About the MKC Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)

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

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

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

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IMO NEWS & EVENTS

Legal Committee finalizes new guidelines on seafarer criminalization

IMO’s Legal Committee has finalized a new set of guidelines to ensure seafarers are protected against unfair treatment if detained in foreign jurisdictions on suspicion of committing a crime.

The fair treatment of seafarers was high on the agenda of the Legal Committee’s 111st session, which took place from 22 to 26 April at IMO headquarters in London, chaired by Ms. Gillian Grant of Canada.

The guidelines are to be applied where seafarers may be detained in a jurisdiction other than that of the seafarers' nationality on suspicion of committing crimes during the course of their employment on board a ship. They aim to protect seafarers’ right to due process during investigation and detention by public authorities.

In his closing remarks, IMO Secretary-General Mr. Arsenio Dominguez said: “The well-being of seafarers continues to be of great concern to me and to the entire Membership of IMO… The Guidelines will add a significant value in resolving the challenges faced by seafarers and ensure that seafarers are treated fairly.”

The guidelines contain guidance for port States, flag States, coastal States, States of which the seafarer is a national, shipowners and seafarers.

The finalized guidelines will be submitted as a base document to the Joint ILO/IMO Tripartite Working Group to identify and address seafarers’ issues and the human element (JTWG) for further refinement. The JTWG will then submit the guidelines to the Legal Committee and to the ILO Governing Bodies for endorsement. More...

Maritime Technology Global Challenge - solutions for decarbonization selected

Funding is being released to develop detailed technical proposals to help accelerate decarbonisation of selected domestic vessels and ports in Africa and the Caribbean, as part of the Maritime Technology Global Challenge, under the IMO CARES (Coordinated Actions to Reduce Emissions from Shipping) project.

The IMO CARES Maritime Technology Global Challenge was launched in November 2023 to identify technology solutions to accelerate decarbonisation in domestic shipping and ports in target regions.

A judging panel recommended three specific solutions, wind turbines, shore to ship power supply and port call data sharing, for development into detailed technical proposals and possible demonstration in four target countries (Namibia, Mauritius, St Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago). The final choice of solutions was made by the governments of these countries, taking into consideration their needs and the technical specifications of selected ports and vessels. More...
IMO's maritime law institute celebrates 35 years of training success

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMO-IMLI) celebrated its 35th anniversary with testimonies from alumni and discussions about how to shape its future.

IMO-IMLI was founded in 1988 in Malta, and began its first programme in 1989. Its aim is to strengthen the capacity and expertise of Member States in all aspects of international maritime law. This includes legislative drafting techniques aimed at incorporating international maritime instruments into national law, supporting the implementation and enforcement of the vast body of IMO rules and regulations.

During a special anniversary event in the margins of the 111st session of the Legal Committee held this week in London, United Kingdom, IMO Secretary-General Mr. Arsenio Dominguez stated: “Over the past three decades, IMLI has played a key role in providing unparalleled legal training to more than 1,700 maritime professionals from 160 States and Territories. These people, from very diverse backgrounds, have become invaluable assets to their countries and to the global maritime community.”

IMO-IMLI Director Prof. Norman A. Martinez Gutierrez said: “I am proud to note that many hold the highest positions in their respective countries. IMLI graduates are able to provide a unique level of legal expertise that is hard to come by elsewhere.” More...

MEETING SUMMARIES AND SCHEDULE

Programme of Meetings for 2024

Previous Meetings

Facilitation Committee (FAL 48) 8-12 April 2024

Legal Committee (LEG 111) 22-26 April 2024

Forthcoming Meetings

Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 108) 15-24 May 2024
NEW IMO PUBLICATIONS

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Biofouling Guidelines, 2024 Edition
Hard copy format: IA662E
Digital format: KA662E (English), KA662F (French), KA662S (Spanish)

The introduction of harmful aquatic organisms to new environments by ships has been identified as a major threat to world oceans and to the conservation of biodiversity. Biofouling, described as the undesirable accumulation of microorganisms, plants, algae and animals on submerged structures (especially ships’ hulls), is considered one of the main vectors for bioinvasions. These Guidelines for the control and management of ships’ biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species are intended to provide a globally consistent approach to the management of biofouling.

2023 Diving Code
Hard copy format: I805E
Digital format: K805E (English), K805F (French), K805S (Spanish)

This model course aims to provide knowledge to those who may be designated to perform the duties and responsibilities of a Search and Rescue On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) for a search and rescue incident, as defined in the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual (IAMSAR), Volume III. By doing so, the purpose of this model course is to assist States in meeting their own SAR obligations they accepted under the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979 and the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974.

Model Course: SAR On-Scene Coordinator (IAMSAR Manual Volume III), 2024 Edition
Digital format: KTA315E

This model course aims to provide knowledge to those who may be designated to perform the duties and responsibilities of a Search and Rescue On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) for a search and rescue incident, as defined in the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual (IAMSAR), Volume III. By doing so, the purpose of this model course is to assist States in meeting their own SAR obligations they accepted under the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979 and the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974.
UNITED NATIONS


Massive investment and financial reform needed to rescue SDGs. UN News. 9 April 2024. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/04/1148411. Financing for sustainable development is at a crossroads and without urgent investment, global efforts to achieve a more just and equitable world by 2030 will fail, the UN deputy chief warned on Tuesday.

Secretary-General calls for UN 2.0 to tackle 21st century challenges. UN News. 22 April 2024. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/04/1148806. Secretary-General António Guterres on Monday emphasised the need for a "strengthened and updated" United Nations to better reach and support people around the world.

CASUALTIES

*Dali*’s owners deny responsibility for Baltimore bridge accident.*  Nick Savvides. Seatrade Maritime News. 3 April 2024. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/finance-insurance/dalis-owners-deny-responsibility-baltimore-bridge-accident A Singaporean ship owner and a ship manager that operated the vessel that struck and destroyed Baltimore’s Francis Scott Key bridge have filed a petition seeking court protection from liability.

Eight missing after ship collision in south China. Xinhuanet (China). 3 April 2024. Available from: https://english.news.cn/20240403/5de04ae0133d40e9ab167afeaf19cd6e/c.html Eight people onboard a fishing boat went missing after it collided with a Panamanian container ship off the southwestern coast of south China’s Hainan Province at around 0:15 a.m. Wednesday, the provincial maritime search and rescue center said.


Danish frigate suffered weapon system failure in Red Sea combat, captain says. Jacob Gronholt-Pedersen. Reuters. 4 April 2024. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/danish-frigate-suffered-weapon-system-failure-red-sea-combat-captain-says-2024-04-04/ A Danish frigate deployed to the Red Sea as part of a U.S.-led operation suffered malfunctioning of its weapon systems when attacked by drones operated by Houthi militants last month, the captain said on Thursday as the ship arrived in Denmark.

People jump into the sea to escape raging ferry fire in Gulf of Thailand. All 108 on board are safe. Associated Press. 4 April 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/thailand-surat-thani-koh-tao-ferry-fire-0c8f3e547b8094a715d5669cb32d6870 The overnight ferry from Surat Thani province was about to arrive at Koh Tao, a popular tourist destination off the Thai coast, when one of the passengers suddenly heard a crackling sound and smelled smoke.

Another endangered right whale dies after a collision with a ship off the East Coast. Patrick Whittle. Associated Press. 4 April 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/endangered-right-whale-death-ship-collision-10476abe890bd151b713c8545f098561 An increasingly deadly year for the endangered North Atlantic right whale got worse this week when another member of the species was killed in a collision with a ship, federal authorities said Thursday.

Mozambique: Death toll from ferry accident reaches nearly 100. Africanews. 8 April 2024. Available from: https://www.africanews.com/2024/04/08/mozambique-death-toll-from-ferry-accident-reaches-nearly-100 Mozambique’s Maritime Transport Institute (INTRASMAR) on Monday gave the latest count saying the overloaded fishing boat was not licensed to transport people.

Ship fire claims spike to highest in a decade as larger vessels add to risks. Paul Peachey. TradeWinds. 9 April 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/insurance/ship-fire-claims-spike-to-highest-in-a-decade-as-larger-vessels-add-to-risks/2-1-1623945 Individual hull insurance claims exceeding $50m were reported for the first time in more than a decade in 2023 following fires on vessels, according to the Nordic Association of Marine Insurers (Cefor).


How many ships hit bridges, lose power every year? Data shows jarring numbers on the rise. Emily Le Coz and Austin Fast. USA Today. 11 April 2024. Available from: https://eu.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2024/04/11/baltimore-bridge-collapse-ship-blackouts-incidents/73262682007/ An alarm wails onboard the container ship as it approaches the Francis Scott Key Bridge during what had until that moment seemed like a routine departure from the Port of Baltimore.

FBI opens criminal probe into Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse in Baltimore. NBC News (US). 15 April 2024. Available from: https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/fbi-opens-criminal-probe-francis-scott-key-bridge-collapse-baltimore-rcna147813 The FBI has opened a criminal investigation into the cargo ship that slammed into the Francis Scott Key Bridge and caused it to collapse in Baltimore last month, according to two senior law enforcement officials familiar with the investigation.


Baltimore leaders accuse ship’s owner and manager of negligence in Key Bridge collapse. Lea Skene. Associated Press. 22 April 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/baltimore-bridge-collapse-legal-liability-2fabbbe0137412b71953eebcf4649bcc The owner and manager of the massive container ship that took down the Francis Scott Key Bridge last month should be held fully liable for the deadly collapse, according to court papers filed Monday on behalf of Baltimore’s mayor and city council.

