About the MKC Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)

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

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

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

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

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IMO NEWS & EVENTS

WHAT’S NEW

International Maritime Prize presented to Mrs. Birgit Sølling Olsen

The prestigious International Maritime Prize for 2017 has been presented to Mrs. Birgit Sølling Olsen, former Deputy Director-General of the Danish Maritime Authority.

IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim presented the prize on Thursday (6 December) at the annual IMO Awards ceremony,

“Mrs. Olsen has had a distinguished career in the maritime field and made an outstanding contribution to the objectives of IMO. Her comprehensive knowledge of maritime law is combined with a deep understanding of the business aspects and growth potential of the maritime industry,” Mr Lim said.  More...

Rescue diver from China who saved three recognized with IMO bravery accolade

A rescue diver from China who made a series of underwater dives to rescue three people from a sunken cargo ship, received the 2018 IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea during the this year’s IMO Awards ceremony (6 December).

Mr. Zhong Haifeng, senior diver and deputy of the Engineering Team of Guangzhou Salvage was recognized for his tireless efforts under highly dangerous circumstances, repeatedly diving into the dark and submerged cargo hold of a ship to bring out survivors. He was nominated for the award by the Government of China.  More...

IMO MEETINGS FOR 2019

Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), 100th session 3 – 7 December 2018

LATEST PRESS BRIEFINGS

Safe and sustainable ship recycling project in Bangladesh - second phase launched
Briefing: 25, December 10, 2018

Visions of the future as Maritime Safety Committee celebrates 100th session
Briefing: 22, December 6, 2018

RECENT SPEECHES BY IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL KITACK LIM

IMO NEWS MAGAZINE  (Autumn 2018)

IMO PUBLISHING  Just Published 2018  December 2018 Newsletter
UNITED NATIONS

G20 told crucial COP24 climate change conference 'must succeed': Guterres. UN News. 30 November 2018. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/11/1027101. As well as mistrust between nations, and the risk of confrontation and escalation, Mr. Guterres said that there was a lack of trust between peoples in general and institutions everywhere, both at a national level – in the form of governments and parliaments – and internationally; because globalization has divided the world into winners and losers.

COP24: green, gender focus, as UN's crucial climate change conference gets underway. UN News. 2 December 2018. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/12/1027261. Days after the UN sounded the alarm on the unprecedented levels of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, the world is gathering to define how the 2015 Paris Agreement will be implemented and moved forward.

Four things the UN chief wants world leaders to know, at key COP24 climate conference opening. UN News. 3 December 2018. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/12/1027321. The two-week 24th conference in Katowice, Poland, of the parties to the UN Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC), technically started on Sunday, but Monday saw the high-level grand opening.

COP24: A million lives could be saved by 2050 through climate action, UN health agency reveals. UN News. 5 December 2018. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/12/1027661. As the world is coming together to define ways to move forward on climate action and the realization of the objectives defined in the 2015 Paris Agreement, WHO stressed that it's not just the planet that would benefit - an estimated one million lives could be saved through reductions in air pollution alone.

COP24 addresses climate change displacement ahead of crunch migration meeting. UN News. 8 December 2018. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/12/1028011. As hundreds of decision-makers are gathering in Marrakech to agree new standards for global migration, the United Nations climate change conference ‘COP24’ is looking at concrete ways to help countries tackle large-scale displacement caused by the impacts of climate change, including water scarcity, flooding, storms and rising sea levels.

Governments adopt UN global migration pact to help 'prevent suffering and chaos'. UN News. 10 December 2018. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/12/1028041. Speaking at the opening intergovernmental session, Mr. Guterres, said that the Compact provides a platform for "humane, sensible, mutually beneficial action" resting on two "simple ideas".


Failing to agree on climate action would 'not only be immoral' but 'suicidal', UN chief tells COP24. *UN News.* 12 December 2018. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/12/1028311](https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/12/1028311) "In my opening statement to this conference one week ago…I warned that climate change is running faster than we are and that Katowice must — in no uncertain terms — be a success, as a necessary platform to reverse this trend," said Secretary-General Guterres.


CASUALTIES


Two minors rescued from Mediterranean floating on truck tire. Deutsche Welle (Germany). 15 December 2018. Available from: https://www.dw.com/en/two-minors-rescued-from-mediterranean-floating-on-truck-tire/a-46759027 The two migrants were picked up in Spain's Bay of Algeciras after crossing from Morocco on the large rubber tire.


**Bulk carrier aground.** *UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency.* 18 December 2018. Available from: [http://hmcoastguard.blogspot.com/2018/12/bulk-carrier-aground.html](http://hmcoastguard.blogspot.com/2018/12/bulk-carrier-aground.html) HM Coastguard is currently coordinating assistance to a 180 metre bulk carrier which dragged her anchor and grounded on the western side of the port entrance between Swanpool and Gulliyngvase beaches at around 0540.

