



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

“Sharing Maritime Knowledge”

**CURRENT AWARENESS BULLETIN
DECEMBER 2024**

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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, from international sources, 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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IMO NEWS & EVENTS

Statement on the release of the *Galaxy Leader* crew

IMO Secretary-General Mr. Arsenio Dominguez has welcomed the release of the crew of the *MV Galaxy Leader*, after more than a year in captivity.

The Secretary-General issued the following statement:

"I welcome the release of the 25-member crew of the *Galaxy Leader*, who have endured over a year of captivity since they were taken hostage in November 2023 while transiting the Red Sea. This is a moment of profound relief for all of us - not only for the crew and their families, but also to the wider maritime community.

I am grateful for all the Member States, regional entities, and international partners whose steadfast support and strategic engagement were pivotal in securing the crew's freedom, and to ensuring their wellbeing.

Today's breakthrough is a testament to the power of collective diplomacy and dialogue, recognizing that innocent seafarers must not become collateral victims in wider geopolitical tensions. It is also a return to operations in the Red Sea as we have been accustomed to, and upholding of the freedom of navigation.

IMO will continue to rigorously uphold its commitment to the safety of seafarers worldwide, who continue to face risks in their essential work."

Dark fleet, decarbonization and geopolitical pressures remain top maritime focus areas in 2025

Range of pressing issues to be addressed this year by the world's shipping regulator.

Speaking at a news conference on 14 January 2025, Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez has highlighted several areas high on the agenda of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), as it embarks on a busy work schedule for 2025. Mr. Dominguez said that IMO's 176 Member States continue to work together to find solutions to global challenges impacting the maritime sector.

[More...](#)

IMO Secretary-General joins school children to launch ocean-themed World Maritime Day 2025

"Our ocean, Our obligation, Our opportunity" theme launched for 2025.

Why do you care about the ocean? Why is there so much plastic in the ocean? How does your Organization help? These were some of the questions posed to IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez by school children at the L'Ecole de Battersea, London, during the launch of this year's World Maritime Day theme: Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity. [More...](#)

[MEETING SUMMARIES AND SCHEDULE](#) [Programme of meetings for 2025](#) 📄

Previous Meetings

[Maritime Safety Committee \(MSC 109\)](#) 2-6 December 2024

Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Construction (SDC 11) 13-17 January 2025

Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR 12) 27-31 January 2025

Forthcoming Meetings

Sub-Committee on Human element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW 11)
10-14 February 2025

Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships (ISWG-GHG 18)
17-21 February 2025

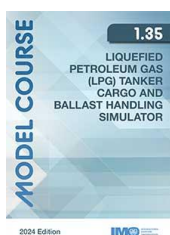
NEW IMO PUBLICATIONS



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Model Course: Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tanker cargo and ballast handling simulator

Digital format: KTA135E (Digital only)

ISBN: 978-92-801-1791-2 (English digital)

This course aims to meet the mandatory standards of competence in advanced training for liquefied gas tanker cargo operations, particularly for LPG tanker cargo and ballast operations using approved simulator training. Tailored to the trainees' needs and experience levels, the course is a key resource to aid trainees in mastering essential procedures and equipment in compliance with international standards.



FAL Convention, 2024 Edition

Digital format: KE350A (Arabic)

ISBN: 978-92-801-5234-0 (Arabic digital)

This consolidated edition of the FAL Convention includes the 2022 amendments (resolution FAL.14(46)) adopted at the forty-sixth session of the FAL Committee.

These amendments, which enter into force on 1 January 2024, address single window systems, electronic transmission of data, lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and the efforts to counteract the effects of corruption.

The publication also includes the 2023 amendments (resolution FAL.15(47)) that are expected to enter into force on 1 January 2025. These amendments affect Recommended Practice 7.11, and aim to address the need to combat illicit activities in the national facilitation programmes of Governments.

UNITED NATIONS

Landmark climate change hearings represent largest ever case before UN world court.

UN News. 2 December 2024. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/12/1157671>

A record number of oral statements are expected to be presented to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as highly awaited public hearings on States' legal obligations with respect to climate change got underway on Monday.

General assembly adopts texts on ocean governance, international observances, as speakers stress need to safeguard marine ecosystem, resources. *United Nations*.

12 December 2024. Available from: <https://press.un.org/en/2024/ga12668.doc.htm>

The General Assembly today adopted four resolutions, including one on oceans and the law of the sea, with delegates from small island developing States emphasizing the importance of preserving the ocean and equipping future generations to live in harmony with this critical, life-sustaining resource.

Internet Governance Forum: Shaping a safe and equitable digital future. *UN News*.

16 December 2024. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/12/1158251> Bringing together participants from over 170 countries, the Forum comes at a pivotal moment following the recent adoption of the Global Digital Compact (GDC).

UN World Court concludes landmark hearings on States' responsibility for climate change.

UN News. 23 December 2024. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/12/1158476>

Initiated by a UN General Assembly resolution, the proceedings involved 96 countries and 11 regional organizations presenting their views on the "obligations of States with regard to climate change" under international law.

UN General Assembly adopts milestone cybercrime treaty. Vibhu Mishra.

UN News. 24 December 2024. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/12/1158521>

The agreement on the legally binding treaty marked the culmination of a five-year effort by UN Member States, with inputs from civil society, information security experts, academia and the private sector.

In New Year's Message, Guterres urges countries to drastically slash emissions and 'exit this road to ruin'. *UN News*. 30 December 2024. Available from:

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/12/1158611>

Reflecting on 2024, he stated that "hope has been hard to find", with wars causing enormous pain, suffering and displacement, and inequalities and divisions fuelling tensions and mistrust.

CASUALTIES

HMM Containership and Greek Tanker Collide off Spain. *Maritime Executive*. 3 December 2024. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/video-hmm-containership-and-greek-tanker-collide-off-spain> Spanish authorities are detaining an HMM containership and a Greek-managed crude tanker after the vessels collided off the port of Algeciras early this morning, December 3.

Oil transfer completed after Houthi attack on tanker *Sounion*. *Ekathimerini (Greece)*. 4 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.ekathimerini.com/economy/1255326/oil-transfer-completed-after-houthi-attack-on-tanker-sounion/> The transfer of approximately 150,000 tons of crude oil from the Greek-flagged Suezmax tanker *Sounion* to *Delta Blue* at the Suez anchorage has been successfully completed.

Samoa villagers concerned about sunken ship. Adel Fruean. *ABC Radio Australia*. 5 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/pm/samoan-villagers-concerned-about-sunken-ship/104691226> © Today marks two months since a Royal New Zealand Navy vessel *Manawanui* ran aground and sank off the coast of Samoa, spilling an estimated 200,000 litres of diesel into the ocean.

Behind the scenes of the Baltimore bridge collapse. Bernd Debusmann. *BBC News*. 5 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1wjvy1qje7o> In the dark, early morning hours of 26 March, US transportation secretary Pete Buttigieg's phone rang - and he immediately knew he had a problem.

Questions remain about *Manawanui* shipwreck - expert. Khalia Strong. *Pacific Media Network PMN (New Zealand)*. 6 December 2024. Available from: <https://pmn.co.nz/read/environment/questions-remain-about-manawanui-shipwreck-maritime-expert> An American maritime historian says more information is needed following an inquiry into the sinking of the *HMNZS Manawanui*.

Crewman stabbed multiple times as armed men storm tanker near major sea route. Gary Dixon. *TradeWinds*. 11 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/crewman-stabbed-multiple-times-as-armed-men-storm-tanker-near-major-sea-route/2-1-1751919> A crew member has been hospitalised in a brutal attack by suspected robbers on a Singapore-flagged tanker off Indonesia.

Ferry fire started when fuel leaked on hot exhaust. James McCarthy. *BBC News*. 12 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cdd6engryjno> An engine room blaze on a ferry from Ireland to Wales broke out when fuel from a loose pipe leaked onto a hot exhaust, an official report has found.

Engine room fire on board ro-ro passenger ferry *Stena Europe*. *UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch*. 12 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/maib-reports/engine-room-fire-on-board-ro-ro-passenger-ferry-stena-europe> At 2115 on 11 February 2023, a fire broke out in the engine room of the roll-on/roll-off passenger ferry *Stena Europe* while on passage from Rosslare, Ireland, to Fishguard, Wales. [Accident Investigation Report 20/2024](#) 📄

Oil spills in Kerch Strait after two Russian oil tankers seriously damaged in storm.

Associated Press. 15 December 2024. Available from: <https://apnews.com/article/russia-kerch-strait-oil-shipping-transport-storm-4eed65f6d8d999b5451d36d414af2e8e> Two Russian oil tankers have been seriously damaged following a storm in the Kerch Strait, spilling oil and sparking an emergency rescue operation, Russian officials told state news outlets Sunday.

Russian coastal tanker sinks in Kerch Strait, killing seafarer and causing oil spill.

Harry Papachristou. *TradeWinds*. 15 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/russian-coastal-tanker-sinks-in-kerch-strait-killing-seafarer-and-causing-oil-spill/2-1-1753814> A small Russian tanker has sunk in the Kerch Strait during a violent Black Sea storm, killing one seafarer and causing an oil spill.

Russian tanker sinks in Black Sea spilling 4,300 tonnes of oil. Luke Harding. *The Guardian*.

16 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/dec/15/two-russian-tankers-sink-in-black-sea-spilling-oil> A Russian tanker carrying more than 4,000 tonnes of oil products has sunk in the Black Sea amid stormy conditions while a second has run aground, threatening an ecological disaster.

Damaged Russian ships spill an estimated 3,700 tonnes of oil in Kerch Strait. *Associated*

Press. 17 December 2024. Available from: <https://apnews.com/video/russia-veniamin-kondratev-oil-spills-russia-government-kerch-strait-5d60f06904ce4abf9d15b8d12a2b2fc1> The two ships, the *Volgoneft 239* and the *Volgoneft 212*, were transporting roughly 9,200 tonnes of mazut.

Black Sea oil spill worsens as third Russian tanker sends distress call. Vladimir Soldatkin.

Reuters. 18 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/oil-washes-up-russias-black-sea-coast-after-tankers-damaged-governor-says-2024-12-17/> Spilled oil has washed up along “tens of kilometres” of the Russian Black Sea coast after two tankers were badly damaged in a storm at the weekend, a regional official said on Tuesday, and state media said a third ship was now in trouble.

Fuel oil continues to leak from wrecked tanker near Kerch Strait — satellite data.

TASS Russian News Agency. 18 December 2024. Available from: <https://tass.com/economy/1889401> Satellite monitoring data show that fuel oil continues to leak from a tanker that crashed in the Black Sea near the Kerch Strait and spread towards the coast of the Krasnodar Region, a senior marine scientist told TASS.

Black Sea oil spill worsens as third Russian tanker sends distress call. Vladimir Soldatkin.

Reuters. 18 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/oil-washes-up-russias-black-sea-coast-after-tankers-damaged-governor-says-2024-12-17/> Spilled oil has washed up along “tens of kilometres” of the Russian Black Sea coast after two tankers were badly damaged in a storm at the weekend, a regional official said on Tuesday, and state media said a third ship was now in trouble.

Collision between Singapore-flagged and Japan-flagged Bulk Carriers in the Changjiang River, China. *Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)*. 31 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.mpa.gov.sg/media-centre/details/collision-between-singapore-flagged-and-japan-flagged-bulk-carriers-in-the-changjiang-river--china> The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore was informed of a collision between a Singapore-registered bulk carrier, *YANGZE 22*, and a Japan-registered bulk carrier, *VEGA DREAM*, in the Changjiang River, China.

ENVIRONMENT

Deep-sea mining necessitates joint efforts to ensure sustainable development. Wang Yi. *Global Times (China)*. 2 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202412/1324217.shtml> Norway, which had planned to become one of the world's first countries to allow deep-sea mining, has suspended plans to give licenses for next year amid opposition from environmental groups and international institutions.

Arctic deep sea mining plans halted in Norway. Victoria Heath. *Geographical*. 2 December 2024. Available from: <https://geographical.co.uk/news/arctic-deep-sea-mining-plans-halted-in-norway> The Norwegian government has postponed its plans to carry out Arctic deep-sea mining across an area equivalent in size to Italy, following backlash from international organisations, activists and scientists.

The 'slow onset, silent killer': Droughts explained. *UN News*. 3 December 2024. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/12/1157696> Droughts across the world are intensifying and have become a "slow onset, silent killer" to which no country is immune, according to the UN's most senior official working on desertification, drought and land restoration issues.

The world has been warming faster than expected. Scientists now think they know why. Laura Paddison. *CNN*. 5 December 2024. Available from: <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/12/05/climate/global-warming-clouds/index.html> Last year was the hottest on record, oceans boiled, glaciers melted at alarming rates, and it left scientists scrambling to understand exactly why.

Quick climate dictionary: what actually is a carbon footprint? Anna Turns. *The Conversation*. 5 December 2024. Available from: <https://theconversation.com/quick-climate-dictionary-what-actually-is-a-carbon-footprint-244948> A carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gases emitted by something.

Scientists struggle to explain record surge in global heat. Nick Perry. *Phys.org*. 16 December 2024. Available from: <https://phys.org/news/2024-12-scientists-struggle-surge-global.html> The world has been getting hotter for decades but a sudden and extraordinary surge in heat has sent the climate deeper into uncharted territory—and scientists are still trying to figure out why.

Fears death toll could rise from Vanuatu's magnitude-7.3 earthquake near Port Vila.

Doug Dingwall. *ABC (Australia)*. 17 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-12-17/vanuatu-port-vila-earthquake-death-toll-could-rise/104736282> There are grave fears the number of people killed and injured by a magnitude-7.3 earthquake that struck near Vanuatu's capital city of Port Vila could rise significantly.

Vanuatu earthquake death toll expected to rise as second quake plunges nation into state of emergency.

Pacific Islands News Association (PINA). 18 December 2024. Available from:

<https://pina.com.fj/2024/12/18/vanuatu-earthquake-death-toll-expected-to-rise-as-second-quake-plunges-nation-into-state-of-emergency/> A second earthquake has struck Vanuatu, as the death toll from Tuesday's deadly quake rose and an international search and rescue operation got underway.

Tuvalu fighting to ensure its future amid sea level rise: PM.

The Mainichi (Japan). 19 December 2024. Available from:

<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20241219/p2g/00m/0in/004000c> Tuvalu, an island nation threatened by sea-level rise in the South Pacific, is preparing for the worst-case scenario of submersion by digitizing its government and taking other steps to secure its future, Prime Minister Feleti Teo said in a recent interview.

Monk seal habitat at risk as Limassol port works begin.

In-Cyprus. 19 December 2024. Available from: <https://in-cyprus.philenews.com/local/monk-seal-habitat-at-risk-as-limassol-port-works-begin/> BirdLife Cyprus and Friends of the Earth Cyprus said excavators have begun levelling the beach area despite recommendations against the project from the Audit Office in April 2024 and concerns from environmental experts.

Biodiversity tracking platform launched 'to keep nations transparent'.

Nane Steinhoff. *Oceanographic*. 23 December 2024. Available from:

<https://oceanographicmagazine.com/news/platform-for-tracking-30x30-progress-is-now-available-online/> In a new advance of transparency and a step to remove the mystery that has too-long shrouded the global efforts to protect 30% of the world's Earth's land, fresh water, and ocean habitats by 2030, a new tool has been launched for the general public to keep tabs on the progress being made from nation to nation.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Bye-bye microplastics: new plastic is recyclable and fully ocean-degradable. *RIKEN Center for Emergent Matter Science (Japan)*. 26 November 2024. Available from: https://www.riken.jp/en/news_pubs/research_news/pr/2024/20241122_1/index.html Researchers led by Takuzo Aida at the RIKEN Center for Emergent Matter Science (CEMS) have developed a durable plastic that won't contribute to microplastic pollution in our oceans.

Greenpeace activists board tanker to highlight calls for treaty on curbing plastic pollution. *Straits Times*. 30 November 2024. Available from: <https://www.straitstimes.com/world/greenpeace-activists-board-tanker-to-press-treaty-on-curbing-plastic-pollution> Greenpeace activists boarded a tanker off South Korea on Nov 30 in an action intended to draw attention to calls for a treaty to curb plastic pollution, the environmental group said.

