxu4n](https://tinyurl.com/cwhpxu4n) We asked The Captain’s Coach John Beavis for his thoughts on the some of the challenges that currently face seafarers (and senior seafarers).


Houthi attack kills three sailors in group’s first fatal strike on shipping. *Al Jazeera.* 6 March 2024. Available from: [https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/3/6/suspected-houthi-attack-ship-gulf-of-aden-yemen](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/3/6/suspected-houthi-attack-ship-gulf-of-aden-yemen) At least three seafarers have been killed in a Houthi missile attack on a merchant ship in the Gulf of Aden, the United States military said, marking the first fatalities reported since the Iran-aligned Yemeni group began attacks against shipping in one of the world’s busiest sea lanes over Israel’s war on Gaza.


Houthi missile attack kills 3 crew members in Yemen rebels’ first fatal assault on shipping. Jon Gambrell and Tara Copp. *Associated Press.* 7 March 2024. Available from: [https://apnews.com/article/yemen-houthi-attacks-us-israel-palestinians-gaza-89c5440d9943216a787b39912bd969e0](https://apnews.com/article/yemen-houthi-attacks-us-israel-palestinians-gaza-89c5440d9943216a787b39912bd969e0) A missile attack by Yemen’s Houthi rebels on a commercial ship in the Gulf of Aden on Wednesday killed three of its crew members and forced survivors to abandon the vessel, the U.S. military said.


Disapproving families, motherhood and ill-fitting boiler suits — female seafarers have their say. Holly Birkett. TradeWinds. 11 March 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/people/disapproving-families-motherhood-and-ill-fitting-boiler-suits-female-seafarers-have-their-say/2-1-1608181 More women than ever are training for seafaring careers, raising questions about whether the industry is adapting quickly enough to provide supportive working conditions on board vessels.

17 Filipino crew of seized Galaxy Leader in ‘good condition’. Ma. Teresa Montemayor. Philippine News Agency (PNA). 11 March 2024. Available from: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1220506 The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on Monday said the 17 Filipino seafarers of Galaxy Leader, a ship seized by the Houthis in the southern Red Sea, are in good condition but have yet to return to the country.

What’s the problem with flags of convenience? Nautilus International. 11 March 2024. Available from: https://www.nautilusint.org/en/news/itf-campaign-against-flags-of-convenience/ Nautilus has always been a supporter of the ITF campaign against flags of convenience, and the Union has pledged to redouble its efforts to end the practice since a resolution on the subject was adopted at its 2023 General Meeting.

Filipino crew head home from tanker seized by Iran. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 12 March 2024. Available from: https://splash247.com/filipino-crew-head-home-from-tanker-seized-by-iran/ Iran is releasing all the remaining crewmembers of the Greek-owned tanker St Nikolas, which was seized by Iranian military forces in the Gulf of Oman in January under a deal whereby a replacement crew will come to look after the Empire Navigation-owned suezmax.

Gov’t continues to work for the release of 17 Filipino seafarers in Houthi captivity. Government of the Philippines. 12 March 2024. Available from: https://pcg.gov.ph/news_releases/govt-continues-to-work-for-the-release-of-17-filipino-seafarers-in-houthi-captivity/ The Marcos administration assured the families of the 17 Filipino seafarers being held hostage by Houthi rebels in Yemen that they have not been forgotten and all efforts are being exerted for their release.


Hijacked bulker officer: ‘If pirates are not paid, they are ordered to kill us one by one’. Gary Dixon. TradeWinds. 13 March 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/bulkers/hijacked-bulker-officer-if-pirates-are-not-paid-they-are-ordered-to-kill-us-one-by-one-/2-1-1611614. Terrified crew members phoned their families with warnings as pirates boarded their bulker in the Indian Ocean on Tuesday.


2 injured Pinoy seafarers arrive from Djibouti via air ambulance. Marita Moaje. Philippine News Agency (PNA). 14 March 2024. Available from: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1220779. The two remaining Filipino seafarers who suffered serious injuries after a Houthi missile hit *M/V True Confidence* on March 6, are back in the country and have reunited with their families.

