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

Symposium on IMO 2020 and Alternative Fuels

IMO is hosting a Symposium on IMO 2020 and Alternative Fuels on Thursday, 17 October and Friday, 18 October 2019 in the Main Hall at IMO Headquarters. This one and half day symposium aims to raise awareness and to take stock of the preparations for the IMO 2020 rule, and to discuss the role of alternative fuels in the decarbonization of international shipping.

The Symposium will be live-streamed and remote participation is open to Member Governments, IGOs, NGOs and the general public.

Further details and a provisional agenda can be found in Circular letter No.3998.

IMO Ministerial Conference - Safe fishing, Legal fishing

Ministerial Conference on Fishing Vessel Safety and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, organized by IMO and the Government of Spain, Torremolinos, Málaga, Spain, 21-23 October 2019.

The Conference aims to promote ratification of the Cape Town Agreement, a key IMO treaty for safety of fishing vessels. The entry into force of the Cape Town Agreement will help deter the proliferation of illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, by establishing international safety standards for fishing vessels.

The Conference is intended for ministers, policymakers, senior officials and relevant experts responsible for implementing fishing vessel safety and IUU fishing policies and enacting national legislation to ratify the Agreement. More...

IMO MEETINGS FOR 2019

Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments (III), 6th session 1–5 July 2019

Council, 122nd session 15–19 July 2019
LATEST PRESS BRIEFINGS

American rescuer who saved four to be recognized with IMO bravery accolade
Briefing: 18, July 23, 2019

World Maritime theme for 2020: "Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet"
Briefing: 17, July 23, 2019

International Maritime Prize for 2018 to go to Mr. Joseph J. Angelo (United States)
Briefing: 16, July 22, 2019

International Maritime Organization Council condemns tanker attacks in Strait of Hormuz and Sea of Oman
Briefing: 15, July 18, 2019

Turning the Tide - promoting gender diversity in the maritime sector
Briefing: 14, July 2, 2019

RECENT SPEECHES BY IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL KITACK LIM

Council, 122nd session 15-19 July 2019 (Opening and Closing remarks)
Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments, III 6, 1–5 July (Opening remarks)

IMO NEWS MAGAZINE (Summer 2019)

IMO PUBLISHING Just Published 2019 June/July 2019 Newsletter
UNITED NATIONS


Guterres: Climate Action Is a “Battle for our Lives”. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). 1 July 2019. Available from: https://unfccc.int/news/guterres-climate-action-is-a-battle-for-our-lives At a meeting in Abu Dhabi, UN Secretary-General António Guterres reminded leaders that climate change is progressing faster than the world’s top scientists have predicted, and that the international community must deliver an adequate response, making use of key opportunities to do so this year and the next.

With Caribbean island life under threat, UN chief pushes to face ‘headwinds together’. UN News. 3 July 2019. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/07/1041842 To counter global challenges that are a particular threat to vulnerable island nations like those in the Caribbean, it’s vital to “face the headwinds together”, especially in the face of the destruction being wrought by climate change, the UN chief told the annual Caribbean Community (CARICOM) conference in Saint Lucia on Wednesday.

CASUALTIES


Fire kills 14 sailors on Russian top-secret navy submersible Andrew Roth. The Guardian. 2 July 2019. Available from: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jul/02/fire-kills-14-russian-navy-submersible Russia has revealed a fire onboard a top-secret navy submersible has left 14 sailors dead in a rare public incident involving one of the country’s most shadowy military projects.


Tanker blast at Turkish port kills 1 Italian crew, operations continue. Ece Toksabay. Reuters. 2 July 2019. Available from: https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-turkey-petrochemicals-petkim/tanker-blast-at-turkish-port-kills-1-italian-crew-member-15-injured-idUKKCN1TX13E An explosion on an LPG tanker killed an Italian crew member and injured 15 others at the port of Aliaga in Turkey’s western Izmir province late on Monday but work at the petrochemical plant has continued, its operator said.


Two Ukrainian sailors die after Ukrainian fishing vessel catches fire off Mauritania coast. *UNIAN Information Agency (Ukraine)*. 22 July 2019. Available from: [https://www.unian.info/world/10626867-iran-arrests-17-spies-working-for-cia-some-could-face-death-penalty.html](https://www.unian.info/world/10626867-iran-arrests-17-spies-working-for-cia-some-could-face-death-penalty.html) Two Ukrainian sailors died amid fire on board the Ukrainian trawler *Ivan Holubets* that lit up off Mauritania coast this weekend, as announced by ex-representative of the president of Ukraine in Crimea, Borys Babin.


**ENVIRONMENT**


In Deep Water: The emerging threat of deep sea mining. Greenpeace International. 3 July 2019. Available from: https://www.greenpeace.org/international/publication/22578/deep-sea-mining-in-deep-water/ A handful of governments and companies have been granted licences to explore for deep sea mining in ecologically sensitive waters, and the industry is positioning its development as inevitable, but deep sea mining isn’t happening anywhere in the global oceans – yet.

EU revises CO2 emission figures following error. Christian Carlsen. ShippingWatch. 4 July 2019. Available from: https://www.shippingwatch.com/secure/regulation/article11483827.ece Total CO2 emissions by ships calling at European ports in 2018 were more than 18 million tons lower than the EU Commission and EMSA first reported when they released the so-called MRV system earlier this week.

EU ‘climate leaders’ praised on goal-setting but falling short on detail. Frédéric Simon. EurActiv. 4 July 2019. Available from: https://www.euractiv.com/section/climate-strategy-2050/news/eu-climate-leaders-praised-on-goal-setting-but-falling-short-on-detail/ Finland, Sweden, Portugal, France and Germany are often seen as “climate leaders” when it comes to setting ambitious carbon reduction objectives for 2050.


5 reasons why deep sea mining will only get our planet into deep trouble. Louisa Casson. Greenpeace International. 8 July 2019. Available from: https://www.greenpeace.org/international/story/23164/5-reasons-to-stop-deep-sea-mining/ The depths of our oceans hide a unique living world that we barely understand – but these mysteries are already under threat from a controversial new industry: deep sea mining.


The Arctic: A microcosm of climate change. Karmenu Vella. Parliament Magazine. 9 July 2019. Available from: https://www.theparliamentmagazine.eu/articles/opinion/arctic-microcosm-climate-change If there is one place in the world where climate change is plainly visible, it’s the Arctic.
We organised a conference for 570 people without using plastic. Here's how it went.
Available from: [https://theclassification.com/we-organised-a-conference-for-570-people-without-using-plastic-heres-how-it-went-120157](https://theclassification.com/we-organised-a-conference-for-570-people-without-using-plastic-heres-how-it-went-120157) Finding solutions to eliminate plastic waste in everyday life presents challenges, particularly during large events such as professional conferences.

Delving into the ocean's changing role in climate change. *University of Victoria (Canada)*. 11 July 2019. Available from: [https://www.uvic.ca/news/topics/2019+climate-action-roberta-hamme+media-release](https://www.uvic.ca/news/topics/2019+climate-action-roberta-hamme+media-release) The ocean plays an essential role in absorbing large quantities of excess carbon dioxide released by human activities—a role critical to a healthy climate and life on earth—yet not enough is known about the rate at which absorption happens or how it will change as the ocean warms and acidifies.


Why Biodiversity Matters: Mapping the Linkages between Biodiversity and the SDGs.


ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION


Total fined for Maersk Oil’s pollution in the North Sea. Ritzau Finans. *ShippingWatch*. 9 July 2019. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/secure/Offshore/article11491553.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/secure/Offshore/article11491553.ece) French oil company Total, which acquired Maersk Oil in 2018, has been fined USD 75,000 for Maersk Oil’s emission of environmentally harmful chemicals into the North Sea from 2014 to 2017.


Hibernia remains shut down as support vessels clean up oil spill. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC)*. 21 July 2019. Available from: [https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/hmdc-latest-update-oil-spill-hibernia-platform-1.5219484](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/hmdc-latest-update-oil-spill-hibernia-platform-1.5219484) Several support vessels were near the largest offshore oil platform off Newfoundland Saturday, as cleanup work continued on an oil spill that suspended production at Hibernia.


UN Warns of Pollution Risk from Decaying Yemeni FSO. *Maritime Executive*. 23 July 2019. Available from: [https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/un-warns-of-pollution-risk-from-decaying-yemeni-fso](https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/un-warns-of-pollution-risk-from-decaying-yemeni-fso) The UN reports that its inspectors have not been able to access the aging FSO Safer off Ras Issa, Yemen, adding to concerns that the vessel poses a serious environmental hazard to the Red Sea region.
IMO


The ‘biggest change in oil market history’ is less than six months away. Sam Meredith. *CNBC (US).* 15 July 2019. Available from: [https://www.cnbc.com/2019/07/15/oil-imo-2020-marks-the-biggest-change-in-oil-market-history.html](https://www.cnbc.com/2019/07/15/oil-imo-2020-marks-the-biggest-change-in-oil-market-history.html). Tens of thousands of ships sailing the world’s oceans burn more than 3 million barrels of sludge-like high-sulfur fuel every single day. But, starting next year, the shipping industry will have to comply with rules that should dramatically reduce sulfur emissions.

**LAW & POLICY**


Panama says it cut Iran oil tanker from boat registry after terrorism alert. Elida Moreno. Reuters. 4 July 2019. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-tanker-panama-panama-says-it-cut-iran-oil-tanker-from-boat-registry-after-terrorism-alert-idUSE1N21L02N Panama’s Maritime Authority said on Thursday that Grace 1, a giant Iranian oil tanker seized by British Royal Marines in Gibraltar, was no longer listed in Panama’s international boat registry as of May 29.


Hontiveros laments “Made in China” report blaming PH fishers, not Chinese vessel, for Recto bank hit-and-run incident. Government of the Philippines. 5 July 2019. Available from: http://www.senate.gov.ph/press_release/2019/0705_hontiveros1.asp Akbayan Senator Risa Hontiveros posed this question as she expressed her opposition to a Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) report claiming that the Filipino fishermen hit and left at sea by a Chinese vessel were responsible for the incident.

High Stakes for China as WTO Fishing Subsidies Cap Looms Todd Woody. Maritime Executive. 5 July 2019. Available from: https://www.maritime-executive.com/editorials/high-stakes-for-china-as-wto-fishing-subsidies-cap-looms As the World Trade Organisation confronts a deadline this year to reach an agreement to eliminate subsidies that are decimating global fish populations, perhaps no nation faces higher stakes than China.


UAE to overhaul maritime laws to protect sailors and allow foreign ownership. John Dennehy. The National (United Arab Emirates). 7 July 2019. Available from: https://www.thenational.ae/uae/government/uae-to-overhaul-maritime-laws-to-protect-sailors-and-allow-foreign-ownership-1.883491 The UAE will introduce tough rules to protect abandoned seafarers, clamp down on ghost ships in its waters and allow 100 per cent foreign ownership of maritime companies.

Grace 1 Confirmed to be Carrying Full Load of Crude Oil - 522/2019. Government of Gibraltar. 8 July 2019. Available from: https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/press-releases/grace-1-confirmed-to-be-carrying-full-load-of-crude-oil-5222019-5112 Her Majesty’s Government of Gibraltar can now confirm, after having received the results of comprehensive laboratory testing, that the Very Large Crude Carrier, the Grace 1, which was detained in the early hours of Thursday morning, is loaded to capacity with crude oil.


**We will gain immensely from our blue economy** Muiru Ngugi. *Standard Digital (Kenya)*. 8 July 2019. Available from: [https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001332966/we-will-gain-immensely-from-our-blue-economy](https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001332966/we-will-gain-immensely-from-our-blue-economy) The cover page of a little known 2017 government report has a boy lifting the canvass off the sea to reveal a stash of hidden cash.

**Why the U.N. Pact on High Seas Biodiversity Is Too Important to Fail.** Stewart M. Patrick. *World Politics Review*. Review 8 July 2019. Available from: [https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/28011/why-the-u-n-pact-on-high-seas-biodiversity-is-too-important-to-fail](https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/28011/why-the-u-n-pact-on-high-seas-biodiversity-is-too-important-to-fail) Quietly but steadily, the most important environmental treaty that most people have never heard of is taking shape.


Sen. Cynthia Villar urged aquaculture practitioners and fish farmers to take part in solving plastic pollution in the country’s bodies of water, which continues to threaten our fish supply.

Carnival to create chief compliance officer role. Michael Juliano. TradeWinds. 9 July 2019. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/passengerships/carnival-to-create-chief-compliance-officer-role/2-1-635709 Carnival Corp will soon have a chief compliance officer among its top brass as part of a multimillion-dollar settlement tied to environmental wrongdoing.


Maersk Oil’s pollution triggers review of sanctions. Ritzau Finans. ShippingWatch. 11 July 2019. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/regulation/article11496398.ece A fine of DKK 500,000 (USD 75,500) for a large, international company for spilling more than 100 tons of hazardous chemicals in the North Sea.


Ambitious targets to cut shipping emissions. UK Government. 11 July 2019. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ambitious-targets-to-cut-shipping-emissions All new ships for UK waters ordered from 2025 should be designed with zero-emission capable technologies, in ambitious plans set out by Maritime Minister Nusrat Ghani to cut pollution from the country’s maritime sector. Reducing the Maritime Sector’s Contribution to Climate Change and Air Pollution Economic opportunities from low and zero emission shipping: Technical annexes
Exclusive: Panama to withdraw flags from more vessels that violate sanctions.
Panama will withdraw its flag from more vessels that violate sanctions and international legislation, the country’s maritime authority told Reuters, following the removal of about 60 ships linked to Iran and Syria from the Panamanian registry in recent months.

Captain on Iranian oil tanker in Gibraltar arrested. ShippingWatch. 12 July 2019. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Tanker/article11497907.ece The captain and first mate of an Iranian tanker vessel that has been detained since July 4 have been arrested.


UK says Grace 1 can leave as arrested crew released Dale Wainwright and Gary Dixon. TradeWinds. 15 July 2019. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/uk-says-grace-1-can-leave-as-arrested-crew-released/21-638003 UK Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt has told his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif that Britain would facilitate the release of the Grace 1 if there were “guarantees it would not go to Syria”.


Moscow court extends arrest of all 24 Ukrainian sailors detained in Kerch Strait. TASS Russian News Agency. 17 July 2019. Available from: https://tass.com/world/1069059 Moscow’s Lefortovo Court has remanded in custody all of the 24 Ukrainian sailors detained last November for illegally entering Russian territorial waters in the Kerch Strait, a TASS correspondent reported from the courtroom.