Cruise ships urged to 'clean up their act' amid concerns toxic effluent being dumped on Great Barrier Reef. Ben Smee. *The Guardian*. 1 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2024/dec/01/cruise-ships-urged-to-clean-up-their-act-amid-concerns-toxic-effluent-being-dumped-on-great-barrier-reef> Environmentalists say marine park waste regulations need updating to limit grey water and exhaust chemicals as passenger cruise numbers rise.

Extensive efforts to contain crisis of oil spill in Red Sea: Egypt's Minister of Environment. *Egypt Today*. 2 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/136694/Extensive-efforts-to-contain-crisis-of-oil-spill-in-Red> As part of the Ministry of Environment's response to the cargo ship grounding crisis in Quseir, Minister of Environment Yasmine Fouad confirmed that significant efforts have been made over the past few days to address the situation.

Effects of Japanese oil spill still felt in Mauritius mangroves today. Rob Hutchins. *Oceanographic*. 5 December 2024. Available from: <https://oceanographicmagazine.com/news/effects-of-japanese-oil-spill-still-felt-in-mauritius-mangroves-today/> In August 2020, the Mauritian government called a national emergency after the Japanese bulk carrier, *MV Wakashio* ran aground, spilling an estimated 1,000 tonnes of oil into the ocean and leading to what scientists called 'the worst environmental disaster Mauritius had ever faced.'

Polluting shipwrecks are the ticking time-bomb at the bottom of our oceans. Fraser Sturt. *The Conversation*. 11 December 2024. Available from: <https://theconversation.com/polluting-shipwrecks-are-the-ticking-time-bomb-at-the-bottom-of-our-oceans-242941> At the bottom of the oceans and seas lie more than 8,500 shipwrecks from two world wars.

Wooden buoys built in Tasmania set for waters off Antarctica in bid to reduce ocean pollution. Eliza Kloser. *ABC (Australia)*. 13 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-12-14/wooden-buoys-used-for-science-not-marine-waste/104718590> Thousands of plastic and fibreglass buoys used for scientific research are left to drift in the ocean after their batteries die.

Environment plan sets out long-term proposals to improve air quality. Eyleen Gomez. *Gibraltar Chronicle*. 17 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.chronicle.gi/environment-plan-sets-out-long-term-proposals-to-improve-air-quality/> Gibraltar continues to face significant challenges in improving air quality due to its small size and the high concentration of activity within a limited area, the newly published 25-Year Environment Plan states, as it sets out high-level long-term strategies to tackle air pollution.

Governments support strict controls on maritime transport of plastic pellets.

Robert Hodgson. *Euronews*. 17 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/12/17/governments-support-strict-controls-on-maritime-transport-of-plastic-pellets> Proposed legislation to reduce the accidental release of microplastic pellets into the environment should be extended to cover shipping, an overwhelming majority of EU governments agreed today – setting them on collision course with the European Parliament and Commission.

Zero pollution: Council agrees its position on reducing plastic pellet losses, including in maritime transport.

Council of the European Union. 17 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/12/17/zero-pollution-council-agrees-its-position-on-reducing-plastic-pellet-losses-including-in-maritime-transport/> Today, the Council adopted its position ('general approach') on a regulation on preventing the loss of plastic pellets – the industrial raw materials used to make plastic products – to the environment.

Marine plastic litter: why it matters to vessel operators. Craig Jallal. *Riviera Maritime*.

19 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/marine-plastic-litter-and-why-it-matters-to-vessel-operators-83296> Marine plastic litter is a relatively new but pressing environmental challenge for vessel operators.

How conflict makes oil spills in the Black Sea so much more toxic. Rebecca Morris and Akrum Helfaya. *The Conversation*. 20 December 2024. Available from:

<https://theconversation.com/how-conflict-makes-oil-spills-in-the-black-sea-so-much-more-toxic-246093> Two old Russian tankers, carrying thousands of tonnes of oil, have been severely damaged in a storm in the Kerch Strait.

Oil Spill in the Kerch Strait. *University of Swansea. Institute of International Shipping & Trade*

Law (IISTL) Blog. 20 December 2024. Available from: <https://iistl.blog/2024/12/20/oil-spill-in-the-kerch-strait/> Two Russian tankers (the *Volgoneft-212* and *Volgoneft-239*) sustained severe damage during a heavy storm last Sunday (15 December) while they were both in the Kerch Strait (between Russia and Russian-annexed Crimea).

A race is on to clean up shorelines off Crimea after tons of oil spills from damaged Russian ships. *Associated Press*. 22 December 2024. Available from: <https://apnews.com/article/russia-kerch-strait-oil-shipping-storm-crimea-bea39551202e1fe4d993c7ca0b66f351>

Cleanup continued in the Kerch Strait near Russian-occupied Crimea on Sunday, a week after at least 3,700 tons of low-grade fuel oil spilled out of two storm-stricken Russian tankers.

Africa's blue economy: Strategies for tackling plastic waste. Janine Osborne.

Mail & Guardian (South Africa). 23 December 2024. Available from: <https://mg.co.za/thought-leader/opinion/2024-12-23-africas-blue-economy-strategies-for-tackling-plastic-waste/>

With most landfills in Africa being simply uncontrolled dumpsites, an average waste collection rate of just 55% and a population set to double by 2050, we are in serious trouble as a continent if we do not implement urgent and clear local, national and regional and national action plans to support sustainable waste management practices.

Peru declares environmental emergency after massive oil spill into Pacific Ocean. *Global News (Canada)*. 27 December 2024. Available from: <https://globalnews.ca/video/10934696/peru-declares-environmental-emergency-after-massive-oil-spill-into-pacific-ocean>

Peru has declared an environmental emergency in Piura, after state oil giant Petroperu spilled a crude oil shipment into surrounding waters of the northern region.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Exhaustive three-year study exposes the lie about work/rest hours at sea. Sam Chambers.

Splash 247.com. 6 December 2024. Available from: <https://splash247.com/exhaustive-three-year-study-exposes-the-lie-about-work-rest-hours-at-sea/> A three-year exhaustive study has shown the structures supporting the implementation of work/rest regulations at sea are being broken with close to two-thirds of seafarers adjusting their work/rest records.

First-of-its-kind crew welfare measure adopted at Pacific fisheries summit. Edward Carver.

Mongabay. 10 December 2024. Available from: <https://news.mongabay.com/2024/12/first-of-its-kind-crew-welfare-measure-adopted-at-pacific-fisheries-summit/> The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), a multilateral body that sets fishing rules for an area that covers nearly 20% of Earth's surface and produces half the world's tuna catch, adopted a landmark crew welfare measure at its recent annual meeting, which took place in Fiji from Nov. 28 to Dec. 3.

Why the SIM Project steering group believes social interaction matters. *International Seafarers' Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN)*. 18 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.iswan.org.uk/news/why-the-sim-project-steering-group-believes-social-interaction-matters/> Over the last few months, crew on vessels from the shipping, cruise and superyacht industries have been taking part in innovative onboard research using wearable and mobile technology to track the impact of social interaction on their wellbeing.

ICMA 2024: A Year of Collaboration and Dedication to Seafarers' Welfare. *International Christian Maritime Association (ICMA)*. 18 December 2024. Available from: <https://icma.as/icma-2024-a-year-of-collaboration-and-dedication-to-seafarers-welfare/>

As 2024 comes to a close, the International Christian Maritime Association (ICMA) reflects on a year filled with impactful work and meaningful collaborations, all aimed at promoting the welfare of seafarers, fishers, and their families.

IMO

IMO stresses on maritime safety, environmental protection. Harizah Hanim Mohamed. *Daily News (Tanzania)*. 29 November 2024. Available from: <https://dailynews.co.tz/imo-stresses-on-maritime-safety-environmental-protection/> The IMO has stressed that maritime safety, security and environmental protection in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden are crucial for global trade and the welfare of communities worldwide.

Jan Dieleman urges shipping to start planning beyond IMO's next climate meeting. Mette Grube Condrup and Tomas Kristiansen. *ShippingWatch*. 3 December 2024. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article17694925.ece> Global Maritime Forum's chairman prefers to look at results than setbacks on the green agenda – and he is confident that the IMO will reach a strong agreement in April.

IMO can resolve owner-charterer impasse, says Shell shipping head. Declan Bush. *Lloyd's List*. 5 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1151740/IMO-can-resolve-ownercharterer-impasse-says-Shell-shipping-head> The IMO can resolve the impasse between shipowners and charterers that is holding back green investments, according to Shell head of shipping Karrie Trauth.


Namibia joins international maritime safety agreement. Niël Terblanché. *Windhoek Observer (Namibia)*. 8 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.observer24.com.na/namibia-joins-international-maritime-safety-agreement/> Namibia has taken a step toward improving the safety of fishing vessels and their crews by acceding to the 2012 Cape Town Agreement.

Exclusive interview with IMO Secretary-General, Arsenio Dominguez. *NAFS TV (Greece)*. 10 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ic548sg4sh4> For the pressing issues of global shipping, NAFS travelled to London for an exclusive interview with the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, Mr. Arsenio Dominguez, at the organization's headquarters.

IMO's secretary-general: Next year will bring more clarity on shipping's decarbonization measures. Nidaa Bakhsh. *ShippingWatch*. 13 December 2024. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article17720248.ece> While there is general agreement on a fuel standard for shipping's decarbonization, there are still differing views on what the pricing element should look like, according to the IMO's secretary-general Arsenio Dominguez, who is also having to deal with a hostile Red Sea area.

2025 is IMO's last chance on climate, says academic. Declan Bush. *Lloyd's List*. 17 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1151860/2025-is-IMOs-last-chance-on-climate-says-academic> Next year's IMO meetings are the last chance for the regulator to protect the planet and its credibility, says green shipping researcher Christiaan de Beukelaer.

The Legality of Revenue Disbursement from an Economic Measure Agreed at the International Maritime Organization for Purposes Other than the Decarbonisation of International Shipping.

Blánaid Sheeran. *Columbia University. Sabin Center for Climate Change Law*. 18 December 2024. Available from: https://scholarship.law.columbia.edu/sabin_climate_change/239/ This analysis fills a gap in the existing legal literature on the adoption of a greenhouse gas (GHG) pricing mechanism at the International Maritime Organization. [Report](#) 

How the International Maritime Organization Can Succeed Where Three Decades of COP Meetings Failed.

Christiaan De Beukelaer. *Global Policy*. 20 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/blog/20/12/2024/how-international-maritime-organization-can-succeed-where-three-decades-cop> In July 2023, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted an ambitious Strategy to phase out greenhouse gas emissions from shipping by 2050.

Russian spill sparks call for fully implementing IMO's Arctic fuel oil ban.

Eric Priante Martin. *TradeWinds*. 20 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/sustainability/russian-spill-sparks-call-for-fully-implementing-imo-s-arctic-fuel-oil-ban/2-1-1757662> An oil spill in the Black Sea has led to renewed calls for nations to implement a ban on carrying fuel oil in the Arctic.

Can Donald Trump derail progress at the IMO after 'net-unhelpful' Joe Biden?

Eric Priante Martin. *TradeWinds*. 28 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/sustainability/can-donald-trump-derail-progress-at-the-imo-after-net-unhelpful-joe-biden-/2-1-1755208> US president-elect Donald Trump wants to promote fossil fuels, is critical of renewable energy and has said he will pull out of climate negotiations — again.

LAW & POLICY

Nautilus calls for strengthening of Employment Rights Bill to prevent another P&O Ferries.

Nautilus International. 29 November 2024. Available from: <https://www.nautilusint.org/en/news-insight/news/nautilus-calls-for-strengthening-of-employment-rights-bill-to-prevent-another-po-ferries/> Nautilus International has told MPs that loopholes allowing 'fire and rehire' must be closed by the UK government's Employment Rights Bill during an evidence-gathering session in Parliament.

Plastic pollution negotiations adjourn with new text and a follow-up session planned.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). 1 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/plastic-pollution-negotiations-adjourn-new-text-and-follow-session> Countries negotiating an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, adjourned their fifth session today with agreement on a 'Chair's Text' that will serve as the starting point for negotiations at a resumed session in 2025.

Climate change case to open at UN court as island nations fear rising seas.

Pacific Islands News Association (PINA). 2 December 2024. Available from: <https://pina.com.fj/2024/12/02/climate-change-case-to-open-at-un-court-as-island-nations-fear-rising-seas/> The top United Nations court will take up the largest case in its history when it opens two weeks of hearings into what countries worldwide are legally required to do to combat climate change and help vulnerable nations.

UN environment chief says plastic pollution talks ‘did not fail’ despite collapse. *France 24*. 2 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20241202-un-chief-defends-plastic-pollution-talks-after-collapse> The UN environment chief said that 200 countries who attended a week of talks to negotiate a landmark plastic treaty to curb pollution made “very good progress” despite falling to sign an agreement.

Marine conservation law and policy: Research investigates effectiveness of UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Vince Chong. *Phys.org*. 2 December 2024. Available from: <https://phys.org/news/2024-12-marine-law-policy-effectiveness-convention.html> A decade ago, a Singapore Management University academic took in the sights of colorful, healthy corals playing host and habitat to myriad marine creatures at the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

MOWCA pushes for regional maritime funding. Ekaete Bassey. *The Nation (Nigeria)*. 2 December 2024. Available from: <https://thenationonlineng.net/mowca-pushes-for-regional-maritime-funding/> The Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa (MOWCA) has embarked on a decisive push to actualise the long-awaited implementation of the Regional Maritime Fund.

Failure of Busan talks exposes fossil fuel barrier to UN plastics pact. Matteo Civillini. *Climate Home News*. 2 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2024/12/02/failure-of-busan-talks-exposes-fossil-fuel-barrier-to-un-plastics-pact/> Fighting back the exhaustion from one too many sleepless nights, diplomats and observers wondered why the talks had broken down – and what could prevent the same happening again when countries reconvene next year to try and push a pact over the finish line?

Shipping heavyweights invest in UK decarbonisation firm. Bojan Lepic. *Splash 247.com*. 3 December 2024. Available from: <https://splash247.com/shipping-heavyweights-invest-in-uk-decarbonisation-firm/> US-based shipbroker and consulting group McQuilling Partners has joined the growing list of marine industry heavy hitters backing the UK-listed green decarbonisation pioneer SulNOx.

Saudi Crown Prince unveils National Red Sea Sustainability Strategy to drive blue economy. Syed Ameen Kader and Nadin Hassan. *Arab News (Saudi Arabia)*. 4 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2581742/business-economy> Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has launched the National Red Sea Sustainability Strategy, an initiative aimed at safeguarding the marine environment, supporting local communities, and advancing the Kingdom’s transition to a blue economy.

Big emitters accused of hiding behind climate treaties in international hearing. Isabella Kaminski. *Climate Home News*. 5 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2024/12/05/big-emitters-accused-of-hiding-behind-climate-treaties-in-international-court-hearing/> Their statements at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) sparked strong criticism from top climate diplomats and advocates who argue that international accords do not place limits on state accountability over climate change.

Global trade to hit record \$33 trillion in 2024, but uncertainties over tariffs loom. *UN News*. 5 December 2024. Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/12/1157826> However, concerns loom for 2025, where the risks include escalating trade wars, geopolitical tensions and shifting policies, clouding the outlook.

Global Trade Update (December 2024). *UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*. December 2024. Available from: <https://unctad.org/publication/global-trade-update-december-2024> Global trade is poised to hit an all-time high of nearly \$33 trillion in 2024, up \$1 trillion from the previous year.

The ICJ's advisory opinion on climate change: a data analysis of participants' submissions. Thomas Burri. *American Society of International Law (ASIL)*. 9 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.asil.org/insights/volume/28/issue/10> In March 2023, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution asking the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for an advisory opinion on states' obligations to protect the climate from anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the legal consequences of causing significant harm to the climate.

Coastal state jurisdiction in the territorial sea and the protection of people on board foreign-flagged vessels. Anna Petrig. *EJIL:Talk! Blog of the European Journal of International Law*. 10 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.ejiltalk.org/coastal-state-jurisdiction-in-the-territorial-sea-and-the-protection-of-people-on-board-foreign-flagged-vessels/> Today—the 10th of December—is an important day for international law.

Countries agree \$300 billion by 2035 for new climate finance goal – what next? *UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*. 10 December 2024. Available from: <https://unctad.org/news/countries-agree-300-billion-2035-new-climate-finance-goal-what-next> In the early hours of 24 November, countries at the United Nations climate change conference COP29 agreed a New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance (NCQG) that will shape talks for the next 10 years.