**Russian carrier ship which ran aground off Cornwall is refloated.** *UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency.* 18 December 2018. Available from: [http://hmcoastguard.blogspot.com/2018/12/russian-carrier-ship-which-ran-aground.html](http://hmcoastguard.blogspot.com/2018/12/russian-carrier-ship-which-ran-aground.html) The Kuzma Minin has been successfully refloated following a combined effort between five harbour tugs and a salvage vessel.


**CHIRP Maritime: In 2018, we have seen a continuance of fatalities.** By Jeff Parfitt. *Maritime Executive.* 25 December 2018. Available from: [https://www.maritime-executive.com/editorials/chirp-maritime-in-2018-we-have-seen-a-continuance-of-fatalities](https://www.maritime-executive.com/editorials/chirp-maritime-in-2018-we-have-seen-a-continuance-of-fatalities) As 2018 draws to a close, it is time for us here at CHIRP Maritime to reflect upon this year’s maritime events as reported in the worldwide media: events that in our view have highlighted safety at sea or more to the point, the lack of it.

**Coast Guard, good Samaritans responding to vessel fire in Pacific Ocean.** *United States Coast Guard.* 31 December 2018. Available from: [https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/2259414](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/2259414) The Coast Guard and good Samaritans aboard several commercial vessels are responding to a reported vessel fire on the 650-foot Sincerity Ace 1,800 nautical miles (2071 statute miles) northwest of Oahu on the high seas, Monday.

**Search Launched for the Wreck of the Stellar Daisy.** *Maritime Executive.* 31 December 2018. Available from: [https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/search-launched-for-the-wreck-of-the-stellar-daisy](https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/search-launched-for-the-wreck-of-the-stellar-daisy) American subsea survey company Ocean Infinity has been hired by the government of South Korea to conduct a search for the Stellar Daisy, the ore carrier that went down with 22 crewmembers in March 2017.

**ENVIRONMENT**

**All-female crew racing for Clean Seas.** *United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).* 29 November 2018. Available from: [https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/all-female-crew-racing-clean-seas](https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/all-female-crew-racing-clean-seas) In a bid to promote ocean health and sustainability, and encourage stronger female representation in Australian sailing, the first all-female professional crew to enter the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race has announced its campaign to win the coveted Tattersall Cup in Hobart.


Illegal fishing poses major threat to Kenya's budding blue economy. By Wainaina Wambu and Otia Guguyu. *Standard Digital (Kenya).* 4 December 2018. Available from: [https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001304946/illegal-fishing-poses-major-threat-to-kenya-s-budding-blue-economy](https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001304946/illegal-fishing-poses-major-threat-to-kenya-s-budding-blue-economy). As the glamour and glitz of hosting the Blue Economy Conference and the side shows that went with it, including Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko's strange accent, fade, Kenya has been left with a lot to ponder.


PNA members add political weight to Pacific push to keep EEZ rights if members lose land to sea level rise. *Pacific Islands News Association (PINA).* 9 December 2018. Available from: [http://www.pina.com.fj/index.php?p=pacnews&m=read&o=12824771125c0de945a49fb83c2c44](http://www.pina.com.fj/index.php?p=pacnews&m=read&o=12824771125c0de945a49fb83c2c44). The eight nations that are Parties to the Nauru agreement (PNA) are to investigate ways to claim their current 200-mile exclusive economic zones before they lose land to climate change-induced sea level rise.


As it happened: Final scramble for deal at climate talks in Poland. Climate Home News. 14 December 2018. Available from: http://www.climatechangenews.com/2018/12/14/live-final-scramble-deal-climate-talks-poland/ The verdict: it is a more comprehensive deal than many expected and a win for multilateralism against the odds BUT more political leadership will be needed to fulfil the promise of the Paris Agreement.

IMarEST publishes its progress towards supporting UN SDG 14 - 'life below water'. Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST). 14 December 2018. Available from: https://www.imAREST.org/policy-news/institute-news/item/4630 The IMarEST made two voluntary commitments to assist with the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) intended to sustain the marine environment.

'We will have to stop using the oceans as waste deposit sites'. By Eric Martin. TradeWinds. 14 December 2018. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/legal/1656732/we-will-have-to-stop-using-the-oceans-as-waste-deposit-sites The debate in Tradewinds about scrubbers is just fascinating in its lack of understanding of the urgent demands of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Katowice Climate Change Conference and the Paris Climate agreement.

Newfoundlanders worried, but hopeful, about the state of the ocean. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). 18 December 2018. Available from: https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/national-geographic-bursary-researcher-14939119 Newfoundlanders are hopeful about the long-term health of the ocean surrounding them but that doesn't mean they aren't worried at the same time, says a Memorial University PhD student currently travelling the island for research.


ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION


Microplastics found in all sea turtle species. University of Exeter (UK). 5 December 2018. Available from: https://www.exeter.ac.uk/news/featurednews/title_695428_en.html Researchers from the University of Exeter and Plymouth Marine Laboratory, working with the Greenpeace Research Laboratories, looked for synthetic particles (less than 5mm in length) including microplastics in 102 sea turtles in the Atlantic, Pacific and Mediterranean.