Four sailors missing after vessel collides in Guangdong. Zheng Caixiong. China Daily. 23 April 2024. Available from: https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202404/23/WS6627586ba31082fc043c3822.html Rescue workers were still racing against time to search for the missing crew members who were washed away after their vessel collided with a bridge pier in Foshan, Guangdong province, as of Tuesday noon.
Baltimore bridge collapse: city says ship was ‘unseaworthy’ before leaving port. Coral Murphy Marcos. *The Guardian*. 23 April 2024. Available from: https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/apr/23/baltimore-bridge-collapse-ship-lawsuit The city of Baltimore has sued the owner and operator of the *Dali* container ship that crashed into the Francis Scott Key Bridge last month, saying it had “an incompetent crew” and set sail despite receiving warnings.


Two years to save the world. *Chatham House Royal Institute of International Affairs*. 10 April 2024. Available from: https://www.chathamhouse.org/events/all/open-event/two-years-save-world Executive Secretary of UN Climate Change, Simon Stiell, lays out what needs to be done by COP30, and its long-term significance.

The heat is on: what we know about why ocean temperatures keep smashing records. *University of Western Australia*. 11 April 2024. Available from: https://www.uwa.edu.au/news/article/2024/april/the-heat-is-on-what-we-know-about-why-ocean-temperatures-keep-smashing-records Over the last year, our oceans have been hotter than any time ever recorded. Our instrumental record covers the last 150 years.
Fishers in Madagascar adapt to deadly seas due to climate change. UN News. 13 April 2024. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/04/1148496 Fishing communities in the south of Madagascar are facing sometimes deadly sea conditions due to climate change, but with the help of the UN’s International Labour Organization (ILO) are finding ways to adapt to the new circumstances they face.

It will take 880 years to achieve UN ocean conservation goals, at this rate (commentary). Angelo Villagomez. Mongabay. 15 April 2024. Available from: https://news.mongabay.com/2024/04/it-will-take-880-years-to-achieve-un-ocean-conservation-goals-at-this-rate-commentary/ Indigenous conservationist Angelo Villagomez will speak at the Our Ocean conference, one of the largest and highest profile conferences of its kind, this week in Athens, Greece.


UN envoy says of the threat to coral reefs: ‘Are we faced with a colossal ecosystem tragedy? Yes’. Elena Becatoros. Associated Press. 16 April 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/coral-bleaching-climate-united-nations-marine-e65dbc624babda34ae1bcef2b9a6372b The world is not doing enough to protect coral reefs, the United Nations’ special envoy for the ocean said Tuesday in defense of the marine ecosystems that protect biodiversity, sustain underwater life and produce some of the oxygen we breathe.


What is Earth Day, when is it and what has it achieved? Mark Poynting and Maddie Molloy. BBC News. 22 April 2024. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-68610073 Millions of people across the globe are gathering to mark Earth Day and celebrate the environmental movement.

Heatwave deaths increased across almost all Europe in 2023, says UN weather agency. UN News. 22 April 2024. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/04/11487960 Climate change shocks caused record levels of disruption and misery for millions in Europe in 2023 with widespread flooding and severe heatwaves – a new normal which countries must adapt to as a priority, the UN weather agency said on Monday.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Over 51,000 barrels collected in Tobago oil spill, says Ministry. Loop News (Trinidad and Tobago). 9 April 2024. Available from: https://tt.loopnews.com/content/over-51000-barrels-collected-tobago-oil-spill-says-ministry The Ministry of Planning and Development said over 51,000 barrels of liquid waste and more than 21,000 cubic yards of solid waste have been removed to date from coastal areas in Tobago affected by the February 7th grounding of the vessel “Gulfstream” in the vicinity of Cove Reef, 200 metres off the shoreline of Cove Bay.

Red Sea crisis forces operators to use more container ships, adding to emission concerns. Sourasis Bose. Reuters. 10 April 2024. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/red-sea-crisis-forces-operators-use-more-container-ships-adding-emission-2024-04-10/ The shipping industry’s pledge to limit its carbon footprint may suffer a setback as the current Red Sea crisis prompts it to use more vessels and take longer routes to ensure the smooth sailing of global maritime trade.


Gameplan: It’s time to beat plastic pollution 🌍.

Ships fined for causing pollution. Jean Christou. Cyprus Mail. 22 April 2024. Available from: https://cyprus-mail.com/2024/04/22/ships-fined-for-causing-pollution/ Fines have been imposed on 16 shipowners over the last 10 years for pollution caused by oil, illegal discharge of sewage and illegal cleaning of vessels without obtaining approval from the Cyprus Ports Authority (CPA), it emerged on Monday.

Canada cleans up over 600 tonnes of lost fishing gear from areas hit by Hurricane Fiona. Government of Canada. 22 April 2024. Available from: https://tinyurl.com/34vd9f44 Lost, abandoned and discarded fishing gear, or ghost gear, is a significant source of plastic pollution that can stay in our water for hundreds of years, causing harm to marine mammals, fisheries, and habitats.


Coke, Pepsi top list in global count of plastic waste. Benjamin Shingler. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). 24 April 2024. Available from: https://www.cbc.ca/news/climate/plastic-study-canada-1.7182609 🌍. A new study documenting the scourge of plastic waste around the world has found that more than half of branded plastic pollution can be traced back to just 56 companies.


**HEALTH & SAFETY**


The Nautical Institute: Supporting seafarers through turbulent times. Alex Smith. *Cruise & Ferry.* 17 April 2024. Available from: [https://www.cruiseandferry.net/articles/the-nautical-institute-supporting-seafarers-through-turbulent-times](https://www.cruiseandferry.net/articles/the-nautical-institute-supporting-seafarers-through-turbulent-times) With new technologies, fuels and regulations among the many changes on the horizon for the passenger shipping industry, Alex Smith asks Captain John Lloyd of The Nautical Institute how the organisation is helping seafarers prepare for the future.

The Food Chain: Hungry at Sea. *BBC World Service.* 18 April 2024. Available from: [https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3ct5xml](https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3ct5xml) Ruth Alexander hears from seafarers about why that makes “cookie” the most important person on board a ship and why, in some cases, crew members are going hungry.


**IMO**

IMO agrees to world’s first global carbon price on shipping. *ABC (Australia).* 1 April 2024. Available from: [https://www.abc.net.au/pacific/programs/pacificbeat/shippinglevy/103656308](https://www.abc.net.au/pacific/programs/pacificbeat/shippinglevy/103656308) Shipping companies that produce around three per cent of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions will now pay a fee for every ton of carbon they produce from burning fuel, all thanks to those Pacific nations who played a prominent role in making it happen.


The inadvertent geoengineering experiment that the world is now shutting off. James Temple. MIT Technology Review. 11 April 2024. Available from: https://www.technologyreview.com/2024/04/11/1091087/the-inadvertent-geoengineering-experiment-that-the-world-is-now-shutting-off/ Usually when we talk about climate change, the focus is squarely on the role that greenhouse-gas emissions play in driving up global temperatures, and rightly so.

‘IMO is not slow’ Sec-Gen hits back at critics of decarbonisation pace. Marcus Hand. Seatrade Maritime News. 15 April 2024. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/regulation/imo-not-slow-sec-gen-hits-back-critics-decarbonisation-pace Speaking at the Singapore Maritime Lecture the IMO Sec-Gen’s response that the UN governing body was not slow drew laughter from the audience prompting him to repeat himself.

IMO chief pledges to keep urging EU to drop shipping carbon levies. Cichen Shen. Lloyd’s List. 15 April 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1148829/IMO-chief-pledges-to-keep-urging-EU-to-drop-shipping-carbon-levies The newly elected secretary-general told Lloyd’s List he had already relayed this message to regulators in Brussels and will urge the EU to “drop this… the moment we [shipping] have global regulations”.

Arseno Dominguez, Secretary General, International Maritime Organization (IMO). Ship.energy podcast. 15 April 2024. Available from: https://audioboom.com/posts/8490803-arseno-dominguez-secretary-general-international-maritime-organization-imo This week’s ship.energy podcast features Arsenio Dominguez, who began his four-year term of office as the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at the start of 2024.

Share your decarbonisation results, urges IMO’s Dominguez. Craig Eason. TradeWinds. 17 April 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/share-your-decarbonisation-results-urges-imos-dominguez/2-1-1628187 Leading maritime companies should share their decarbonisation efforts with the International Maritime Organization, and the industry as a whole, while the industry should stop patting itself on the back about the agreement of the revised decarbonisation strategy last year, argues Arsenio Dominguez, IMO secretary general.

Eswatini shipping registry flagged as ‘false’ operation by IMO. Richard Meade. Lloyd’s List. 18 April 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1148912/Eswatini-shipping-registry-flagged-as-false-operation-by-IMO The nascent registry established to flag ships on behalf of the landlocked African state of Eswatini has been labelled a potentially fraudulent operation by the IMO.

Shipping industry on track to cut emissions: IMO chief. Lee Nian Tjoe. *Straits Times.* 20 April 2024. Available from: [https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/transport/shipping-industry-on-track-to-cut-emissions-imo-chief](https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/transport/shipping-industry-on-track-to-cut-emissions-imo-chief) The head of the IMO is “very confident” that the shipping industry is on track to finalise by next year how it will reach goals to reduce greenhouse emissions.