EU Statement – UN General Assembly: Oceans and law of the sea. *European Union External Action Service (EEAS)*. 10 December 2024. Available from: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/eu-statement-%E2%80%93-un-general-assembly-oceans-and-law-sea-1_en Statement on behalf of the EU and its Member States by Mr. Thomas Ramopoulos, Counsellor, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, at the General Assembly 79th Plenary Meeting on Agenda Item 75: Oceans and the law of the sea.

Laws governing underwater heritage explained. *Barbados Today*. 11 December 2024. Available from: <https://barbadostoday.bb/2024/12/11/laws-governing-underwater-heritage-explained/> Government came one step closer to being compliant with international conventions governing the use and protection of the oceans and to ensure that ships and other vessels “don't do as they like” in Barbados' waters.

Trawl the sea or mine for metals? Pacific nations wrestle with how to protect oceans - and livelihoods. Prianka Srinivasan. *The Guardian*. 11 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/dec/11/trawl-the-sea-or-mine-for-metals-pacific-nations-wrestle-with-how-to-protect-oceans-and-livelihoods> Palau plans to allow more fishing in its marine sanctuary, as countries across the region seek to balance conservation with economic needs.

UN agreements on oceanic geoengineering don't cover dominant land-based systems.

Michael Barnard. *CleanTechnica*. 12 December 2024. Available from:

<https://cleantechnica.com/2024/12/11/un-agreements-on-oceanic-geoengineering-dont-cover-dominant-land-based-systems/> This morning I had an excellent conversation with a lawyer with a maritime environmental non-governmental organization, Stephanie Hewson at the West Coast Environmental Law Association.

National Maritime Heritage Complex a tribute to India's maritime history: Union Minister Sonowal.

India Seatrade News. 12 December 2024. Available from:

<https://indiaseatradenews.com/national-maritime-heritage-complex-a-monumental-tribute-to-indias-maritime-history-union-minister-sonowal/> The development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex at Gujarat's Lothal is set to serve as a monumental tribute to India's ancient maritime history, bringing to life the technological advancements, trade routes and cultural exchanges, that are ancestors pioneered, Union minister for ports and shipping Sarbananda Sonowal said Wednesday.

Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability: A landmark pact for trade and sustainability.

Alice Tipping, Ivetta Gerasimchuk and Cristina Larrea. *International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)*. 13 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.iisd.org/articles/deep-dive/agreement-climate-change-trade-sustainability-accts?q=articles/deep-dive/agreement-climate-change-trade-and-sustainability-landmark-pact-trade-and> The Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS) is a path-finding international pact aimed at integrating environmental and trade policies. Signed by Costa Rica, Iceland, New Zealand, and Switzerland, ACCTS tackles fossil fuel subsidies, promotes trade in environmental goods and services, and establishes innovative eco-labelling standards.

EU blacklists a further 52 ships in latest sanctions crackdown.

Richard Meade. *Lloyd's List*. 16 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1151841/EU-blacklists-a-further-52-ships-in-latest-sanctions-crackdown> European Union ministers promise to keep cracking down on Russia's shadow fleet and combat sanctions circumvention.

EU adopts 15th sanctions package against Russia for its continued illegal war against

Ukraine. *European Commission*. 16 December 2024. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/mpche7ar>

The Commission welcomes the Council's adoption of the 15th sanctions package against Russia.

What lies beneath: Undersea cables and the laws protecting them.

Karl Hoerr. *Law Society of NSW Journal (Australia)*. 16 December 2024. Available from: <https://lsj.com.au/articles/what-lies-beneath-undersea-cables-and-the-laws-protecting-them/> In November, two undersea cables, one linking Finland and Germany, and the other connecting Lithuania and Sweden, were severed in the Baltic Sea.


FG moves to secure maritime future with new policy document.

Andrew Utulu. *Independent (Nigeria)*. 16 December 2024. Available from: <https://independent.ng/fg-moves-to-secure-maritime-future-with-new-policy-document-2/> The Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy has validated the National Policy on Marine and Blue Economy.

Carbon market revenues can fund green fuels for shipping and aviation. *Transport & Environment*. 16 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.transportenvironment.org/articles/carbon-market-revenues-can-fund-green-fuels-for-shipping-and-aviation> Revenues from taxing pollution from planes and ships could be used to bridge the cost gap for new green fuels, a new Ricardo study on behalf of T&E study shows. [Summary](#) 

Study on support schemes for RFNBOs in shipping and aviation. Gareth Horton, Matthew Moss and Hannah Abson. *Ricardo*. 13 March 2024. Available from:

https://www.transportenvironment.org/uploads/files/ED18108-Support-Schemes-for-RFNBOs-in-Shipping-and-Aviation-FINAL_CLEAN.pdf  Ricardo conducted this study on behalf of Transport and Environment to demonstrate how public support for renewable fuels of non-biological origin (RFNBO) could be used to accelerate the energy transition in shipping and aviation.

US seeks stronger UN powers to intercept Red Sea shipments to Yemen's Houthis.

Patrick Wintour. *The Guardian*. 16 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/dec/16/red-sea-shipments-yemen-houthis-us-un-powers> The US is seeking global support to give the UN clearer powers to interdict ships in the Red Sea heading for Houthi-controlled Yemen ports, as part of a concerted attempt to weaken the Iranian-backed group, according to the US special envoy.

UK, Denmark vow to 'disrupt and deter' Russia's shadow fleet. Jack Schickler. *Euronews*.

17 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/12/17/uk-denmark-vow-to-disrupt-and-deter-russias-shadow-fleet> Western naval nations have vowed checks on a network of ageing tankers that may be helping Putin circumvent sanctions and fund his war effort.

U.K. Expands Russian Shadow Fleet Sanctions. *Moscow Times*. 17 December 2024. Available

from: <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2024/12/17/uk-expands-russian-shadow-fleet-sanctions-a87375> The U.K. on Tuesday added two Russian companies and 20 ships to its sanctions list, as a part of its effort to tackle Russia's ghost fleet of oil tankers, the U.K. government announced.

Prime Minister announces new sanctions and £35 million of emergency support for Ukraine as Russia continues to attack critical national infrastructure. *UK Government*.

17 December 2024. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/mrx4caff> The UK has provided £35 million of emergency support to help Ukraine repair its energy grid and support the most vulnerable through a third winter of war, the Prime Minister has announced today.

Biden administration releases new U.S. Maritime Decarbonization Action Plan. *American Journal of Transportation (AJOT)*. 17 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.ajot.com/news/biden-administration-releases-new-u.s-maritime-decarbonization-action-plan> On December 11, President Biden announced a U.S. Maritime Decarbonization Action Plan that builds on the foundations presented in the administration's U.S.

International justice: two weeks of hearings on States' responsibility for climate change.

UN Regional Information Centre for Western Europe. 17 December 2024. Available from:

<https://unric.org/en/international-justice-two-weeks-of-hearings-on-states-responsibility-for-climate-change/> No fewer than 96 countries and 11 regional organizations took part in landmark public hearings before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) from 2 to 13 December.

Minister Ranne: Finland plays an active role in safeguarding shipping in the Baltic Sea.

Government of Finland. 17 December 2024. Available from: <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/-/1410829/minister-ranne-finland-plays-an-active-role-in-safeguarding-shipping-in-the-baltic-sea> 'Finland is working in different areas to provide security to shipping and the marine environment in the Baltic Sea' says Lulu Ranne, Minister of Transport and Communications.

Joint U.S.-ROK-Japan Symposium on Countering DPRK Illicit Maritime Activities.

US Department of State. 17 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.state.gov/joint-u-s-rok-japan-symposium-on-countering-dprk-illicit-maritime-activities/> The U.S. Department of State, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea (ROK), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan co-hosted a Joint U.S.-ROK-Japan Maritime Industry Symposium on Countering DPRK Illicit Maritime Activities in Singapore on December 17, 2024.

MSC Cruises to remove liquefied natural gas adverts following 'greenwashing' complaint to UK advertising watchdog.

Opportunity Green. 18 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.opportunitygreen.org/press-release-asa-regulator-msc-cruises-remove-greenwashing-adverts> Following a complaint by environmental NGO Opportunity Green in March 2024, the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) has reached "informal resolution" with MSC Cruises – one of the world's biggest cruise companies – over environmental claims it made about liquified natural gas (fossil LNG).

Treasury Maintains Pressure on Iranian Shadow Fleet. *US Department of the Treasury*.

19 December 2024. Available from: <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2758> Today, the United States Department of the Treasury is imposing sanctions on four entities and three vessels involved in the trade of Iranian petroleum and petrochemicals, which generate billions of dollars' worth of revenue for the Iranian regime.

All hands on deck at the United Nations Security Council. *United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)*. 19 December 2024. Available from: <https://unidir.org/all-hands-on-deck-at-the-united-nations-security-council/> The incoming Council members bring diverse yet complementary maritime perspectives.

Key takeaways from COP29 and the road ahead for developing countries. *UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*. 19 December 2024. Available from: <https://unctad.org/news/key-takeaways-cop29-and-road-ahead-developing-countries> After extended negotiations, the United Nations climate change conference COP29 concluded in Baku, Azerbaijan, in the early hours of 24 November.

Enhancing supply chain resilience amid rising global risks. Zera Zheng. *UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*. 19 December 2024. Available from: <https://unctad.org/news/enhancing-supply-chain-resilience-amid-rising-global-risks> Exploring strategies to bolster resilience in the shipping industry and for cargo owners, amidst compounding environmental, economic, and geopolitical challenges.

U.S. pushes for decarbonization of maritime sector with new action plan. Naida Hakirevic Prevljak. *Offshore Energy*. 20 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.offshore-energy.biz/u-s-pushes-for-decarbonization-of-maritime-sector-with-new-action-plan/> “An Action Plan for Maritime Energy and Emissions Innovation”, released this December, builds on the U.S. National Blueprint for Transportation Decarbonization to define actions that demonstrate and scale vessels and solutions to reduce costs and emissions in the maritime sector in the United States.

Indonesia partners with 10 countries to combat illegal fishing. *Antara News (Indonesia)*. 20 December 2024. Available from: <https://en.antaranews.com/news/338718/indonesia-partners-with-10-countries-to-combat-illegal-fishing> Indonesia has forged collaborations with 10 countries to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing by strengthening regional cooperation to protect fishery resources and the sustainability of marine ecosystems, an official said.

FM: Maritime law complicates investigating Baltic Sea sabotage cases. Valner Vaino. *ERR News (Estonia)*. 23 December 2024. Available from: <https://news.err.ee/1609559306/fm-maritime-law-complicates-investigating-baltic-sea-sabotage-cases> The Chinese ship *Yi Peng 3*, suspected of damaging underwater communication cables in the Baltic Sea, left the Danish strait last week.

Operator and Owner of Oil Tanker Plead Guilty and Are Sentenced for Concealment of Pollution from Vessel and Obstruction of Justice. *US Department of Justice*. 23 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/operator-and-owner-oil-tanker-plead-guilty-and-are-sentenced-concealment-pollution-vessel> Two Greek shipping companies pleaded guilty and were sentenced today for violating the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (APPS), falsifying records and obstruction of justice.

Estlink cable disruption: Finnish Border Guard detains tanker linked to Russia’s ‘dark fleet’. *Yle (Finland)*. 26 December 2024. Available from: <https://yle.fi/a/74-20133516> An oil tanker that was in the area when the Finland-Estonia electrical link was disrupted on Wednesday has been boarded by the Finnish Border Guard and escorted into Finnish territorial waters.

Maritime law has to be changed to protect undersea infrastructure, Estonia says. *Straits Times*. 27 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/maritime-law-has-to-be-changed-to-protect-undersea-infrastructure-estonia-says> Centuries-old international maritime law has to be updated to outlaw damage to undersea infrastructure such as cables and pipelines, the Estonian justice minister told Reuters after cables connecting it to Finland were again damaged this week.

With policy tweaks and incentives, govt looks at tripling number of women in Merchant Navy. Vijay Mohan. *The Tribune (India)*. 30 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/india/with-policy-tweaks-and-incentives-govt-looks-at-tripling-number-of-women-in-merchant-navy/> The government envisions increasing the strength of women Merchant Navy personnel from India by three times by the end of 2026, for which the Directorate General, Shipping (DGS), has initiated several steps such as review of existing policies and providing incentives to prospective cadets.

New Year honours acknowledge services to diversity in maritime. *Nautilus International.*

31 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.nautilusint.org/en/news-insight/news/uk-new-year-honours-acknowledge-services-to-diversity-in-maritime/> Services for diversity in maritime were recognised in the UK New Year Honours List for 2025.

MARINE TECHNOLOGY

'Time to kill the notion' of future fuels' uncertainty, says Höegh Autoliners CEO *Bunkerspot.*

28 November 2024. Available from: <https://www.bunkerspot.com/global/63745-interview-time-to-kill-the-notion-of-future-fuels-uncertainty-says-hoegh-autoliners-ceo> While many of his peers have taken a wait-and-see approach to committing to future marine fuels, Höegh Autoliners CEO, Andreas Enger tells Bunkerspot that he is convinced that there are 'really no other competitors' to ammonia when it comes to the decarbonisation of deep-sea shipping.

Climate solution: Sails make a comeback in shipping, to dent its huge carbon footprint.

John Leicester. *Associated Press.* 2 December 2024. Available from:

<https://apnews.com/article/climate-clean-shipping-sail-carbon-emissions-environment-0c191cb3674e157e66f65c8e58e7c0ce> The international merchant fleet of more than 100,000 ships transports more than 80% of global trade. But it's also responsible for about 3% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Without a quick switch from dirty fuels to cleaner energies, its pollution is forecast to soar.

The Importance of Sensor Calibration on Ships. Giampiero Soncini. *Sea Technology.*

2 December 2024. Available from: <https://sea-technology.com/the-importance-of-sensor-calibration-on-ships> As we advance in the digitalization and decarbonization of ships, the significance of precision and reliability in navigation and operational systems cannot be overstated.

LNG, not the energy supply panacea that it's touted to be. *Energy Voice.* 2 December 2024.

Available from: <https://www.energyvoice.com/insights/energy-opinion/563504/lng-not-the-energy-supply-panacea-that-its-touted-to-be/> While there may be broad agreement on the potential benefit of liquefied natural gas in terms of reducing air pollutants, the impact of LNG in terms of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions has clearly become a point of contention.

Hapag-Lloyd saves emissions with cleaner hulls. *Clean Shipping International.*

3 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.cleanshippinginternational.com/hapag-lloyd-saves-emissions-with-cleaner-hulls/> As part of its continued effort to drive sustainability in the maritime industry, German container line Hapag-Lloyd succeeds in reducing both emissions and operational costs through implementing Shipshave's In Transit Cleaning of Hull (ITCH) solution, with the results documented and confirmed by class society DNV.

Stolt Tankers opts for vegetable oil fuel blend on 30 vessels. Gary Dixon. *TradeWinds.*

3 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/stolt-tankers-opts-for-vegetable-oil-fuel-blend-on-30-vessels/2-1-1747471> The company, part of Norway's Stolt-Nielsen, said it will bunker all its Stolt-Nielsen Inland Tanker Service (SNITS) ships — more than 30 in total — with HVO20, a blend of 80% oil and 20% hydrotreated vegetable oil.

Sweden's renewable fuel surplus: a maritime Catch-22. *Ship & Bunker*. 4 December 2024.

Available from: <https://shipandbunker.com/news/emea/833609-swedens-renewable-fuel-surplus-a-maritime-catch-22> Sweden is a leader in the quest for sustainable marine fuels, driven by its ambitious goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045 and support for the IMO target to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping by 2050.

Roadmap for Nordic Shipping's fuel transition delivered to Nordic ministers.

Nordic co-operation - Nordic Council and Nordic Council of Ministers. 4 December 2024.

Available from: <https://www.norden.org/en/news/roadmap-nordic-shippings-fuel-transition-delivered-nordic-ministers> The Nordic Roadmap project has unveiled the Fuel Transition Roadmap for Nordic Shipping, a comprehensive document outlining a decarbonization strategy for the region.

Topsoe to provide tech and engineering support for Spanish e-methanol project. *Bunkerspot*.

4 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.bunkerspot.com/europe/63806-europe-topsoe-to-provide-tech-and-engineering-support-for-spanish-e-methanol-project> Denmark's Topsoe has been chosen as a technology provider and engineering partner for the Triskelion e-methanol project, located in Galicia, Spain.

Ships See Boost to Fuel Efficiency from Proactive Hull Cleanings. *SupplyChainBrain*.