Why the rush for seabed mining: Intrigue, collusion and interesting bedfellows. Deep Sea Mining Campaign. 17 July 2019. Available from: http://www.deepseaminingoutofourdepth.org/why-the-rush-for-seabed-mining/ Start-up companies are driving a speculative rush for seabed minerals in an unholy alliance with the very UN body charged with regulating them, the International Seabed Authority (ISA). Why the Rush? Seabed Mining in the Pacific Ocean

CURRENT AWARENESS BULLETIN | Vol. XXXI | No. 7 | July 2019

Iran says it has seized foreign oil tanker in Gulf. Patrick Wintour. The Guardian. 18 July 2019. Available from: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jul/18/iran-says-it-has-seized-foreign-oil-tanker-in-gulf Report on state TV says ship was smuggling oil but does not say which country crew are from.


Panama says withdrawing flag from tanker towed to Iran, cites violations. Elida Moreno. Reuters. 21 July 2019. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-iran-tanker-panama/panama-to-withdraw-flag-from-tanker-towed-to-iran-cites-violations-idUSKCN1UG011 Panama’s maritime authority said on Saturday it had begun the process of withdrawing the registration of an oil tanker called MT Riah, which was towed to Iran after it disappeared from ship tracking maps in the Strait of Hormuz on July 14.


Caribbean states prepare to battle illegal fishing. Caribbean News Now. 22 July 2019. Available from: https://www.caribbeannewsnow.com/2019/07/22/caribbean-states-prepare-to-battle-illegal-fishing/ Eighteen border control officers from seven member States of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) are undergoing a four-week training course in Fisheries Prosecution and Interdiction, organized by the Barbados-based Regional Security System (RSS) in collaboration with the CRFM Secretariat, the government of Barbados, and the British Royal Navy’s Fisheries Protection Squadron.


Iranian Ship Detentions: Time for updated Deprivation of Liberty at Sea Guidance. Human Rights at Sea (HRAS). 22 July 2019. Available from: https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/2019/07/22/iranian-ship-detentions-time-for-updated-deprivation-of-liberty-at-sea-guidance/ Following the detention by Iranian Revolutionary Guard forces of the UK-flagged Stena Impero on Friday 19 July and the latest reported actions which have seen the 23 person crew taken off the ship for “questioning”, Human Rights at Sea renews its call for widely-accepted UN guidance outlining the basic human rights protections for crew during the deprivation of their liberty in such circumstances. 2015 – Deprivation of Liberty at Sea International Guidance


China to expand discharge ban on open-loop exhaust scrubbers -draft. Muyu Xu and Shivani Singh. *Reuters.* 24 July 2019. Available from: [https://reut.rs/2Ksy8BK](https://reut.rs/2Ksy8BK) China will extend a ban on discharging the waste water from open-loop scrubbers to more coastal regions starting in 2020, the country’s maritime authority said in a draft plan.


Iran: Grace 1 to be released ‘soon’. Gary Dixon. *TradeWinds.* 25 July 2019. Available from: [https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/iran-grace-1-to-be-released-soon/2-1-644061](https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/iran-grace-1-to-be-released-soon/2-1-644061) The country has started legal and diplomatic efforts to free the 301,000-dwt tanker (built 1997) that was held in in the UK territory of Gibraltar earlier this month.


Iran tanker seizure: What’s so important about a ship’s flag? *BBC News.* 25 July 2019. Available from: [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/iran/iran-tanker-seizure-what-s-important-about-a-ships-flag-49083108](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/iran/iran-tanker-seizure-what-s-important-about-a-ships-flag-49083108) The cargo ship *Stena Impero*, seized by Iran last week, was sailing under a British flag - but it was owned by a Swedish company and had no British nationals on board.


Denmark prepared to join naval mission in Strait of Hormuz. Trine Vestergaard. *ShippingWatch.* 26 July 2019. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/article11519678.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/article11519678.ece) Denmark is now prepared to participate in an international naval mission aimed at ensuring the safety of international shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.

Flags of inconvenience: noose tightens around Iranian shipping. Jonathan Saul, Parisa Hafezi and Marianna Parraga. *Reuters.* 26 July 2019. Available from: [https://reut.rs/2YvTLds](https://reut.rs/2YvTLds) Somewhere on its journey from the waters off Iran, around Africa’s southern tip and into the Mediterranean, the *Grace 1* oil tanker lost the flag under which it sailed and ceased to be registered to Panama. Iran later claimed it as its own.


**MARINE TECHNOLOGY**

European Space Agency to partner with One Sea Alliance on maritime digitalisation and autonomous shipping initiatives. *One Sea.* 2 July 2019. Available from: https://www.oneseaecosystem.net/european-space-agency-to-partner-with-one-sea-alliance-on-maritime-digitalisation-and-autonomous-shipping-initiatives/. A far reaching Memorandum of Intent covering future collaboration has been signed by the organisation orchestrating space programmes for 22 European countries and the coordinators of One Sea, the industry alliance bringing together leading exponents of autonomous ship technology.

Propelling safety and growth through digital transformation. *Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST).* 2 July 2019. Available from: https://www.imarest.org/local-communities/middle-east-africa/uae/item/4996-propelling-safety-and-growth-through-digital-transformation. Opening what has become the bedrock of the region’s marine technology forums, Nikeel Idnani, Honorary Secretary IMarEST UAE highlighted that clever technology working with skilled and experienced professionals will bring improved levels of safety, lower levels of emissions, and higher revenues than we see now.

Maersk to slash its fuel bill using Artificial Intelligence. Leonora Beck. *ShippingWatch.* 3 July 2019. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/article11480838.ece. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the potential to change things up at shipping companies, and Maersk is now ready to start reaping the benefits of the technology.


Boston-based Sea Machines Robotics has entered into a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Maritime Administration (MARAD) to demonstrate the ability of Sea Machines’ autonomous technology in increasing the safety, response time and productivity of marine oil-spill response operations.


Automation is increasingly being seen in newbuild vessels, and tugs and workboats are no exception as the array of industry projects worldwide shows.


At the Autonomous Ship Technology conference in Amsterdam, Joseph Beel, the strategic programs manager at Cisco, spoke on how advancements in the domains of Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI) and mobility systems are disrupting the way the maritime industry operates – while subsequently putting vessels under cybersecurity risks arising from the considerable increase in attack avenues.

MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING


The new Bandari Maritime Academy, previously Bandari College, is a centre of excellence in maritime training and was established as part of ongoing reforms in the maritime transport industry in the country.


The government has expressed its commitment to cooperate with other African countries in promoting security in the Indian Ocean to safeguard transportation and fishing activities to promote economic growth.


In the faint predawn light, the ship doesn’t look unusual. It is one more silhouette looming pier-side at Naval Base San Diego, a home port of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.
**MARITIME SAFETY**


Oyvind Aas-Hansen with the Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (DSA) is happy to cooperate with Aleksandr Vazhenin and Pavel Borisov from the Emergency Response Centre of Rosatom, Russia’s State Atomic Energy Corporation.


Although the waters of the Caribbean and the Mediterranean continue to dominate global cruising, there’s a new player in town.


As the American Club says, Pandiman Philippines Inc., the Club’s correspondents in Manila, provided the following reminder regarding the hazards associated with the carriage of nickel ore, as the seasonal export of this dangerous cargo from the Philippines gets underway.


I am delighted to inform the House today about the launch of Maritime Safety Week 2019 following the extremely successful inaugural event last year.


Presidente Rodrigo Duterte signed an executive order creating an inter-agency council on the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Member State Audit Scheme.