*IMO*


Ship line MSC sees over $2 billion in annual fuel costs from IMO rules. By Jonathan Saul. * Reuters.* 3 December 2018. Available from: https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-shipping-msc-imo/ship-line-msc-sees-over-2-billion-in-annual-fuel-costs-from-imo-rules-idUKKBN1O21Q5 Swiss-headquartered MSC expects to pay over $2 billion (1.57 billion pounds) a year in fuel costs due to tougher global marine fuel rules and will introduce a bunker charge next year to recoup expenses, the world's number two container line said.

Round Table Discussion - IMO Challenges. *World Maritime University (WMU).* 12 December 2018. Available from: https://www.wmu.se/news/round-table-discussion-imo-challenges As the conclusion of a two-week, intensive foundation course focusing on the IMO System for Maritime Governance, a round table discussion was held at WMU on 5 December regarding key challenges facing the IMO.

01 Kitack Lim, International Maritime Organization. *Lloyd's List.* 13 December 2018. Available from: https://lloydlist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1125062/01-Kitack-Lim-International-Maritime-Organization When nearly every business decision, investment choice, strategy developed, hope and fear is primarily founded on one entity, there cannot really be any doubt who should lead this year's Top 100.


LAW & POLICY


We need maritime strategies that encourage trade within Africa. By Fred Oluoch. East African (Kenya). 1 December 2018. Available from: https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/business/We-need-maritime-strategies-that-encourage-trade-within-Africa/2560-4876846-wk18o3z/index.html East African countries have no choice but to join the new trend because 90 per cent of international trade in the region happens through shipping and particularly through the ports of Mombasa and Dar es Salaam.

Seychelles expands protection around two islands to counter improper fishing. By Sharon Ernesta. Seychelles News Agency. 2 December 2018. Available from: http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/10136 In an effort to address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing as well as other illegal maritime activities, two newly designated areas around Seychelles’ Aldabra group and Amirantes to Fortune Bank are being expanded.

No Swiss flag for Aquarius, says government. SWI Swissinfo.Ch. 3 December 2018. Available from: https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/rescue-boat_no-swiss-flag-for-aquarius--says-government/44591138 In a written response to parliamentarians on Monday, the Federal Council rejected the idea of accrediting a Swiss flag to the ship, a request made by several politicians from left-wing and centrist parties.

Ransom-hungry pirates, polar explorers, offshore oil giants - the race for the riches of the world's final frontier is on.

'The risks are too big': B.C. First Nations leaders in Ottawa to back coastal tanker ban.

**Barcelona asks Spanish government to support emission control area in Mediterranean.** *Transport & Environment*. 5 December 2018. Available from: [https://www.transportenvironment.org/press/barcelona-asks-spanish-government-support-emission-control-area-mediterranean](https://www.transportenvironment.org/press/barcelona-asks-spanish-government-support-emission-control-area-mediterranean) For coastal areas and port cities, maritime traffic is a particularly important source of air pollution, which constitutes a serious threat to public health and the environment.


The two largest fisheries organisations in the Pacific have joined forces to ramp up work to mitigate Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the region, ahead of this week's Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) annual meeting.

MARINA presents former MARINA employee faking legal certificates. Government of the Philippines. 10 December 2018. Available from: http://marina.gov.ph/2018/12/10/marina-presents-former-marina-employee-faking-legal-certificates/ To protect the Filipino seafarers from scalpers offering fraudulent legal certificates, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) presented to the media Mr. Malone Morales, 28, a two-year former MARINA employee under the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) - Surveillance Division, who is allegedly behind the faking of MARINA official signatures on the legal certificate needed for the processing of STCW certificates.

This is how much the US Jones Act costs the shipping industry. By Tomas Kristiansen. ShippingWatch. 10 December 2018. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article11061864.ece It will soon be 100 years old, and under the current President, it seems very unlikely to be changed anytime soon.

Maritime dispute: Singapore ‘disappointed’ at Malaysia’s position but welcomes de-escalation. Channel News Asia. 10 December 2018. Available from: https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asia/maritime-dispute-mfa-singapore-malaysia-johor-port-11018456 Singapore is “disappointed” that Malaysia has refused to return to the status quo before it extended the Johor Bahru port limits but welcomed its neighbour’s pledge to de-escalate the situation on the ground, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) on Monday (Dec 10) in response to its Malaysian counterpart.


Patricia Espinosa: “It’s Within our Grasp to Finish the Job of COP24”. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). 11 December 2018. Available from: https://unfccc.int/news/patricia-espinosa-it-s-within-our-grasp-to-finish-the-job-of-cop24 The second part of the high-level segment of the UN Climate Change Conference COP24 resumed today with the UN's Climate Chief, Patricia Espinosa and other top UN officials making passionate pleas to governments to finish the work they set for themselves and conclude the conference with a strong and effective outcome.


Shipping company sentenced for illegally discharging oily waste at sea. US Department of Justice. 12 December 2018. Available from: https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/shipping-company-sentenced-illegally-discharging-oily-waste-sea The U.S. Department of Justice today announced that Navimax Corporation, incorporated in the Marshall Islands with its main offices in Greece, was sentenced to a $2,000,000 fine by a federal district court for violating the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships and obstructing a Coast Guard investigation.

