About the MKC Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)

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

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

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IMO NEWS & EVENTS

WHAT’S NEW

IMO 2020 - cleaner shipping for cleaner air

Global limit on sulphur in ships’ fuel oil reduced from 01 January 2020

A global regulation that will substantially reduce harmful sulphur oxide (SOx) emissions from ships comes into effect from 1 January 2020, bringing significant benefits for both human health and the environment.

From 1 January 2020 the global upper limit on the sulphur content of ships’ fuel oil will be reduced to 0.50% (from 3.50%). Known as "IMO 2020", the reduced limit is mandatory for all ships operating outside certain designated Emission Control Areas*, where the limit is already 0.10%.

The new limit will mean a 77% drop in overall SOx emissions from ships, equivalent to an annual reduction of approximately 8.5 million metric tonnes of SOx. Particulate matter - tiny harmful particles which form when fuel is burnt – will also be reduced. More...

SOLAS amendments entering into force 1 January 2020

A set of important amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and various codes mandatory under the Convention enter into force on 1 January 2020.

They include:

Addressing lifeboat maintenance - preventing accidents with lifeboats

Amendments to SOLAS regulations III/3 and III/20 make mandatory the Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear.

This package of provisions aims to prevent accidents with survival craft and addresses longstanding issues such as the need for a uniform, safe and documented standard related to the servicing of these appliances, as well as the authorization, qualification and certification requirements to ensure that a reliable service is provided.

The intention is to ensure that seafarers are confident that they can fully rely on the survival craft at their disposal, which should comply with applicable SOLAS requirements. More...
IMO MEETINGS FOR 2019

IMO COUNCIL, 123rd session (4/12/2019)


LATEST PRESS BRIEFINGS

Global project launched to tackle plastic litter from ships and fisheries
Briefing: 34, December 5, 2019

UN maritime agency commits to further action on gender equality
Briefing: 33, December 5, 2019

RECENT SPEECHES BY IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL KITACK LIM

IMO NEWS MAGAZINE   Winter 2019

IMO PUBLISHING   Just Published 2020   December 2019 Newsletter
UNITED NATIONS


Green economy ‘not to be feared, but an opportunity to be embraced’ says UN chief as COP25 gets underway. *UN News.* 2 December 2019. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/12/1052511](https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/12/1052511) A green economy is “not one to be feared but an opportunity to be embraced”, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said on Monday, in a keynote speech to delegates at the opening of the COP25 UN climate conference in Madrid on Monday.


An important opportunity lost as COP25 ends in compromise, but Guterres declares ‘we must not give up’. *UN News.* 15 December 2019. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/12/1053561](https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/12/1053561) UN chief António Guterres expressed his feelings on Twitter, but refused to see the conference as a defeat, and wrote that he is “more determined than ever to work for 2020 to be the year in which all countries commit to do what science tells us is necessary to reach carbon neutrality in 2050 and a no more than 1.5 degree temperature rise”.

CASUALTIES

Captain dies after getting crew off sinking cargoship. Gary Dixon. TradeWinds. 2 December 2019. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/captain-dies-after-getting-crew-off-sinking-cargoship/2-1-716134 The master of a Vietnamese cargoship has died after making sure his crew were evacuated safely from his sinking vessel.


Fears ease over fire on car carrier off France. Adam Corbett. TradeWinds. 10 December 2019. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/fears-ease-over-fire-on-car-carrier-off-france/2-1-720500 There were concerns that the 3,877-ceu RCC Passion (built 2011) would be the latest in a series of serious car-carrier fires this year after emergency services were called to assist it 74 km (46 miles) west of Ushant Island last week.

Car ferry battery fire probably caused by coolant leakage. Paul Bartlett. Seatrade Maritime News. 16 December 2019. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/casualty/car-ferry-battery-fire-probably-caused-coolant-leakage A fire on the newly converted hybrid car ferry MF Ytterøyningen on 10 October was probably caused by a leak in the battery system’s liquid cooling circuit, according to an investigation of the incident.

Stolt Groenland interim report published. UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB). 16 December 2019. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/stolt-groenland-interim-report-published On 28 September 2019 the Maritime Authority of the Cayman Islands requested, in accordance with the IMO Casualty Investigation Code, that the MAIB investigate an explosion and fire on board the IMO chemical tanker Stolt Groenland which occurred that day in Ulsan, Republic of Korea. Interim report on the investigation of the explosion and fire on board the Stolt Groenland

After Conception Fire, Lawmakers Seek to Tighten Safety on "T-Boats". Maritime Executive. 16 December 2019. Available from: https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/after-conception-fire-lawmakers-seek-to-tighten-safety-on-t-boats In the wake of the deadly fire aboard the dive boat Conception off the coast of Santa Cruz Island, two congressmen and one senator from California have introduced legislation that would impose new fire safety and safety management system requirements on Subchapter T passenger vessels.


The *Erika* heavy fuel oil spill — 20 years on. Dr Sian Prior. *Lloyd's List.* 19 December 2019. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.infor.../The-Erika-heavy-fuel-oil-spill-20-years-on](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.../The-Erika-heavy-fuel-oil-spill-20-years-on) ‘The anniversary of the *Erika* HFO spill serves as a stark reminder of the need for urgent action to protect the Arctic from HFO spills, while the recent evidence from fuel oil spills demonstrates that only a few hundred tonnes of HFO could easily lead to an ecological disaster in the Arctic.’

Ecuador concerned about recovery of sunken barge in Galapagos: minister. Alexandra Valencia. *Reuters.* 23 December 2019. Available from: [https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ecuador-galagpagos-spill-idUSKBN1YR23Q](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ecuador-galagpagos-spill-idUSKBN1YR23Q) Ecuador’s environment minister, Raul Ledesma, said on Monday that a situation involving a sunken barge in the Galapagos Islands which was carrying 600 gallons of diesel is under control but added that authorities are “very concerned” about the vessel’s recovery.