**LAW & POLICY**

ISA Council closes the first part of its 29th session with approval of MoU with FAO and further progress in negotiations on the draft exploitation regulations. *International Seabed Authority.* 2 April 2024. Available from: [https://tinyurl.com/393u8a3t](https://tinyurl.com/393u8a3t) On 29 March 2024, the Council of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) successfully concluded the first part of its 29th session, marking significant progress in the ongoing negotiations of the draft exploitation regulations for mineral resources in the international seabed area (the Area).


Grand Chamber rulings in the climate change cases. European Court of Human Rights. 9 April 2024. Available from: https://www.echr.coe.int/w/grand-chamber-rulings-in-the-climate-change-cases The case Verein KlimaSeniorinnen Schweiz and Others v. Switzerland concerned a complaint by four women and a Swiss association, Verein KlimaSeniorinnen Schweiz, whose members are concerned about the consequences of global warming on their living conditions and health.


Joint Declaration on cooperation to secure critical subsea infrastructure. Government of Norway. 9 April 2024. Available from: https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuell/joint-declaration-on-cooperation-to-secure-critical-subsea-infrastructure/id3033122/ Norway and five other North Sea countries have signed a joint declaration on cooperation to protect energy and telecommunications infrastructure in the North Sea.

Norway puts gender equality at sea on the international agenda. Government of Norway. 11 April 2024. Available from: https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuell/norway-puts-gender-equality-at-sea-on-the-international-agenda/id3033358/ Minister of Fisheries and Ocean Policy, Cecilie Myrseth, has i.a. held bilateral meetings with her counterparts in the United States and Canada where she has raised the need for continued research in the Atlantic Ocean and for fomenting gender equality at sea.


International Chamber of Shipping statement on the seizure of containership MSC Aries. International Chamber of Shipping (ICS). 13 April 2024. Available from: https://tinyurl.com/ypxh45uk The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) condemns utterly the seizure of the MSC Aries earlier today by Iranian forces.

Iran’s Revolutionary Guards hijacked a Zodiac Maritime-owned, Mediterranean Shipping Co-chartered boxship early on Saturday as it rounded the Strait of Hormuz.


**Cyprus to host first Commonwealth Ocean Ministers meeting.** *Cyprus Shipping News*. 15 April 2024. Available from: [https://cyprusshippingnews.com/2024/04/15/cyprus-host-first-commonwealth-ocean-ministers-meeting/](https://cyprusshippingnews.com/2024/04/15/cyprus-host-first-commonwealth-ocean-ministers-meeting/). The inaugural Commonwealth Ocean Ministers Meeting will be held on 19 April 2024 in Cyprus, under the theme ‘Our Resilient Common Ocean: from Cyprus to Samoa’.


EU announces €3.5 billion worth of commitments to protect the ocean and promote sustainability at Our Ocean Conference in Greece. European Commission. 16 April 2024. Available from: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_2049

Today, at the Our Ocean Conference in Greece, the European Union is confirming its strong engagement for international ocean governance by announcing 40 commitments for action for 2024.


Addressing a high-level meeting on tourism as part of the General Assembly’s first ever Sustainability Week, Dennis Francis said it was a vital driver of economic growth and empowerment.


Global growth, estimated at 3.2 percent in 2023, is projected to continue at the same pace in 2024 and 2025, said Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas’ IMF’s chief economist in a press briefing today, Tuesday April 16 in Washington, DC.

Steady but Slow: Resilience amid Divergence


A little over ten years after a boat carrying migrants from Libya to Italy sank off the coast of Lampedusa, claiming the lives of 368 migrants, another boat has capsized in the same waters, around 50 km off the coast.

The 2024 Ocean Decade Conference took stock and celebrated achievements three years after the start of the UN Ocean Decade.


At the ninth Our Ocean Conference (OOC) in Greece, the U.S. is turning ambition into action with the announcement of more than $508 million to protect our ocean by advancing marine protected areas, maritime security, the sustainable blue economy and sustainable fisheries, supporting ocean solutions to the climate crisis, and combating marine pollution.


Reinforcement of the forces operating in the Red Sea region as part of the European operation "Aspides" (Greek for "Shield") is going to be requested from Brussels by the head of the operation, Rear Admiral Vasilios Gryparis.

Legal hurdle criticized for slowing biofuel uptake at crucial stage. Mette Grube Condrup. ShippingWatch. 18 April 2024. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article17031997.ece

International legal requirements are blocking the roll-out of biofuels, just as strict requirements are being introduced for shipping companies to take responsibility in the green transition and reduce emissions from ships.

Key Recommendations to Stimulate a new Dynamism at the Interregional Coordination Centre. *Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).* 19 April 2024. Available from: [https://www.ecowas.int/key-recommendations-to-stimulate-a-new-dynamism-at-the-interregional-coordination-centre/](https://www.ecowas.int/key-recommendations-to-stimulate-a-new-dynamism-at-the-interregional-coordination-centre/) The meeting, which was preceded by a meeting of experts held on 16 and 17 April 2024, was an opportunity for participants to take stock of the ICC’s operations and examine the prospects for its revitalisation.


Malaysia arrests two ships and 44 seafarers for alleged illegal anchoring. Gary Dixon. TradeWinds. 23 April 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/malaysia-arrests-two-ships-and-44-seafarers-for-alleged-illegal-anchoring/2-1-1631418 Two ships with 44 crew members on board have been held in Malaysia over alleged illegal anchoring.


Here’s who is holding the UN plastics treaty hostage. National Observer (Canada). 24 April 2024. Available from: https://www.nationalobserver.com/2024/04/24/opinion/holding-un-plastics-treaty-hostage In the last decade, abating and preventing plastics pollution has become a major global concern across the full spectrum of our societies.

Peak COP? UN looks to shrink Baku and Belém climate summits. Alice Martins Morais, Matteo Civillini and Joe Lo. Climate Home News. 24 April 2024. Available from: https://www.climatechangenews.com/2024/04/24/peak-cop-un-looks-to-shrink-baku-and-belem-climate-summits UN climate chief Simon Stiell has said he hopes to see fewer people attend the annual COP climate negotiations after participants at COP28 in Dubai last December hit a record high of nearly 84,000.

Samoa, as Chair of AOSIS, flags special circumstances of SIDS at plastic treaty talks. Pacific SIDS calls for global solidarity in addressing the plastics crisis, asks for high ambition. Islands Business (Fiji). 25 April 2024. Available from: https://tinyurl.com/4fxdazab As officials and negotiators sift through the revised draft text of the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) has reiterated that the instrument must take into account the special circumstances of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).


Tensions rise over who will contribute to new climate finance goal. Matteo Civillini. Climate Home News. 25 April 2024. Available from: https://www.climatechangenews.com/2024/04/25/tensions-rise-over-who-will-contribute-to-new-climate-finance-goal/ As negotiations over a new global climate finance goal move into a higher gear, divisions are sharpening over who should be required to cough up the money needed to help vulnerable countries shift to clean energy and build resilience to climate change.


KAIPTC Promotes Newly Developed Code of Practice to Tackle the Critical Gender Gap In the Maritime Security Sector In West and Central Africa. Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC). 29 April 2024. Available from: https://tinyurl.com/35yzdeed Officials of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) have held bilateral meetings with key stakeholders in Cameroon to promote a newly developed Code of Practice aimed to tackle the critical gender gap in the maritime security sector in West and Central Africa.

‘Leaky’ Russia oil price cap being ‘breached left and right’, UK parliamentary inquiry told. Michelle Wiese Bockmann. Lloyd’s List. 29 April 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1149006/Leaky-Russia-oil-price-cap-being-breached-left-and-right-UK-parliamentary-inquiry-told The G7 oil price cap is "inevitably a leaky tool" that is "being breached left and right", the Royal United Services Institute told a UK parliamentary inquiry.


At plastics treaty talks in Canada, sharp disagreements on whether to limit plastic production. Jennifer McDermott. Associated Press. 30 April 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/plastic-pollution-treaty-negotiations-ottawa-united-nations-e291d64f4f55846973be4f78f33f0fd New Nations made progress on a treaty to end plastic pollution, finishing the latest round of negotiations in Canada early Tuesday amid sharp disagreements about whether to put global limits on plastic production.
Strong Support for Maritime Dialogue Meeting in Washington. Danish Shipping. 30 April 2024. Available from: https://danishshipping.dk/en/latest-news/2024/strong-support-for-maritime-dialogue-meeting-in-washington/  As part of the visit, the so-called US/CSG dialogue meeting is being held on Wednesday, which is a meeting between the American authorities and members of the Consultative Shipping Group (CSG) forum, which includes 18 significant maritime nations, including Denmark which holds the presidency.


MARINE TECHNOLOGY


First methanol bunkering with deepsea vessel *Ane Maersk* at Port of Antwerp-Bruges. Port of Antwerp-Bruges. 3 April 2024. Available from: https://newsroom.portofantwerpbruges.com/first-methanol-bunkering-with-deepsea-vessel-ane-maersk-at-port-of-antwerp-bruges The call at the Antwerp port is part of ‘*Ane Maersk*’s’ maiden voyage from South Korea to China, fuelled by green methanol.