The UK maritime industry is taking a leading stand in the fight against the illegal use of Dangerously Weighted Heaving Lines (“DWHLs”) in UK ports and harbours, an issue spanning the shipping and ports sector.


After the *Rabaul Queen* disaster, Papua New Guinea’s (PNG’s) maritime safety authority is still short of funding to do its job.


This time, our special column, in association with The North of England P&I Club, sheds focus on the IMDG Code asking industry experts whether its implementation has been effective in preventing container fire incidents so far.


The Standard Club protection and indemnity mutual has outlined the factors shipowners need to be aware of when handling ultra large containership fires.


**MARITIME SECURITY**


Saudi Border Guards chief calls for global action plan to combat maritime terrorism. *Arab News (Saudi Arabia)*. 2 July 2019. Available from: [http://www.arabnews.com/node/1519086/saudi-arabia](http://www.arabnews.com/node/1519086/saudi-arabia) UN urged to develop regional codes of conduct to counter threats against maritime transport and world economies


Response to media queries: Security level in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS). *Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)*. 5 July 2019. Available from: [https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/media-centre/news-releases/detail/01a29672-c402-41c8-9433-97a759202201](https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/media-centre/news-releases/detail/01a29672-c402-41c8-9433-97a759202201) In response to media queries: The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) has not received any information on immediate threats to ships transiting the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS) or to Singapore registered ships.
The Lloyd’s List Podcast: Sanctions busting, data integrity and shipping grey areas. *Lloyd’s List*. 5 July 2019. Available from: [https://soundcloud.com/user-762275282/the-lloyd’s-list-podcast-sanctions-busting-data-integrity-and-shipping-grey-areas](https://soundcloud.com/user-762275282/the-lloyd’s-list-podcast-sanctions-busting-data-integrity-and-shipping-grey-areas) We are discussing sanctions busting, transparency and data integrity on this week’s podcast. In the wake of the latest tanker being caught carrying sanctioned cargo, we examine how deceptive patterns of behaviour are being tracked, why shipping’s grey areas are increasingly under scrutiny and what questions we should all be asking when it comes to data transparency and trustworthiness.


Timeline: Tension between Iran and the West over nuclear plans, Gulf shipping. Jason Neely. *Reuters*. 10 July 2019. Available from: [https://reut.rs/2OV0hH4](https://reut.rs/2OV0hH4) Tensions between Iran and the West have escalated since U.S. sanctions on Iranian oil exports took full effect and British naval forces seized an Iranian supertanker.

Ship operators cannot afford to turn a blind eye to cyber security. *Gard*. 10 July 2019. Available from: [http://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/27958640/ship-operators-cannot-afford-to-turn-a-blind-eye-to-cyber-security](http://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/27958640/ship-operators-cannot-afford-to-turn-a-blind-eye-to-cyber-security) Whilst investigating a cyber incident onboard a ship the USCG found that the security risk presented by the shipboard network was well known among the crew before the incident.

**CURRENT AWARENESS BULLETIN | Vol. XXXI | No. 7 | July 2019**
**Iran’s Revolutionary Guards deny trying to stop British tanker in Gulf-Fars news.** Babak Dehghanpisheh. *Reuters*. 11 July 2019. Available from: [https://reut.rs/2ZKpae](https://reut.rs/2ZKpae) Iran’s elite Revolutionary Guards rejected on Thursday a U.S. claim that they tried to stop a British tanker in the Gulf a day earlier, the Guards said in a statement carried by the semi-official Fars news agency.


**Iran tanker row: UK to send second warship to the Gulf.** BBC News. 12 July 2019. Available from: [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-48956547](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-48956547) The UK has brought forward plans to send a second warship to the Gulf amid rising tensions with Iran.

**Britain raises Gulf shipping threat level to highest possible.** Alex Longley, Firat Kayakiran and Tim Ross. *ShippingWatch*. 12 July 2019. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.comsecure/carriers/Tanker/article11499163.ece](https://shippingwatch.comsecure/carriers/Tanker/article11499163.ece) The UK government designated the Persian Gulf region a level-3 risk on Tuesday, a day before British warship HMS Montrose had to stop Iranian vessels from impeding a BP Plc oil tanker as it exited the region, according to a person with knowledge of the matter.


**Kuwait moves to protect seaports amid tensions.** *Kuwait Times*. 14 July 2019. Available from: [https://news.kuwaittimes.netwebsite/kuwait-moves-to-protect-seaports-amid-tensions/](https://news.kuwaittimes.netwebsite/kuwait-moves-to-protect-seaports-amid-tensions/) Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA) signed Saturday a cooperation protocol with the ministry of defense, enabling the navy to prepare security plans for the protection of ports nationwide.


Mersey maritime leader says Gulf crisis shows need to invest in the Royal Navy.


Seeking to avoid escalation, ships deploy unarmed guards to navigate Gulf. Jonathan Saul. Reuters. 17 July 2019. Available from: https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-mideast-shipping/seeking-to-avoid-escalation-ships-deploy-unarmed-guards-to-navigate-gulf-idUKKCN1UC1E8?il=0 Shipping companies are hiring unarmed security guards for voyages through the Middle East Gulf as an extra safeguard after a wave of attacks in the region, security companies involved said.


Iranian TV identifies seized foreign tanker as Riah. Lloyd’s List. 18 July 2019. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1128434/Iranian-TV-identifies-seized-foreign-tanker-as-Riah Iranian state TV said a foreign vessel trying to smuggle 1m litres of fuel has been seized.


Shipping to look for new technologies to boost cyber security. Safety4Sea. 19 July 2019. Available from: https://safety4sea.com/cm/shipping-to-look-for-new-technologies-to-boost-cyber-security/ Marlink’s President Maritime, Tore Morten Olsen, in an interview with the SAFETY4SEA team during Oslo’s Nor-Shipping, addresses that the maritime sector should firstly focus on seafarers’ education to reduce the human risk and then look for innovative ways to be protected from cyber risks.


International Chamber of Shipping expresses concern over developing situation in the Strait of Hormuz. International Chamber of Shipping (ICS). 19 July 2019. Available from: https://bit.ly/2YQHWPh The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) is receiving reports that a British registered vessel - Stena Impero - has been diverted from its original course in the Strait of Hormuz while sailing in international waters.


Ships advised to provide Hormuz transit plans to assist naval security deployment. *S&P Global Platts.* 23 July 2019. Available from: https://bit.ly/2MO1JH. Shipping industry associations have this week issued advisories asking vessels to provide transit plans for the Strait of Hormuz to maritime agencies in advance of their voyage to help naval ships deployed in the region provide the necessary security cover.

Iran vows to secure Strait of Hormuz, urges diplomacy. *Reuters.* 23 July 2019. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-iran-france-aragchi/iran-vows-to-secure-strait-of-hormuz-urges-diplomacy-idUSKCN1UI2MG. Iran will secure the Strait of Hormuz and not allow any disturbance in shipping in the key oil transport waterway, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Tuesday during a visit to Paris, the state new agency IRNA reported.


Royal Navy will escort UK shipping through Strait of Hormuz. Michelle Wiese Bockmann. Lloyd’s List. 25 July 2019. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1128531/Royal-Navy-will-escort-UK-shipping-through-Strait-of-Hormuz While the UK Department for Transport has not directly rescinded its advice to avoid the energy commodities waterway, the updated statement released on Thursday said it would provide a military escort for ships flying the Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, Isle of Man, the UK and British Virgin Islands.