Maritime dispute: Malaysia has taken steps to de-escalate tensions, 1 ship left in Singapore waters, says Khaw. By Amir Yusof. Channel News Asia. 12 December 2018. Available from: https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/maritime-dispute-port-limits-khaw-malaysia-vessels-11025306. One Malaysian ship remains in Singapore's territorial waters as of Wednesday (Dec 12), said Singapore Transport Minister Khaw Boon Wan as he noted the steps taken by Malaysia to de-escalate tensions on the ground.

New environmental zones in China indicate future open-loop scrubber ban. By Katrine Grønvald Raun. ShippingWatch. 13 December 2018. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/article11069261.ece China is working on new environmental regulations, which, by all accounts, will expand the country's environmental zones, ECA, to apply to the entire east coast rather than only off the coast of major cities such as Shanghai and Beijing.


China to implement emission control areas, shore power mandate. By Anne Kalosh. Seatrade Cruise News. 17 December 2018. Available from: http://www.seatrade-cruise.com/news/news-headlines/china-to-implement-emission-control-areas-shore-power-mandate.html At the same time, the country listed requirements for ships to be equipped for the use of shore power in port.


The last ambulances of the sea are still being targeted. *SOS Mediterranee*. 28 December 2018. Available from: [https://sosmediterranee.com/the-last-ambulances-of-the-sea-are-still-being-targeted/](https://sosmediterranee.com/the-last-ambulances-of-the-sea-are-still-being-targeted/) Premeditated illegal disposal of on-board waste with the aim of financially benefiting from it as part of a "criminal operation": these are the pressed charges by the Prosecutor of Catania (Italy) following the conclusion of its investigation against Doctors Without Borders (MSF), the medical partner of SOS MEDITERRANEE, on 20 November.

No-deal Brexit ferry company owns no ships and has never run Channel service. By Patrick Greenfield. *The Guardian*. 30 December 2018. Available from: [https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/dec/30/no-deal-brexit-ferry-company-owns-no-ships-and-has-never-run-ferry-service](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/dec/30/no-deal-brexit-ferry-company-owns-no-ships-and-has-never-run-ferry-service) One of the companies contracted by the government to charter ferries in the event of a no-deal Brexit does not own any ships, has not previously operated a ferry service and is not planning to do so until close to the UK's scheduled departure date from the European Union, it has emerged.

From land to the sea: How the EU is working for safer and cleaner oceans. *European Union*. 31 December 2018. Available from: [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/55953](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/55953) In an open space, where freedom of navigation is ensured and no complete ownership prevails, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) was the first form of international law for the oceans governance.

STRENGTH OF A WOMAN: Kenyan maritime expert who is shaping Africa's blue economy. By Chacha Mwita. *The Exchange (Tanzania)*. 31 December 2018. Available from: [https://www.exchange.co.tz/strength](https://www.exchange.co.tz/strength) Former US first lady Michelle Obama once said there is no limit to what women can accomplish; and one strong woman in Kenya has lived to prove that.


**MARINE TECHNOLOGY**


Top 10 technology leaders 2018. *Lloyd's List*. 3 December 2018. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1124856](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1124856) In the run-up to publishing the annual Lloyd's List Top 100 most influential people in shipping on December 14, here are the movers and shakers of the year in maritime next-gen tech.

Scrubber lobby on the defensive after Singapore ban. By Richard Meade. *Lloyd's List*. 3 December 2018. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1125363](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1125363) Shipowners and scrubber manufacturers are preparing to step up lobbying efforts to defend the use of open-loop scrubbers in the wake of Singapore's decision last week to ban the exhaust gas cleaning system in the run up to the 2020 sulphur cap.


Industry collaboration key to unlocking full advantages of technology in maritime. By Alvin Foo. Seatrade Maritime News. 7 December 2018. Available from: https://bit.ly/2PqfaMA Although the uptake of technologies and innovation has been relatively slow in the maritime industry due to the complex nature of traditional maritime operations, the industry has now evolved and is beginning to overhaul legacy systems to embrace modern approaches to shipping and port operations.

Survey drones take off. Maritime Executive. 10 December 2018. Available from: https://www.maritime-executive.com/features/survey-drones-take-off As part of an on-going focus on safety in enclosed spaces, ClassNK describes how it has carried out detailed drone tests to revolutionize ship surveying.

Scrubbers under scrutiny by maritime industry as IMO 2020 nears. S&P Global Platts. 12 December 2018. Available from: https://blogs.platts.com/2018/12/12/scrubbers-scrutiny-maritime-industry-imo-2020/ Looming 2020 regulations capping marine fuel sulfur at 0.5% have so far benefited manufacturers marketing scrubbers – or exhaust gas cleaning systems, as they are more formally known – but this solution is now being viewed with a more critical eye.