ENVIRONMENT


Climate change: COP25 island nation in ‘fight to death’. Matt McGrath. BBC News. 2 December 2019. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-50614518 The president of an island nation on the frontline of climate change says it is in a "fight to the death" after freak waves inundated the capital.

Climate Conference to Spur Action on the Ocean. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). 2 December 2019. Available from: https://unfccc.int/news/climate-conference-to-spur-action-on-the-ocean The ocean is increasingly affected by the global rise in temperatures, and as a result is significantly impacting marine ecosystems, coastal areas and human societies.

35-year data record charts sea temperature change. European Space Agency (ESA). 5 December 2019. Available from: https://www.esa.int/Applications/Observing_the_Earth/Space_for_our_climate/35-year_data_record_charts_sea_temperature_change Four trillion satellite measurements, taken over four decades from 1981 to 2018, have been merged to create a continuous global record that will help to understand the science behind Earth’s climate.


Sea level rise washing over maritime boundaries in the Pacific. South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP). 6 December 2019. Available from: https://www.sprep.org/news/sea-level-rise-washing-over-maritime-boundaries-in-the-pacific According to the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change it is forecast the extreme sea level events that now happen every 100 years will happen on an annual basis by 2100.


**Ocean based solutions for climate action.** Anne-Sophie Garrigou. *Medium.* 8 December 2019. Available from: [https://medium.com/thebeammagazine/ocean-based-solutions-for-climate-action-30b899205918](https://medium.com/thebeammagazine/ocean-based-solutions-for-climate-action-30b899205918) The world’s ocean and cryosphere have been taking the heat from climate change for decades and the consequences for nature and humanity are sweeping and severe” says Hans-Otto Pörtner, Co-Chair of the IPCC.


8 Experts On The Top Corporate Sustainability Issue Right Now. Medium. 10 December 2019. Available from: https://medium.com/ksapa/8-experts-on-the-top-corporate-sustainability-issue-right-now-44ead64d67e. In his Harvard Business Review article last year Matt Gitsham discussed a growing trend of corporate leaders being remarkably proactive about sustainability: “If global temperatures rise more than 1.5 °C, the risks of draught, floods, forest fires, heat-related deaths and loss of agricultural productivity all worsen significantly.


“Let us remember this as a Blue COP”. World Meteorological Organization (WMO). 12 December 2019. Available from: https://public.wmo.int/en/media/news/let-us-remember-blue-cop” COP 25 President Carolina Schmidt, Minister of Environment, Chile, and HRH Albert, Prince of Monaco, jointly launched the Platform for Science-Based Ocean Solutions, which stresses the need to address ocean and climate issues synergistically and to factor in potential marine nature-based solutions in national climate commitments and strategies to implement the Paris Agreement.


**ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION**

PSA investigates hydrocarbon leak at Statfjord. *Petroleum Safety Authority (Norway).* 3 December 2019. Available from: [https://www.ptil.no/en/supervision/important-messages/equinor--statfjord-a--investigation-of-an-oil-leak/](https://www.ptil.no/en/supervision/important-messages/equinor--statfjord-a--investigation-of-an-oil-leak/) This discharge was detected by the observation of oil on the sea surface alongside the North Sea platform.


Norway to strengthen cooperation with the UN on marine plastic litter from shipping and fisheries. *Government of Norway*. 5 December 2019. Available from: [https://bit.ly/388HI75](https://bit.ly/388HI75) “In the fight against marine litter, it is vital to strengthen the capacity to prevent pollution from shipping and fisheries in developing countries.

Shipping company carrying your Christmas presents joins the EU’s top 10 polluters. Pierre Dornier. *Transport & Environment*. 9 December 2019. Available from: [https://www.transportenvironment.org/press/shipping-company-carrying-your-christmas-presents-joins-eus-top-10-polluters](https://www.transportenvironment.org/press/shipping-company-carrying-your-christmas-presents-joins-eus-top-10-polluters) Ships sailing to and from Europe emitted more than 139 million tonnes of CO2 last year – meaning that if shipping were a country it would be the EU’s 8th biggest emitter after the Netherlands.


The Ocean Cleanup chooses DNV GL to verify the origin of their ocean plastic. *DNV GL*. 12 December 2019. Available from: [https://www.dnvgl.com/news/the-ocean-clean-up-chooses-dnv-gl-to-verify-the-origin-of-their-ocean-plastic-164046](https://www.dnvgl.com/news/the-ocean-clean-up-chooses-dnv-gl-to-verify-the-origin-of-their-ocean-plastic-164046) The Ocean Cleanup, the Dutch non-profit organization developing advanced technologies to rid the world’s oceans of plastic, has brought the first batch of ocean plastic to shore following their first mission to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, the world’s largest accumulation of plastic waste in the world, spanning an area of 1.6 million square kilometers.

250,000 tons of plastic pellets known as nurdles pollute our oceans every year. *CBS News (US)*. 14 December 2019. Available from: [https://cbsn.ws/2QXCkxO](https://cbsn.ws/2QXCkxO) Trillions of small plastic pellets known as nurdles have been escaping from petrochemical plants into waterways and oceans for decades.

**HEALTH & SAFETY**


**IMO**


**Alexander Saverys on climate: “Let’s be honest. We are not prepared”**. Niklas Krigslund. *ShippingWatch.* 5 December 2019. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Tanker/article11802216.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Tanker/article11802216.ece) Alexander Saverys, part of the Belgian shipping family Saverys and CEO of the more than 200-year-old group Compagnie Maritime Belge, CMB, says that the world’s push to decarbonize may pose an existential threat to shipping.