Britain begins escorting all UK vessels through Hormuz Strait. Andrew MacAskill and Jonathan Saul. Reuters. 26 July 2019. Available from: https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-mideast-iran-britain/britain-begins-escorting-all-uk-vessels-through-hormuz-strait-idUKKCN1UK1HM Britain has started sending a warship to accompany all British-flagged vessels through the Strait of Hormuz, a change in policy announced on Thursday after the government previously said it did not have resources to do so.

Klaveness speeds up following Gulf of Oman attacks. Niklas Krigslund. ShippingWatch. 27 June 2019. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Bulk/article11470452.ece Norway’s dry bulk carrier Torvald Klaveness has started sailing at maximum speed in parts of the Middle East to protect its vessels from being attacked, writes Norwegian media E24.


HMS DUNCAN arrives in the Gulf. UK Government. 28 July 2019. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hms-duncan-arrives-in-the-gulf Royal Navy vessel HMS DUNCAN has arrived in the Gulf, where she will support the safe passage of British-flagged ships through the Strait of Hormuz along with HMS MONTROSE.


Statement(s) - Stena Impero. Stena Bulk. 30 July 2019. Available from: https://www.stenabulk.com/ As the detention of the Stena Impero and its crew enters its 12th day, Stena Bulk and Northern Marine Management have a growing concern for the welfare of the crew who are confined to the vessel.

**MIGRANTS**


**Italy migrants: Migrants allowed off charity ship despite ban.** BBC News. 7 July 2019. Available from: [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/europe-48896038](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/europe-48896038) A group of 41 rescued migrants have disembarked from a charity ship in Italy, a day after the captain defied a ban on docking in the country.

**Migrants onboard Alan Kurdi to be brought to Malta and relocated to other EU states.** Kurt Sansone. Malta Today. 7 July 2019. Available from: [https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/96114/denied_entry_into_lampedusa_alan_kurdi_heads_to_malta_with_no_permission](https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/96114/denied_entry_into_lampedusa_alan_kurdi_heads_to_malta_with_no_permission) European member states will also take half of the migrants rescued by the AFM in another operation as a ‘sign of recognition of the Maltese government’s goodwill’.

**Sea-Eye migrants allowed to disembark in Malta.** Deutsche Welle (Germany). 7 July 2019. Available from: [https://www.dw.com/en/sea-eye-migrants-allowed-to-disembark-in-malta/a-49504725](https://www.dw.com/en/sea-eye-migrants-allowed-to-disembark-in-malta/a-49504725) The 65 migrants on board German-flagged rescue ship *Alan Kurdi* have been taken ashore to Malta, the Maltese government has said.


The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports that 34,226 migrants and refugees have entered Europe by sea through 17 July, roughly a 34 per cent decrease from the 51,782 arriving during the same period last year.


According to the International Organization for Migration, more than 18,000 migrants have died or disappeared in the Mediterranean on their way to Europe since 2014.


Scores of refugees and migrants are feared drowned after the boats they were travelling in capsized off the coast of Libya in the Mediterranean Sea, according to aid agencies and officials.


IOM reports that 36,670 migrants and refugees have entered Europe by sea through 24 July, roughly a 35 per cent decrease from the 54,978 arriving during the same period last year.


Migrants on seven boats are crossing Mediterranean waters to escape Libya, according to airborne Sea-Watch activists.


This is a summary of what was said by UNHCR spokesperson Charlie Yaxley – to whom quoted text may be attributed – at today’s press briefing at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Libya shipwreck: “There are no words to describe their suffering. *Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF)*. 26 July 2019. Available from: [https://www.msf.org/libya-shipwreck-there-are-no-words-describe-their-suffering](https://www.msf.org/libya-shipwreck-there-are-no-words-describe-their-suffering)

Anne-Cecilia Kjaer, MSF nurse activity manager in Libya, describes the scene after the survivors of a shipwreck off Libya, on Thursday 25 July, were brought back to shore in Libya, where our teams assisted them with medical treatment.


Fifty-five bodies have been recovered so far off the Libyan coast, an aid worker said on Saturday, after a wooden boat carrying hundreds of migrants capsized on Thursday.
**NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS**


The Panama Canal Authority has announced it is again postponing a planned reduction, however, water levels remain below the average for last 65 years as climate change impacts the key waterway.


A US military plan to seek more international support to protect oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz will be challenging, especially with President Donald Trump calling into question the US presence in the region, according to two former Navy admirals and an energy security expert.


Ship-shaming is no substitute for full transparency, but it can help flag transgressions and warn stakeholders across the supply chain that some areas of our industry are still stubbornly opaque in their practices.


China has raised the security level for its vessels heading through the Strait of Malacca, a key Asian trade route and major oil choke point.


British Royal Marines seized a giant Iranian oil tanker in Gibraltar on Thursday for trying to take oil to Syria in violation of EU sanctions, a dramatic step that drew Tehran’s fury and could escalate its confrontation with the West.


Images of vanishing Arctic ice and mountain glaciers are jarring, but their potential contributions to sea level rise are no match for Antarctica’s, even if receding southern ice is less eye-catching.


A new model based on daily oceanographic data and the movements of tagged whales has opened the potential for stakeholders to see where in the ocean endangered blue whales are most likely to be so that ships can avoid hitting them.


Ships across the globe continue to regularly provide substandard or badly rigged ladders, which means pilots face a big moment of risk every time they use these to board vessels, especially in parts of the world not renowned for good health and safety.


The network suffered an outage on Friday due to what has been described as a “technical incident related to its ground infrastructure.”

**Galileo outage highlights redundancy concerns.** Malcolm Latarche. *ShipInsight.* 17 July 2019. Available from: [https://shipinsight.com/articles/galileo-outage-highlights-redundancy-concerns](https://shipinsight.com/articles/galileo-outage-highlights-redundancy-concerns) Although still not in full operational mode, Galileo the European satellite positioning system has suffered a further setback and according to reports the latest incident is again connected to the system’s Precise Time Facility (PTF), but this time also involves the back up redundancy architecture.


**How satellite sleuths cracked the mystery of Iran’s tanker seizure.** Will Bedingfield. *Wired.* 23 July 2019. Available from: [https://www.wired.co.uk/article/iran-uk-tanker-seizure-news](https://www.wired.co.uk/article/iran-uk-tanker-seizure-news) You can watch the final movements of the *Stena Impero*, the British-flagged tanker Iran intercepted on Friday, play out in real time.

**SFU researchers developing warning system to protect killer whales from marine traffic.** Diane Mar-Nicolle. *Simon Fraser University (Canada).* 24 July 2019. Available from: [http://www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2019/07/sfu-developing.warning.system.to.protect.orcas.html](http://www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2019/07/sfu-developing.warning.system.to.protect.orcas.html) SFU researchers have teamed with regional partners to conduct critical research they hope will save and enhance the remaining 76 Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKWs) in B.C.’s Salish Sea.

**Strait of Hormuz; main shareholder of world economy.** *Islamic Republic News Agency - IRNA (Iran).* 24 July 2019. Available from: [https://en.irna.ir/news/83410349/Strait-of-Hormuz-main-shareholder-of-world-economy](https://en.irna.ir/news/83410349/Strait-of-Hormuz-main-shareholder-of-world-economy) These days, developments in the Persian Gulf region and the tensions resulting from the policies of some Western governments have caused the name of “Strait of Hormuz” to be more pronounced in the news; the waterway which, due to the major route of oil and gas and its derivatives, is described the “beating heart” of energy and the world economy.