Scrubbers: The Solution to Pollution is… Stop Using Dirty Fuel. Clean Arctic Alliance. Hellenic Shipping News. 8 April 2024. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/scrubbers-the-solution-to-pollution-is-stop-using-dirty-fuel/ A saying that was frequently used half a century ago, but since then scientific knowledge on toxicology has clearly shown that this solution does not work – pollutants can be persistent in the environment and bioaccumulate in the food chain.

Large shippers showing more interest in emission-reducing fuels. James Baker. Lloyd’s List. 9 April 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1148777/Large-shippers-showing-more-interest-in-emission-reducing-fuels Large-volume shippers are increasingly looking to burnish their green credentials with the use of carriers’ low-carbon services, but research indicates that smaller logistics operators still have a long way to go to match ambition with results.


Maersk employees innovate a system to deliver fresh water from Maersk’s vessels to ports. Maersk. 10 April 2024. Available from: https://www.maersk.com/news/articles/2024/04/10/maersk-employees-innovate-a-system-to-deliver-fresh-water-from-maersk-vessels-to-ports The pioneering project optimises an existing fresh water generation system onboard container vessels to further store and deliver it in tank containers to ports and regions facing scarcity of fresh water.

Danish Shipping recognizes ban on discharge of scrubber water. Danish Shipping. 11 April 2024. Available from: https://danishshipping.dk/en/latest-news/2024/danish-shipping-recognizes-ban-on-discharge-of-scrubber-water/ It will no longer be allowed for ships sailing through Danish waters to discharge the wash water from the smoke-cleaning systems that remove sulfur from the ships’ exhaust gases, known as scrubbers.

Green groups call on ship engine manufacturers to disclose true impact of fossil gas. Transport & Environment. 11 April 2024. Available from: https://www.transportenvironment.org/discover/green-groups-call-on-ship-engine-manufacturers-to-disclose-true-impact-of-fossil-gas/ More and more shipping companies and cruise liners are ordering vessels that run on LNG – a fuel that is being sold by engine manufacturers as cleaner than additional fuels.

Electricity, a way for shipping to clean up its act. International Electrotechnical Commission. 12 April 2024. Available from: https://www.iec.ch/blog/electricity-way-shipping-clean-its-act According to estimates published by the IMO, greenhouse gases (GHG) emitted by international shipping have accounted for 2.2% of carbon dioxide emissions in recent years.

Five northern European countries conclude international arrangements on transport and storage of carbon across borders. Government of the Netherlands. 15 April 2024. Available from: https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2024/04/15/five-northern-european-countries-conclude-international-arrangements-on-transport-and-storage-of-carbon-across-borders Carbon capture and storage is a tool that can capture some of the emissions that are very difficult to prevent – and capturing those emissions is necessary in order to reach European climate goals.


Reducing barriers to maritime fuel projects is key to decarbonizing shipping. Mette Asmussen and Takahiro Furusaki. World Economic Forum. 18 April 2024. Available from: https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/04/why-reducing-barriers-for-maritime-fuel-projects-is-key-to-progressing-on-decarbonization/ Today, more than 80% of the world’s traded goods travel by ship and maritime transport accounts for 2–3% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Why new proposals to restrict geoengineering are misguided. Daniele Visioni. MIT Technology Review. 23 April 2024. Available from: https://www.technologyreview.com/2024/04/23/1091604/why-new-proposals-to-restrict-geoengineering-are-misguided/ The public debate over whether we should consider intentionally altering the climate system is heating up, as the dangers of climate instability rise and more groups look to study technologies that could cool the planet.

In the Rush to Decarbonize, the Shipping Industry Is Exploring Alternative Fuels. Chris Baraniuk. Hakai Magazine. 24 April 2024. Available from: https://hakaimagazine.com/news/in-the-rush-to-decarbonize-the-shipping-industry-is-exploring-alternative-fuels/ For decades, the world’s commercial ships have depended on a fossil fuel so sticky and thick that it needs to be heated to around 150 °C just to get it to flow through a vessel’s inners.


Shell takes lead in use of LNG, electric vessels as it navigates to shipping’s net-zero goal. Kang Wan Chern. Straits Times. 24 April 2024. Available from: https://www.straitstimes.com/business/shell-takes-lead-in-use-of-lng-electric-vessels-as-it-navigates-to-shipping-s-net-zero-goal The carbon reduction goal is set, and the mandate is simple: By 2050, the overall amount of greenhouse gasses (GHG) released into the atmosphere by shipping should be equal, or close to, the amount offset or removed.

**MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING**


**Liberia: LiMA Holds Pre-joining Familiarization Seminar for Cadets at LMTI.** *Front Page Africa (Liberia).* 15 April 2024. Available from: [https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/liberia-lima-holds-pre-joining-familiarization-seminar-for-cadets-at-lmti](https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/liberia-lima-holds-pre-joining-familiarization-seminar-for-cadets-at-lmti). The Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), through its Department of Manning, held a two-day pre-joining familiarization seminar for cadets at the Liberia Maritime Training Institute (LMTI) in collaboration with the school’s teaching staff from April 9-10, 2024.


**Our Ocean Conference: Seychelles to pilot integration of ocean science in school curriculum.** Betymie Bonnelame. *Seychelles News Agency.* 17 April 2024. Available from: [http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/20423/Our+Ocean+Conference+Seychelles+to+pilot+integration+of+ocean+science+in+school+curriculum](http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/20423/Our+Ocean+Conference+Seychelles+to+pilot+integration+of+ocean+science+in+school+curriculum). Seychelles will pilot a project this year that integrates ocean science in its school curriculum, said President Wavel Ramkalawan on Tuesday at the heads of state high level segment in the 9th Our Ocean Conference in Athens, Greece.
BSM launches Smart Academy programme innovating maritime education. Bernhard Schulte Shipmanagement. 18 April 2024. Available from: https://tinyurl.com/mwk3wh8h The shortage of skilled labour in the maritime sector, in particular at sea, poses a significant challenge for the industry.

New scholarship will tackle gender imbalance in shipping. City, University of London. Bayes Business School. 21 April 2024. Available from: https://tinyurl.com/3m9ihs32 A major containership owner, Global Ship Lease, is offering women the chance to secure a scholarship to a respected Bayes’ MSc course to help address the industry’s significant gender gap.


Comment: Ships’ crews hold keys to decarbonisation. Harriet Hunnisett-Johnson. The Engineer. 24 April 2024. Available from: https://www.theengineer.co.uk/content/opinion/comment-ships-crews-hold-keys-to-decarbonisation The shipping industry is responsible for a significant proportion of all global emissions caused by human activity - in 2018 this stood at around 3% with CO2 emissions projected to at least double by 2050 without industry-wide decarbonisation initiatives.


Antigua Cruise Port staff completes security training at IMO workshop. Alexandra Bhola. Virgin Islands Daily News. 25 April 2024. Available from: https://www.virginislandsdailynews.com/business/antigua-cruise-port-staff-completes-security-training-at-imo-workshop/article_07e4a6d3-aad1-5933-9d4b-7a2321c527d6.html Ever wondered how each of the thousands of luggage dropped off at the start of a cruise get to the designated owner’s room with everything intact and minus contraband?
MARITIME SAFETY


The tragic collapse of Baltimore’s Francis Scott Key Bridge in the US after it was hit by a container ship, the Dalí, has made headlines around the world. In this Q&A, Allianz Commercial Global Head of Marine Risk Consulting, Captain Rahul Khanna, who sailed on oil tankers and bulk carriers for 14 years, explains that while such incidents are thankfully rare, the fact that ships are getting bigger can make a number of different events more complicated when they do occur.

IUMI: Ships should be equipped with firefighting technology at the structural level. Safety4Sea. 11 April 2024. Available from: https://safety4sea.com/cm-iumi-ships-should-be-equipped-with-firefighting-technology-at-the-structural-level/ In an exclusive interview to SAFETY4SEA, IUMI’s experts Capt. Uwe Peter Schieder and Sebastian Kempka share their concerns about fires onboard vessels, which remain one of the biggest safety challenges.

Beware: Increase in cases of broken mooring lines. Valentin Klivnoy. Gard. 11 April 2024. Available from: https://www.gard.no/articles/beware-increase-in-cases-of-broken-mooring-lines/ Most incidents involve cruise vessels but also other large vessels are at particular risk.


UK Warns of Increased Drone Activity in Middle East Waters as Israel Strikes Iran. Ship & Bunker. 19 April 2024. Available from: https://shipandbunker.com/news/world/805703-uk-warns-of-increased-drone-activity-in-middle-east-waters-as-israel-strikes-iran The UK has warned the shipping industry to be on the lookout for increased drone activity over Middle East waters as Israel attacks Iran.


MARITIME SECURITY

Houthis Back to Attacking Ships After Brief Pause. Charlotte Goldstone. gCaptain. 8 April 2024. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/houthis-back-to-attacking-ships-after-brief-pause/ The past week has seen an increase in attacks on shipping in the Red Sea, and a Houthi spokesperson has sparked fears of the ‘danger area’ expanding into the Arabian Sea.

Kenya Coast Guard Services on high alert as piracy on the rise. Kevin Mutai and Wachira Mwangi. Business Daily (Kenya). 8 April 2024. Available from: https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/bd/economy/kenya-coast-guard-services-on-high-alert-as-piracy-on-the-rise--4583640 The Kenya Coast Guard Services (KCGS) has raised concerns over the re-emergence of piracy that is causing a threat to the country’s maritime industry.