**Industry roundtable meeting feeling more positive on IMO 2020.** *International Bunker Industry Association (IBIA).* 6 December 2019. Available from: [https://ibia.net/industry-roundtable-meeting-feeling-more-positive-on-imo-2020/](https://ibia.net/industry-roundtable-meeting-feeling-more-positive-on-imo-2020/) A second roundtable industry meeting hosted by IMO at its London Headquarters in November saw more optimism about the general readiness to meet the sulphur 2020 requirement than the first such meeting, which was held in June this year.


New clean shipping fuel rules, but who polices the polluters? Jonathan Saul. Reuters. 19 December 2019. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/article/us-shipping-imo-enforcement/new-clean-shipping-fuel-rules-but-who-policesthe-polluters-idUSKBN1YN1UD. Sweeping new fuel rules aiming to cut pollution belching from ships and save lives are now just a couple of weeks away but with no central policing agency and several countries still not signed up to them, compliance is a major concern.

LAW & POLICY


Bird lovers, green groups push for Mediterranean ECA. Harry Papachristou. TradeWinds. 3 December 2019. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/bird-lovers-green-groups-push-for-mediterranean-eca/2-1-715954. Conservation groups have urged Europe’s three biggest flag states to fall into line with calls to introduce an emissions control area (ECA) in the Mediterranean Sea that would impose tighter sulphur limits.

Saadé gets Macron to lead shipping’s new fuel quest. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 4 December 2019. Available from: https://splash247.com/saade-gets-macron-to-lead-shippings-new-fuel-quest/ Prior to locking horns with Donald Trump over NATO matters in London, Emmanuel Macron was in Montpellier where he was asked to lead the world towards a greener form of maritime transport.

Interview: Greece is to further enhance cooperation with China - Greek shipping minister. Yu Shuaishuai and Maria Spiliopoulou. Xinhuanet (China). 4 December 2019. Available from: http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-12/04/c_138605680.htm Greece will enhance bilateral cooperation with China in many sectors, including shipping, with the Piraeus Port a pillar and example under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Greek Minister of Shipping and Island Policy Ioannis Plakiotakis has said.

Aviation and shipping set to face differing fortunes under EU Green Deal. Sam Morgan. EurActiv. 5 December 2019. Available from: https://www.euractiv.com/section/transport/news/aviation-and-shipping-set-to-face-differing-fortunes-under-eu-green-deal/ While planes, trains, and automobiles can expect particular attention under the EU’s upcoming Green Deal, the new Commission has already set its sights on cleaning up the transport industry – the only sector of the European economy where emissions are still growing.

Seychelles signs 4 more legal acts designed to prevent maritime pollution by ships. Seychelles News Agency. 5 December 2019. Available from: http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/12070/Seychelles+signs++more+legal+acts+designed+to+prevent+maritime+pollution+by+ships Seychelles has shown its commitment to protecting the island nation’s marine environment after signing for four more legal acts of an international convention for the prevention of maritime pollution (MARPOL), a top government official said Thursday.


For the global ocean: A new Global Ocean Treaty is under discussion at the United Nations, but will it deliver the protection our oceans need? Louisa Casson. Oceanographic. 22 December 2019. Available from: https://www.oceanographicmagazine.com/features/greenpeace-global-oceans/ These blue expanses act as highways for whales, turtles and tuna travelling thousands of miles. They are the home of enigmatic creatures and wildlife that can live for hundreds of years.


**MARINE TECHNOLOGY**


MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING


Maritime Training Trust to provide scholarships to encourage women seafarers. P Manoj. *Hindu BusinessLine (India)*. 4 December 2019. Available from: https://bit.ly/3aaE7Y5 Maritime Training Trust, jointly run by the government and the local shipping industry, has decided to provide scholarships up to ₹1,00,000 to women seafarers undergoing pre-sea courses at training institutes approved by the Directorate General of Shipping.


Unleash the Kraken: As regulations multiply, seamanship declines. Erik Kravets. *Maritime Executive*. 7 December 2019. Available from: https://www.maritime-executive.com/editorials/unleash-the-kraken As morals declined, however, legislation could be introduced to help, as it were, right the ship.


MARITIME SAFETY


Collaboration the key to stopping misdeclared cargo. Lloyd’s List. 15 December 2019. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1130329/Collaboration-the-key-to-stopping-misdeclared-cargo When industry and regulatory leaders were brought together by Lloyd’s List, Lloyd’s List Containers, Lloyd’s Loading List and the TT Club to try to expedite an end to cargo misdeclarations, a consensus emerged among presenters that shippers must take more responsibility in mitigating the malpractice of cargo misdeclaration.

More confusion ahead for lithium battery shippers. Nicholas Mohr. The Loadstar. 16 December 2019. Available from: https://theloadstar.com/more-confusion-ahead-for-lithium-battery-shippers/ The United Nations’ Committee of Experts, which creates the framework for dangerous goods regulations, has introduced a requirement which obliges manufacturers, and distributors of cells or batteries, to make available the test summary for their products.


MARITIME SECURITY

Prince William on patrol in the world’s key shipping lane just miles from Iran. Chris Ship. ITV News. 3 December 2019. Available from: https://www.itv.com/news/2019-12-03/prince-william-on-patrol-in-the-world-s-key-shipping-lane-just-miles-from-iran/ It was not without a lot of discussion at the highest levels of government that it was agreed Prince William should get into a patrol boat during his official Royal Tour of the Gulf and sail into the world’s most important shipping lane, just a couple of dozen miles from Iran.


Japan plans to send 270 sailors to Middle East to guard ships -Nikkei. Chang-Ran Kim and Linda Sieg. Reuters. 5 December 2019. Available from: https://reut.rs/2u5q19G Japan is working on a plan to send about 270 seamen to the Middle East to guard ships supplying Japan under a law that allows military deployments for research and intelligence gathering, the Nikkei business daily said.