PIRACY


Nigeria’s Waters as Haven for Pirates. *This Day (Nigeria)*. 14 July 2019. Available from: http://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2019/07/14/nigerias-waters-as-haven-for-pirates/ The recent admission by the former Minister of Transportation, Mr. Rotimi Amaechi, that the security situation in the maritime sector has become bad and last Monday’s Q2 report by the International Maritime Bureau naming Nigeria as a hotbed of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, leaves much to be desired.


Korean ship attacked by pirates near Singapore Strait. *Yonhap News Agency (South Korea)*. 22 July 2019. Available from: https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20190722003351315?section=search A South Korean freighter was attacked by pirates near the Singapore Strait on Monday, government officials in Busan said.


**PORT STATE CONTROL**


**Port state to focus on readiness of ship and crew in an emergency.** Gard. 17 July 2019. Available from: [http://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/27998826/port-state-to-focus-on-readiness-of-ship-and-crew-in-an-emergency](http://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/27998826/port-state-to-focus-on-readiness-of-ship-and-crew-in-an-emergency) The Tokyo and Paris MOUs will this year carry out a joint concentrated inspection campaign (CIC) on emergency systems and procedures.

**PORTS & HARBOURS**


Great teamwork proves key to effective management of oil spill at sea in Port Elizabeth: SAMSA. South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA). 17 July 2019. Available from: https://blog.samsa.org.za/2019/07/17/great-teamwork-proves-key-to-effective-management-of-oil-spill-at-sea-in-port-elizabeth-samsa/ Closer collaboration and speedy reaction by parties involved in the oil spillage at sea near the port of Ngqurha in Port Elizabeth two weekends ago contributed immensely in ensuring that damage to the surrounding ocean environment, including wildlife, was minimised.

Shape up or ship out: Africa's ports threatened by cleaner fuel targets. Gavin du Venage. The National (United Arab Emirates). 18 July 2019. Available from: https://www.thenational.ae/business/energy/shape-up-or-ship-out-africas-ports-threatened-by-cleaner-fuel-targets-1.887494 In just six months the world’s cargo shipping fleet will have to switch to cleaner burning fuel, and ports globally are preparing for the change.


Singapore stocks up on low-sulfur fuel ahead of new shipping rules. Roslan Khasawneh and Jessica Jaganathan. Reuters. 22 July 2019. Available from: https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-singapore-oil-storage-idUSKCN1UHOAU Oil traders are chartering more ships and snapping up fuel oil storage tanks in and around Singapore, the world’s top bunkering port, to stock up cleaner fuel that will meet new shipping rules coming into force next year, industry sources said.


Marseille Fos boosts drive towards cutting air emissions. All About Shipping. 24 July 2019. Available from: http://www.allaboutshipping.co.uk/2019/07/24/marseille-fos-boosts-drive-towards-cutting-air-emissions/ Among a string of new eco-friendly initiatives, the Marseille Fos port authority is to spend €20 million over the next six years to extend shoreside electrical connections for berthed vessels to every ferry, cruise ship and repair quay within the Marseille eastern harbour.
REGULATIONS

Exclusive interview with Drewy’s Damas on current ocean cargo shipping scenario.


The sparks aboard *Torm Laura* herald the upcoming 2020-regulations. Søren Pico. *ShippingWatch*. 28 June 2019. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Tanker/article11473146.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Tanker/article11473146.ece) Yellow sparks fly from the welding equipment aboard *Torm Laura*, where a group of yard workers, so to speak, prepare the ship for the upcoming 2020-regulations.

New procedure for shipping industry to notify the US Government of non availability of compliant fuel oil. *United States Coast Guard*. 28 June 2019. Available from: [https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/MSIB/2019/MSIB_005_19.pdf](https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/MSIB/2019/MSIB_005_19.pdf) Effective immediately, owners and operators of vessels operating in the North American or U.S. Caribbean Sea Emission Control Area that are unable to acquire sufficient MARPOL Annex VI compliant fuel oil at a foreign or U.S. port may satisfy the MARPOL Annex VI Regulation 18.2.4 requirement to notify the competent authority of the relevant port of destination by notifying the cognizant U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port (COTP).


Asia refiners test the waters with exports of IMO 2020-compliant fuel. Jane Chung and Florence Tan. Reuters. 16 July 2019. Available from: https://reut.rs/30B7JSC Refiners in Taiwan and South Korea are testing the market for fuels that meet new rules for low-sulphur ship fuel starting next year, exporting some cargoes of very low-sulphur fuel oil (VLSFO) this month.


Canadian oil traders see IMO 2020 risk easing on demand, changing market. Pat Harrington. S&P Global Platts. 17 July 2019. Available from: https://bit.ly/2xPDDVs A surging differential for Western Canada’s benchmark heavy crude has traders and analysts wondering if predictions that tighter sulfur requirements for marine fuel will devalue the country’s oil assets are overblown.


India working on reducing sulphur content in shipping fuel: Mandaviya. Times of India. 23 July 2019. Available from: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/india-working-on-reducing-sulphur-content-in-shipping-fuel-mandaviya/articleshow/70351315.cms Union Minister Mansukh L Mandaviya on Tuesday said India will have a greater voice at International Maritime Organization (IMO) even as it is working towards complying with the IMO 2020 regulations on limiting sulphur content of bunker fuel.

Fears over challenges posed by IMO 2020 also being felt in dry cargo sector. Mike Wackett. The Loadstar. 23 July 2019. Available from: https://theloadstar.com/fears-over-challenges-posed-by-imo-2020-also-being-felt-in-dry-cargo-sector/ London-based dry cargo association Intercargo has warned of its “growing concern” at the “magnitude of the challenge” ahead for shipowners and operators with the IMO’s 0.5% sulphur cap on marine fuels coming into force on 1 January.


India Questions IMO2020 Role. Ship & Bunker. 24 July 2019. Available from: https://shipandbunker.com/news/apac/329896-india-questions-im02020-role Officials in India say the country is committed to complying with the impending global 0.50% sulfur cap on marine fuel, but appear to have questioned the country’s role in the decision making process for the new rules.

Fresh Signs of a Soft Start to IMO2020, But is it Really Possible? Ship & Bunker. 29 July 2019. Available from: https://shipandbunker.com/news/world/694747-feature-fresh-signs-of-a-soft-start-to-imo2020-but-is-it-really-possible Last week there were fresh signs there will be a soft start to IMO2020, the new global 0.50% sulfur cap on marine fuel that comes into force from Jan. 1, 2020.

SEAFARERS


Leading Shipmanager Calls for Action to Address Seafarer Suicides Maritime Executive. 1 July 2019. Available from: https://www.maritime-executive.com/corporate/leading-shipmanager-calls-for-action-to-address-seafarer-suicides Mental health awareness should be made a core component of first aid seafarer training, according to Captain Rajesh Unni, CEO and Founder of leading shipmanager Synergy Group.


International Day of the Seafarer 2019: Promoting gender equality in the maritime community. 


Fears grow for crew onboard arrested pipelayer in Ghana. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 5 July 2019. Available from: https://splash247.com/fears-grow-for-crew-onboard-arrested-pipelayer-in-ghana/ Conditions onboard an arrested pipelayer off Ghana have been labelled deplorable, with urgent calls to get the stranded crew off the ship and back home.