6 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.supplychainbrain.com/articles/40792-ships-see-boost-to-fuel-efficiency-from-proactive-hull-cleanings> Proactive biofouling removal led to "significant" improvements in emissions and fuel efficiency for two Hapag-Lloyd container ships, with repeated hull cleanings helping reduce water resistance and prevent marine organisms such as algae, slime and other debris from re-accumulating on the hulls of each vessel.

Dynamic positioning – keeping maritime operations safe. *Maritime Executive*. 9 December 2024.

Available from: <https://www.maritime-executive.com/features/dynamic-positioning-keeping-maritime-operations-safe> 📰 The technology of Dynamic Positioning has revolutionized many aspects of the maritime industry.

Greensand Future: Large-scale CO2 storage in the North Sea becomes a reality.

Danish Shipping. 10 December 2024. Available from: <https://danishshipping.dk/en/latest-news/2024/greensand-future-large-scale-co2-storage-in-the-north-sea-becomes-a-reality/>

An agreement has now been reached between the parties involved in a large-scale CO2 storage project aimed at securing carbon storage in the North Sea.


Shipping poised to play a vital role in APAC cross-border CCUS initiatives, with annual CO2 shipping volumes projected to reach 100 MtPA by 2050. *Global Centre for Maritime*

Decarbonisation. 10 December 2024. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/2jz6mu3e> A joint study by the Global Centre for Maritime Decarbonisation and Boston Consulting Group has identified shipping to play a key role in enabling CCUS initiatives, particularly when there is a large geographical mismatch between potential captured CO2 sources and sequestration hubs.

Maritime, clean fuel projects in the spotlight of EU's STEP initiative. Naida Hakirevic Prevljak. *Offshore Energy*. 12 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.offshore-energy.biz/maritime-clean-fuel-projects-in-the-spotlight-of-eus-step-initiative/> Several maritime and alternative fuels projects are among initiatives that have been awarded the Strategic Technology Platform for Europe (STEP) label in a new initiative of the European Commission to boost investment in critical technologies in Europe and support the local industry.

Study finds LNG dual-fuel vessels lowest cost compliance solution to decarbonise shipping. SEA-LNG. 17 December 2024. Available from: <https://sea-lng.org/reports/study-finds-lng-dual-fuel-vessels-lowest-cost-compliance-solution-to-decarbonise-shipping/> Industry coalition SEA-LNG analysis shows that LNG dual-fuelled vessels provide the lowest compliance cost for meeting EU and IMO decarbonisation regulations. [White Paper](#) 

Viewpoint: Japan eyes methanol as marine bridging fuel. Reina Maeda and Nanami Oki. *Argus Media*. 18 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.argusmedia.com/en/news-and-insights/latest-market-news/2639615-viewpoint-japan-eyes-methanol-as-marine-bridging-fuel> Japanese demand for methanol as an alternative marine fuel is expected to increase, especially after 2027, but it is likely it will mainly be used as a transition fuel before the commercial launch of ammonia- and hydrogen-fuelled vessels.

'I'm an impatient person:' This young CEO wants to capture carbon emissions from ships. Jacopo Prisco. *CNN*. 18 December 2024. Available from: <https://edition.cnn.com/climate/seabound-shipping-industry-alisha-fredriksson-spc/index.html>  Alisha Fredriksson says she had one motivation for starting her latest business venture: "to tackle the climate crisis and to have as big of an impact as possible."

Maersk in early talks with several green fuel producers to source methanol to run its dual fuel ships. *Economic Times (India)*. 18 December 2024. Available from: <https://infra.economictimes.indiatimes.com/amp/news/ports-shipping/maersk-in-early-talks-with-several-green-fuel-producers-to-source-methanol-to-run-its-dual-fuel-ships/116438889> A.P. Moller-Maersk A/S has begun initial discussions with several Indian green fuel producers to source methanol to run its fleet of dual fuel ships, the Copenhagen-based integrated logistics company which runs Maersk Line, the world's second biggest container carrier, has said.

Gov't adopts rules to support development of autonomous vessels. Kang Yoon-seung. *Yonhap News Agency (South Korea)*. 24 December 2024. Available from: <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20241224002000320?section=search> South Korea has approved an enforcement decree to accelerate the development of autonomous vessels, laying the groundwork for global leadership in the rapidly growing industry.

Ships of Opportunity: Crossing the Arctic to investigate the ocean's uptake of carbon and increasing Ocean Acidification. *US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)*. 26 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.aoml.noaa.gov/ships-of-opportunity-arctic/> Leticia Barbero, Ph.D., a principal investigator with the Ocean Carbon Cycle group at NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) and a scientist with the University of Miami's Cooperative Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Studies (CIMAS), traversed the Arctic aboard the ship *Le Commandant Charcot*.

MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING

Liberia strengthens maritime sector, graduates first batch of certified marine engineers officers.

Edwin Genoway. *Front Page Africa (Liberia)*. 2 December 2024. Available from:

<https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/liberia-strengthens-maritime-sector-graduates-first-batch-of-certified-marine-engineers-officers/> In a significant milestone for Liberia's growing maritime sector,

the Liberia Maritime Training Institute (LMTI) has graduated 13 certified Marine Engineer Officers at the international level.

Suva hosts committee for maritime education.

Sainiani Boila. *Fijian Broadcasting Corporation (FBC)*. 9 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.fbcnews.com.fj/news/suva-hosts-committee-for-maritime-education/> Suva hosted the first steering committee for maritime education in the South Pacific.

Denmark to help train Filipino seafarers for 'green transition'.

Cristina Chi. *Philstar (Philippines)*. 10 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/12/10/2406186/denmark-help-train-filipino-seafarers-green-transition> Denmark will help train Filipino seafarers for the shipping industry's transition to green

technology, as both countries agreed to deepen maritime cooperation during their first ministerial-level meeting in 25 years.

Leveraging human factors for safer maritime vessel ops.

Fred Finger. *MarineLink*. 16 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.marinelink.com/news/leveraging-human-factors-safer-maritime-520290> A safety management system, while vital, can only take a company so far.

Identification of specific competences for seafarers: alternative fuels and energy systems.

European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). 18 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.emsa.europa.eu/newsroom/latest-news/item/5384-identification-of-specific-competences-for-seafarers-alternative-fuels-and-energy-systems.html> EMSA has published

a new study (TRAINALTER) aimed at identifying the specific competences and training areas for seafarers as the maritime industry moves towards greater sustainability.

[TRAINALTER: Final Report](#) 

DNV launches competence standard and recommended practice for safe use of methanol and ammonia as fuel on ships.

DNV. 18 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.dnv.com/news/dnv-launches-competence-standard-and-recommended-practice-for-safe-use-of-methanol-and-ammonia-as-fuel-on-ships/> While new fuels and technologies are key to

achieving maritime decarbonization, their adoption necessitates robust safety and competence frameworks.

WMU Launches Pioneering Training on Shipping Alternative Fuels.

World Maritime University (WMU). 19 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.wmu.se/news/wmu-pioneering-training-alternative-fuels> From 17-18 December, the World Maritime University (WMU) delivered a

Train-the-Trainer programme designed to equip maritime educators with the essential knowledge and pedagogical skills necessary to effectively train seafarers on alternative fuels, including

ammonia, methanol, and hydrogen.

60 RMU seafaring graduates recruited by Danaos Shipping Ltd. Ike Dzokpo. *News Ghana*. 19 December 2024. Available from: <https://newsghana.com.gh/60-rmu-seafaring-graduates-recruited-by-danaos-shipping-ltd/> Of these graduates, 40 cadets are already onboard, while the remaining 20 are poised to join the prestigious shipping company's crew in the coming days.

WiMAC Jamaica chapter unveils plan for professional development, inclusion.

The Gleaner (Jamaica). 31 December 2024. Available from: <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/shipping/20241231/wimac-jamaica-chapter-unveils-plan-professional-development-inclusion> The Jamaica chapter of Women in Maritime Association, Caribbean (WiMAC) is accelerating its drive to impact women in shipping in Jamaica and across the region.

MARITIME SAFETY

The risks and benefits of AI translations in safety-critical industries Moana Ewald. *Safety4Sea*. 2 December 2024. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/the-risks-and-benefits-of-ai-translations-in-safety-critical-industries/> In safety-critical industries, clear communication is essential. At Mintra, client interest for multilingual training has increased significantly, reflecting the need for accessible training in workers' native languages, says Moana Ewald, Quality Assurance & Impact Analysis Coordinator at Mintra.

A coordinated model for implementing treaties for safe and legal fishing. *Robban Assafina*.

3 December 2024. Available from: https://assafinaonline.com/news_details/en/22201/A-coordinated-model-for-implementing-treaties-for-safe-and-legal-fishing Key treaties under the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the international Maritime Organization (IMO) support safe and legal fishing.

Dutch Safety Board wants concrete action after another Nieuwe Maas collision.

Mariska Buitendijk. *SWZ Maritime (Netherlands)*. 5 December 2024. Available from: <https://swzmaritime.nl/news/2024/12/05/dutch-safety-board-wants-concrete-action-after-another-nieuwe-maas-collision/> On 23 November, a water taxi and water bus collided at exactly the same location (near the Erasmus Bridge) as where a water taxi and a harbour tour boat collided on 21 July 2022.

Invisible flames are one of methanol's severe risks to seafarers. Tomas Kristiansen.

ShippingWatch. 5 December 2024. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article17669143.ece> Flames which the human eye cannot see pose a special risk with one of the shipping sector's new, favourite alternative fuels, methanol.

The threats posed by the global shadow fleet—and how to stop it. Elisabeth Braw.

Atlantic Council. 6 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/report/the-threats-posed-by-the-global-shadow-fleet-and-how-to-stop-it/> On March 2, 2024, the crude-oil carrier *Andromeda Star* collided with the Bulgarian-flagged cargo ship *Peace* in the treacherous waters between Denmark and Sweden.

Press release: RightShip announces revised timeline for vessel inspection age trigger in collaboration with industry stakeholders. *RightShip*. 11 December 2024. Available from: <https://rightship.com/insights/rightship-announces-revised-timeline-vessel-inspection-age-trigger-collaboration-with-industry-stakeholders> RightShip revises its inspection age trigger rollout to balance advancing safety with providing vessel owners and operators the time and flexibility to adapt.

Red Sea dive boat accidents. *UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch*. 16 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/red-sea-dive-boat-accidents> The MAIB has been notified of three accidents within the last 20 months affecting UK citizens on Egyptian dive boats operating in the Red Sea.

Guidance for safe evacuation of crew members from vehicle carriers in case of fires - introducing world's first notation for safe evacuation measures. *ClassNK*. 17 December 2024. Available from: https://www.classnk.or.jp/hp/en/hp_pressrelease.aspx?id=12782&layout=1 ClassNK has released guidance to assist in the safe evacuation of crew members from vehicle carriers in the event of a cargo hold fire.

ATSB safety recommendations seek to eliminate single point of failure following bulk carrier grounding. *Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB)*. 20 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.atsb.gov.au/media/news-items/2024/atsb-safety-recommendations-seek-eliminate-single-point-failure-following-bulk-carrier-grounding> On 9 April 2022, the Liberian-flagged bulk carrier *Hagen Oldendorff* departed its berth with a harbour pilot on board and four tugs assisting for an outbound passage of Port Hedland's 40 km dredged channel. [Grounding of *Hagen Oldendorff*, Port Hedland, Western Australia, on 9 April 2022](#)

Sea mine drifts into Turkish Black Sea coast near Istanbul. *Daily Sabah (Türkiye)*. 23 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/sea-mine-drifts-into-turkish-black-sea-coast-near-istanbul/news> A sea mine found drifting near the northeast coast of Istanbul in the Black Sea on Sunday is scheduled to be destroyed on Monday.

ETF update: unions demand stronger action on the shadow fleet. *Nautilus International*. 31 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.nautilusint.org/en/news-insight/telegraph/etf-update-unions-demand-stronger-action-on-the-shadow-fleet/> The European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) is calling for flag states and international maritime authorities to step up the fight against unregulated shipping.

MARITIME SECURITY

Houthis threaten shipping, but blackmail earns them little. *Maritime Executive*.

29 November 2024. Available from: <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/houthis-threaten-shipping-but-blackmail-earns-them-little> Speculation continues regarding reports that the Houthis are successfully blackmailing ship owners to pay fees for guaranteeing safe passage through the Red Sea.

CENTCOM forces defeat Houthi attacks on U.S. Navy and U.S.-flagged ships in Gulf of Aden.

US Central Command. 1 December 2024. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/4mk936cn> U.S. Navy destroyers USS Stockdale (DDG 106) and the USS O’Kane (DDG 77) successfully defeated a range of Houthi-launched weapons while transiting the Gulf of Aden.

Houthis fire barrage of missiles at US war and supply ship convoy in Gulf of Aden.

Harry Papachristou. *TradeWinds*. 1 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/houthis-fire-barrage-of-missiles-at-us-war-and-supply-ship-convoy-in-gulf-of-aden/2-1-1746823> Three commercial ships with known US links are Yemeni rebels’ latest target.

Strengthening regional maritime security. *Government of Kenya*. 2 December 2024.

Available from: <https://mod.go.ke/news/strengthening-regional-maritime-security/> Deputy Commander Kenya Navy (KN), Brigadier Sankale Kiswaa, recently represented the Kenya Navy Commander at the 7th High-Level Meeting on Implementing the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct, held from 28 to 30 November 2024 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

EU steps up engagement in maritime security through Djibouti Code of Conduct high-level meeting. *European Union External Action Service (EEAS)*. 2 December 2024. Available from:

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/tanzania/eu-steps-engagement-maritime-security-through-djibouti-code-conduct-high-level-meeting_en The European Union (EU) participated for the first time as a ‘Friend’ (observer) in the High-Level Meeting of the Djibouti Code of Conduct-Jeddah Amendment (DCOC-JA), held in Dar es Salaam from 28 to 30 November.

Gulf of Guinea countries express hope to enhance maritime security cooperation with China at symposium. Guo Yandan and Leng Shumei. *Global Times (China)*. 4 December 2024.

Available from: <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202412/1324338.shtml> A symposium on maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, hosted by the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Navy, kicked off in Shanghai on Wednesday.

DNV says cyber risks for carriers will grow with increased digital connectivity. Nidaa Bakhsh. *ShippingWatch*. 5 December 2024. Available from:

<https://shippingwatch.com/logistics/article17662481.ece> Shipping companies should invest in systems to guard against the increased likelihood of cyber attacks as the shift to digitalisation gains momentum, says Norwegian classification society DNV.

Official statement on the alleged hijack of a Chinese fishing boat off the coast of Somalia.

EU NAVFOR Operation ATALANTA. 5 December 2024. Available from:

<https://eunavfor.eu/news/official-statement-alleged-hijack-chinese-fishing-boat-coast-somalia>

After receiving an alert by the Puntland Maritime Police Force, EUNAVFOR ATALANTA has been monitoring a Chinese fishing vessel off the North-east coast of Puntland, Somalia, allegedly hijacked.

Biden: Houthis still pose threat to US forces, Red Sea shipping. *Kuwait News Agency (KUNA)*.

6 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=3207834&language=en> US President Joe Biden

said that Houthi militants continue to pose a threat of future attacks against US forces, military vessels and against other maritime traffic in the Red Sea.

US seeks more partners to combat Houthi attacks in the Red Sea. Lauren Holtmeier.

S&P Global. 8 December 2024. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/5avhapnh>

The United States needs more partner countries to join the fight against Yemen-backed Houthi rebels targeting commercial and military vessels in the Red Sea, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Middle East Daniel Shapiro, said Dec. 8 at the IISS Manama Security Dialogues.

U.S. Navy destroyers fend off Houthi attack on American ships in Gulf of Aden. Mike Schuler.

gCaptain. 10 December 2024. Available from: [https://gcaptain.com/houthis-claim-new-attacks-on-](https://gcaptain.com/houthis-claim-new-attacks-on-american-supply-ships-and-destroyers-in-gulf-of-aden/)

[american-supply-ships-and-destroyers-in-gulf-of-aden/](https://gcaptain.com/houthis-claim-new-attacks-on-american-supply-ships-and-destroyers-in-gulf-of-aden/) The Iran-backed Houthis on Tuesday announced the targeting of three American supply vessels and two destroyers in the Gulf of Aden.