IACS Council welcomes substantial progress made on Cyber and IQARB and says farewell to its long-standing Accredited Representative to IMO. *International Association of Classification Societies (IACS).* 16 December 2019. Available from: [http://www.iacs.org.uk/news/iacs-council-80-press-release/](http://www.iacs.org.uk/news/iacs-council-80-press-release/) The IACS Council held its 80th session (C80) in London last week, where the focus was Cyber Safety, IQARB and Quality matters, along with further enhancing IACS’ cooperation with the IMO.


S. Korea mulling various options, including troops dispatch, over Strait of Hormuz role: officials. Oh Seok-min. *Yonhap News Agency (South Korea).* 18 December 2019. Available from: [https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20191218003700325](https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20191218003700325) South Korea has been reviewing various options, including troop dispatch, as to what role it can play to safeguard the Strait of Hormuz, officials said Wednesday.

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre and Philippine Coast Guard Jointly Convene Meeting with Regional Maritime Authorities, Shipping Industry and Diplomatic Community to Assess Evolution of Piracy and Sea Robbery in Asia. *ReCAAP.* 18 December 2019. Available from: [https://bit.ly/2ujlXdt](https://bit.ly/2ujlXdt) Maritime law enforcement and regulatory agencies from China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam as well as members from the shipping industry and diplomatic community in Manila today began a two-day meeting jointly organised by ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) and ReCAAP Philippine Focal Point (Philippine Coast Guard) to assess the evolution of piracy and sea robbery in Asia.

French warship to spearhead European mission in Gulf from next year. *EurActiv.*

**MIGRANTS**


Two ships carrying rescued migrants dock in Italy. *The Local (Italy).* 4 December 2019. Available from: https://www.thelocal.it/20191204/two-ships-carrying-rescued-migrants-dock-in-italy Italy authorised the arrival of two charity ships carrying more than 100 migrants rescued in the Mediterranean, under the terms of an agreement with other EU countries, the interior ministry said late on Tuesday.

Near-record number of migrants make Channel crossing in one day. *Chiara Giordano.* *The Independent.* 5 December 2019. Available from: https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrant-rescue-channel-dover-boats-kent-border-force-a9233261.html A total of 79 migrants have crossed the English Channel in five boats – close to the record number to do so in one day.

Fifty-eight Migrants Confirmed Dead After Boat from The Gambia Capsizes Near Coast of Mauritania. *International Organization for Migration (IOM).* 5 December 2019. Available from: https://www.iom.int/news/fifty-eight-migrants-confirmed-dead-after-boat-gambia-capsizes-near-coast-mauritania At least 58 men, women and children are confirmed dead after a vessel carrying an estimated 150 migrants sank as it approached the coast of Mauritania on Wednesday.

Death Toll from Mauritania Ship Sinking Mounts as Support to Survivors Gathers Momentum. *International Organization for Migration (IOM).* 6 December 2019. Available from: https://www.iom.int/news/death-toll-mauritania-ship-sinking-mounds-support-survivors-gathers-momentum The death toll from Wednesday’s tragic sinking of a fishing boat carrying migrants to the Canary Islands rose to 62 late yesterday with the recovery of four bodies as IOM’s efforts to help survivors gathered momentum.


On November 14, 1881, an American called George Melville limped across a frozen delta in Siberia and pulled a pole from the snow with his frost-bitten hands.


As the Arctic melts, China and Russia struggle for control. Will Bedingfield. Wired. 11 December 2019. Available from: https://www.wired.co.uk/article/arctic-ice-melting-shipping-russia-china In August, satellites scanning the Arctic circle noticed a remarkable transformation: the region’s ice receded to such an extent that islands, previously submerged beneath glaciers, were now visible.


Follow sources:

http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean


https://reut.rs/389VZ3o

https://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean

https://www.wired.co.uk/article/arctic-ice-melting-shipping-russia-china

Ship run by Chinese firm under U.S. sanctions spurns Malaysian checks - agency.
A. Ananthalakshmi and Roslan Khasawneh. *Reuters*. 12 December 2019. Available from: https://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFL4N28M0NZ An oil tanker, which shipping data showed was managed by a Chinese company under U.S. sanctions, refused to allow an inspection by maritime authorities while anchored in Malaysian waters, Malaysia’s maritime agency said.

**Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) Program to start December this year.** Government of South Korea. 12 December 2019. Available from: https://www.mof.go.kr/eng/article/view.do?articleKey=28138&boardKey=41 Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (Minister Moon Seong-Hyeok) will begin “Vessel Speed Reduction Program” beginning December this year, as an effort to reduce fine dust from ships.


**Turkish government says mega-canal will prevent accidents.** Container Shipping & Trade. 18 December 2019. Available from: https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/turkish-government-says-mega-canal-to-prevent-accidents-on-bosphorus-57219 Turkey’s Minister of Environment and Urbanisation Murat Kurum said that studies on the potential impact of the project on the environment were nearing completion and that the project was being carried out with the highest-level environmental sensitivity.

**e-navigational charts inaugurated.** *Times of Oman*. 18 December 2019. Available from: https://timesofoman.com/article/2409474/Oman/e-navigational-charts-inaugurated The National Hydrographic Office (NHO) of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) inaugurated the Omani e-navigational charts, which were fully prepared by Omani technical cadres at NHO in order to keep pace with the electronic transformation in navigational chart system and as part of the Sultanate’s plans and commitment as a member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

**Traffic Density Maps for a better understanding of maritime traffic.** European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). 20 December 2019. Available from: https://bit.ly/3a5W5Lq Today EMSA is proud to announce the release by EMODnet of our Traffic Density Maps which offer a simple and effective way of displaying ship movement patterns, thereby contributing to a better understanding of maritime traffic.
PIRACY


Hong Kong-registered oil tanker attacked by pirates off Nigeria, 19 crew kidnapped. Clifford Lo. South China Morning Post. 7 December 2019. Available from: https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-and-crime/article/3041042/hong-kong-registered-oil-tanker-attacked-pirates The Marine Department on Friday confirmed that the Hong Kong-flagged crude oil tanker – the Nave Constellation – was the victim of a pirate attack in the early hours of Wednesday, Hong Kong time.