The Gaza conflict’s forgotten shipping crew held hostage in the Red Sea. CNN. 14 March 2024. Available from: https://edition.cnn.com/2024/03/14/middleeast/houthi-hostages-philippine-seafarers-gaza-war-intl-hnk/index.html. Hope is fading for the imminent return of the international crew of the cargo ship hijacked by the Houthis in November, with a senior Filipino diplomat saying he does not expect a release until the war in Gaza is over, while the Houthis say the fate of the sailors is now in Hamas’ hands.


Unions have called for proper legal protection for seafarers on the second anniversary of the P&O Ferries mass sackings scandal, warning that ministers have “done nothing” to stop other firms following suit.


The recent deadly attacks in the Red Sea have emphasised the profound safety considerations and intricate challenges arising from the conflict, impacting both shipowners and seafarers.


A former P&O Ferries worker has said the government has not taken “any meaningful action” to prevent mass sackings of seafarers, while another scandal “could happen again tomorrow”.


This decision taken at a meeting on 12 March 2024 follows the Houthi attack on *M/V True Confidence* which resulted in the death of three seafarers.


Last year, a survey by ship manager Danica found that one in 20 seafarers – “roughly one on every ship” – reported having experienced bullying, while 4 per cent felt they had been discriminated against because of race, and 1 per cent said they had experienced sexual harassment.


On Mar. 6, a Houthi missile killed three crew members on the Barbados-flagged merchant vessel *True Confidence* in the Red Sea – the first fatalities in the Houthis’ campaign against shipping in the crucial thoroughfare


As female seafarers, we are paving the way for future opportunities and inspiring young women with dreams of joining the maritime industry.


Two crew members died in an engineering space incident on Holland America Line’s *Nieuw Amsterdam* Friday during a call at Half Moon Cay.

‘Just pray for us’: hostages on ship seized by Somali pirates tell family of fears. Ramola Talwar Badam. *The National (UAE)*. 22 March 2024. Available from: https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/asia/2024/03/22/just-pray-for-us-hostages-on-ship-seized-by-somali-pirates-tell-family-of-fears/ Bangladeshi sailors taken hostage by Somali pirates have spoken to their families for the first time since their cargo vessel was seized last week.
Body of Vietnamese sailor killed in Red Sea attack repatriated. VN Express International (Vietnam). 24 March 2024. Available from: https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/body-of-vietnamese-sailor-killed-in-red-sea-attack-repatriated-4726121.html The body of Dang Duy Kien, one of the three sailors killed in a missile attack on True Confidence, a Barbados-flagged cargo ship, by Houthi forces off the coast of Yemen on March 6, were brought back to Vietnam on Sunday.

Cargo ship crews stranded at Port of Baltimore after Key Bridge collapse. Lillian Reed. Baltimore Banner (US). 26 March 2024. Available from: https://www.thebaltimorebanner.com/community/transportation/seafarers-dali-key-bridge-port-of-baltimore-QRVUH4CREFFG7AMUQ7VPETNHN4/ Amid the wreckage of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, labor and nonprofit officials scrambled Tuesday to make arrangements on land for international crews stranded aboard cargo ships in the Port of Baltimore.


SEARCH & RESCUE

Libyan coast guard accused of threatening crew of rescue ship in Mediterranean. Emma Wallis. InfoMigrants. 4 March 2024. Available from: https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/55591/libyan-coast-guard-accused-of-threatening-crew-of-rescue-ship-in-mediterranean The crew of the German rescue ship Humanity 1 say they were threatened by the crew of a Libyan coast guard vessel as they sought to rescue 77 migrants from small boats.

Coast Guard, good Samaritan vessel rescue 2 mariners more than 1,120 miles southeast of Bermuda. United States Coast Guard. 4 March 2024. Available from: https://www.news.uscg.mil/Press-Releases/Article/3694512/ The Coast Guard and a good Samaritan vessel rescued two mariners Monday, approximately 1,726 miles east of Bermuda.