CENTCOM forces defeat Houthi attacks on U.S. Navy and U.S.-flagged ships in the Gulf of Aden. *US Central Command*. 10 December 2024. Available from:

[https://www.centcom.mil/MEDIA/PRESS-RELEASES/Press-Release-View/Article/3994115/centcom-](https://www.centcom.mil/MEDIA/PRESS-RELEASES/Press-Release-View/Article/3994115/centcom-forces-defeat-houthi-attacks-on-us-navy-and-us-flagged-ships-in-the-gul/)

[forces-defeat-houthi-attacks-on-us-navy-and-us-flagged-ships-in-the-gul/](https://www.centcom.mil/MEDIA/PRESS-RELEASES/Press-Release-View/Article/3994115/centcom-forces-defeat-houthi-attacks-on-us-navy-and-us-flagged-ships-in-the-gul/) U.S. Navy destroyers *USS Stockdale (DDG 106)* and *USS O’Kane (DDG 77)* successfully defeated a range of Houthi-launched weapons while transiting the Gulf of Aden, Dec. 9 – 10.

Vessels, undersea cables, and offshore oil installations increasingly becoming “gray zone” targets. *Hellenic Shipping News*. 11 December 2024. Available from:

[https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/vessels-undersea-cables-and-offshore-oil-installations-](https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/vessels-undersea-cables-and-offshore-oil-installations-increasingly-becoming-gray-zone-targets/)

[increasingly-becoming-gray-zone-targets/](https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/vessels-undersea-cables-and-offshore-oil-installations-increasingly-becoming-gray-zone-targets/) The threat to vessels, undersea cables, and offshore oil installations has increased due to the availability of advanced weapons and the willingness of certain states - particularly Russia and Iran - to disregard international maritime laws.

What Assad’s downfall means for the Red Sea shipping crisis. Chichen Shen. *Lloyd’s List*.

11 December 2024. Available from: [https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1151798/What-](https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1151798/What-Assad%E2%80%99s-downfall-means-for-the-Red-Sea-shipping-crisis)

[Assad%E2%80%99s-downfall-means-for-the-Red-Sea-shipping-crisis](https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1151798/What-Assad%E2%80%99s-downfall-means-for-the-Red-Sea-shipping-crisis) Nervous container freight futures investors have sensed ominous signs drawing closer. Security experts agree that Syria is another big blow to Tehran and its proxies, but caution against simplistically linking it to a Gaza truce deal or the Red Sea crisis.

Attacks on vessels in Red sea impact our trade: Centre tells Parliament. *Business Standard (India)*. 12 December 2024. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/4zcy76ej> India remains “concerned” at the evolving situation in West Asia and attacks against commercial vessels in and around the Red Sea threaten freedom of navigation and “impact our trade”, the government informed the Parliament on Thursday.

How the West Is Countering Houthi Rebels in the Red Sea. *Wall Street Journal*. 20 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xt2fgcYb5PI> In the shadows of the Israel-Gaza and Ukraine-Russia conflicts, another war is raging in the Red Sea and the West is on the front line.

NATO to step up Baltic Sea patrols after Finland-Estonia power cable damage. Gavin Blackburn. *Euronews*. 28 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/12/28/nato-to-step-up-baltic-sea-patrols-after-finland-estonia-power-cable-damage> NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte has said that the military alliance will step up patrols in the Baltic Sea as investigators in Finland work to establish whether a ship linked to Russia sabotaged undersea cables in the region earlier week.

Swedish Coast Guard increases surveillance of ships in the Baltic Sea. *ShippingWatch*. 30 December 2024. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article17769660.ece> Sweden is deploying ships and planes to increase surveillance of ships after several recent cable breaks.

MIGRANTS

Greece: Reports of rescues and pushbacks. Emma Wallis. *InfoMigrants*. 2 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/61492/greece-reports-of-rescues-and-pushbacks> The Greek coast guard rescued at least 79 migrants near the island of Gavdos on Friday and Saturday. Meanwhile, the Turkish coast guard claimed it had rescued at least 21 migrants they say were pushed back by the Greeks.


MSF ends operation of Geo Barents with commitment to return to Central Mediterranean Sea. *Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF)*. 13 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.msf.org/msf-ends-operation-geo-barents-commitment-return-central-mediterranean-sea> Italian laws and policies have made it impossible to continue with the current operational model.

8 dead, 18 rescued as speedboat carrying migrants capsizes near Greek island of Rhodes. *Associated Press*. 20 December 2024. Available from: <https://apnews.com/article/greece-migrations-migration-turkey-smuggling-deaths-fe8a791935f8eab2303aa16038939a5f> A speedboat carrying migrants capsized Friday morning off the eastern Greek island of Rhodes, leaving eight dead, Greek authorities said.

NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS

Stop sending ships through the Red Sea, *Marlin Luanda* master tells owners. Declan Bush. *Lloyd's List*. 3 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.loydslist.com/LL1151706/Stop-sending-ships-through-the-Red-Sea-Marlin-Luanda-master-tells-owners> Master of a tanker struck by a Houthi missile in January has urged shipowners and operators not to risk crew safety by sending ships through the Red Sea.

Shipping should return to the Red Sea, argues EU naval commander. Richard Meade. *Lloyd's List*. 3 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.loydslist.com/LL1151705/Shipping-should-return-to-the-Red-Sea-argues-EU-naval-commander> Operation Aspides, the European Union's naval mission to protect Red Sea vessels from Houthi attacks is under-resourced and fighting a PR battle, but the Rear Admiral overseeing the unprecedented mission says that, with the right risk management, at least 15% of ships could return safely to the Red Sea immediately.

Navigating troubled waters: the Houthis' campaign in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. Wolf-Christian Paes, Edward Beales and Fabian Hinz. *International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)*. 3 December 2024. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/nasuvtf5> This research paper examines the Houthis' attacks on ships since November 2023 and the international military responses, as well as the economic impact of the crisis. It also considers the Houthis' arsenal and the smuggling of weapons and their components to Yemen. [Report](#) 

Red Sea trade declines as Houthis grow in strength despite Western airstrikes. *Forces News*. 4 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.forcesnews.com/middle-east/red-sea-trade-declines-houthis-grow-strength-despite-western-airstrikes> The Houthis are growing in strength and trade through the Red Sea is declining despite ongoing international military pressure on the rebel group, a study has warned.

The Arctic could be ice-free by summer 2027: What it means for weather, shipping and polar bears. Jen Marsden. *Euronews*. 4 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.euronews.com/green/2024/12/04/an-ice-free-arctic-could-happen-by-summer-2027-what-it-means-for-weather-shipping-and-pola> The Arctic Ocean may see its first ice-free day before 2030, earlier than scientists predicted.

Stylianides: 'We are implementing a PPP scheme for the renewal of passenger ships on remote island routes'. *Athens News Agency - Macedonian Press Agency (ANA-MPA)*. 5 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.amna.gr/en/article/868222/Stylianides-We-are-implementing-a-PPP-scheme-for-the-renewal-of-passenger-ships-on-remote-island-routes> Shipping and Island Policy Minister Christos Stylianides said that the synergies between the private and the public sector are necessary for the renewal of the coastal shipping fleet of remote islands' routes, referring to the decarbonisation of shipping, which he described as the biggest challenge.

Sentinel-1C: New radar satellite launched into space. *UK Space Agency*. 6 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sentinel-1c-new-radar-satellite-launched-into-space> The Sentinel-1C satellite launched on a VEGA-C rocket and will orbit 700km above the Earth's surface.

Ship strikes now leading cause of whale deaths, UW study finds. Lynda V. Mapes. *Seattle Times*. 6 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/climate-lab/ship-strikes-now-leading-cause-of-whale-deaths-uw-study-finds/> With the near complete end of commercial whaling, ship collisions are now a leading cause of death worldwide for large whale species, according to new research published in Science.

How global sea lanes are being weaponised. *South China Morning Post*. 8 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzS9-6PMsO8> Yemen's Houthi rebels have been attacking ships travelling through the Red Sea corridor since October 2023.

Iranian oil tanker changes course in Red Sea amid Syrian crisis. *Baird Maritime*. 9 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.bairdmaritime.com/shipping/tankers/iranian-oil-tanker-changes-course-in-red-sea-amid-syrian-crisis> A tanker carrying Iranian oil to Syria turned round in the Red Sea to head away from its original destination after the fall of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, according to ship tracking data.

Arctic shipping sets new records with hundred transit voyages carrying 3m tonnes of cargo in 2024. Malte Humpert. *gCaptain*. 9 December 2024. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/arctic-shipping-sets-new-records-with-hundred-transit-voyages-carrying-3m-tonnes-of-cargo-in-2024/> Even in the face of widening Western sanctions Russia managed to increase Arctic transit cargo by almost 50 percent over 2023.

Just one 45-year-old ship seen venturing into Syrian tumult. Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*. 10 December 2024. Available from: <https://splash247.com/just-one-45-year-old-ship-seen-venturing-into-syrian-tumult/> A small, 45-year-old, Tanzania-flagged general cargo ship is the only vessel venturing into Syrian waters today.

Two new EU-funded projects on Maritime Spatial Planning kicked off. *European Commission*. 10 December 2024. Available from: https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/two-new-eu-funded-projects-maritime-spatial-planning-kicked-2024-12-10_en The kick-off meeting with CINEA and the European Commission (DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) marked the official launch of two new Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) actions.

Red Sea tensions: 4 scholars explain what's at stake for global trade and security. Kagure Gacheche. *The Conversation*. 11 December 2024. Available from: <https://theconversation.com/red-sea-tensions-4-scholars-explain-whats-at-stake-for-global-trade-and-security-245048> The Red Sea region is a geopolitical hotspot - it holds strategic maritime importance as a global trade transit route and plays a crucial role in the broader region's security and economic stability.

Ukraine estimates 238 'shadow' tankers shipping sanctioned Russian, Iranian oil. Max Lin. *S&P Global*. 13 December 2024. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/38bjtrmf> Ukraine has identified 238 "shadow" tankers transporting sanctioned oil from Russia and Iran to boost revenue, calling on governments to clamp down on their operations to reduce safety and environmental risks.

Vortex: Stand-off at sea. Edward Lucas. *Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA)*. 15 December 2024. Available from: <https://cepa.org/article/vortex-stand-off-at-sea/> Russia, China, and the West are at odds over the *Yi Peng 3*.

Houthi shipping attacks: Patterns and expectations for 2025. Noam Raydan and Farzin Nadimi. *Washington Institute for Near East Policy*. 16 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/houthi-shiping-attacks-patterns-and-expectations-2025> Two experts offer a detailed infographic and accompanying analysis to chart attack trends over the past year and forecast what's in store for the Red Sea and surrounding waterways.

After a year of attacks, Houthis plan shipping security seminar. Paul Peachey. *TradeWinds*. 17 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/insurance/after-a-year-of-attacks-houthis-plan-shiping-security-seminar/2-1-1754420> Scourge of commercial shipping welcomes insights for discussions on navigation in the Red Sea.

Houthi attacks turn back the clock for shipping in 2024 as costs pile up. *Straits Times*. 17 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.straitstimes.com/business/companies-markets/houthi-attacks-turn-back-the-clock-for-shiping-as-costs-pile-up> Before 2024, German container ship captain Tobias Kammann had only once sailed around the southern tip of Africa, and the lack of other vessels in the little-trafficked waters made him feel very much alone.

Airlines, shipping companies and sleigh drivers rush to update crucial navigation systems ahead of Christmas rush. *British Geological Survey*. 17 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/news/airlines-shiping-companies-and-sleigh-drivers-rush-to-update-crucial-navigation-systems-ahead-of-christmas-rush/> Release of major upgrade to a new model tracking magnetic north prompts global reset of satellite tracking systems across trade and passenger transport routes.

Repairs to Baltic Sea cables yet to begin as investigations into suspect ship continue. *Yle (Finland)*. 29 December 2024. Available from: <https://yle.fi/a/74-20133869> Repairs to the damaged subsea telecommunications and power cables in the Gulf of Finland, disrupted on Christmas Day, have yet to commence.

PIRACY

Rising threats of piracy in the Somalian waters and Indian Ocean. Ruby Hassan. *Skuld*. 2 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.skuld.com/topics/port/piracy/rising-threats-of-piracy-in-the-somalian-waters-and-indian-ocean/> The reconfiguration of international shipping lanes due to the crisis in the Red Sea has inadvertently led to a surge in traffic east of the coast of Somalia.

Red Sea conflicts leave Somali waters vulnerable to renewed piracy. *Hiiraan Online (Somalia)*. 4 December 2024. Available from: https://www.hiiraan.com/news4/2024/Dec/199198/red_sea_conflicts_leave_somali_waters_vulnerable_to_renewed_piracy.aspx Piracy off the Somali coast, once quelled by international naval patrols, is resurging as global maritime traffic shifts eastward due to Red Sea conflicts, according to a report by Skuld, a leading global marine insurance provider.

Pirates demand \$10 million in ransom after hijacking Chinese-owned fishing vessel with 18 captives. Omar Faruk. *Associated Press*. 17 December 2024. Available from:

<https://apnews.com/article/somalia-piracy-chinese-fishing-vessel-91d071c26f4a45abf2942eafdb2626d6>

The pirates who hijacked a Chinese-owned fishing vessel with 18 crew off the northeastern coast of Somalia last month are demanding \$10 million in ransom, according to a Somali official.

Update on the alleged hijack of a Chinese fishing vessel off the coast of Somalia.

EU NAVFOR Operation ATALANTA. 20 December 2024. Available from:

<https://eunavfor.eu/news/update-alleged-hijack-chinese-fishing-vessel-coast-somalia-1>

In relation to the Chinese fishing vessel involved in a case of ARMED ROBBERY AT SEA* off the northeast coast of Puntland, Somalia, Operation ATALANTA continues surveillance of the event.

Somali piracy 2.0 - the BBC meets the new robbers of the high seas. *BBC News*.

22 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cq8vl8n9gypo>

Two Somali fishermen wearing big scarves over their heads to hide their faces glance around furtively as they walk into the room for a secret meeting to tell me why they have recently decided to become gun-wielding pirates - in search of million-dollar ransoms.

PORT STATE CONTROL

Good news: no more unnecessary bureaucracy at German ports. *Danish Shipping*.

4 December 2024. Available from: <https://danishshipping.dk/en/latest-news/2024/good-news-no-more-unnecessary-bureaucracy-at-german-ports/>

German authorities have now dropped the requirement for Danish ships without SOLAS certificates to undergo inspections when entering German ports or operating out of Germany.

FMC Examining Restrictive Port Practices of the Government of Spain. *US Federal Maritime Commission (FMC)*. 5 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.fmc.gov/articles/fmc-examining-restrictive-port-practices-of-the-government-of-spain/>

The Federal Maritime Commission has initiated an investigation into regulations or practices by the Government of Spain which appear to bar certain vessels, including U.S.-flagged vessels, from calling at ports in that country.

'Deranged' Iranian officials rubber-stamped tanker seizure, says lawyer. Paul Peachey.

TradeWinds. 10 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/-deranged-iranian-officials-rubber-stamped-tanker-seizure-says-lawyer/2-1-1751459>

Iran's military-backed seizure of a VLCC was rubber-stamped by "deranged officials" in a case that flagrantly flaunted international maritime rules, according to a lawyer for the owners.

Baltic Sea countries to start checking insurance status of tankers moving Russian oil.

Ewa Krukowska, Alberto Nardelli and Sanne Wass. *Bloomberg*. 16 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/investing/2024/12/16/baltic-countries-to-start-checking-insurance-status-of-tankers-moving-russian-oil/>

Twelve European countries are set to clamp down on tankers that move millions of barrels of Russian petroleum around the world — by asking to see how they're protected against oil spills and other high-cost claims.

Singapore to Require Advance Notice of Ship-to-Ship Transfers by Tankers. *Ship & Bunker.* 20 December 2024. Available from: <https://shipandbunker.com/news/apac/807264-singapore-to-require-advance-notice-of-ship-to-ship-transfers-by-tankers> Singapore's authorities are set to require tankers to provide advance notice of ship-to-ship oil transfers.


Ship-to-ship (STS) Operations for Singapore-registered ships in relation to IMO Assembly Resolution A.1192(33). *Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA).* 20 December 2024. Available from: [https://www.mpa.gov.sg/media-centre/details/no.-16-of-2024---ship-to-ship-operations-for-singapore-registered-ships-in-relation-to-imo-assembly-resolution-a.1192\(33\)](https://www.mpa.gov.sg/media-centre/details/no.-16-of-2024---ship-to-ship-operations-for-singapore-registered-ships-in-relation-to-imo-assembly-resolution-a.1192(33)) This circular draws your attention to Resolution A.1192(33), adopted by the 33rd session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Assembly on 6 December 2023, in Annex A.