New maritime security firms emerge on the back of ‘worrying’ return of Somali pirates. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 11 April 2024. Available from: https://splash247.com/new-maritime-security-firms-emerge-on-the-back-of-worrying-return-of-somali-pirates/ A total of 33 incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships were recorded around the world in the first three months of 2024, an increase from 27 incidents for the same period in 2023, according to the International Maritime Bureau, part of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), including two hijackings by Somali pirates.


Shipping warned of increasing risks as governments struggle to contain multiplied threats. Nigel Lowry. Lloyd’s List. 15 April 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1148817/Shipping-warmed-of-increasing-risks-as-governments-struggle-to-contain-multiplied-threats Marine insurance and governments alike are struggling to deal with the sudden deterioration in the geopolitical situation that is putting merchant ships at greater risk than for a generation, according to leading insurance specialists and analysts.


MIGRANTS

UN says 38 dead, including children, as migrant boat sinks off Djibouti. Al Jazeera. 9 April 2024. Available from: https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/4/9/un-says-38-dead-including-children-as-migrant-boat-sinks-off-djibouti At least 38 migrants and refugees, including children, have died after their boat sank off the coast of Djibouti, the United Nations migration agency has said, after their bodies were recovered.


More deaths in the English Channel underscore risks for migrants despite UK efforts to stem the tide. Danica Kirka and Barbara Surk. Associated Press. 23 April 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/britain-rwanda-migration-refugee-law-1218d54d8f3fd6a37d4367d625ad At least 58 people going to a funeral died after their overloaded river boat capsized in the Central African Republic's capital Bangui, the head of civil protection said on Saturday.

UN migration agency assists survivors of deadly shipwreck off Djibouti. UN News. 24 April 2024. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/04/1148941 The migrants were on a boat carrying at least 77 people from Ras al-Ara off Yemen’s coast which capsized off the coast of Djibouti, near Obock, leaving 24 dead and 20 others missing.
NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS


War zone GPS jamming sees more ships show up at airports. Bridget Diakun. Lloyd’s List. 5 April 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1148748/War-zone-GPS-jamming-sees-more-ships-show-up-at-airports Incidents of GPS jamming have surged in the Mediterranean and Black Seas, in which ships’ navigation is manipulated or interfered with near conflict zones.


‘Russia doesn’t care’: Sweden sounds alarm over unsafe oil fleet. Patrick Wintour. The Guardian. 18 April 2024. Available from: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/apr/18/swedish-foreign-minister-tobias-billstrom-unsafe-russian-oil-fleet-baltic-sea-environmental-catastrophe Russia appears prepared to create “environmental havoc” by sailing unseaworthy oil tankers through the Baltic Sea in breach of all maritime rules, the Swedish foreign minister has said.


Danish PM exploring options to stop shadow fleet following accident. Peter Thomsen and Mette Grube Condrup. ShippingWatch. 18 April 2024. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article17031222.ece The Danish government is now actively exploring options on how to reject ships connected to the Russian shadow fleet.


UPDATE 14 Multimedia Release: Unified Command opens third temporary alternate channel. Unified Command Key Bridge Response 2024. 19 April 2024. Available from: https://www.keybridgeresponse2024.com/post/update-14-multimedia-release-unified-command-opens-third-temporary-alternate-channel The Captain of the Port established the Fort Carroll Temporary Alternate Channel, which is on the northeast side of the main channel in the vicinity of the Francis Scott Key Bridge and will provide limited access for commercially essential vessels.

Danish Ferry Forced to Maneuver to Avoid Russian Warship. Maritime Executive. 19 April 2024. Available from: https://maritime-executive.com/article/danish-ferry-forced-to-maneuver-to-avoid-russian-warship Danish media is widely reporting an incident this morning that involved a high-speed passenger ferry that was forced to maneuver when a Russian warship failed to yield or acknowledge the ferry which was underway at full speed.

Hot take on wifi cold spots. Steven Jones. Splash247.com. 22 April 2024. Available from: https://splash247.com/hot-take-on-wifi-cold-spots/ ‘Is it ignorance, arrogance, a lack of empathy, perhaps all combined with a psychotically approach to profit maximisation?’ Steven Jones, founder of the Seafarers Happiness Index, reacts to news that as much as 13% of the global merchant fleet still gives crew no access to the internet.


Baltic gas pipeline ruptured by Chinese ship back in service after €40m repair job. Yle (Finland). 22 April 2024. Available from: https://yle.fi/a/74-20084948 The gas pipeline between Inkoo, Finland and Paldiski, Estonia, was severed last October.

When will human hydrographic activities be substituted by artificial intelligence? Mathias Jonas. Hydro International. 23 April 2024. Available from: https://tinyurl.com/2fy4ss6y If you read primarily non-technically orientated media, you get the impression that this technology can provide answers to almost all questions, especially those that humanity has never asked before.


Attacks on Red Sea shipping forces 66% decline in Suez Canal traffic - ONS. James Sillars. Sky News. 24 April 2024. Available from: https://news.sky.com/story/attacks-on-red-sea-shipping-forces-66-decline-in-suez-canal-traffic-ons-13122044 Shipping traffic through the vital Suez Canal artery in Egypt has plunged by 66% since cargo was forced to divert due to attacks on vessels, according to official figures.

Ship comes under attack off coast of Yemen as Houthi rebel campaign appears to gain new speed. John Gambrell. Associated Press. 25 April 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/yemen-houthi-rebels-attack-shipping-israel-hamas-war-80d6fac495801682a0e74550b6240599 A ship traveling in the Gulf of Aden came under attack Thursday, officials said, the latest assault likely carried out by Yemen’s Houthi rebels over Israel’s ongoing war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

UPDATE 15: Unified Command opens limited access deep draft channel. Unified Command Key Bridge Response. 2024. 25 April 2024. Available from: https://www.keybridgeresponse2024.com/post/update-15-unified-command-opens-limited-access-deep-draft-channel The Captain of the Port established a fourth channel, the Fort McHenry Limited Access Channel, which will run the length of the northeast side of the federal channel, and provide additional access to commercially essential traffic.

First ships pass through temporary channel past Key bridge wreckage in Baltimore. Associated Press. 25 April 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/video/baltimore-key-bridge-collapse-bridge-collapses-baltimore-ed0ad90b24af4d1582dc901ae2b57337 A new deep-water channel is allowing ships to pass the Francis Scott Key Bridge wreckage in Baltimore.


**PIRACY**


**German shipowners warn of growth in pirate attacks on ships.** Jens Thomsen. *ShippingWatch*. 11 April 2024. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article17008998.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article17008998.ece) According to a report from the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the number of pirate attacks on ships increased by around a fifth in the first quarter of 2024 compared to the same period last year.

Successful negotiation secured release of *MV Abdullah* sailors, not ransom: State minister. *Business Standard (Bangladesh).* 14 April 2024. Available from: https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/successful-negotiation-secured-release-mv-abdullah-sailors-not-ransom-state-minister The 23 sailors of the *MV Abdullah* ship were released today as a result of a month-long concerted effort by the government and the international community, State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury said, denying any claims of ransom payment.


Is the decline in global piracy over? *Gard.* 16 April 2024. Available from: https://www.gard.no/articles/is-the-decline-in-global-piracy-over While the Gulf of Guinea waters and the Singapore Strait stand out as long-term piracy hotspots, the return of Somali pirates in the Western Indian Ocean raises concerns, as does the increasing use of violence against vessels’ crew.


**PORT STATE CONTROL**

South Korea Detains Stateless Cargo Ship to Investigate Sanctions Breaches. *Maritime Executive.* 3 April 2024. Available from: https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/south-korea-detains-stateless-cargo-ship-investigating-sanctions-violations South Korea’s Foreign Ministry confirmed media reports that it took the unusual step of detaining a cargo ship that was underway near the port of Yeosu, transiting the waters between Korea and Japan.


Cruise ship carrying 1,500 passengers stuck in Spain port due to Bolivian passengers’ visa problems. *Associated Press.* 4 April 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/spain-cruise-ship-bolivians-visas-197d178f424ca2ceaf82f5d5d66d4da A cruise ship reportedly carrying 1,500 passengers was stuck Wednesday in the Spanish northeastern port of Barcelona due to the visa problems of a group of Bolivian passengers who were due to disembark there, officials said.


No pollution or leakage from Liberian natural gas tanker at Gulf of Aqaba: Ministry. 
Ahram Online (Egypt). 15 April 2024. Available from: https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/1235/521892/Egypt/Urban--Transport/No-pollution-or-leakage-from-Liberian-natural-gas-.aspx The ship – which ran aground on the reefs on its way to Russia after unloading its cargo at the Jordanian Aqaba Port – is still impounded under the relevant authorities, the ministry added.

**PORTS & HARBOURS**

Update 6 Multimedia Release: Unified Command opens second temporary alternate channel around Key Bridge wreckage for commercially essential vessels. Unified Command Key Bridge Response 2024. 2 April 2024. Available from: https://www.keybridgeresponse2024.com/post/update-6-multimedia-release-unified-command-opens-second-temporary-alternate-channel-around-key-bri The Captain of the Port established a second temporary alternate channel on the southwest side of the main channel near Hawkins Point in the vicinity of the Francis Scott Key Bridge for commercially essential vessels.


Maritime terminal prepares for influx of redirected ships as Baltimore bridge cleanup continues. Lea Skene. Associated Press. 4 April 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/baltimore-bridge-collapse-04-03-2024-2c0273f1e6ef2340a17b4cd25469a780 The only maritime shipping terminal currently operating in the Port of Baltimore is preparing to process an influx of ships as crews continue clearing the mangled wreckage of the collapsed Francis Scott Key Bridge.