Toward a new generation of seafarers: Part 1. Carlos Salinas. Manila Times. 5 July 2019. Available from: https://www.manilatimes.net/toward-a-new-generation-of-seafarers/564609/ The new academic year officially opened on Monday, June 3, in most schools. I am sure that those who finished secondary level last March or this June have already chosen the paths they want to pursue. I am excited for them; they are beginning a new phase in their lives that is rich in possibilities.


Seafarers trapped on ship for 33 months say jail threats forced them to reboard. Karen McVeigh. The Guardian. 11 July 2019. Available from: https://bit.ly/31tFNXI Seafarers who abandoned their ship after being stranded at sea for almost three years say they were forced back to their boat after they were warned they faced jail.


On-Going Arrest a “Gross Disregard for Human Rights”. Maritime Executive. 13 July 2019. Available from: https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/on-going-arrest-a-gross-disregard-for-human-rights The Sea Horizon was arrested 10 months ago after the Nigerian company Fortune Global Shipping & Logistics claimed it was owed $1.9 million from another Nigerian company, Ranger Subsea.

China’s First “Seafarer Phone Card” Introduced. COSCO Shipping Corporation Limited. 16 July 2019. Available from: http://en.coscoshipping.com/art/2019/7/15/art_6923_109752.html The Trade Union of COSCO SHIPPING Seafarer Management Co., Ltd. has worked with China Mobile and introduced the first “Seafarer JegoTrip Exclusive Discount Card (Seafarer Card)” customized for seafarers, which meets their personalized demands in daily lives, including international, navigation and domestic scenarios.


Toward a new generation of seafarers: Part 2. Carlos Salinas. Manila Times. 17 July 2019. Available from: https://www.manilatimes.net/toward-a-new-generation-of-seafarers-2/585133/ In my June 5 column, I shared with you some insights on seafaring as a profession. This is a subject matter I never tire of discussing. Last July 9, I had the privilege of addressing the graduating class of 2019 of our partner college, the Malayan Colleges Laguna, at their Commencement Ceremony.


Stena Bulk requests visit to crew aboard seized vessel. Trine Vestergaard. ShippingWatch. 22 July 2019. Available from: https://bit.ly/2KkG1Zz Stena Bulk has issued a formal request for permission to visit the 23 crew members aboard the Stena vessel, which was detained by Iran this weekend.


Number of Indian Seafarers Grows 45 Percent Globally over the last three years. Government of India. 22 July 2019. Available from: http://www.pib.nic.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1579785 The number of active Indian seafarers – that is Indian seafarers employed by Indian or foreign flagged ships -has grown by about 45 percent in the last three years.


Stena Bulk says it spoke to seized tanker’s crew, all safe and well. Esha Vaish. *Reuters.* 24 July 2019. Available from: [https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-iran-tanker-stena-stena-bulk-says-spoke-to-seized-tankers-crew-all-are-safe-and-well-idUSKCN1UJQ0R](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-iran-tanker-stena-stena-bulk-says-spoke-to-seized-tankers-crew-all-are-safe-and-well-idUSKCN1UJQ0R) All 23 crew on a British oil tanker seized last week by Iran in the Strait of Hormuz are safe and well, the vessel’s Swedish operator Stena Bulk said on Wednesday after speaking to them.


**SEARCH & RESCUE**


UN human rights experts have expressed grave concern over the detention and criminal proceedings in Italy against the German captain of the migrant rescue vessel *Sea-Watch 3*, and stated that the threats to the judge who ruled her release were unlawful.


The heads of the two key UN agencies championing refugees and migrants have called for an end to their “arbitrary detention” across Libya, following an agreement on Tuesday by European Union countries to offer those fleeing across the Mediterranean a safe berth through a new distribution mechanism.


Today's discussions in Paris with European States on addressing the situation on the Mediterranean Sea, and preventing loss of life in Libya, are welcome and much-needed.


With the calmer, summer seas of the Mediterranean, conditions are more favourable for migrants to depart Libya in unseaworthy vessels with the hope of reaching Europe.


The rescue came a day after one of the deadliest migrant shipwrecks in the Mediterranean this year.

**SHIP RECYCLING**


There were a total of 193 ships broken in the second quarter of 2019. Of these, 146 ships were sold to the infamous scrapping beaches of South Asia, where working conditions are known to be dire and breaking practices cause irreparable damage to the coastal environment.

Wärtsilä, Oshima & DNV GL joint development project produces Bulk Carrier design to meet IMO 2030 environmental targets. Wärtsilä Corporation. 2 July 2019. Available from: https://www.wartsila.com/media/news/2019-wartsila-oshima-dnv-gl-joint-development-project-produces-bulk-carrier-design-to-meet-imo-2030-environmental-targets-2482711 At the recent Nor-Shipping exhibition held in Norway, the project partners announced a next-generation 62,000 dwt Ultramax Bulk Carrier design that is optimised according to actual operating profiles, and that will meet coming emissions legislation.

World’s largest boxship featuring 24 rows across is delivered. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 3 July 2019. Available from: https://splash247.com/worlds-largest-boxship-featuring-24-rows-across-is-delivered/ The world’s largest containership has been delivered this week by South Korea’s Samsung Heavy Industries.


S. Korea’s Samsung Heavy Industries completes world’s largest 23,000 TEU-class vessel. Arirang News (South Korea). 9 July 2019. Available from: http://www.arirang.co.kr/News/News_View.asp?nseq=240391 The South Korean shipbuilder explained that the vessel, capable of carrying over 23 thousand Twenty-Foot Equivalent Unit, or TEU, containers, is the first of six units ordered in 2017 by Swiss shipper Mediterranean Shipping Company.

A tight squeeze – the 23,000 teu containership. Michael Grey. Seatrade Maritime News. 10 July 2019. Available from: http://www.seatrade-maritime.com/news/europe/a-tight-squeeze-the-23-000-teu-containership.html How many rugby players can you squeeze into an old GPO telephone box, or students into a Mini? It was a question that came to mind when I read about the arrival on the scene of the monstrous container ship MSC Gulsun, freshly delivered and soon to inflict its 23,000 teu upon the waiting world of container terminals.

These are the world’s ten largest container ships. Niklas Krigslund. ShippingWatch. 10 July 2019. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Container/article11493918.ece This week, the world’s so-far largest containership hit the water, as MSC Gülşün was delivered from its yard in South Korea.


SHIPPING


EGCSA launches global database to eliminate uncertainty around the operation of exhaust gas cleaning systems. Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems Association (EGCSA). 28 June 2019. Available from: https://www.egcsa.com/egcsa-launches-global-database-to-eliminate-uncertainty-around-the-operation-of-exhaust-gas-cleaning-systems/ With just six months until the entry into force of a global marine fuel sulphur cap of 0.50%, the number of ships fitted with exhaust gas cleaning systems (EGCS) by 1 January 2020 is set to be around 4,000.

Class societies weigh in on LNG technical challenges. John Snyder. LNG World Shipping. 1 July 2019. Available from: https://www.lngworldshipping.com/news/view/class-societies-weigh-in-on-lng-technical-challenges_58342.htm New cargo containment systems, the uptake of LNG as a fuel and increasing digitalisation are some of the issues now attracting the interest of class societies.