Anti-Maritime Piracy Bill introduced in Lok Sabha. Economic Times (India). 9 December 2019. Available from: https://bit.ly/2FS0Gmv A bill which seeks to provide for stringent punishment, including death penalty or life imprisonment, to those involved in piracy at sea was introduced in Lok Sabha on Monday.


Contact made with Union Maritime tanker after crew seized. Gary Dixon. TradeWinds. 17 December 2019. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/contact-made-with-union-maritime-tanker-after-crew-seized/2-1-725539 Contact has been re-established with a Union Maritime tanker left without a crew after a raid by pirates off Benin on Sunday.


Gangs of knife-wielding pirates attack several ships in Singapore Strait. Jonathan Boonzaier. TradeWinds. 26 December 2019. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/gangs-of-knife-wielding-pirates-attack-several-ships-in-singapore-strait/2-1-729209 Vessels belonging to several shipowners have come under attack from knife-wielding bandits who have been engaged in a robbing spree that began last Thursday morning.


Kidnapping – Limboh Anchorage, Cameroon. Dryad Global. 31 December 2019. Available from: https://dryadglobal.com/kidnapping-limboh-anchorage-cameroon/ Reporting indicates that whilst at anchor at the Limboh Terminal Anchorage the MT HAPPY LADY came under attack and was boarded.

PORT STATE CONTROL

Eight migrants found ‘hiding’ on cargo ship at Waterford port. Jack Horgan-Jones and Barry Roche. Irish Times. 4 December 2019. Available from: https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/eight-migrants-found-hiding-on-cargo-ship-at-waterford-port-1-4104935 Eight migrants discovered "hiding" on board a cargo ship at a port near Waterford city on Wednesday are likely to be sent back to France in the coming days.

Malaysia seizes drifting tanker with lone engineer aboard. Gary Dixon. TradeWinds. 12 December 2019. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/malaysia-seizes-drifting-tanker-with-lone-engineer-aboard/2-1-723299 The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) said the 5,000-dwt Viet Tin 01 (built 1995) was boarded by its officials on Sunday after it was found anchored without authorisation just off the southern Malaysian state of Johor.


Requirements for the use of scrubbers in Australian waters & reporting to AMSA.  
Standard Club. 30 December 2019. Available from: https://bit.ly/2Nuom4s. Further to club’s previous article on scrubber guidance, members with ships trading in Australian waters are advised that AMSA has issued a marine notice 05/2019 on the requirements for the use of scrubbers in Australian waters and associated reporting.

Iran arrests tanker for ‘fuel smuggling’ in Middle East Gulf.  

PORTS & HARBOURS

Panama Canal: Upholding a Legacy of Sustainability in a Shifting Landscape.  

HHLA aims to become a climate neutral company by 2040.  

Tug and ports: on the frontline in emissions reductions.  

‘Mubarak Al-Kabeer port to play key role in international trade’  
Arab Times (Kuwait). 1 December 2019. Available from: http://www.arabtimesonline.com/news/mubarak-al-kabeer-port-to-play-key-role-in-international-trade/. Undersecretary of Kuwait’s Ministry of Communications Kholoud Al-Shehab said Friday Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port is one of the mega projects in the country’s national development plan that will have a great impact on international trade routes.

Coral dredging: ‘It’s going to cause irreversible damage’.  
Vivienne Nunis. BBC News. 4 December 2019. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-50647625. Campaigners in the Cayman Islands say they are fighting a "David and Goliath" battle against the world's biggest cruise lines that want to redevelop the country's port to accommodate huge ships.

The container terminal at the Port of Gothenburg to be fossil-free by 2020.  


Panama Canal: The path towards 2020 sulphur cap. *Safety4Sea*. 12 December 2019. Available from: [https://safety4sea.com/panama-canal-the-path-towards-2020-sulphur-cap/](https://safety4sea.com/panama-canal-the-path-towards-2020-sulphur-cap/)  Following the last preparations concerning the upcoming 2020 sulphur cap, the Panama Canal is ensuring the effective implementation of the environmental regulations, through training, ongoing stakeholder consultation and communication, and awareness-building, actions that Trident Alliance commends.

Samples reveal substandard fuel in European port. Niklas Krigslund. *ShippingWatch*. 17 December 2019. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/secure/suppliers/article11829930.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/secure/suppliers/article11829930.ece)  Lloyd’s Register’s FOBAS has issued a warning to shipowners regarding several cases of off-spec fuel in Antwerp.


Shore power, wind turbines and solar panels are just some of the major projects Portsmouth International Port is proposing as part of its Air Quality Strategy to reduce emissions and become the UK’s first zero emission port.


REGULATIONS


Global refiners raise cleaner shipping fuel output ahead of IMO 2020. Reuters. 2 December 2019. Available from: https://reut.rs/2uU1yF7 Global oil refiners have upgraded processing units and adjusted operations to raise output of low-sulphur residual fuels and marine gasoil (MGO) to prepare for stricter shipping fuel standards that kick in on Jan. 1.

Fuel market calm ahead of IMO changeover. John Kemp. Reuters. 2 December 2019. Available from: https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-oil-bunker-kemp/column-fuel-market-calm-ahead-of-imo-changeover-idUKKBN1Y60ZM Fears about a shortage of diesel and other middle distillates stemming from new marine pollution regulations have receded, with distillate premiums falling to some of the lowest levels for two years.

Carbon quotas for ships could be adopted as soon as next year. Mette Mandrup. ShippingWatch. 2 December 2019. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/regulation/article11793502.ece Powerful forces in the European Parliament are working to impose the CO2 quotas on shipping that companies are fighting vehemently against already next year.