Ballast water treatment system operating issues - a manufacturer’s perspective. By Marcus Hand. Seatrade Maritime News. 12 December 2018. Available from: http://www.seatrade-maritime.com/news/americas/ballast-water-treatment-system-operating-issues-a-manufacturer-s-perspective.html With the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention already mandatory for newbuildings and the US Coast Guard enforcing the US stricter rules on invasive species in ballast water owners are finding that as they start to operate BWTS installed on their vessels in many cases do work as they hope – with Intertanko’s members reporting problems with 60 – 80% of the systems installed.


Toyota hits the water with an investment in Robo-Ships. By Alex Davies. Wired. 17 December 2018. Available from: https://www.wired.com/story/toyota-sea-machines-autonomous-boats/ Like any properly terrifying invasion, it’s hard to tell whether the robot one will come by land, air, or sea.

Boston-based Sea Machines Robotics announced today that it has closed a $10 million Series A investment led by Accomplice and Eniac Ventures, with participation from Toyota AI Ventures; Brunswick Corp., through investment partner TechNexus Venture Collaborative; NextGen VP, Geekdom Fund; LaunchCapital; LDV Capital and others.


Confusion reigns in the ongoing debate on autonomous and remotely operated vessels.


Shipping’s customary divided opinion on new technology is highlighted in an Inmarsat Research Programme report that includes hard data on how far the industry sees IoT-based solutions as a gateway to sustainability.

MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING


The second annual MarTID survey has been launched to continue the study of global maritime training practices.

MARINA calibrates maritime training course packages. Government of the Philippines. 6 December 2018. Available from: http://marina.gov.ph/2018/12/06/marina-calibrates-maritime-training-course-packages/ To sustain the production of high quality and competent Filipino seafarers through maritime education and trainings, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) calibrated five (5) training course packages in a three-day workshop held in Manila.


MARITIME SAFETY


If nobody entered enclosed spaces... By Howard Nightingale. *Maritime Executive.* 8 December 2018. Available from: [https://maritime-executive.com/editorials/if-nobody-entered-enclosed-spaces](https://maritime-executive.com/editorials/if-nobody-entered-enclosed-spaces)  If human beings and enclosed spaces are potentially fatally incompatible, the engineering solution to the problem is to keep the two elements separated as far as practicable.


The Safety@Sea Singapore Campaign: Focusing on navigational safety and Human Element. By David Foo. *Safety4Sea.* 14 December 2018. Available from: [https://safety4sea.com/cm-the-safetyseasingapore-campaign-focusing-on-navigational-safety-and-human-element/](https://safety4sea.com/cm-the-safetyseasingapore-campaign-focusing-on-navigational-safety-and-human-element/)  While talking at the first SAFET4SEA Conference in Singapore, Mr. David Foo, Director (Port Systems), MPA Singapore, revealed that human element remains a major concern for safety and he provided an update on the ongoing efforts to address the human element, as well as share new initiatives and ideas on how MPA seeks to address the issue.

IBIA welcomes a decision by the IMO’s Maritime Safety Committee to add a new item to its agenda to address concerns about fuel safety, separating the subject from discussions around the implementation of the new 0.50% sulphur limit under MARPOL Annex VI.


**MARITIME SECURITY**

**Ban on use of satellite phones in India: 6 years on and violations still occur.** *Gard.* 3 December 2018. Available from: www.gard.no/webUpdates/content/26690148/ban-on-use-of-satellite-phones-in-india-6-years-on-and-violations-still-occur Following the Mumbai terror attacks in 2011, the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) in India banned the use of “Thuraya, Iridium and other such satellite phones” in Indian waters.


**MIGRANTS**

Rescued migrants brought to Malta following agreement with Spain. *Times of Malta.* 2 December 2018. Available from: https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20181202/world/spanish-fishing-boat-carrying-rescued-migrants-heads-to-malta.695717 Eleven migrants rescued off the coast of Libya by a Spanish fishing boat were brought to Malta on Sunday, ending a protracted standoff to find a safe port for the boat.


**Migrants risk death at sea to reach Britain as prices spike on traditional routes.** By Melissa Bell and Saskya Vandoorne. *CNN.* 6 December 2018. Available from: https://edition.cnn.com/2018/12/06/europe/migrants-channel-dinghies-gbr-intl/index.html Since the migrant crisis exploded in the summer of 2015, thousands have perished trying to cross the Mediterranean, with the death of three-year-old Syrian Alan Kurdi, whose body washed up on a Turkish beach, shocking the world.


Mediterranean migrant arrivals reach 111,237 in 2018; Deaths reach 2,216. 
IOM, the International Organization for Migration, reports that 111,237 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea in 2018 through 12 December.

Mediterranean migrant arrivals reach 111,558 in 2018; Deaths reach 2,217. 
IOM, the International Organization for Migration, reports that 111,558 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea in 2018 through 16 December.


**NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS**


Long Range Identification and Tracking: Have you reported in the last six hours? 