HMM to join THE Alliance. Hyundai Merchant Marine (HMM). 1 July 2019. Available from: https://www.hmm21.com/cms/company/engn/introduce/prcenter/news/1206435_7540.jsp “HMM is a great fit for THE Alliance as they will provide a number of new and modern vessels, which will help us to deliver better quality and be more efficient – and it will help us also to further reduce our emissions,” says Rolf Habben Jansen, CEO of Hapag-Lloyd.

Maritime has to “step up” to digitalisation. Port Strategy. 1 July 2019. Available from: https://www.portstrategy.com/news101/toc-europe-news/maritime-has-to-step-up-to-digitalisation The maritime sector needs to focus on digitalising whole processes to optimise cost reductions and reduce CO2 emissions, the Port of Rotterdam’s manager of digital business solutions has said.


EU Commission reveals carbon emissions of European vessels. Christian Carlsen. ShippingWatch. 2 July 2019. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/regulation/article11479261.ece For the very first time, the public can now keep up with CO2 emissions from ships sailing in European waters.

Pollution rules could raise shipping costs. Gitonga Marete and Samuel Baya. Business Daily (Kenya). 2 July 2019. Available from: https://www.businesstodayafrica.com/corporate/shipping/Pollution-rules-could-raise-shipping-costs/4003122-5180388-cwcc9e/index.html With the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) approval and adoption of guidelines to reduce gas emissions from ships by 2020, focus has now shifted to the local shipping industry’s preparedness to comply with the new regulations.


Maersk and competitors introduce war risk surcharges following tanker attacks. Ritzau Finans and Christian Carlsen. TradeWinds. 5 July 2019. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Container/article11486078.ece The world’s biggest container line, Maersk, and its competitors MSC and Hapag-Lloyd now introduce a surcharge for sailing in the Strait of Hormuz following the recent attacks on two oil tankers in the area.

New team leading the Panama Maritime Authority sets priorities. Michele Labrut. Seatrade Maritime News. 7 July 2019. Available from: http://www.seatrade-maritime.com/news/americas/new-team-leading-the-panama-maritime-authority-sets-priorities.html Panama’s new President Laurentino Cortizo has sworn in his cabinet and with it a new team for the Panama Maritime Authority that oversees the maritime sector and the world’s largest Ship Registry.


Shipping recovery still has ‘a way to go’: Clarksons. Lee Hong Liang. Seatrade Maritime News. 9 July 2019. Available from: http://www.seatrade-maritime.com/news/europe/shipping-recovery-still-has-a-way-to-go-clarksons.html The global shipping market still has “a way to go” before it can claim a well-grounded recovery even though supply growth is in check and trade growth is positive, according to a half-year report by Clarksons Research.

How can the 2020 sulphur cap affect the shipping industry. Safety4Sea. 11 July 201. Available from: https://safety4sea.com/how-can-the-2020-sulphur-cap-affect-the-shipping-industry/ Muhammad Usman, LR’s voice on marine fuels, provides his answers regarding the most frequently asked questions, aiming to assist shipowners and operators prepare as best as they can for the 1 January 2020 deadline.


Denmark leapfrogs US to become world’s fifth largest shipping nation. Andy Pierce. TradeWinds. 11 July 2019. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/ship-sales/denmark-leapfrogs-us-to-become-worlds-fifth-largest-shipping-nation/2-1-637150 Denmark has leapfrogged the US to claim the world’s fifth largest operated fleet of vessels, its shipowners association says.

Domestic shipping air pollution: call for evidence. UK Government. 11 July 2019. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/domestic-shipping-air-pollution-call-for-evidence Call to better understand maritime sector emissions and establish if government can do more to address this air pollution.


Iran ‘assisting’ missing Iraqi tanker. Gary Dixon. TradeWinds. 16 July 2019. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/ Tankers 31 March 2019 Iran is helping a “missing” Iraqi tanker after it suffered a technical problem in the Middle East Gulf, the country’s foreign ministry has claimed.


Global decarbonisation agenda could see huge swathe of merchant fleet become stranded assets. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 17 July 2019. Available from: https://splash247.com/global-decarbonisation-agenda-could-see-huge-swathe-of-merchant-fleet-become-stranded-assets/ Tanker owners have been given a stark warning today that potential radical global decarbonisation agendas could see tanker demand fall by slightly more than a third through to 2050 with many ships in the merchant fleet becoming stranded assets.

Carnival Corporation Launches Website Featuring Advanced Air Quality Systems. Carnival Corporation & plc. 17 July 2019. Available from: http://www.carnivalcorp.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=200767&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=2403943 Carnival Corporation & plc, the world’s largest leisure travel company, today announced the launch of a new dedicated Advanced Air Quality Systems website that features relevant background information, videos, animations, photos and graphics to highlight the environmental benefits of using the innovative technology commonly referred to as exhaust gas cleaning systems or “scrubbers.”


Measures to transition to IMO 2020 to gain pace in Q3: Fratelli Cosulich CEO. Surabhi Sahu. *S&P Global Platts*. 17 July 2019. Available from: [https://bit.ly/2NXj9F9](https://bit.ly/2NXj9F9) Measures to transition to the IMO’s 2020 global sulfur limit rule will gain momentum during the third quarter, as majority of shipowners and operators make the switch to very low sulfur fuel oil, with scrubbers likely to account for only about 5% of the world fleet and 10%-15% of the bunker fuel mix in early 2020, Timothy Cosulich, CEO of Italy-based Fratelli Cosulich said at an industry event Monday.


Climate mitigation could see fleet value halve. Simon Valeur. *ShippingWatch*. 18 July 2019. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/secure/regulation/article11507228.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/secure/regulation/article11507228.ece) Shipping’s climate mitigation efforts might, according to a new report, have such far-reaching consequences for tanker and dry bulk shipowners that the value of their ships will be halved.


 Owners seek UK flag switch as Iran threat strands ships in Middle East Gulf.
Michelle Wiese Bockmann. Lloyd’s List. 22 July 2019. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1128477/Owners-seek-UK-flag-switch-as-Iran-threat-strands-ships-in-Middle-East-Gulf Oil traders and charterers are said to be reassessing the short and medium-term use of tonnage connected with the Isle of Man, UK, Cayman Islands, Gibraltar or British Virgin Islands group of British registries as the diplomatic crisis with Iran escalates.

Scrubber Debate Healthy, but Persistent Criticisms “Just Plain Wrong”. Ship & Bunker. 23 July 2019. Available from: https://shipandbunker.com/news/world/464111-scrubber-debate-healthy-but-persistent-criticisms-just-plain-wrong The comments came as the scrubber manufacturer sought to debunk what it sees at three core arguments against the use of the technology, saying they are not grounded in science.


Better standards are needed for setting standards. Paul Gunton. ShipInsight. 26 July 2019. Available from: https://shipinsight.com/articles/better-standards-are-needed-for-setting-standards My comments last month discussing remarks made about scrubbers by the former chief executive of tanker operator Euronav Paddy Rogers and others at a seminar organised by the UK Chamber of Shipping prompted a couple of interesting responses.
RESEARCH


Parkinson CL. A 40-y record reveals gradual Antarctic sea ice increases followed by decreases at rates far exceeding the rates seen in the Arctic. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.* 1 July 2019. Available from: https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/early/2019/06/25/1906556116.full.pdf A newly completed 40-y record of satellite observations is used to quantify changes in Antarctic sea ice coverage since the late 1970s. Sea ice spreads over vast areas and has major impacts on the rest of the climate system, reflecting solar radiation and restricting ocean/atmosphere exchanges.


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About the cover

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