On 04 Mar 24, *INS Kolkata* mission-deployed in the Gulf of Aden responded to a request from *MSC Sky II*, a Liberian-flagged Container Vessel, which was reportedly attacked by a drone/missile, at about 1900 h (IST) on 04 Mar 24, approx. 90 nm South East of Aden.

24 fishermen rescued from half-submerged ship in rough seas off Japanese island, but 1 found dead. *Asahi Shimbun (Japan)*. 5 March 2024. Available from: [https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/15188109](https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/15188109)

A Japanese coast guard helicopter rescued 24 fishermen as they desperately clung to the deck of a tilting, half-submerged ship being pounded by high waves Monday morning off an island chain southwest of Tokyo.

#IndianNavy’s swift response to Maritime Incident in #GulfofAden. *Indian Navy*. 7 March 2024. Available from: [https://twitter.com/indiannavy/status/1765605384784593275](https://twitter.com/indiannavy/status/1765605384784593275)

Barbados Flagged Bulk Carrier *MV TrueConfidence* reported on fire after a drone/missile hit on 6 Mar, approx 54 nm South West of Aden, resulting in critical injuries to crew, forcing them to abandon ship.


Crew members aboard the world’s largest cruise ship have rescued 14 people who had been stranded at sea on a tiny boat for eight days.


The IMRF is set to launch a global panel that will focus on the maritime aviation search and rescue (SAR) sector as the organisation looks to expand its involvement in new and developing areas of the SAR industry.

Baltimore bridge collapse: Search and rescue efforts suspended, Coast Guard says. *ABC News (US)*. 26 March 2024. Available from: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZ5GHU5cf3U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZ5GHU5cf3U)

The Coast Guard announced Tuesday night the suspension of the search and rescue efforts for six people who went missing after a container ship struck Baltimore’s Francis Scott Key Bridge.


IMRF released its #FutureSAR Report as part of the organisation’s ongoing campaign to raise awareness of the impacts and effects of climate change on global maritime search and rescue (SAR) operations.
**SHIP RECYCLING**


EU comes under fire for approving popular scrap yards in Turkey. Liv Almer. *ShippingWatch.* 19 March 2024. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article16950123.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article16950123.ece) The approval of Turkish shipbreakers that use questionable methods is a double standard, say the critics.


**SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR**

Pacific Basin chief weighs financial viability of green bulkers. Tomas Kristiansen. *ShippingWatch.* 29 February 2024. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Bulk/article16893497.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Bulk/article16893497.ece) Pacific Basin and its chief executive Martin Fruergaard have already launched a number of initiatives to help reduce CO2 emissions from its fleet of 266 vessels, 116 of which are handysize and supramax.


Hyundai Mipo Dockyard christens ship set for self-sailing test. *Yonhap News Agency (South Korea).* 8 March 2024. Available from: [https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20240308005500320](https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20240308005500320) South Korean shipbuilder Hyundai Mipo Dockyard Co. on Friday held a christening ceremony for a container ship in this southeastern port, which is slated to undergo a test for autonomous navigation.
Retrofitting passenger ships with methanol is less attractive option, report finds. Naida Hakirevic Prevljak. Offshore Energy. 11 March 2024. Available from: https://www.offshore-energy.biz/retrofitting-passenger-ships-with-methanol-is-less-attractive-option-report-finds/ A full methanol retrofit for passenger ships is a less commercially attractive prospect than the use of blended fuels (Blend B30), heavy fuel oil (HFO), and heavy fuel oil equipped with onboard carbon capture and storage technology (oCCS), a new report from classification society Lloyd’s Register has found.

Fuel for thought: Methanol for Passenger ships. Lloyd's Register. 6 March 2024. Available from: https://www.lr.org/en/knowledge/research-reports/fuel-for-thought-methanol-for-passenger-ships/ This report explores the various aspects that encompass the readiness and potential benefits of methanol as a marine fuel for the Passenger ship industry, including Cruise ships, Ferries, RORO and RoPax vessels.

Sail-powered cargo ship 'shows potential of wind'. Tom Singleton. BBC News. 13 March 2024. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-68543677 Retrofitting giant, rigid sails to a cargo ship has effectively cut its fuel use and carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, shipping firm data shows.