Many could miss the boat on emissions. Terry Hutson. *IOL - Independent Online (South Africa)*. 3 December 2019. Available from: [https://www.iol.co.za/mercury/network/many-could-miss-the-boat-on-emissions-38073662](https://www.iol.co.za/mercury/network/many-could-miss-the-boat-on-emissions-38073662) In a little less than a month IMO 2020, the date for all ships to comply with low sulphur oil requirement, takes effect on January 1.


IMO 2020 switchover is fuelling uncertainty. Max Tingyao Lin. *TradeWinds*. 5 December 2019. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/twplus/imo-2020-switchover-is-fuelling-uncertainty/2-1-708443 The great fuel switch has begun, but it could be months or even years before the marine bunker market finds a new equilibrium.


Commentary: IMO 2020 will decrease pollution but increase consumer costs. Ben Thrower. *Freight Waves*. 6 December 2019. Available from: https://www.freightwaves.com/news/commentary-imo-2020-costs-to-hit-consumers We are now less than a month away from the implementation of new shipping regulations that will have an impact on the price of every single item that is shipped by sea.

Iceland’s New Scrubber Rule: Welcome, But Doesn’t Address Spill Risks or Black Carbon. *Clean Arctic Alliance*. 9 December 2019. Available from: https://www.hfofreearctic.org/en/2019/12/09/icelands-new-scrubber-rule-welcome-but-doesnt-address-spill-risks-or-black-carbon/ The Iceland Nature and Conservation Association and the Clean Arctic Alliance today welcomed the new regulation issued by Iceland’s Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources, Guðmundur Ingi Guðbrandsson, to restrict exhaust emissions containing high levels of sulphur from being burned by ships in Iceland’s territorial waters, i.e. 12 nautical miles, but highlight that while Iceland is making a positive step forward in cleaning up shipping emissions...


Global shipping sails into turbulent times as IMO 2020 nears. S&P Global Platts. 18 December 2019. Available from: https://blogs.platts.com/2019/12/18/global-shipping-turbulent-imo-2020/ When the shipping industry counts down to the New year on December 31, markets are unlikely to be in a celebratory mood as global markets will wake up to a whole new shipping regime come January 1: IMO 2020.

All systems go! IMO2020 heralds important change African Marine Solutions (AMSOI). 18 December 2019. Available from: http://www.amsol.co.za/all-systems-go-imo-2020-heralds-important-change/ Sustainability is at the core of AMSOL’s business model, strategy, processes and operations – which is why ensuring that we do no harm to the environment is an important business priority.


A new decade is likely to see a focus on fuel at the forefront as the shipping industry deals with the reality of the new sulphur cap.


The most significant regulation for international shipping industry regarding air emissions is the upcoming IMO Global Sulphur Cap to reduce air pollution from ships.


Global oil refiners have upgraded processing units and adjusted operations to raise output of low-sulphur residual fuels and marine gasoil (MGO) to prepare for stricter shipping fuel standards that kick in on Jan. 1.


Tomorrow, 1 January 2020, the Regulation 14.1.3 of Annex VI of the Marpol Convention (IMO Sulphur Cap) adopted by the IMO in 2016 will come into force.


The Maritime Authority of Jamaica says Jamaica is ready for the implementation of the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) regulations for the 2020 Global Sulphur Limit, which comes into effect on January 1, 2020.

**SALVAGE**


Salvage workers and divers have completed the oil pumping of all accessible fuel tanks from the capsized car carrier M/V Golden Ray, the St. Simons Sound Response said.

**SEAFARERS**


The Indian government has begun talks to free 18 of its seafarers abducted from a Navios Maritime Acquisition VLCC off Nigeria.


Pat Ezra, the Stella Maris Apostleship of the Sea port chaplain to Felixstowe and Ipswich, likes the fact that she is sometimes known as the lady in the pink hat.
Hostages released from Norwegian ship. Maria Broe Trustrup Hansen. *ShippingWatch.* 10 December 2019. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/article11813860.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/article11813860.ece) Nine crew members from Norwegian vessel *MV Bonita* have been released, writes Danish broadcaster TV 2 citing Norwegian media NRK and ABC Nyheter.

Is it time for the maritime industry to seriously reconsider onboard representation? Carolyn Graham and Ralph Buiser. *Splash 247.com.* 10 December 2019. Available from: [https://splash247.com/is-it-time-for-the-maritime-industry-to-seriously-reconsider-onboard-representation/](https://splash247.com/is-it-time-for-the-maritime-industry-to-seriously-reconsider-onboard-representation/) It is widely accepted among industry experts and maritime scholars that working conditions for seafarers around the world can be variable and substandard.


Leading with integrity. Yashika F. Torib. *Manila Times.* 18 December 2019. Available from: [https://www.manilatimes.net/2019/12/18/business/maritime-business/leading-with-integrity/665171/](https://www.manilatimes.net/2019/12/18/business/maritime-business/leading-with-integrity/665171/) Selecting the right person for the job has never been more important than it is today for the Philippine maritime industry.

Welfare organisations raise serious concern on safety and wellbeing of seafarers transiting through the Gulf of Guinea. Jason Zuidema. *International Christian Maritime Association (ICMA).* 19 December 2019. Available from: [https://icma.as/](https://icma.as/) As reports confirm the pirate attack on *MV Duke* off the coast of Benin this week and the successful abduction of 20 Indian seafarers, leading maritime welfare organisations ISWAN (the International Seafarers’ Welfare and Assistance Network) and ICMA (the International Christian Maritime Association) have joined forces to raise concerns about the wellbeing and safety of seafarers transiting through the notorious and dangerous waters of the Gulf of Guinea (GoG).

Seafarer abandoned for three years off UAE will be home in time for Christmas.


**After 18 days, pirates free 18 Indian sailors.** Nitasha Natu. *Times of India*. 22 December 2019. Available from: [https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/after-18-days-pirates-free-18-indian-sailors/articleshow/72930870.cms](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/after-18-days-pirates-free-18-indian-sailors/articleshow/72930870.cms) After 18 days in captivity, 18 Indian seafarers, including a Mumbai-based shipping officer, who had been abducted from a crude oil tanker off Nigeria earlier this month, were released on Saturday.