Dredging of Puerto Rico’s biggest port begins despite warnings it may harm turtles and corals. Ánica Coto. Associated Press. 4 April 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/puerto-rico-san-juan-bay-dredging-environment-0a6a0c0cd0e197c0fb32593e0ca567e1 A $62 million project to dredge Puerto Rico’s biggest and most important seaport began Wednesday amid fierce opposition from environmentalists and a pending lawsuit.


Cars are piling up at European ports at an alarming rate. Andy Kalmowitz. Quartz. 9 April 2024. Available from: https://qz.com/cars-european-ports-slow-sales-bottlenecks-1851397116 Imported vehicles are seriously piling up at European ports, turning them into “car parks.”

Clearing the Waters: Dispelling Myths About Panama Canal Operations. Panama Canal Authority. 9 April 2024. Available from: https://pancanal.com/en/clearing-the-waters-dispelling-myths-about-panama-canal-operations/ Now nearing the end of the dry season, the Panama Canal is adapting to the climate conditions.


**Business Daily: Corruption at port.** *BBC World Service.* 18 April 2024. Available from: [https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3ct5zbq](https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3ct5zbq) What do seafarers have to go through to get our goods to us across the oceans?


**European bridges secure against ship collisions, port authorities say.** *EurActiv.* 30 April 2024. Available from: [https://www.euractiv.com/section/maritime/news/european-bridges-secure-against-ship-collisions-port-authorities-say/](https://www.euractiv.com/section/maritime/news/european-bridges-secure-against-ship-collisions-port-authorities-say/) European bridges over maritime harbours are not likely to collapse if they are hit by seagoing vessels, according to several large European port authorities who Euractiv contacted following the March collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in the US city of Baltimore.
REGULATIONS


Uncertainty over 2025 target for single window implementation. Guardian (Nigeria). 10 April 2024. Available from: https://guardian.ng/business-services/maritime/uncertainty-over-2025-target-for-single-window-implementation/ With about eight months to go until the IMO 2025 deadline, stakeholders are expressing frustration and uncertainty about Nigeria’s ability to implement the National Single Window.

Navigating the waves of maritime safety regulations in the Norwegian Arctic. Barents Observer (Norway). 15 April 2024. Available from: https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/node/12740 As the Arctic Ocean’s ice cover recedes, we see increased shipping amid hazardous weather and sea-ice conditions.

UK Chamber of Shipping: A clear CII framework can drive industry to adopt effective energy efficiency measures. Francesco Sandrelli. Safety4Sea. 16 April 2024. Available from: https://safety4sea.com/cm-uk-chamber-of-shipping-a-clear-cii-framework-can-drive-industry-to-adopt-effective-energy-efficiency-measures/ Francesco Sandrelli, Policy Director – Environment at the UK Chamber of Shipping, emphasizes that while the maritime industry has made strides in decarbonization, there’s more to be done.


SAVAGE

Update 11: Removal of containers onboard M/V Dali commences at site of Key Bridge incident. Unified Command Key Bridge Response 2024. 7 April 2024. Available from: https://www.keybridgeresponse2024.com/post/update-11-multimedia-release-removal-of-containers-onboard-m-v-dali-commences-at-site-of-key-bridge. Salvers removed containers from the M/V Dali as part of the effort to gain access to the portion of the Key Bridge that lies atop the ship.

Owner of ship in Baltimore bridge collapse asks cargo owners to help cover salvage costs. Associated Press. 17 April 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/baltimore-bridge-collapse-dali-cost-share-27169d8710ec1240f018d9e655b36e0e. The owner of the massive container ship Dali, which caused the deadly collapse of Baltimore’s Francis Scott Key Bridge last month, has initiated a process requiring owners of the cargo on board to cover some of the salvage costs.


One month to remove wreck. Trinidad Express. 26 April 2024. Available from: https://trinidadexpress.com/news/local/one-month-to-remove-wreck/article_6d66da5a-0376-11ef-a732-2b7dbf34f6bd.html. The Ministry of Works and Transport is urging the owners of the vessel responsible for spilling more than 50,000 barrels of hydrocarbons along Tobago’s coastline to remove the wrecked craft within one month or else it will be disposed of in accordance with the law.

UPDATE 16 Multimedia Release: Unified Command reflects on month’s progress during joint recovery and salvage operations. Unified Command Key Bridge Response 2024. 26 April 2024. Available from: https://www.keybridgeresponse2024.com/post/update-16-multimedia-release-unified-command-reflects-on-month-s-progress-during-joint-recovery-and. One month has passed since the Singaporean-flagged container vessel M/V DALI collided with the Francis Scott Key Bridge, which connects Hawkins Point and Dundalk, Maryland, resulting in the bridge’s collapse into the lower Patapsco River.

SEAFARERS

“I was just with those guys yesterday”: Seafarer ministry helping crew stuck on Dali. Elizabeth Worthington. WMAR Baltimore (US). 1 April 2024. Available from: https://www.wmar2news.com/homepage-showcase/i-was-just-with-those-guys-yesterday-seafarer-ministry-helping-crew-stuck-on-dali. In the days leading up to their departure from the Port of Baltimore, the crew of the ill-fated Dali did what many crews do before a lengthy voyage.

Seafarers’ lives have been at risk from ever-increasing violent attacks. Morkporkpor Anku and Vera Amvedzi. Ghana News Agency. 4 April 2024. Available from: https://gna.org.gh/2024/04/seafarers-lives-have-been-at-risk-from-ever-increasing-violent-attacks/. Dr Jethro W. Brooks Jr., the Acting Vice-Chancellor of the Regional Maritime University (RMU), says Seafarers’ lives have been at risk from ever-increasing violent attacks as pirates and criminals continue to operate with increased impunity.

RMT called for mandatory employment protections for all seafarers today, following the government’s decision to invest in zero emission shipping routes to and from the UK.


NPR’s Ayesha Rascoe talks with Andrew Middleton of Apostleship of the Sea about efforts to support crew members still aboard the ship that destroyed Baltimore’s Francis Scott Key Bridge.


As the maritime industry undergoes major changes, mainly due to decarbonization and digitalization, crews must adapt to new and different ways of doing things.


State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury has said the government’s goal is to bring back the 23 abducted sailors of *MV Abdullah* captive by Somali pirates safely and bring them back to their families.


The sailors of *MV Abdullah* are doing fine, and are in regular contact with their families through video calls, Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud said today (10 April).


The Sustainable Shipping Initiative today announces The Mission to Seafarers as its newest member, further highlighting the importance of seafarers and seafarers’ rights and welfare in building a sustainable maritime industry.


External affairs minister Dr. S Jaishankar on Sunday said that he spoke to his Iranian counterpart amid escalating violence in the Middle East after Iran launched an extensive assault with hundreds of drones, ballistic missiles, and cruise missiles.


The 23 crew members of *MV Abdullah*, who were captured by Somali pirates in the Indian Ocean, have been released after a month.
DMW: 4 Filipino seafarers on board Israel-linked ship seized by Iran. Philippine News Agency. 15 April 2024. Available from: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1222589 The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) on Sunday confirmed that four Filipino seafarers are on board the container ship MSC Aries that was seized by Iranian authorities while traversing the Strait of Hormuz, near the Gulf of Oman.


‘They felt they could die at any time’: Families’ relief as Somali pirates free hostages. Ramola Talwar Badam. The National (UAE). 17 April 2024. Available from: https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/mena/2024/04/17/they-felt-they-could-die-at-any-time-families-relief-as-somali-pirates-free-hostages/ Relatives of 23 hostages on a cargo ship seized by armed Somali pirates have expressed relief and happiness that the men were released after more than a month in captivity.

Crew of ship seized by Iran are safe, operator MSC says. Jonathan Saul. Reuters. 17 April 2024. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/crew-ship-seized-by-iran-are-safe-operator-msc-says-2024-04-17/ The 25 crew members of the MSC Aries, which was seized by Iran on April 13 are safe, shipping firm MSC said on Wednesday, adding that discussions with Iranian authorities are in progress to secure their earliest release.


The growing number of abandoned vessels. Iain MacIntyre. Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST). 18 April 2024. Available from: https://www.imarest.org/resource/mp-the-growing-number-of-abandoned-vessels.html Compared to 2022, the ITF recently noted an 11% increase to 132 abandonments in 2023, with owed wages among the 129 cases reported specifically amounting to US$12.1 million.

New report finds ‘alarming’ amount of global merchant fleet still has no internet access.
Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 19 April 2024. Available from: https://splash247.com/new-report-finds-alarming-amount-of-global-merchant-fleet-still-has-no-internet-access/ Idwal, a British ship inspection company, has just launched a social impact report, which draws on data from more than 13,000 vessel inspections over a 17-month period through to September last year, providing unprecedented transparency into the real-world working and living conditions experienced by seafarers across the global maritime fleet.


P&O tells crew it will comply with French law and reduce their hours. Joel Hills. ITV News (UK). 22 April 2024. Available from: https://www.itv.com/news/2024-04-22/p-and-o-tells-crew-it-will-comply-with-french-law-and-reduce-their-hours P&O Ferries will no longer require its crew to work for up to four months without a day off - a practice which has been criticised as “immoral” and “dangerous”.