Ships above 12,000 TEU drive 100% increase in average ship size. Niels Rasmussen. BIMCO. 13 March 2024. Available from: https://www.bimco.org/news-and-trends/market-reports/shipping-number-of-the-week/20240313-snow Since 2006, the average container ship has doubled in size to 4,580 TEU and ships with a capacity of more than 12,000 TEU has accounted for 51% of the fleet’s capacity expansion.

SHIPPING

Can ship cruises actually be net zero by 2050? Deutsche Welle (Germany). 29 February 2024. Available from: https://www.dw.com/en/can-ship-cruises-actually-be-net-zero-by-2050/a-68380588 When the 6,327-passenger cruise ship MSC Euribia took a four-day journey from Saint-Nazaire, France to Copenhagen last summer, MSC Cruises celebrated it as “the world’s first net zero-greenhouse gas emission cruise.”

2024 container shipping outlook: Appetite for disruption. AlixPartners. 29 February 2024. Available from: https://insights.alixpartners.com/post/102f16g/2024-container-shipping-outlook-appetite-for-disruption When does constant turmoil become business as usual? If the container shipping industry is the subject of discussion, the answer is, “You’re looking at it.” Report 📚

Risk reigns in ocean shipping, industry and economic experts say. Lisa Baertlein. Reuters. 4 March 2024. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/business/autos-transportation/risk-reigns-ocean-shipping-industry-economic-experts-say-2024-03-04/ Risk is the “new normal” for the global ocean shipping industry that handles 80% of global trade as pressure from geopolitical tensions, rising protectionism and climate change mounts.

Weight of Freight: Red Sea Conflict Risk and Insurance. Argus Media. 4 March 2024. Available from: https://argusmedia.podbean.com/e/weight-of-the-freight-red-sea-war-risks-and-insurance/ Three months after the car carrier Galaxy Leader was hijacked in the Red Sea, attacks on merchant shipping in the region have continued.

CMA CGM Partners with Nike for Sustainable Shipping. CMA CGM. 4 March 2024. Available from: https://www.cma-cgm.com/news/4635/ Nike, a global leader in the apparel and sportswear industry, has recently entered into an agreement with CMA CGM to purchase sustainabe biofuel for a part of their maritime transport.
How to hold shipping financially accountable for its climate impacts. Ana Laranjeira. Climate Home News. 5 March 2024. Available from: https://www.climatechangenews.com/2024/03/05/how-to-hold-shipping-emissions-financially-accountable-for-its-climate-impacts/ Discussions about climate finance are usually framed around national borders: wealthy countries rightfully paying more than less-developed states for their historic responsibility in the climate crisis.


Ships and ports will be crucial in achieving EU climate goal. Danish Shipping. 6 March 2024. Available from: https://danskshipping.dk/en/all-press-releases/2024/ships-and-ports-will-be-crucial-in-achieving-eu-climate-goal/ As part of the EU Carbon Management Strategy, 280 million tons of CO2 must be captured if the EU is to meet the ambitious target of a 90 % reduction of GHG emissions by 2040.

Decarbonisation storm hits global shipping. Jeremy Cresswell. Energy Voice. 8 March 2024. Available from: https://www.energyvoice.com/renewables-energy-transition/transport/548645/ Sea trade is under massive pressure to change as the global population of 61,000 ships collectively weighing in at over 2.1 billion tons deadweight is responsible for over 3% of current CO2 emissions and still rising.

Shipping’s shame: Women remain underpaid and excluded in the workplace. Julian Bray. TradeWinds. 8 March 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/people/shipping-s-shame-women-remain-underpaid-and-excluded-in-the-workplace/2-1-1608260 Women in shipping remain underpaid and under-represented, according to new survey data, with the gender pay gap in UK companies three times as wide as the national average.