**SEARCH & RESCUE**


SHIP RECYCLING


Recycling news: India ratifies but HKC still has far to go. [Paul Gunton. ShipInsight. 9 December 2019. Available from: https://shipinsight.com/articles/recycling-news-india-ratifies-but-hkc-still-has-far-to-go] We reported last week that India had ratified the Hong Kong Convention (HKC), which sets global standards for safe and environmentally-sound ship recycling.

Conditions of shipbreaking workers in India remain appalling. [NGO Shipbreaking Platform. 10 December 2019. Available from: https://www.shipbreakingplatform.org/new-study-tiss-alang-workers/] Based on the findings of recent independent research carried out by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in Mumbai, the article highlights the lack of protective equipment, inadequate health facilities and far too long working hours.


SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR


Environmental enforcement uncertainty halts shipowners' newbuild orders. Niklas Krigslund. ShippingWatch. 6 December 2019. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Bulk/article11806079.ece Uncertainty surrounding the decarbonization of shipping may benefit the industry in the short-term, believe a number of prominent executives.


Climate regulation makes northern European shipyards busy. Mathias Blædel Lorenzen. ShippingWatch. 11 December 2019. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/suppliers/article11815369.ece Several major northern European shipyards are currently seeing a boost in activity from the environmental requirements imposed on shipping in both the short and longer term.


MOL and e5 Lab Launch Study on Hydrogen Hybrid Pure Car Carrier : - MOU Aims at Development of Zero-emission Vessels. Mitsui O.S.K. Lines (MOL). 17 December 2019. Available from: https://www.mol.co.jp/en/pr/2019/19082.html The companies aim to develop a hydrogen hybrid PCC, which do not emit carbon dioxide (CO2), sulfur oxides (SOx), nitrogen oxides (NOx), or particulate matter (PM) while underway in coastal waters or in ports, in other words, achieving "zero emissions," since its propulsive force would come from electricity supplied by the hydrogen fuel cell system and large-capacity batteries.

SHIPPING

Shipowners face delays, higher costs for bunkering in Singapore pre-IMO 2020. Max Tingyao Lin. TradeWinds. 29 November 2019. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/shipowners-face-delays-higher-costs-for-bunkering-in-singapore-pre-imo-2020/2-1-715932 With the IMO requiring vessels to switch to 0.5%-sulphur fuel from high-sulphur fuel oil (HSFO) from January, unless they are installed with scrubbers, barge owners are busy cleaning the tanks onboard to carry the new compliant fuel.

Maritime Development Center: decarbonICE to create a pathway to carbon negative shipping. Port News. 1 December 2019. Available from: http://en.portnews.ru/news/287841/ A group of world leading shipping companies including NYK, Sovcomflot, Knutsen OAS and Ardmore, ship builders, including DSME and the mining company Vale, have therefore teamed up with Denmark based Maritime Development Center to develop such an on-board carbon capture and storage solution in a project named decarbonICE.

UAE discusses four key challenges facing maritime sector. Trade Arabia. 1 December 2019. Available from: http://tradearabia.com/news/IND_361409.html Four key areas in the maritime sector which are expected to bring new challenges to the global maritime community was recently highlighted by Dr Abdullah Belhaif Al Nuaimi, UAE Minister of Infrastructure Development and chairman of FTA - Land and Maritime.


New DNV GL class notation helps to boost LPG as ship fuel. DNV GL. 3 December 2019. Available from: https://www.dnvgl.com/news/new-dnv-gl-class-notation-helps-to-boost-lpg-as-ship-fuel-162900 As the maritime industry looks to reduce emissions to air and work towards the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) greenhouse gas reduction strategy, alternative fuels are coming to the fore.


Container lines’ CO2 calculators "riddled with absurdly poor data". Tomas Kristiansen. ShippingWatch. 3 December 2019. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Container/article11798190.ece While the IMO is preparing for the decisive CO2 meeting in March 2020, there seems to still be a long way to go before the shipping companies which must supply the crucial data can agree on how to calculate the numbers.


Where to look for clues to shipping’s future? Malcolm Latarche. ShipInsight. 4 December 2019. Available from: https://shipinsight.com/articles/where-to-look-for-clues-to-shippings-future Early December is usually a fairly quiet time for news as people prepare for the coming holiday season, but this week sees an unusual cluster of events making it difficult to know where to look.


Shippers call for urgent changes in liner CO2 reporting. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 5 December 2019. Available from: https://splash247.com/shippers-call-for-urgent-changes-in-liner-co2-reporting/ Containerlines have been urged to adopt a common, internationally recognised way of calculating their CO2 emissions in the wake of a damning report from Copenhagen-based Sea-Intelligence that highlighted how divergent on data the current online CO2 calculators offered by liners really are.

Euronav and DHT chose different sulfur strategies – now they must stand the test. Niklas Krigslund and Søren Pico. ShippingWatch. 6 December 2019. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Trailer/article11805198.ece Two tanker shipping companies have chosen different methods for complying with the new sulfur regulations, and therefore each have their own set of experiences from the preparations leading up to the turn of the year, when the regulations come into force.
RPT-Tankers running on fumes as shipping fuel switch causes delays. Julia Payne and Roslan Khasawneh. Reuters. 6 December 2019. Available from: https://reut.rs/36UEF2c Disruption to shipping from the long-anticipated switch to more environmentally friendly marine fuels has finally arrived, exacerbated by logistical problems as much as any shortage of the cleaner fuel.

MSC becomes first major shipping line to use 30% biofuel blends. Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC). 7 December 2019. Available from: https://www.msc.com/gbr/news/2019-december/msc-becomes-first-major-shipping-line-to-use-30-bi The trials were completed with a minimal 10% blend fuel and following further trials the company is now using much higher 30% blends.