MV Abdullah hijack: Sailor recounts harrowing ordeal of being hostage. Nasir Uddin Rocky. Dhaka Tribune (Bangladesh). 22 April 2024. Available from: https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/344637/mv-abdullah hijack:sailor-recounts-harrowing “I never thought that I would survive the pirates. I thought this was the end for me.” This is what went through the mind of Mohammad Noor Uddin, a sailor (general steward) of MV Abdullah, who was released after being held hostage by Somali pirates for 31 days.

PH, Qatar sign MOU on mutual recognition of seafarers’ certificate. PortCalls Asia. 23 April 2024. Available from: https://www.portcalls.com/ph-qatar-sign-mou-on-mutual-recognition-of-seafarers-certificate/ The Philippines and Qatar signed a memorandum of understanding on the mutual recognition of seafarers’ certificates, among nine agreements signed on April 22 during the two-day official state visit of Qatar emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in Manila.

Recruitment fraud traps seafarers in ‘disturbing situation’. Declan Bush. Lloyd’s List. 23 April 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1148942/Recruitment-fraud-traps-seafarers-in-disturbing-situation The IMO has been urged to do more to crack down on fraudulent seafarer recruitment with schemes likened to “human trafficking”.

DMW bars Filipino seafarers from ships passing Red Sea, Gulf of Aden. Philippine News Agency (PNA). 24 April 2024. Available from: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1223374 The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) on Wednesday issued an order that prohibits the deployment of Filipino seafarers on cruise and passenger ships that sail through the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.


Maritime Chaplains Minister to Crew After Baltimore Bridge Collision. Mark Nestlehutt. Maritime Executive. 28 April 2024. Available from: https://maritime-executive.com/editorials/maritime-chaplains-minister-to-crew-after-baltimore-bridge-collision SCI was the first seafarer welfare organization to meet with the crew and to offer crisis support through one-on-one and small group meetings with the Indian and Sri Lankan seafarers.

Abandoned seafarers: an unacceptable face of the shipping industry. David Hughes. Business Times (Singapore). 30 April 2024. Available from: https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/opinion-features/abandoned-seafarers-unacceptable-face-shipping-industry Other than losing their life at sea or being severely injured, one of the worst things that can happen to a seafarer is being “abandoned”.

SEARCH & RESCUE


Cargo ship capsized: 11 sailors rescued, master remains missing. Dhaka Tribune (Bangladesh). 25 April 2024. Available from: https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/344893/cargo-ship-capsizes-in-in-bay-of-bengal-12 A cargo ship named "MV Mou Moni" capsized in the Bay of Bengal near Hatiya, Noakhali district, on Thursday, leaving one sailor missing while 11 others have been rescued.


SHIP RECYCLING


Digitalization looks to streamline compliance with Hong Kong Convention. Michael Grinter. Hong Kong Maritime Hub. 11 April 2024. Available from: http://www.hongkongmaritimehub.com/digitalization-looks-to-streamline-compliance-with-hong-kong-convention/ With the Hong Kong Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships due to come into force in just over a year, ship owners are looking to ensure their vessels meet all the required conditions of the regulation for recycling purposes.

Ambassador accused of encouraging carriers to break the law. Idha Toft Valeur. ShippingWatch. 22 April 2024. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article17040213.ece Environmental NGO Bellona along with other Norwegian organizations react strongly to the Norwegian ambassador in Bangladesh encouraging Norwegian shipowners to send their ships for scrapping in the country.

SENSREC project paves way for executing Hong Kong Int’s Convention. Bangladesh Post. 24 April 2024. Available from: https://bangladeshpost.net/posts/sensrec-project-paves-way-for-executing-hong-kong-int-s-convention-136135 Senior Secretary of the Industries Ministry Zakia Sultana on Wednesday said Safe and Environmentally Sound Ship Recycling in Bangladesh (SENSREC) project is playing a role in paving the way for executing 2009, the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships (HKC) by June 26, 2025.

**SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR**

The Lloyd’s List Podcast: Is it possible to order a future-proofed ship today? *Lloyd’s List.* 3 April 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydsslist.com/LL1148719/The-Lloyd’s-List-Podcast-Is-it-possible-to-order-a-future-proofed-ship-today 😊 On balance, that could be a good thing in that it forces the hand of an industry that has been too cheap for too long and the direction of regulatory travel now at least favours the progressives over the laggards.


Wind-assisted vessels could make commercial shipping climate-friendly. Malcolm Brabant and Trine Vilmann. *PBS NewsHour (US).* 11 April 2024. Available from: https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/wind-assisted-vessels-could-make-commercial-shipping-climate-friendly 🌿 Following the successful operation of two giant wind-assisted vessels, a British company predicts that by 2026, half of all new ships will have high-tech sails.


£8 million funding boost for AI to make boats smarter. *UK Government.* 22 April 2024. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/8-million-funding-boost-for-ai-to-make-boats-smarter Maritime Minister Lord Davies is in Southampton today (22 April 2024) to announce an £8 million funding boost to put the UK at the forefront of cutting-edge maritime technology.


IHI subsidiary’s plants inspected over doctored ship engine data. *Asahi Shimbun (Japan).* 25 April 2024. Available from: https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/15245561 The transport ministry is conducting on-site inspections of two plants of an IHI Corp. subsidiary that have falsified fuel economy data for ship and railway engines for at least 20 years.

Japan set for world's first transport of liquefied CO2. Hellenic Shipping News. 30 April 2024. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/japan-set-for-worlds-first-transport-of-liquefied-co2/ Within six months, Japan is set to start what will be the world’s first transport of carbon dioxide on a low-temperature and low-pressure liquefied CO2 carrier over 1,000 km in a series of trial voyages, which are expected to play a key role in the country achieving its carbon neutrality goal.

SHIPPING

Wallenius Wilhelmsen reveals financial impact of bridge collapse. Idha Toft Valeur. ShippingWatch. 3 April 2024. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article16984255.ece Oslo-based car carrier Wallenius Wilhelmsen estimates that the aggregated provisional total financial impact of the Baltimore accident where a container ship crashed into the Francis Scott Key Bridge causing it to collapse will be between USD 5-10m.

Red Sea conflict continues to weigh on logistics sector. The Star (Malaysia). 3 April 2024. Available from: https://www.thestar.com.my/business/business-news/2024/04/03/red-sea-conflict-continues-to-weigh-on-logistics-sector Roughly a third of global container volume comes from the Asia-Europe route, but the prolonged conflict in the Middle East, with no immediate sign of the Red Sea tensions de-escalating, is weighing down on the Asia-Europe trade, the research house said.

Beyond the Box Episode 10: Are we there yet? The road to net zero. Maersk. 3 April 2024. Available from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EIkdDzrahlA&ab_channel=Maersk Join us as experts Pernille Dahlgaard, Gareth Prowse, and Øistein Jensen explore the journey towards achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions in the maritime industry by 2050.


Shipping needs a ‘global standard’ to measure life-cycle emissions. Ian Lewis. TradeWinds. 4 April 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/sustainability/shipping-needs-a-global-standard-to-measure-life-cycle-emissions/2-1-1621233 Shipping needs to create a global standard for vessel life-cycle assessments (LCAs) to ensure unbiased results, a leading ship designer warns.

National WISTA Association to create opportunities for women in maritime industry. The Gleaner (Jamaica). 4 April 2024. Available from: https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20240404/national-wista-association-create-opportunities-women-maritime-industry The Women's International Shipping and Trading Association (WISTA) Jamaica is looking to make significant strides in fostering inclusivity for women, through the launch of the National WISTA Association, which is geared at creating greater opportunities for women in the maritime sector.
Interferry urges governments to use carbon tax revenues to invest in OPS. Interferry. 4 April 2024. Available from: https://interferry.com/2024/04/04/interferry-urges-governments-to-use-carbon-tax-revenues-to-invest-in-ops/ Interferry, the shipping association representing the ferry industry worldwide, is calling on governments and electricity utilities to prioritise investment in Onshore Power Supply (OPS) development to help the ferry sector maintain its lead in maritime electrification and hybridisation.


Rear Admiral Brady retires from MAJ. The Gleaner (Jamaica). 9 April 2024. Available from: https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/shipping/20240409/rear-admiral-brady-retires-maj Rear Admiral (Ret’d) Peter Brady has retired from the Maritime Authority of Jamaica (MAJ), having served as its director general since its inception in 1999.

ICS: ESG performance is a key differentiator in the maritime market. Georgia Spencer-Rowland. Safety4Sea. 9 April 2024. Available from: https://safety4sea.com/cm-ics-esg-performance-is-a-key-differentiator-in-the-maritime-market In an exclusive interview to SAFETY4SEA, Georgia Spencer-Rowland, Shipping Policy Manager, ICS, notes that the maritime industry is heading in the right direction in addressing ESG requirements, putting an emphasis on the three dimensions.

New approach could block shadow tankers carrying Russian oil. Peter Thomsen and Mette Grube Condrup. ShippingWatch. 10 April 2024. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article17005305.ece Experts believe that environmental safety considerations may allow the authorities to ban the Russian shadow fleet from operating in Danish waters.

Shipping Giant MSC Vows to Fight ‘Excessive’ Fine Sought by US Agency. Brendan Murray. Bloomberg. 10 April 2024. Available from: https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/shipping-giant-msc-vows-to-fight-excessive-fine-sought-by-us-agency-1.2057438 The world’s largest container carrier will push back against a proposed US government fine that would rank among the stiffest penalties handed down by the diminutive Washington regulator where the fight is playing out.