BC Ferries urged to chart a new course around LNG. Rochelle Baker. National Observer (Canada). 12 March 2024. Available from: https://www.nationalobserver.com/2024/03/12/news/bc-ferries-urged-chart-new-course-lng BC Ferries has launched a bid to build up to seven green flagship vessels but climate groups are urging the company to abandon liquified natural gas to fuel ships and speed electrification of its fleet to reach its emissions targets.

Fracked Ferries. Stand.earth. 12 March 2024. Available from: https://stand.earth/resources/fracked-ferries/ Despite knowing the importance of cutting emissions, BC Ferries continues to use Liquid Natural Gas (LNG), and pollute the environment. Report 📚


Can shipping hit IMO decarbonisation checkpoints? Gary Howard. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 13 March 2024. Available from: [https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/regulation/can-shipping-hit-imo-decarbonisation-checkpoints](https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/regulation/can-shipping-hit-imo-decarbonisation-checkpoints) The subject was first raised by V. Group CFO Petter Traaholt who said that from its own analysis, V. Group does not expect the industry to hit its 2050 target, that it definitely would not hit the 2040 target, and may hit the 2030 target.


Cruise company executives discuss decarbonisation challenges at CLIA Cruise Week Europe. Alex Smith. *Cruise & Ferry*. 13 March 2024. Available from: [https://www.cruiseandferry.net/articles/cruise-company-executives-discuss-decarbonisation-challenges-at-clia-cruise-week-europe](https://www.cruiseandferry.net/articles/cruise-company-executives-discuss-decarbonisation-challenges-at-clia-cruise-week-europe) Leading cruise line executives from Carnival Corporation, MSC Group and Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings have taken part in a keynote panel discussion at CLIA Cruise Week Europe in Genoa, Italy, discussing the challenges of decarbonising the cruise industry.


Maersk CEO shares three imperatives for shipping’s decarbonization to succeed. Naida Hakirevic Prevljak. *Offshore Energy*. 14 March 2024. Available from: https://www.offshore-energy.biz/maersk-ceo-shares-three-imperatives-for-shipping-decarbonization-to-succeed/  Ahead of the key global event that will decide the pace of shipping’s decarbonization, Vincent Clerc, CEO of Danish shipping and logistics giant A.P. Moller – Maersk, has highlighted three imperatives that will be crucial if the maritime industry wants to meet ambitious emission reduction targets.


Shipping is getting difficult. Are carriers adapting? *Deutsche Welle (Germany)*. 18 March 2024. Available from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KDPeflQeO0?si=diww1Xu_Wfs2_xFf  The CEO of Hapag-Lloyd, one of the world’s largest carriers, explains why a resolution to the Red Sea attacks is important, why sailing a longer route around the Cape of Good Hope might actually be profitable for companies in the short-term and whether commercial routes are fundamentally changing in a world growing more sceptical of globalized trade.


EU Policy. Lawmakers vote to include shipping in plastic pollution rules. Marta Pacheco. Euronews. 20 March 2024. Available from: https://www.euronews.com/green/2024/03/20/lawmakers-vote-to-include-shipping-in-plastic-pollution-rules MEPS have given a green light to proposed new rules designed to reduce and prevent microplastic pollution, but tweaked the European Commission’s proposal so that the measures would also cover maritime transport.


Shipping sector pushes to keep emissions-tax cash for itself. Joe Lo. Climate Home News. 20 March 2024. Available from: https://www.climatechangenews.com/2024/03/20/shipping-emissions-tax-cash-for-itself/ Shipping negotiators for governments at UN talks this week want a proposed tax on the sector’s emissions to be spent mostly on cleaning up the industry – which could thwart international plans to use some of the money to address broader damage from climate change.

Fast-Paced Strategies in the Race to Carbon-Neutral Shipping. Ship & Bunker. 20 March 2024. Available from: https://shipandbunker.com/news/world/922791 With the IMO now having set a net-zero GHG target by or around 2050, and the EU’s emissions trading system which started to hit shipping this year, the race is now on for the industry to find ways of cutting its carbon footprint.