PORTS & HARBOURS

Dockworkers on frontline of automation wars. Nick Savvides. *Seatrade Maritime News.* 29 November 2024. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/ports-logistics/dockworkers-on-frontline-of-automation-wars> North American port workers are battling plans to cut jobs and deskill the workforce, which employers say will reduce costs and drive productivity and efficiencies through automation.

Threatened by climate change, Panama Canal has big plans to deal with drought. Marianna Paraga and Elida Moreno. *gCaptain.* 2 December 2024. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/threatened-by-climate-change-panama-canal-has-big-plans-to-deal-with-drought/> The lush river valleys of El Zaino y La Arenosa in western Panama, home to hundreds of families that eke out a living farming, fishing and raising cattle, could soon be submerged by a massive man-made reservoir designed to ensure the viability of the Panama Canal in the face of a changing climate.

The Green North Sea Shipping Corridor project: officially launched. *Port of Tyne.* 2 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.portoftyne.co.uk/news-and-media/news/port-of-tyne-welcomes-partners-to-officially-launch-the-green-north-sea-shipping-corridor-project> The North East is playing a major part in a new government-funded initiative designed to advance environmentally friendly travel within Europe and secure green jobs of the future.

Waiting time in port represents major inefficiency and GHG savings opportunity for international shipping. *UMAS (University Maritime Advisory Services).* 5 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.u-mas.co.uk/waiting-time-in-port-represents-major-inefficiency-and-ghg-savings-opportunity-for-international-shipping/> A new study by UCL and UMAS, which analyzed ship movements between 2018-2022, found that optimising port arrivals to take into account port congestion or waiting times could reduce voyage emissions by up to 25% for some vessel types. [Port congestion, Waiting Times and Operational Efficiency](#) 

SHIPPING: Port automation a key sticking point in union, USEC ports negotiations ahead of 15 Jan deadline. Adam Yaneli. *Independent Commodity Intelligence Services (ICIS)*.

5 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.icis.com/explore/resources/news/2024/12/05/11057305/shipping-port-automation-a-key-sticking-point-in-union-usec-ports-negotiations-ahead-of-15-jan-deadline/> The 15 January deadline for finalizing a new labor agreement between unionized dock workers at US Gulf and East Coast ports and the negotiating entity for the ports is nearing with no clear progress on a key remaining issue – automation.

Rubavu Port: A catalyst for trade, regional integration, and maritime transport transformation in Rwanda. *Government of Rwanda*. 6 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.mininfra.gov.rw/updates/news-details/rubavu-port-a-catalyst-for-trade-regional-integration-and-maritime-transport-transformation-in-rwanda> Rwanda celebrated a significant milestone in its infrastructure development journey with the inauguration of the newly constructed Rubavu Port, located on the scenic shores of Lake Kivu in the country's Western Province.

Dar Port upgrades lure global shipping giant. Sauli Giliard. *Daily News (Tanzania)*.

7 December 2024. Available from: <https://dailynews.co.tz/dar-port-upgrades-lure-global-shipping-giant/>

The expansion of Dar es Salaam Port and improved efficiency in cargo handling continue to yield positive results as global shipping giant Evergreen Line returns to the facility after a decade.

Gov't to invest 14 tln won to build 'mega port' in Busan. Kang Yoon-sueng. *Yonhap News Agency (South Korea)*. 11 December 2024. Available from:

<https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20241211002400320> South Korea's oceans ministry said Wednesday the government will invest 14 trillion won (US\$9.75 billion) through 2045 to upgrade Busan Port, aiming to achieve the world's largest container handling capacity and establish it as the leading logistics hub in the region.

EIB provides €80 million loan for expansion and electrification of Port of Bilbao. *Port of Bilbao*.

11 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.bilbaoport.eus/en/news/eib-provides-e80-million-loan-for-expansion-and-electrification-of-port-of-bilbao/> The European Investment Bank (EIB) has signed an €80 million loan with the Port Authority of Bilbao to finance the expansion and electrification of the port of Bilbao.

Combating ivory and narcotics trafficking through Mombasa Port. Willis Oketch.

The Standard (Kenya). 12 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/business/shipping-logistics/article/2001507936/combating-ivory-and-narcotics-trafficking-through-mombasa-port> In the last seven years, Kenyan and global security agencies have recorded significant victories in the war against narcotics, elephant ivory, and rhino horns through Kenya's manned and unmanned ports.

Trade tensions may affect European and Middle East seaports. *Fitch Ratings*.

16 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.fitchratings.com/research/infrastructure-project-finance/trade-tensions-may-affect-european-middle-east-seaports-16-12-2024> Growing trade tensions and likely tariff increases by the incoming US administration may have negative implications for global trade, exacerbating the growth challenges faced by European and Middle East seaports, Fitch Ratings says.

Infographic: Red Sea diversions fuel Indian bunkering. Somesh Jain. *S&P Global*. 17 December 2024. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/35sr3jji> Bunkering and STS calls at Indian ports surged 55% from January to November, as more ships avoid Red Sea transits.

Israel strikes port and energy targets in Yemen. Ahmed Tolba, Claudia Tanios and Jana Choukeir. *Reuters*. 19 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/airstrikes-target-several-parts-yemen-houthi-al-masirah-tv-says-2024-12-19/> Israel launched strikes against ports and energy infrastructure in Houthi-held parts of Yemen on Thursday and threatened more attacks against the Iran-aligned militant group, which has launched hundreds of missiles at Israel over the past year.

Port Automation Series The big question: what is the future for the global port labour force? Alexander Whiteman. *The Loadstar*. 20 December 2024. Available from: <https://theloadstar.com/the-big-question-what-is-the-future-for-the-global-port-labour-force/> There was brief period of hope for US importers in early October, after a three-day stoppage in US east and Gulf coast ports came to an end thanks to a “tentative agreement” on remuneration.

Shanghai Port becomes world’s first port to cross 50m TEUs mark. Wang Ying. *China Daily*. 23 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202412/23/WS6768d42ba310f1265a1d4683.html> After handling the 50 millionth twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) in 2024 on Sunday morning, Shanghai Port officially became the world’s first port to cross the 50 million TEUs mark in annual container throughput, cementing its position as the world’s busiest container port for 15 consecutive years, according to the port operator Shanghai International Port (Group) Co Ltd.

SCA Chief announces success of trial operation of the Suez Canal’s expansion project in Small Bitter Lakes. *State Information Service (Egypt)*. 28 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.sis.gov.eg/Story/203876/SCA-Chief-announces-success-of-trial-operation-of-the-Suez-Canal%27s-expansion-project-in-Small-Bitter-Lakes> Chairman of the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) Admiral Osama Rabie announced the successful trial operation of the Suez Canal’s expansion project in the Small Bitter Lakes as part of the southern sector development project (the southern part of the navigation passage).

Viewpoint: Chancay port may increase Peru bunker demand. Luis Gronda. *Argus Media*. 30 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.argusmedia.com/en/news-and-insights/latest-market-news/2642755-viewpoint-chancay-port-may-increase-peru-bunker-demand> The opening of Peru’s Chancay port next year likely will boost the country’s bunkering demand and drive-up competition on the Latin American Pacific coast.

Maersk Sees No Progress in US Port Talks, Urges Cargo Removal. Brendan Murray. *Bloomberg*. 31 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/business/company-news/2024/12/31/maersk-sees-no-progress-in-us-port-talks-urges-cargo-removal/> The world’s No. 2 container carrier urged customers to remove cargo from East and Gulf Coast ports in the US before a Jan. 15 deadline for dockworkers and their employers to avoid a possible strike just days before President-elect Donald Trump takes office.

REGULATIONS

Uncertain details prevent shipping from getting ready for new EU fuel regulation.

Jens Thomsen. *ShippingWatch*. 29 November 2024. Available from:

<https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article17686939.ece> Unclear elements in the FuelEU Maritime legislative package make it very difficult for companies to assess the implications of EU's latest climate regulation for shipping, says CEO of zero44.

It's time to tax fossil fuels and shipped goods to fund climate resilience.

Avinash Persaud. *Al Jazeera*. 1 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2024/12/1/its-time-to-tax-fossil-fuels-and-shipped-goods-to-fund-climate-resilience> Climate-stricken regions are sinking into debt. We can stop that by financing the loss and damage fund through levies.

Transport ministry issues new regulation for security of ships, ports.

Times of Oman. 3 December 2024. Available from: <https://timesofoman.com/article/152711-transport-ministry-issues-new-regulation-for-security-of-ships-ports> Under Ministerial Resolution No. 423/2024, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology has issued new regulations about the security of ships and ports.

The Arctic shipping frontier: regulatory and operational challenges to consider.

Vanessa C. DiDomenico. *National Law Review*. 4 December 2024. Available from:

<https://natlawreview.com/article/arctic-shipping-frontier-regulatory-and-operational-challenges-consider> Heavy fuel oil ("HFO"), commonly known as bunker fuel or residual fuel oil, has been widely used by vessels for decades due to its low cost and ready availability.

Cost-efficient strategies can significantly cut price of FuelEU Maritime compliance, according to DNV.

DNV. 5 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.dnv.com/news/cost-efficient-strategies-can-significantly-cut-price-of-fueleu-maritime-compliance-according-to-dnv/> Effective from 1 January 2025, the rules mandate stringent greenhouse gas (GHG) emission intensity requirements for ships over 5,000 gross tonnage (GT) transporting cargo or passengers for commercial purposes in the EU/ EEA. [FuelEU Maritime: Requirements, compliance strategies, and commercial impacts](#)

Top 10 in regulation 2024.

Lloyd's List. 6 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1151743/Top-10-in-regulation-2024> The odds that next year, 176 countries can agree a simple, effective, global carbon tax to enable shipping's green transition are not great.

Significant safety improvements for those working in the offshore sector.

UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency. 9 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/significant-safety-improvements-for-those-working-in-the-offshore-sector> New international maritime regulations will become UK law next year, setting new safety standards for those transported offshore to work on wind farm and oil gas installations.

Carbon storage is key to the transition and shipping is ready — now regulators must step up.

Christopher Wiernicki. *TradeWinds*. 9 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.tradewindsnews.com/opinion/viewpoint-carbon-storage-is-key-to-the-transition-and-shipping-is-ready-now-regulators-must-step-up/2-1-1748038> Fleet of vessels to serve nascent CO2 value chain is on course for delivery.

Pressing FuelEU deadline demands attention. Carly Fields. *Baltic Exchange*. 11 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.balticexchange.com/en/news-and-events/news/baltic-magazine/2024/Pressing-FuelEU-deadline-demands-attention.html> As 2024 draws to a close, the shipping industry is facing up to an increasingly complex and rapidly evolving regulatory landscape over emissions.

Ship managers are liable for new EU fuel regulation and could pay high price. Mette Grube Condrup. *ShippingWatch*. 12 December 2024. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article17728164.ece> Ship managers should pay close attention to the new fuel requirements in the EU's climate legislation package, FuelEU Maritime, which comes into force in the new year.

Finland first in world to ban cargo ships from dumping wastewater. Yle (Finland). 12 December 2024. Available from: <https://yle.fi/a/74-20131006> Last week, the Finnish Parliament passed legislation banning cargo ships from discharging wastewater in the country's coastal waters.

Shipping needs a better way to split its green bills. Declan Bush. *Lloyd's List*. 19 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1151880/Shipping-needs-a-better-way-to-split-its-green-bills> Lawyers have warned for years that new green regulations will create tensions between shipowners and charterers when the bill comes due.

Restriction on use of open-loop scrubbers. *Port of Amsterdam*. 19 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.portofamsterdam.com/en/news/restriction-use-open-loop-scrubbers> A scrubber, also known as an "exhaust gas cleaning system", is a system in the funnel of ships that 'washes' exhaust gases to ensure that less sulphur is emitted into the air.

Imminent EU Climate Rule for Ships Is Set to Add to Fuel Bills. Jack Wittels. *Bloomberg*. 19 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/investing/2024/12/19/imminent-eu-climate-rule-for-ships-is-set-to-add-to-fuel-bills/> A European Union rule designed to cut greenhouse gas emissions from shipping is about to start adding to the industry's fuel bills.

Danish Shipping adopts policy on Biofouling Management. *Danish Shipping*. 20 December 2024. Available from: <https://danishshipping.dk/en/latest-news/2024/danish-shipping-adopts-policy-on-biofouling-management/> Tiny algae and barnacles stuck on the hulls of ships can spread invasive species over vast distances and cause problems in marine ecosystems on the other side of the world.

MARINA to implement sulfur cap policy on Jan 1; some operators get extension. *PortCalls Asia*. 29 December 2024. Available from: <https://portcalls.com/marina-to-implement-sulfur-cap-policy-on-jan-1-some-operators-get-extension/> The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) is implementing the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) 0.50% sulfur cap on marine fuel oil in domestic ships by January 1, 2025, according to MARINA administrator Sonia Malaluan in a recent briefing.

Growing cyber risk means owners should get ready for more regulation. *Splash 247.com*. 30 December 2024. Available from: <https://splash247.com/growing-cyber-risk-means-owners-should-get-ready-for-more-regulation/> Cyber incidents in maritime are increasing in number and sophistication, with new forms of connectivity and new digital technologies creating additional risk for an industry that for a long time felt insulated from direct, targeted cyber attacks.

SALVAGE

EU's Aspides Organizes Red Sea Rescue for Cargo Ship in Distress. *Maritime Executive*. 5 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/eu-s-aspides-organizes-red-sea-rescue-for-cargo-ship-in-distress> The EU NAVFOR Operation Aspides took a break from its protection missions in the Red Sea area today, December 5, organizing the rescue of the crew of a general cargo ship that issued a distress call.

Crews begin removing cargo from ship stuck in St. Lawrence River in eastern Ontario. William Eltherington. *CTV News (Canada)*. 12 December 2024. Available from: <https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/crews-begin-removing-cargo-from-ship-stuck-in-st-lawrence-river-in-eastern-ontario-1.7143285> Crews have started work on a new attempt to refloat a cargo ship that ran aground in the St. Lawrence River near Morrisburg, Ont. nearly three weeks ago.

How salvors carried out *Dali* wreck removal safely. Nick Savvides. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 13 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/accidents/how-salvors-carried-out-dali-wreck-removal-safely> The salvage of the container ship *Dali* from Baltimore harbour involved a collapsed roadway, dangerous cargoes, a gas pipeline, and power cables.

Salvors arrive to pump fuel off of lost New Zealand survey ship. *Maritime Executive*. 16 December 2024. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/salvors-arrive-to-pump-fuel-off-of-lost-new-zealand-survey-ship> A deck barge with oil removal equipment has arrived in Apia to pump off fuel from *HMNZS Manawanui*, the New Zealand survey and salvage ship that ran aground and sank off Samoa on October 5.

SEAFARERS

Quantifying an inconvenient truth : revisiting a culture of adjustment on work/rest hours. Bikram S. Bhatia, Raphael Baumler and Maria Carrera-Arce. *World Maritime University*. 2024. Available from: https://commons.wmu.se/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1093&context=lib_reports This report offers a quantitative overview of the implementation of work/rest regulations from seafarers' perspectives.

How climate change is directly affecting seafarers. Amy McLellan. *Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST)*. 29 November 2024. Available from: <https://www.imarest.org/resource/mp-how-climate-change-is-directly-affecting-seafarers.html> Extreme weather change and sea level rises are severely impacting the lives of those at sea.

A sea-change for seafarers as the shipping industry gears up to decarbonise. Mike Scott. *Reuters*. 3 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/sea-change-seafarers-shipping-industry-gears-up-decarbonise-2024-12-03/> Shipping is responsible for 3% of global emissions, and vital to the world's economy, transporting 90% of global trade, so it is imperative that the sector decarbonises as quickly as possible.

Seafarers speak up on diversity. *Nautilus International*. 4 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.nautilusint.org/en/news-insight/telegraph/seafarers-speak-up-on-diversity/> The global diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) consultancy's annual maritime review has usually been confined to the experiences of shoreside maritime professionals, but this year DSG also carried out a specific survey of seafarers which asked additional questions about their onboard career experiences.