How to protect the Arctic as melting ice opens new shipping routes. By Gareth Willmer. *HORIZON - the EU Research & Innovation Magazine*. 17 December 2018. Available from: [https://horizon-magazine.eu/article/how-protect-arctic-melting-ice-opens-new-shipping-routes.html](https://horizon-magazine.eu/article/how-protect-arctic-melting-ice-opens-new-shipping-routes.html)  This milestone in shipping may be a sign of things to come, with maritime activity expected to climb as global warming melts the region's sea ice – declining at about 13% each decade, according to NASA.

Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) are causing problems for mariners transiting waters where there are high concentrations of fishing vessels, particularly in the East China Sea.


This year, the maritime industry witnessed an important milestone in safety and situational awareness at sea, with the introduction of an ADMIRALTY high-density contour Electronic Navigational Chart (HD-ENC) for the UK's Bristol Channel.

PIRACY


The Director General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Dr. Dakuku Peterside, has called on the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) to ensure fairness and balance in its reportage of piracy issues on Nigeria's territorial waters.


The crew of a Tidewater platform supply vessel (PSV) was reported safe on Thursday following a pirate attack off Nigeria.

PORT STATE CONTROL


During November, there were six new detentions of foreign flagged vessels in a UK port, three vessels remained under detention from previous months.

PORTS & HARBOURS


The area in Outer Northern Harbour is fairly anonymous, however, the on-going groundworks are a reminder that this is where the container terminal of the future will be just three years from now.


The nation's premiere port, the Lagos Port Complex Apapa is the largest and second oldest port in the West and Central Africa sub-region.


Autonomous shipping - the keynote topic of every maritime industry event for quite some time - is finally taking baby steps towards reality.
Cosco Shipping’s Piraeus plans dealt a blow. By David Glass. Seatrade Maritime News. 3 December 2018. Available from: www.seatrade-maritime.com/news/europe/cosco-shipping-s-piraeus-plans-dealt-a-blow.html On 30 November the Council froze the tender for the construction of a new cruise terminal in the Greek port, a key pillar port’s ‘investment master plan’ which Cosco is committed to implement under its agreement when purchasing control of the Piraeus Port Authority (PPA) two years back.

Bintulu Port leads the way in international security code. Borneo Post Online. 5 December 2018. Available from: http://www.thbornopostcom/2018/12/05/bintulu-port-leads-the-way-in-international-security-code/ Bintulu Port Sdn Bhd (BPSB) has been recognised by the Ministry of Transport as the leading organisation in the implementation of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code in Malaysia.

Port of Tallinn rewards emission-reducing ships with a discount of up to 8% on tonnage fees. Port of Tallinn. 6 December 2018. Available from: http://www.portoftallinn.com/news?&art=1069 “All the vessels sailing on the Baltic Sea must, naturally, meet current applicable environmental regulations,” said Ellen Kaasik, the Head of Quality and Environmental Management of the Port of Tallinn.


Cambodia makes record breaking ivory haul at port. BBC News. 16 December 2018. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-46583766 Cambodia has seized more than 3.2 tonnes of African ivory hidden in a storage container from Mozambique, a customs official has said.

British Ports calls for leadership from the shipping industry on safety issues. British Ports Association. 18 December 2018. Available from: https://www.britishports.org.uk/news/british-ports-calls-for-leadership-from-the-shipping-industry-on-safety-issues Following reports of a number of instances around the presence of defective pilot ladders on visiting ships and the regular use of dangerously weighted heaving lines by some vessels at UK ports, the British Ports Association has called on the international shipping community to face up to these ongoing safety issues.


**REGULATIONS**


**Nautilus backs call for radical overhaul of the STCW Convention.** *Nautilus International*. 4 December 2018. Available from: [https://www.nautilusint.org/en/stcw](https://www.nautilusint.org/en/stcw) Nautilus has backed a warning from the head of the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) that the global rules governing seafarer training and certification need to be radically overhauled.

**Legal issues arising from 2020 sulphur cap.** *Safety4Sea*. 5 December 2018. Available from: [https://safety4sea.com/legal-issues-arising-from-2020-sulphur-cap/](https://safety4sea.com/legal-issues-arising-from-2020-sulphur-cap/) The sulphur cap, to take effect from 1 January 2020, mandates that ships run on fuel containing no more than 0.5% m/m of sulphur, unless having scrubbers installed.

**China prepared to go further than IMO in terms of environmental regulations.** By Katrine Grønvald Raun. *ShippingWatch*. 10 December 2018. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/article11060317.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/article11060317.ece) China could become the next player to ban the use of open-loop scrubbers, as Singapore recently decided to do in the port's area starting in 2020.


**Lloyd's List Outlook 2019: Regulation.** *Lloyd's List*. 10 December 2018. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1125447/Lloyds-List-Outlook-2019-Regulation](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1125447/Lloyds-List-Outlook-2019-Regulation) This year was one of crucial achievements, heightened dispute and loose ends that were never fully tied up in the maritime regulatory landscape.


**Intertanko: Sulphur cap will take two years to bed in.** *Splash 247.com*. 13 December 2018. Available from: [https://splash247.com/intertanko-sulphur-cap-will-take-two-years-to-bed-in/](https://splash247.com/intertanko-sulphur-cap-will-take-two-years-to-bed-in) Paolo d'Amico, head of d'Amico Società di Navigazione group, has added a couple more titles to his impressive resume in recent weeks, taking the reins at Milan-listed d'Amico International Shipping and becoming chairman of the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (Intertanko) at a crucial time for the sector.