WTO forecasts rebound in global trade but warns of downside risks. World Trade Organization (WTO). 10 April 2024. Available from: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news24_e/fores_10apr24_e.htm Global goods trade is expected to pick up gradually this year following a contraction in 2023 that was driven by the lingering effects of high energy prices and inflation, WTO economists said in a new forecast on 10 April. Six factors limiting the trade impact of the Red Sea shipping attacks. 45


Impact of Digitalization in Driving Decarbonization in Shipping. *GSBN*. 10 April 2024. Available from: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wgXtLeDLbJdwzIblnTOz6c4Sj1FFGQ/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wgXtLeDLbJdwzIblnTOz6c4Sj1FFGQ/view) The transportation sector plays a significant role in global greenhouse gas emissions (“GHG emissions”).

Shippers in Baltimore Disaster Face ‘General Average,’ MSC Says. Brendan Murray. *Bloomberg*. 13 April 2024. Available from: [https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/shippers-in-baltimore-disaster-face-general-average-msc-says-1.2058694](https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/shippers-in-baltimore-disaster-face-general-average-msc-says-1.2058694) The owner of the ship that destroyed Baltimore’s Francis Scott Key Bridge has started a formal process in which companies that own goods on the stricken *Dali* will have to share some of the financial losses, according to the world’s leading container carrier.


Container shipping costs of Korea-EU route surge 40% amid Red Sea crisis. *Korea Times (South Korea)*. 15 April 2024. Available from: [https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2024/04/602_372700.html](https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2024/04/602_372700.html) The average shipping cost for a 40-foot container for the Korea-European Union route came to 4.25 million won ($3,071) last month, up 39 percent from a year earlier, according to the data from the Korea Customs Service.
Is the green transition on the right path? Maersk says yes. Marco Fiori disagrees. Tomas Kristiansen. *ShippingWatch*. 16 April 2024. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article17021024.eco](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article17021024.eco) The shipping industry has taken major leaps forward over the last couple of years in terms of recognizing the need to decarbonize in order to do its bit for the Paris Agreement.


Researchers can help shipowners achieve ambitious climate targets. Sølvi Normannsen. *Norwegian SciTech News*. 16 April 2024. Available from: [https://norwegianscitechnews.com/2024/04/researchers-can-help-shipowners-achieve-ambitious-climate-targets/](https://norwegianscitechnews.com/2024/04/researchers-can-help-shipowners-achieve-ambitious-climate-targets/) Shipowners around the world are in a very difficult position, because they are having to order new ships now that will run on fuel and technologies that are not yet fully developed.


The next four years will seem like yesterday. Craig Jallal. *Rivera Maritime*. 17 April 2024. Available from: [https://www.rivieramm.com/opinion/the-next-four-years-will-seem-like-yesterday-80350](https://www.rivieramm.com/opinion/the-next-four-years-will-seem-like-yesterday-80350) It was only four years ago, in the first half of 2020, that most European countries were reacting to the pandemic with lockdowns, slashing demand for oil products like petrol, diesel and avgas.


Hapag Wins Tender from Leading Brands to Provide Biomethane Shipping. *Maritime Executive.* 17 April 2024. Available from: [https://maritime-executive.com/article/hapag-wins-tender-from-leading-brands-to-provide-biomethane-shipping](https://maritime-executive.com/article/hapag-wins-tender-from-leading-brands-to-provide-biomethane-shipping) In a first-of-its-kind initiative designed to demonstrate the potential of collective efforts to drive the decarbonization of shipping, a group of leading consumer and manufacturing companies banded together to contract for shipper services from Singapore to Rotterdam.


Joint industry open letter to the United Nations Secretary General following the seizure of the *MSC Aries.* *International Chamber of Shipping (ICS).* 19 April 2024. Available from: [https://www.ics-shipping.org/statement/joint-industry-open-letter-to-the-un-secretary-general-following-the-seizure-of-the-msc-aries/](https://www.ics-shipping.org/statement/joint-industry-open-letter-to-the-un-secretary-general-following-the-seizure-of-the-msc-aries/) A joint industry open letter has been sent to the United Nations Secretary General – His Excellency Antonio Guterres – calling for assistance following the seizure of the *MSC Aries* on 13 April.

Oil spill fund names and shames late payers as it rewrites rules. Paul Peachey. *TradeWinds.* 22 April 2024. Available from: [https://www.tradewindsnnews.com/insurance/oil-spill-fund-names-and-shames-late-payers-as-it-rewrites-rules/2-1-1630234](https://www.tradewindsnnews.com/insurance/oil-spill-fund-names-and-shames-late-payers-as-it-rewrites-rules/2-1-1630234) The International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds) uses oil import data to calculate levies for 121 member states that pay for its work - but a hard-core of countries have failed to provide complete figures for at least five years.


IBIA and BIMCO team up to collaborate on fuel and maritime challenges. *International Bunker Industry Association (IBIA).* 22 April 2024. Available from: [https://ibia.net/ibia-and-bimco-team-up-to-collaborate-on-fuel-and-maritime-challenges/](https://ibia.net/ibia-and-bimco-team-up-to-collaborate-on-fuel-and-maritime-challenges/) IBIA and BIMCO have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on some of the monumental challenges and opportunities within the areas of bunker, marine energy and maritime sectors and help facilitate shipping’s decarbonisation efforts.


Cameron suspends vessel registrations amid ‘ghost ship’ concerns, aims for digitization. *Business in Cameroon*. 25 April 2024. Available from: [https://tinyurl.com/4u2m4m6n](https://tinyurl.com/4u2m4m6n) Cameroonian Transport Minister Jean Ernest Massena Ngalle Bibehe issued a statement on April 22 announcing the suspension of registrations for vessels navigating outside Cameroonian territorial waters for six months, extendable.


Wartsila says shipowners need to decarbonize at ‘right speed’. *Hellenic Shipping News*. 29 April 2024. Available from: [https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/wartsila-says-shipowners-need-to-decarbonize-at-right-speed/](https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/wartsila-says-shipowners-need-to-decarbonize-at-right-speed/) Shipping companies should decarbonize their operations at "the right speed" to reduce the financial burden while meeting regulatory requirements, Wartsila’s marine business head, Roger Holm, told S&P Global Commodity Insights in an interview.

Red Sea crisis makes shippers agree to pricey contracts with carriers. *Dag Holmstad*. *ShippingWatch*. 29 April 2024. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article17062017.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article17062017.ece) The unrest in the Red Sea, where attacks on ships have caused major disruptions to freight operations, is providing shipping companies a breath of fresh air after a prolonged downturn, as shown by the jump in container freight prices in recent months.

ESG provides a roadmap for dry bulk shipping says INTERCARGO as it publishes first ESG Review. International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners (INTERCARGO). 30 April 2024. Available from: https://www.intercargo.org/media-release-esg-provides-a-roadmap-for-dry-bulk-shipping-says-intercargo-as-it-publishes-first-ESG-review/ The evolving Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) agenda is not merely a prerequisite for operating in the dry bulk shipping industry of the 21st century; it is a roadmap for thriving amidst challenges and securing sustainable success, says INTERCARGO. ESG Review 2024

Guinea-Bissau emerges as this year’s fastest-growing ship register. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 30 April 2024. Available from: https://splash247.com/guinea-bissau-emerges-as-this-years-fastest-growing-ship-register/ The registries of Gabon, the Comoro Islands and Guinea-Bissau have each more than doubled in size in 2024 so far, taking on a significant tranche of the so-called shadow tanker fleet in the process.

Russia’s Sovcomflot Is Renaming Oil Tankers Hit by US Sanctions. Julian Lee and Alex Longley. Bloomberg. 30 April 2024. Available from: https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/russia-s-sovcomflot-is-renaming-oil-tankers-hit-by-us-sanctions-1.2066845 Russia’s state-owned oil tanker company renamed some of its ships after cities in the country following sanctions by the US.


Rough seas or smooth sailing? The cruise industry is booming despite environmental concerns. Frédéric Dimanche and Kelley A. McClinchey. The Conversation. 30 April 2024. Available from: https://theconversation.com/rough-seas-or-smooth-sailing-the-cruise-industry-is-booming-despite-environmental-concerns-228181 The season kicked off with the arrival of Norwegian Bliss on April 3 — the first of 318 ships that are scheduled to dock in Victoria this year.

RESEARCH


Blasiak R and Jouffray J-B. When will the BBNJ Agreement deliver results? npj Ocean Sustainability. 3 April 2024. Available from: https://www.nature.com/articles/s44183-024-00058-6 A new international agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) was adopted and subsequently opened for signature in September 2023.
There is an urgent need to switch from fossil to bio-based fuels in the transport sector, particularly in shipping and aviation.

Bennett NJ, Morgera E, et al. The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable ocean. npj Ocean Sustainability. 8 April 2024. Available from: https://www.nature.com/articles/s44183-024-00057-7 The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in 2022 that formally recognizes that there is a universal human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.


Fadiga A, Ferreira LMDF, et al. Decarbonising maritime ports: A systematic review of the literature and insights for new research opportunities. Journal of Cleaner Production. 17 April 2024. Available from: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959652624016573 While most of the existing literature has investigated specific decarbonisation measures, a comprehensive review to clarify how different decarbonisation measures could be combined remains absent.


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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.