What it's like to captain a tanker on fire after a Houthi attack. Jack Wittels. *Bloomberg*. 4 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/investing/2024/12/04/what-its-like-to-captain-a-tanker-on-fire-after-a-houthi-attack/> Captain Avhilash Rawat had just finished dinner when an anti-ship ballistic missile smashed into his oil tanker.

New guidelines to protect seafarers from criminalisation. *Nautilus International*. 4 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.nautilusint.org/en/news-insight/news/international-bodies-agree-new-guidelines-to-protect-seafarers-from-criminalisation/> Seafarers' unions, the ILO and the IMO have adopted new guidelines for the prevention of unfair treatment and criminalisation of seafarers at a meeting held in Geneva last week.

Prayers offered for crew and families of ship hijacked by Houthi forces. *Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales*. 5 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/prayers-offered-for-crew-and-families-of-ship-hijacked-by-houthi-forces/> The chaplain for Filipinos in London has offered prayers, hope and encouragement for the crew of the *Galaxy Leader* who remain in captivity one year after their vessel was hijacked by Houthi forces on 19 November 2023.

The shipping industry is wrestling with one of its biggest challenges — seafarer shortages. Lee Ying Shan. *NBC Los Angeles*. 5 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/business/money-report/the-shipping-industry-is-wrestling-with-one-of-its-largest-challenges/3569971/> The shipping industry is contending with a worldwide shortage of seafarers, and it's fuelling a troubling mix of fake resumes, accidents at sea, and elevated freight rates.

Never before have so many sailors been abandoned at sea. Costas Paris and Joe Wallace. *Wall Street Journal (via MSN)*. 6 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/never-before-have-so-many-sailors-been-abandoned-at-sea/ar-AA1vnJUL?ocid=msedgntp> The crew of the Grand Sunny cargo ship has been stuck at sea for a year, unpaid and often hungry, after the vessel's mysterious owner stopped paying the bills.

ISWAN's half-year helpline data indicates mounting welfare challenges at sea.

International Seafarers' Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN). 9 December 2024.

Available from: <https://www.iswan.org.uk/news/iswans-half-year-helpline-data-indicates-mounting-welfare-challenges-at-sea/> The risks that seafarers face have had unusually high profile in the mainstream media in 2024: the ongoing attacks on shipping in the Red Sea; the sinking of the Bayesian superyacht; and the aftermath of the Baltimore bridge tragedy have all drawn media attention to the dangers of life at sea.

Norden chief rejects navy calls to consider Red Sea return.

Michelle Wiese Bockmann. *Lloyd's List*. 9 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1151761/Norden-chief-rejects-navy-calls-to-consider-Red-Sea-return> I won't place seafarers' lives at risk, says Jan Rindbo.

Beyond fuels and technology: The human element in maritime decarbonisation.

Edmund Hughes. *Safety4Sea*. 10 December 2024. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/beyond-fuels-and-technology-the-human-element-in-maritime-decarbonisation/> Dr Edmund Hughes, Director, Green Marine Associates Ltd, and contributor to "Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions: A Guide to International Regulatory Compliance, Second Edition" puts maritime decarbonization under the microscope with a focus on the human factor.


Maritime DEI survey shows shift from policy to accountability.

Gary Howard. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 10 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/crewing/maritime-dei-survey-shows-shift-from-policy-to-accountability> First survey of seafarers highlights high level of harassment of women crew members onboard ships.

Changes to maritime law 'reflect the ever-evolving needs of the seafarer'.

UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency. 11 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-maritime-law-reflect-the-ever-evolving-needs-of-the-seafarer> Internet access for seafarers while at sea and strengthening requirements for a balanced, nutritious and varied diet could become maritime law in 2025.

Nautilus Maritime Barometer 2024: changing perceptions of seafaring.

Nautilus International. 11 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.nautilusint.org/en/news-insight/news/nautilus-maritime-barometer-2024-changing-perceptions-of-seafaring/> Access is now available to Nautilus International's third Maritime Barometer report, which provides fascinating insights into the UK public's perception of the maritime industry. [Maritime Barometer 2024](#) 

Seafarers left to rot along with their abandoned ships.

Aidan Tulloch. *The Times*. 16 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.thetimes.com/article/98e53b4b-29c9-4a2b-9057-d72600071e04> The case of a crew member stranded for 14 months, with no pay and no way to get home, highlights the dark side of the global maritime industry.

Andrew Mwangura: Story of the seafarers' advocate.

Charles Mghenyi. *The Star (Kenya)*. 17 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/realtime/2024-12-17-andrew-mwangura-story-of-the-seafarers-advocate> Andrew Mwangura's name is synonymous with seafaring, a reputation earned through decades spent at sea and his tireless advocacy for the rights of seafarers.

Abandoned at sea: How corporate secrecy endangers vulnerable workers. Daniel Flowe. *LSEG (London Stock Exchange Group)*. 17 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.lseg.com/en/insights/risk-intelligence/abandoned-at-sea-how-corporate-secrecy-endangers-vulnerable-workers> The real-world impact of corporate secrecy, as seen in the growing abandonment of sailors, highlights the urgent need for effective transparency measures to protect vulnerable individuals and promote ethical business practices.

Gunpoint talks and diplomacy to rescue Red Sea hostages from Houthis. Tariq Tahir. *The National (UAE)*. 19 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/mena/2024/12/19/gunpoint-talks-and-diplomacy-to-rescue-red-sea-hostages-from-houthis/> When John Steed hears about a vessel being captured in the Red Sea, a well-worn mental checklist kicks in.

Seafarer rights to be enshrined in law. *UK Government*. 19 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/seafarer-rights-to-be-enshrined-in-law> Seafarers will benefit from greater protections for welfare and working conditions thanks to new legal requirements that the government has now proposed.

Far from home, seafarers docked in Vancouver get some Christmas cheer with donated gift bags. Rafferty Baker. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC)*. 22 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/mission-to-seafarers-annual-gift-bags-1.7413414> Ship bosun Martin Gustilo has been aboard a bulk grain freighter for nearly two weeks as it travelled from Central America to Vancouver.

Crew of vessel detained for cocaine smuggling to disembark after a year. Amarnath Parida. *New Indian Express*. 23 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2024/Dec/23/crew-of-vessel-detained-for-cocaine-smuggling-to-disembark-after-a-year> After spending more than a year in confinement aboard bulk carrier *MV Debi* at Paradip over drug smuggling investigation, the 21 crew members have been finally granted permission to disembark the vessel.

SEARCH & RESCUE

Personal Locator Beacon registration: 15 minutes that could save your life. *UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency*. 5 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/personal-locator-beacon-registration-15-minutes-that-could-save-your-life> A package of measures going out for consultation today (Thursday 5 December) is set to make search and rescue response faster and simpler for people carrying Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) on the water.

Somalia launches EU-backed maritime rescue center to bolster safety at sea. *Hiiraan Online (Somalia)*. 7 December 2024. Available from: https://www.hiiraan.com/news4/2024/Dec/199244/somalia_launches_eu_backed_maritime_rescue_center_to_bolster_safety_at_sea.aspx Somalia has inaugurated a new Maritime Rescue Coordination Center (MRCC) at the Coast Guard's headquarters in Mogadishu.

Djibouti rescues crew of attacked cargo ship in Red Sea. Mogadishu24 (Somalia).

8 December 2024. Available from: <https://mogadishu24.com/djibouti-rescues-crew-of-attacked-cargo-ship-in-red-sea/> A swift and coordinated rescue operation led by the Djibouti Ports and Free Zones Authority (DPFZA) successfully saved the crew of the *MV/ISA STAR* cargo ship after it was attacked in the Red Sea on the night of December 5.

The IMRF at 100, looking forward. International Maritime Rescue Federation. 11 December 2024.

Available from: <https://www.international-maritime-rescue.org/news/the-imrf-at-100-looking-forward> When considering the monumental events and technological milestones that have transpired over the last 100 years, it may be a fool's errand to attempt to predict the future.

Sanctions-busting tanker calls in Greek waters in Mediterranean migrant rescue.

Michelle Wiese Bockmann. *Lloyd's List*. 13 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.loydslist.com/LL1151826/Sanctions-busting-tanker-calls-in-Greek-waters-in-Mediterranean-migrant-rescue> The 2009-built, Panama-flagged aframax was laden with Russian fuel oil that global price reporting agencies assess as above the \$45 per barrel G7 price cap at the time it dropped off 73 rescued migrants off a Greek island last month.

Greece calls on merchant ships to save lives as migrant crossings surge. Harry Papachristou.

TradeWinds. 16 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/greece-calls-on-merchant-ships-to-save-lives-as-migrant-crossings-surge/2-1-1753875> Greek authorities have deployed or put about 20 commercial ships on standby to help bring to safety more than 200 people in distress amid a flare-up of Europe's migrant crisis over the weekend.

SHIP RECYCLING

MSC urged to align its operations with international environmental and labour rights

standards and stop dumping its toxic waste on South Asian beaches. NGO Shipbreaking Platform. 2 December 2024. Available from: <https://shipbreakingplatform.org/msc-urged-to-clean-up-its-act/> One of the world's largest container shipping companies, Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), is again under the spotlight for its substandard and hazardous dismantling of obsolete vessels on tidal beaches in South Asia.

Waves of change for shipping. Edward Liu. China Daily. 4 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202412/04/WS674fabdba310f1265a1d0ea8.html> The maritime industry is a cornerstone of global trade, responsible for transporting over 90 percent of traded goods.

MSC faces criticism for hazardous shipbreaking on South Asian beaches. TE Raja Simhan.

Hindu BusinessLine (India). 5 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/msc-faces-criticism-for-hazardous-shipbreaking-on-south-asian-beaches/article68950097.ece> Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), One of the world's largest container shipping companies based in Switzerland, is again under the spotlight for its substandard and hazardous dismantling of obsolete vessels on tidal beaches in South Asia.

Downturn exposes hypocrisy over green recycling of ships. Jonathan Boonzaler. *TradeWinds*. 5 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/opinion/downturn-exposes-hypocrisy-over-green-recycling-of-ships/2-1-1747401> As journalists, we constantly hear those who lead shipping companies talk about how committed they are to sustainable shipping but then see them selling their ships to non-Hong Kong Convention-compliant recycling facilities.

Maersk scouting for new facilities on India's east coast to recycle post Panamax ships, says official. P. Manoj. *Economic Times (India)*. 6 December 2024. Available from: <https://infra.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/ports-shipping/maersk-scouting-for-new-facilities-on-indias-east-coast-to-recycle-post-panamax-ships-says-official/116036152> Denmark's A.P. Moller-Maersk Group A/S, which runs Maersk Line, the world's second largest container carrier, foresee a "challenge" in recycling big post Panamax ships globally, including at Alang in Gujarat, when the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships (HKC) enter into force on 26 June next year, a top executive has said.

Norwegian Altera Infrastructure avoids trial by accepting fine for illegal shipbreaking. *NGO Shipbreaking Platform*. 11 December 2024. Available from: <https://shipbreakingplatform.org/altera-infrastructure-fined-for-illegal-shipbreaking/> The NGO Shipbreaking Platform welcomes the NOK 8 million fine imposed on Norwegian ship management company Altera Infrastructure for the illegal scrapping of the two shuttle tankers *NAVION BRITANNIA* and *ALEXITA SPIRIT* on the beach of Alang, India.

Shipbreaking faces crucial deadline. Muhammad Mohsin Zaidi. *Dawn (Pakistan)*. 16 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1879035/shipbreaking-faces-crucial-deadline> Gadani, once among the world's largest shipbreaking facilities, is facing the risk of becoming redundant

SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR

Maersk completes order of 20 dual-fuel vessels. *Maersk*. 2 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.maersk.com/news/articles/2024/12/02/maersk-completes-order-of-20-dual-fuel-vessels> With the ordering of 20 owned vessels for its fleet, Maersk executes on the fleet renewal plan announced in August this year.

LNG dual-fuel enginebuilders look to wring out methane slip. John Snyder. *Riviera Maritime*. 3 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/lng-dual-fuel-enginebuilders-look-to-wring-out-methane-slip-83094> With EU and international regulations looming, reducing methane slip from four-stroke, LNG dual-fuel engines has come into sharp focus for enginebuilders and shipowners alike.

Bureau Veritas classifies three additional LNG bunkering vessels to continue growth in the sector. *Bureau Veritas*. 3 December 2024. Available from: <https://marine-offshore.bureauveritas.com/newsroom/bureau-veritas-classifies-three-additional-lng-bunkering-vessels-continue-growth-sector> Bureau Veritas Marine & Offshore (BV), a global leader in testing, inspection and certification (TIC), today announced the classification of three new LNG bunker vessels, including one 18,600 m³ vessel for Ibaizabal at Hudong Zhonghua and two 18,000 m³ vessels for Hercules Shipping, shipping arm of Peninsula at Hyundai Mipo Dockyard, which will be delivered from 2026.

Vietnam's shipbuilding industry navigating challenges. *Vietnam Investment Review*. 5 December 2024. Available from: <https://vir.com.vn/vietnams-shipbuilding-industry-navigating-challenges-119062.html> Pham Hoai Chung, chairman of state-owned Shipbuilding Industry Corporation believes that the global shipbuilding industry is experiencing a shift due to changes in shipping routes and the demand for larger vessels capable of navigating more challenging conditions.

Vale brings among world's largest wind-powered ships to Malaysia. *Business Today (Malaysia)*. 9 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.businesstoday.com.my/2024/12/09/vale-brings-among-worlds-largest-wind-powered-ships-to-malaysia/> Vale celebrated the maiden arrival of a retrofitted *Berge Neblina*, a 388,000 deadweight ton (dwt) Valemax iron ore carrier, newly equipped with rotor sails, at its Teluk Rubiah Maritime Terminal in Lumut, Perak.

A step-change in hull management. Rebecca Moore. *Riviera Maritime*. 18 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/a-step-change-in-hull-management-83341> Ship operators, including Grandi Navi Veloci and CMA CGM, contributed to an industry conference that highlighted maritime's approach to hull efficiency and environmental protection

Fourteen zero-emission vessels to receive funding from Enova. Aida Čučuk. *Offshore Energy*. 18 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.offshore-energy.biz/fourteen-zero-emission-vessels-to-receive-funding-from-enova/> According to Tore O. Sandvik, Minister for Climate and Environment, the focus on green shipping is "right and necessary," and Enova is an important tool for achieving the government's climate goals.

'Green' ferry emits more CO₂ than old diesel ship. Calum Watson. *BBC News*. 31 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwy87e72yg3o> An emissions analysis by CalMac has calculated *MV Glen Sannox* will emit 10,391 equivalent tonnes of CO₂ a year compared with 7,732 for *MV Caledonian Isles*.

SHIPPING

Why Africa is well-positioned to lead the zero-carbon maritime transition. Rosemary Mirondo. *The Citizen (Tanzania)*. 30 November 2024. Available from:

<https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/why-africa-is-well-positioned-to-lead-the-zero-carbon-maritime-transition-4841400> The IMO has said Africa's strategic position to attract partnerships, investments, and collaborations will reduce carbon emissions in the maritime transport sector.

COP29's impact on shipping: Progress amidst challenges. *Lloyd's Register*. December 2024.

Available from: <https://www.lr.org/en/knowledge/horizons/december-2024/cop29s-impact-on-shipping-progress-amidst-challenges/> As the dust settles on COP29, reactions have been mixed.

Liberia to Host AAMA 2025 Confab. Trokon Wrepue. *Daily Observer (Liberia)*.

2 December 2024. Available from: https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/liberia-to-host-aama-2025-confab/article_a1134b80-b042-11ef-94e9-bb62e7979d4d.html At the close of the 7th Annual Conference and General Assembly of the Association of African Maritime Administrations (AAMA), the Republic of Liberia was unanimously nominated by the Conference to host the 8th AAMA Conference in October 2025.

A fifth of dark fleet tankers now under Western sanctions. Michelle Wiese Bockmann.

Lloyd's List. 2 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.loydslist.com/LL1151668/A-fifth-of-dark-fleet-tankers-now-under-Western-sanctions> Increased number of sanctioned tankers now flying false flags, raising environmental and safety risks.

Rising climate risks and the evolving role of marine insurance. Robert Mackay. *Splash 247.com*.

2 December 2024. Available from: <https://splash247.com/rising-climate-risks-and-the-evolving-role-of-marine-insurance/> Global temperatures have already exceeded critical thresholds, driving erratic conditions from hurricanes to heatwaves, and escalating the probability of disruption.