Politicians could face backlash when IMO 2020 effects hit consumers. By Andrew Critchlow. S&P Global Platts. 17 December 2018. Available from: https://blogs.platts.com/2018/12/17/imo-2020-oil-diesel-consumers/ If the threat of higher diesel taxes was enough to cause riots on the streets of Paris, then the impact of an obscure new rule forcing shipping companies to use cleaner fuels in commercial vessels has the potential to turn the "gilets jaunes" movement apoplectic with rage unless policymakers wake up to the danger.


SALVAGE


SEAFARERS

The causes of maritime accidents in the period 2002-2016. Seafarers’ International Research Centre (SIRC). November 2018. Available from: http://www.sirc.cf.ac.uk/Uploads/The%20causes%20of%20maritime%20accidents%20in%20the%20period%202002-2016.pdf. Maritime safety has undoubtedly improved in the last century as a result of a combination of factors including: technological advancement; better training; and regulatory development (Allianz, 2012).

The working and living conditions of seafarers on cargo ships in the period 2011-2016. Seafarers’ International Research Centre (SIRC). November 2018. Available from: http://www.sirc.cf.ac.uk/Uploads/Publications/The%20working%20and%20living%20conditions%20of%20seafarers.pdf. This report outlines key changes, in the period 2011-2016, in the living standards of international seafarers working in the cargo, inshore, offshore, and passenger sectors of the industry.


Maritime industry can now use blockchain for certification of seafarers. By Gavin van Marle. The Loadstar. 11 December 2018. Available from: https://theloadstar.co.uk/maritime-industry-can-now-use-blockchain-certification-seafarers/. A new consortium to deploy blockchain technology to cover the certification of seafarers was unveiled today.


Where would a no-deal Brexit leave UK seafarers? By Patrick Kingsland. *Ship-Technology.com.* 17 December 2018. Available from: https://www.Ship-Technology.com/features/brexit-impact-on-uk-seafarer-certificates/ It is the nightmare scenario that is becoming all the more plausible: with just months to go before the United Kingdom is scheduled to leave the European Union, Theresa May’s much-disputed draft withdrawal agreement has left the chance of a no-deal Brexit looking increasingly likely.

A phone call away: Telemedicine has made a huge difference in the well-being of seafarers. By Wendy Laursen. *Maritime Executive.* 17 December 2018. Available from: https://www.maritime-executive.com/magazine/a-phone-call-away The limited ability to provide medical care at sea has been classified as one of the “special risks” for seafarer stress.


Abducted boxship crewmembers released by Nigerian pirates. *Maritime Executive.* 18 December 2018. Available from: https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/abducted-boxship-crewmembers-released-by-nigerian-pirates Eight Polish crewmembers from the container ship Pomerania Sky have been released by their captors, two months after they were kidnapped off the coast of Nigeria.

Miracle seafarer survives six days in the sea after ship sinks. *Sailors’ Society.* 18 December 2018. Available from: https://www.sailors-society.org/about-us/press-room/miracle-seafarer/ A seafarer has survived six days in the open sea after the ship he was on sank in the Bali Strait.


**SEARCH & RESCUE**

Updated commentary on flagging issue of *Aquarius* SAR vessel. *Human Rights at Sea (HRAS).* 6 December 2018. Available from: https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/2018/12/06/updated-commentary-on-flagging-issue-of-aquarius-sar-vessel/ The country of Henry Dunant, father of humanitarian principles, has responded to a popular request and parliamentary motion to allow the *Aquarius*, Search and Rescue (SAR) vessel of SOS Méditerranée and Médecins sans Frontières, to sail under the Swiss flag.

*Aquarius* forced to end operations as Europe condemns people to drown. *Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF).* 6 December 2018. Available from: https://www.msf.org/aquarius-forced-end-operations-europe-condemns-people-drown As refugees, migrants and asylum seekers continue to die in the Mediterranean Sea, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and its partner SOS MEDITERRANEE have been forced to terminate operations by the search and rescue vessel *Aquarius.*

**SHIP RECYCLING**


EU list of approved shipbreakers stirs controversy as D-Day looms. By Geoff Garfield. *TradeWinds*. 13 December 2018. Available from: [https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/1653362/eu-list-of-approved-shipbreakers-stirs-controversy-as-d-day-looms](https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/1653362/eu-list-of-approved-shipbreakers-stirs-controversy-as-d-day-looms) As owners of European-flag ships face an end-of-year deadline requiring them in future to recycle their vessels only at approved yards, controversy continues to rage over the adequacy of the 26-strong list of facilities and its exclusion of the Indian subcontinent.

SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR


The construction of the first Arctic condensate tanker has come to an end at a shipyard in South China’s Guangdong province, and the tanker will soon be handed over to its Greek owner.