Are yards still storing keels that allow shipowners to follow old pollution rules? Craig Eason. TradeWinds. 20 March 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/technology/are-yards-still-storing-keels-that-allow-shipowners-to-follow-old-pollution-rules/-2-1-1614259 Regulators at the International Maritime Organization have turned their attention to a long-standing loophole that allows some ships to get away with higher pollution levels in emissions control areas (ECAs).

Shipping faces a long haul with the Red Sea crisis. Michael Grey. Seatrade Maritime News. 21 March 2024. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/opinions-analysis/shipping-faces-long-haul-red-sea-crisis The first deaths and serious injuries among merchant seafarers from Houthi missile attacks have been recorded, something that seems quite inevitable as the armed gangs improve their techniques.


Eni, Fincantieri and RINA establish partnership for maritime transport decarbonization. Eni. 25 March 2024. Available from: https://www.eni.com/en-IT/media/press-release/2024/03/eni-fincantieri-and-rina-establish-partnership-for-maritime-transport-decarbonization.html Eni, a global energy company, Fincantieri, one of the world’s largest shipbuilding groups, the only one active in all high-tech marine industry sectors, and RINA, a multinational inspection, certification, and engineering consultancy, have signed an agreement to develop joint initiatives for the energy transition.

Shipping majors profiteering from EU carbon emissions charge – study. Transport & Environment. 26 March 2024. Available from: https://www.transportenvironment.org/discover/shipping-majors-profiteering-from-eu-carbon-emissions-charge-study/ A sample of more than 500 journeys to and from European ports shows that in nearly 90% of cases, shipping companies are charging customers more than the actual costs of the EU ETS. Profits uncontained: An analysis of container shipping ETS surcharges. Study.

Shipping industry faces fuel dilemma in bid to cut emissions. Georgina Mccartney. Reuters. 26 March 2024. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/boards-policy-regulation/shipping-industry-faces-fuel-dilemma-bid-cut-emissions-2024-03-26/ The shipping industry is under increasing pressure to decarbonize, but unclear regulatory guidelines, including around what sorts of cleaner fuels large vessels should run, is complicating that path to net zero, according to executives.

Member states favour exempting international shipping from EU microplastic rules. Marta Pacheco. Euronews. 26 March 2024. Available from: https://www.euronews.com/green/2024/03/26/member-states-favour-exempting-international-shipping-from-eu-microplastic-rules Environment ministers have broadly contested the inclusion of maritime transport in EU rules to counter microplastic pollution, arguing during an Environment Council meeting that unilateral European action would have limited impact and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) should take the lead.


**Documentation delays push industry costs to $3bn.** Nick Savvides. *Seatrade Maritime News.* 27 March 2024. Available from: [https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/containers/documentation-delays-push-industry-costs-3bn](https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/containers/documentation-delays-push-industry-costs-3bn) Payment processing and document delays are adding to the shipping industry’s costs at the rate of a minimum of $25/box on an estimated 50% of loaded containers moved according to one industry observer.


**Cyprus shipping registry grows — minister outlines actions to boost maritime sector.** Kyriacos Nicolaou. *Cyprus Mail.* 29 March 2024. Available from: [https://tinyurl.com/yu7myxzy](https://tinyurl.com/yu7myxzy) The fleet of vessels registered under the Cypriot flag has seen a significant increase of approximately 5.5 per cent, equivalent to about 1.1 million tonnes, over the past six months, according to the Deputy Minister of Shipping Marina Hadjimanolis.


**RESEARCH**

Larayedh R, Cornuelle BD, et al. *Numerical investigation of shipping noise in the Red Sea.* *Scientific Reports.* 11 March 2024. Available from: [https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-024-56523-2](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-024-56523-2) Underwater noise pollution is a significant environmental issue that can have detrimental effects on marine ecosystems.

Feingold G, Ghaté VP, et al. *Physical science research needed to evaluate the viability and risks of marine cloud brightening.* *Science Advances.* 20 March 2024. Available from: [https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adi8594](https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adi8594) Marine cloud brightening (MCB) is the deliberate injection of aerosol particles into shallow marine clouds to increase their reflection of solar radiation and reduce the amount of energy absorbed by the climate system.

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About the cover

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