Global Shipping Costs to Remain High Amid Tariff Threats, Red Sea Challenges.

Harizah Hanim Mohamed. *Bernama (Malaysia)*. 2 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.bernama.com/en/news.php?id=2369904> Global shipping costs are expected to remain high next year, with freight rates likely to continue rising due to ongoing challenges in the shipping industry, including US President-elect Donald Trump's tariff threats and the situation in the Red Sea.

Iran pressed to release four ships seized and detained for 'technical' reasons. Paul Peachey.

TradeWinds. 3 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/iran-pressed-to-release-four-ships-seized-and-detained-for-technical-reasons/2-1-1747406> Arsenio Dominguez says Red Sea crisis must not become the 'new normal' for shipping in the region.

Panama to de-flag certain tankers recently banned by the UK. Nidaa Bakhsh. *ShippingWatch*.

3 December 2024. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article17694002.ece> Panama Maritime Authority says it is taking this measure to ensure that the "prestige" of the ship registry is maintained.

IMO: Red Sea crisis impacting international shipping. *CNBC Africa*. 3 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.cnbc.com/africa/media/6365466892112/imo-red-sea-crisis-impacting-international-shipping/> 📰 The Secretary-General at the International Maritime Organisation, Arsenio Dominguez says the red sea crisis is greatly impacting international shipping as it affects innocent seafarers and strains trade.

Treasury intensifies pressure on Iranian shadow fleet. *US Department of the Treasury*. 3 December 2024. Available from: <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2734> Today, the United States is imposing sanctions on 35 entities and vessels that play a critical role in transporting illicit Iranian petroleum to foreign markets.

US imposes new sanctions on Iran's 'shadow fleet' of oil tankers. *Al Jazeera*. 3 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/12/3/us-imposes-new-sanctions-on-irans-shadow-fleet-of-oil-tankers> The United States has piled on additional sanctions against Iran targeting 35 entities and vessels that it says are part of a "shadow fleet of vessels" transporting cargoes of Iranian petroleum to foreign markets.

The global shipping industry is on a path to net zero. Mark Dickinson. *The Guardian*. 3 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2024/dec/03/the-global-shipping-industry-is-on-a-path-to-net-zero> Mark Dickinson of the Nautilus International trade union responds to an editorial about the environmental harm caused by cruise ships.

How are brokers helping to drive the fuelling transition? Kenneth Tveter. *Clarksons*. 3 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.clarksons.com/home/news-and-insights/2024/how-are-brokers-helping-to-drive-the-fuelling-transition/> It is undisputable that we need to drive a lower-carbon future and meet the IMO's 2050 net-zero target, but the procrastination we're witnessing around fuel choice is delaying progress.

Black Friday shipping – are we getting more than we bargained for? Sian Prior. *EurActiv*. 6 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/eet/opinion/black-friday-shipping-are-we-getting-more-than-we-bargained-for/> With shopping traffic increased by 46% during the week of the 2023 Black Friday, a One Planet Shipping vision, looking at a future for shipping that prioritises the well-being of people and the planet first and foremost, comes at a critical time.

How targeting maritime corruption can save and generate millions annually. Nicolas Hocq. *Basel Institute of Governance*. 6 December 2024. Available from: <https://baselgovernance.org/blog/how-targeting-maritime-corruption-can-save-and-generate-millions-annually> Maritime corruption poses significant challenges to global trade, inflating costs, delaying operations and undermining integrity in supply chains.

Bunker price outlook for 2025. Jack Jordan and Martyn Lasek. *Ship & Bunker*. 11 December 2024. Available from: <https://shipandbunker.com/news/world/571509-analysis-bunker-price-outlook-for-2025> Bunker prices will be lower in 2025, but overall costs will rise for those operating within European waters, according to analysis by Ship & Bunker.


Shipping borrows from aviation with new tool for counting emissions reductions.

Heather Clancy. *Trellis*. 11 December 2024. Available from: <https://trellis.net/article/shipping-gets-new-tool-for-tracking-emissions-reductions/> Katalist, a registry launched in November, manages environmental attribute certificates that can be used to reduce emissions from cargo ships.

Tackling record-breaking carbon emissions doesn't always mean higher ocean freight spend – here's why....

Emily Stausbøll. *Xeneta*. 11 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.xeneta.com/blog/tackling-record-breaking-carbon-emissions-doesnt-always-mean-higher-ocean-freight-spend-heres-why->. Total emissions from container shipping in the first 10 months of 2024 are up 13.8% globally compared to 2023 and on track to set a new all-time record for the full year.

2024 Vessel emissions & activity report.

Cefor - The Nordic Association of Marine Insurers. 11 December 2024. Available from: <https://cefor.no/statistics/nomis/2024/2024-co2-report-on-vessel-emissions--activity/> This new analysis follows up on the 2023 Cefor CO2 analysis, which was based on 2021 data alone and covered fewer aspects. [Report](#) 


EU slaps new sanctions on Russia targeting 'shadow fleet' of oil tankers.

Jorge Liboreiro. *Euronews*. 11 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/12/11/eu-slaps-new-sanctions-on-russia-targeting-shadow-fleet-of-oil-tankers> The Kremlin is using old-age, poorly kept tankers to sell its crude oil above the price cap established by Western allies.

"She sails" program: Promoting diversity and strengthening the role of women on board ships.

CMA CGM Group. 11 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.cmacgm-group.com/en/she-sails> At CMA CGM, our greatest asset, and the one we rely on the most, is our staff members and, amongst them, our seafarers.

Global shipping finance portfolio moves closer to alignment with net zero climate goals.

Poseidon Principles. 12 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.poseidonprinciples.org/finance/news/global-shipping-finance-portfolio-moves-closer-to-alignment-with-net-zero-climate-goals/> Continued growth of climate transparency from financial institutions show that the global finance portfolio for shipping has moved closer to alignment with ambitious decarbonisation trajectories set by the IMO, aiming to remove emissions from international shipping by 2050. [Annual Disclosure Report 2024](#) 

Concerns as Nigeria incurs \$400 million war risk insurance premium.

Adaku Onyenucheya. *The Guardian (Nigeria)*. 12 December 2024. Available from: <https://guardian.ng/business-services/maritime/concerns-as-nigeria-incurs-400-million-war-risk-insurance-premium/> Concerns are growing over Nigeria's continued payment of a \$400 million war risk premium to foreign insurance companies, despite zero record of attacks on vessels within the country's territorial waters in the past three years.

Overcoming the fear: Ailene Barrios becomes Furetank's first female chief engineer.

Gary Dixon. *TradeWinds*. 12 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/people/overcoming-the-fear-ailene-barrios-becomes-furetank-s-first-female-chief-engineer/2-1-1752625> Tanker officer speaks about being one of the few Filipino women to reach her rank.

Shipping giant Maersk expects strong demand and ‘another year of disruption’ for global trade in 2025. Lori Ann LaRocco. *CNBC (US)*. 13 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.cnn.com/2024/12/13/shipping-giant-maersk-sees-another-year-of-disruption-for-global-trade.html> The past year has been a strong one for North American import trade demand, and that should continue for both ocean and air cargo into 2025, according to shipping giant Maersk, but so will supply chain disruptions.

China stretches lead over Greece as world’s largest shipowning nation. Sam Chambers.

Splash 247.com. 16 December 2024. Available from: <https://splash247.com/china-stretches-lead-over-greece-as-worlds-largest-shipowning-nation/> China is building a commanding lead over Greece as the world’s largest shipowning nation, its lead now stretching to close to 30m gt, according to the latest data from Clarksons Research.

Research center becomes first to propose size of carbon penalty. Mette Grube Condrup.

ShippingWatch. 16 December 2024. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article17737662.ece> The IMO is working hard to introduce a fuel standard that will force the shipping industry to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by requiring increased use of more sustainable fuels.

Countdown: The A to Z of GFS. *Maersk Mc-Kinney Møller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping*.

11 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.zerocarbonshipping.com/news/countdown-the-a-to-z-of-gfs/> In this fifth edition of the Countdown newsletter, we look at the importance of the reduction values in a Global Fuel Standard (GFS) in achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. Known as the Z-factors or reduction factors, these values establish a limit on annual GHG intensity per vessel.

Shadow fleet still growing by 10 tankers per month as sanctions noose fails to tighten, BRS says. Gary Dixon. *TradeWinds*. 17 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/shadow-fleet-still-growing-by-10-tankers-per-month-as-sanctions-noose-fails-to-tighten-brs-says/2-1-1754736> The shadow fleet of tankers carrying oil for regimes deemed rogue by the US and Europe is continuing to grow despite increased levels of sanctions.

Russia’s ‘shadow fleet’ will prove resilient. *Oxford Analytica*. 17 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.oxan.com/insights/russias-shadow-fleet-will-prove-resilient/> Western powers have tightened measures designed to reduce Russia’s use of a shadow fleet to export oil.

New International Chamber of Shipping Secretary General announced. *International*

Chamber of Shipping (ICS). 18 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.ics-shipping.org/press-release/new-international-chamber-of-shipping-secretary-general-announced/> At a special meeting of the board, held on-line, the ICS have unanimously appointed Thomas A. Kazakos as its next Secretary General.

What does a fake flag certificate look like? Lloyd’s List shows you. Michelle Wiese Bockmann.

Lloyd’s List. 18 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1151874/What-does-a-fake-flag-certificate-look-like-Lloyds-List-shows-you> A false certificate of registration for the St Maarten flag that is littered with spelling errors and ambiguities was issued four days ago to a 20-year-old tanker.

Nor-Shipping 2025 Thought Leader interview – Andreas Enger, CEO, Høegh Autoliners.

Hellenic Shipping News. 19 December 2024. Available from:

<https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/nor-shipping-2025-thought-leader-interview-andreas-enger-ceo-hoegh-autoliners/> Høegh Autoliners CEO Andreas Enger explains the company's rationale behind choosing ammonia to power the last four of its new PCTCs.

Interview with Houthis: We are ready to make deals with shipping companies in the Red Sea.

Liv Almer. *ShippingWatch*. 19 December 2024. Available from:

<https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article17753343.ece> The Yemeni Houthi movement is ready to secure passage in the Red Sea for shipping companies willing to denounce Israel, according to a supposed spokesperson for the movement in a rare interview with ShippingWatch.

CLIA appoints veteran maritime leader Bud Darr as president/CEO. Anne Kalosh.

Seatrade Cruise News. 19 December 2024. Available from: [https://www.seatrade-](https://www.seatrade-cruise.com/people-opinions/clia-appoints-veteran-maritime-leader-bud-darr-as-president-ceo)

[cruise.com/people-opinions/clia-appoints-veteran-maritime-leader-bud-darr-as-president-ceo](https://www.seatrade-cruise.com/people-opinions/clia-appoints-veteran-maritime-leader-bud-darr-as-president-ceo)

Cruise Lines International Association appointed Charles 'Bud' Darr as president/CEO, joining from MSC Group.

MSC chief executive Soren Toft to head World Shipping Council. Harry Papachristou.

TradeWinds. 20 December 2024. Available from: [https://www.tradewindsnews.com/containers/msc-](https://www.tradewindsnews.com/containers/msc-chief-executive-soren-toft-to-head-world-shipping-council/2-1-1757308)

[chief-executive-soren-toft-to-head-world-shipping-council/2-1-1757308](https://www.tradewindsnews.com/containers/msc-chief-executive-soren-toft-to-head-world-shipping-council/2-1-1757308) The World Shipping Council

(WSC), the international liner industry's global representative body, appointed Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC)'s head Soren Toft as new chairman of its board on Friday.

Charting a 'green' course: Cyprus' strategy and proposals for shipping decarbonisation.

Georgios Georgiou. *Riviera Maritime*. 20 December 2024. Available from:

[https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/charting-a-green-course-cyprus-strategy-and-](https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/charting-a-green-course-cyprus-strategy-and-proposals-for-shipping-decarbonization-83376)

[proposals-for-shipping-decarbonization-83376](https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/charting-a-green-course-cyprus-strategy-and-proposals-for-shipping-decarbonization-83376) Financial incentives for clean energy projects, increased funding for alternative fuel research, and strengthened public-private partnerships could play a pivotal role in accelerating the decarbonisation of the shipping industry, according to Shipping Deputy Minister of the Republic of Cyprus, Marina Hadjimanolis.

Negotiations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in focus at first meeting of CARICOM Maritime Technical Working Group. CARICOM. 20 December 2024. Available from:

[https://caricom.org/negotiations-to-reduce-greenhouse-gas-emissions-in-focus-at-first-meeting-of-](https://caricom.org/negotiations-to-reduce-greenhouse-gas-emissions-in-focus-at-first-meeting-of-caricom-maritime-technical-working-group/)

[caricom-maritime-technical-working-group/](https://caricom.org/negotiations-to-reduce-greenhouse-gas-emissions-in-focus-at-first-meeting-of-caricom-maritime-technical-working-group/) A CARICOM Technical Working Group on maritime matters held discussions on 18 December that focused on negotiations for measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the shipping industry.

Navy arrests 19 stowaways aboard two Europe bound vessels. Evelyn Usman.

Vanguard (Nigeria). 21 December 2024. Available from:

[https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/12/navy-arrests-19-stowaways-aboard-two-europe-bound-](https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/12/navy-arrests-19-stowaways-aboard-two-europe-bound-vessels/)

[vessels/](https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/12/navy-arrests-19-stowaways-aboard-two-europe-bound-vessels/) The Nigerian Navy Ship (NNS) *BEECROFT* has arrested 19 suspected stowaways who attempted to illegally migrate to Europe by hiding under the rudder compartments of two Europe-bound vessels in Lagos.

What chemical and product tanker owners want in 2025. Craig Jallal. *Riviera Maritime*. 31 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/what-chemical-and-product-tanker-owners-want-in-2025-83057> As the chemical and product tanker industry braces for another year of economic, regulatory and technological challenges, tanker owners and operators are clear about their priorities for 2025.

RESEARCH

Scarlett AG, Nelson RK, et al. **Very low sulfur fuel oil spilled from the *MV Wakashio* in 2020 remains in sediments in a Mauritius mangrove ecosystem nearly three years after the grounding.** *Marine Pollution Bulletin*. 18 November 2024. Available from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0025326X24012608> The oil spill resulting from the grounding of the *MV Wakashio* on a reef off the coast of Mauritius in July 2020 was the world's first major spillage of Very Low Sulfur Fuel Oil (VLSFO) since the implementation of a Global Sulfur Cap from January 2020.

Karimi R and Golmohammadi B. **Simulation and optimization of heavy fuel oil (HFO) refining platform to low sulfur marine fuel (LS-FO) by oxidative desulfurization.** *Scientific Reports*. 30 November 2024. Available from: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-024-81242-z> The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has implemented new sulfur content regulations for marine fuels in response to growing environmental concerns, including global warming.

VanderZwaag DL and Mahamah AH. **International Governance of Marine Geoengineering: Sketchy Seascape, Foggy Future—An Essay in Honor of Ted L. McDorman.** *Ocean Development & International Law*. 9 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00908320.2024.2421874?scroll=top&needAccess=true> With climate change standing as a pressing emergency demanding immediate attention and comprehensive redress, marine geoengineering has emerged as a prospective avenue for mitigating anthropogenic greenhouse emissions.

Boettcher M and Brent K. **The potential of the BBNJ clearing house mechanism to enhance knowledge pluralism in marine carbon dioxide removal assessment.** *Frontiers in Climate*. 16 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/climate/articles/10.3389/fclim.2024.1497476/full> As the global community intensifies efforts to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, active carbon dioxide removal (CDR) is being planned alongside emission reductions.

Khng NY-E. **Advisory Opinion on the Request for an Advisory Opinion Submitted by the Comm'n of Small Island States on Climate Change and Int'l Law (I.T.L.O.S.).** *International Legal Materials*. 19 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/international-legal-materials/article/advisory-opinion-on-the-request-for-an-advisory-opinion-submitted-by-the-commn-of-small-island-states-on-climate-change-and-intl-law-itlos/AFE346B062DBFB398788408B5575B3DE> On May 21, 2024, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (the Tribunal) delivered a unanimous advisory opinion on the Request submitted to the Tribunal by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law.

Liu G, Li H, et al. **Why do we not want to work onboard? An explanation of generational changes in seafarers' work values.** *Ergonomics*. 28 December 2024. Available from: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00140139.2024.2441443?src=exp-la> The shortfall of seafarers is a constant challenge in the shipping industry.

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mkc@imo.org

About the cover

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