The duo is scheduled for delivery in 2021 and will be equipped with a WinGD-made dual-fuel slow-speed diesel engine (X-DF diesel engine) that can operate on marine gas oil or boil off gas stored in the cargo tank.


Korea will outpace China in terms of the number of shipbuilding orders this year and retake the top spot for the first time in seven years, due to growing demand for liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers amid stricter environmental regulations worldwide, industry analysts said Friday.


Hurtigruten’s new battery hybrid cruise ships will leave space for a battery pack five times larger in capacity than the initial pack being used – and the company revealed its plans to use liquid biogas (LBG) to a group of select press as it unveiled its new ships at Kleven shipyard in Norway.

SHIPPING


The last thing a mariner wants to worry about is an unreliable prime mover.


As things stand, the vast majority of ocean-going vessels that transport goods across the globe run on what is known as "heavy fuel oil".


Kenya's Maritime and Shipping Affairs Principal Secretary Nancy Karigithu has been named the 2018 African Union (AU) Woman of the Year and Pan-African Most Influential Woman in Business and Government.


Shipping faces a year of uncertainty in 2019, underpinned by political, technological and regulatory disruption.


Digitalization forces carriers to find new pathways to value. By Katrine Grønvald Raun. ShippingWatch. 3 December 2018. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/article11045786.ece A core ingredient for carriers’ business could be reduced to a parenthesis, at least when it comes to value creation.

Is digitisation in shipping disruption or racketeering? By Panos Patsadas. Splash 247.com. 3 December 2018. Available from: https://splash247.com/is-digitisation-in-shipping-disruption-or-racketeering/ I have been quietly observing for months now the on-going debate about the digitisation of shipping and reading time after time how this is the future.


Sail-powered ships to carry Renault cars to the US. By Christian Carlsen. ShippingWatch. 5 December 2018. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article11052343.ece French car manufacturer Renault has joined players who want wind sails installed on large merchant ships.


Shipping needs a 'green revolution' to take on future challenges. By Katherine Si. Seatrade Maritime News. 6 December 2018. Available from: http://www.seatrade-maritime.com/news/asia/shipping-needs-a-green-revolution-to-take-on-future-challenges.html Energy transformation and climate changes are posing serious challenges to international shipping, which, even though shipping is considered an efficient mode of transport, is under pressure to reduce its emissions, speakers said at the International Marine Intelligent Energy Efficiency Technology Summit 2018 held in Shanghai.


Verifavia Shipping signs cooperations with 8 ROs to support IMO DCS Verification. Verifavia Shipping. 7 December 2018. Available from: https://bit.ly/2FhCgo5 Verifavia, the world’s leading emissions verification company for the transport sector (aviation and shipping), today announced 8 new cooperation agreements with Recognized Organisations (ROs), supporting the verification of data for the International Maritime Organisation’s (IMO) Data Collection System (DCS) regulation.


Moody’s: Two tough years ahead for container carriers. By Tomas Kristiansen. ShippingWatch. 12 December 2018. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Container/article11066441.ece ShippingWatch has asked Moody’s Maersk expert Maria Maslovsky to elaborate on whether the concerns about Maersk represent concerns about the entire container industry.

Happy 50th Birthday Review of Maritime Transport: looking forward to the next maritime half-century. By Richard Scott. Hellenic Shipping News. 12 December 2018. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/happy-50th-birthday-review-of-maritime-transport-looking-forward-to-the-next-maritime-half-century/ Fifty years ago the world's shipping industry was experiencing the onset of changes which were destined to have a lasting impact and shape the pattern of activities seen in today's markets.


Shipping lines have yet to prove promises of speedy booking. By Katrine Grønvald Raun. ShippingWatch. 12 December 2018. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Container/article11066834.ece It should be as easy to book a container as it is to order a plane ticket.


'Maritime industry has capacity to drive economy'. By Sulaimon Salau. Guardian (Nigeria). 14 December 2018. Available from: https://guardian.ng/business/services/maritime-industry-has-capacity-to-drive-economy/ With a prospect to generate over $8 billion yearly, the maritime sector has the resources to propel the desired growth in the nation’s economy, stakeholders have said.


Global cruise industry to cut carbon emissions by 40% by 2030. By Rebecca Gibson. Cruise & Ferry. 18 December 2018. Available from: http://www.cruiseandferry.net/articles/global-cruise-industry-to-cut-carbon-emissions-by-40-by-2030 Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) and its member cruise lines have pledged to cut carbon emissions by 40% by 2030, making the cruise sector the first in the maritime industry to jointly commit to reducing its carbon footprint.

Keeping trade flowing after Brexit won’t be plain sailing. By Jonathan Saul. Reuters. 18 December 2018. Available from: https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-britain-eu-shipping/keeping-trade-flowing-after-brexit-wont-be-plain-sailing-idUKKBN1OH250 The British government has held talks with shipping firms to secure back-up vessels in case Britain exits the European Union without a trade deal but it is unlikely to make progress as most ships are booked for other business, industry sources say.


RESEARCH


To subscribe or unsubscribe, send an email with your contact details to: maritimeknowledgecentre@imo.org

About the cover

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