European shipping’s climate record. Nico Muzi. Transport & Environment. 9 December 2019. Available from: https://www.transportenvironment.org/publications/european-shippings-climate-record Guided by these goals, a key finding of this study is that container shipping operator, Mediterranean Shipping Company joined coal power plants in the EU’s top 10 emitters list in 2018. EU shipping’s climate record: Maritime CO2 emissions and real-world ship efficiency performance

Med states meeting agrees roadmap to regional ECA. Nick Savvides. Seatrade Maritime News. 9 December 2019. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/regulation/med-states-meeting-agrees-roadmap-regional-eca A meeting of all the states bordering the Mediterranean Sea, except Syria, has agreed a road map that could see the creation of a Mediterranean Sulphur Emission Control Area (Med SECA) by 2024.


The Future Shipping Company: Autonomous Shipping Fleet Operators. Okan Duru. Maritime Executive. 10 December 2019. Available from: https://www.maritime-executive.com/editorials/the-future-shipping-company-autonomous-shipping-fleet-operators You may have heard of tech industry buzz words like software-as-a-service (SaaS) or car-as-a-service (CaaS) - in the SaaS scheme, the user does not need to install and sacrifice a portion of storage for software.

IMO 2020 transition faces obstacles to bunkering. Hwee Hwee Tan. Lloyd's List. 10 December 2019. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1130310/IMO-2020-transition-faces-obstacles-to-bunkering When bunkering in Singapore, the world’s top marine fuel hub, shipowners are having to notify suppliers weeks in advance if requiring refuels with HSFO.

Report: The Role of Sustainable Biofuels in the Decarbonisation of Shipping Sustainable Shipping Initiative (SSI). 11 December 2019. Available from: https://bit.ly/2RthR7Y The Role of Sustainable Biofuels in the Decarbonisation of Shipping: The findings of an inquiry into the sustainability and availability of biofuels for shipping outlines the findings of an inquiry commissioned by the Sustainable Shipping Initiative (SSI), reflecting a stakeholder consultation process facilitated by SSI member Forum for the Future to explore the potential role (if any) of biofuels in the decarbonisation of shipping. Executive Summary

Cautious welcome as shipping included in EU's Green Deal. Gary Dixon and Michael Juliano. TradeWinds. 11 December 2019. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/cautious-welcome-as-shipping-included-in-eus-green-deal/2-1-722284 Shipping has been included in the EU's new Green Deal at its launch on Wednesday, but a German industry group and a green group have reservations about its efficacy.


IMO 2020 fuel switch prompts bulkers to load less cargo to enable higher bunker intake. Shriram Sivaramakrishnan. S&P Global Platts. 11 December 2019. Available from: https://bit.ly/2et6lvN The IMO 2020 sulfur regulations that take effect in three weeks’ time are starting to redefine the choice of bunkering ports and impact the cargo-carrying capacity of dry bulk ships, according to freight market participants.

U.S. Refiners to Deliver Cleaner Marine Diesel Fuel with Key Regulatory Change. US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 11 December 2019. Available from: https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/us-refiners-deliver-cleaner-marine-diesel-fuel-key-regulatory-change To aid the smooth implementation of the Jan. 1 2020 (IMO 2020) global marine fuel limit for sulfur that takes effect January 1, 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is revising key regulatory text to ensure that U.S. refineries and suppliers can permissibly distribute cleaner global marine fuel for use in ships operating outside of our Emission Control Areas (ECAs).

The European shipping industry welcomes the European Green Deal. European Community Shipowners’ Associations (ECSA). 11 December 2019. Available from: https://www.ecsa.eu/news/european-shipping-industry-welcomes-european-green-deal As announced by the Commission President, the European Green Deal aims to create a cleaner, greener, healthier environment as well as a sustainable, resilient, growing economy.

Liners accused of blatant profiteering as 90% variance in low sulphur surcharges is revealed. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 12 December 2019. Available from: https://splash247.com/liners-accused-of-blatant-profiteering-as-90-variance-in-low-sulphur-surcharges-is-revealed/ Low sulphur surcharges implemented by the world’s top liners from the start of this month vary by as much as 90%, according to research carried out by Athaliner.

Ten women influencing shipping in 2019. Lloyd's List. 12 December 2019. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1130291/Ten-women-influencing-shipping-in-2019 While the Lloyd’s List Top 100 has steadily started to feature more women in the ranks of industry influencers, the gender bias that this list reflects in the industry is still a deeply problematic issue yet to be resolved.

MSC responds to CO2 emission criticism. Tomas Kristiansen. ShippingWatch. 13 December 2019. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Container/article11822746.ece MSC does not recognize that it is one of Europe's biggest emitters of CO2, as otherwise concluded recently when NGO Transport & Environment, T&E, published a list of Europe's top CO2 emitters.

BIMCO agrees that climate ambitions will not be achieved by Europe acting alone. Lars Robert Pedersen. BIMCO. 13 December 2019. Available from: https://bit.ly/2NySGg7. In The European Green Deal, published on 11 December 2019 by the European Commission, it is highlighted in the introduction that “the environmental ambitions of the Green Deal will not be achieved by Europe acting alone” - BIMCO fully agrees with this, especially when it comes to climate actions for international shipping.


Plenty Of Fuel Available, But Also Plenty Of Questions, As Shipping Industry Braces For Anti-Sulphur Overhaul. Scott Carpenter. Forbes. 13 December 2019. Available from: https://bit.ly/2RwUgPh. Since the day it was voted into the rulebook on October 28, 2016, a massive regulatory overhaul called “IMO 2020” that mandates lower sulphur limits in marine fuel has provoked a fierce debate.

Grimaldi Group wins excellence in decarbonisation towards 2050 at the Lloyd’s List Europe Awards. Grimaldi Group. 13 December 2019. Available from: https://www.grimaldi.napoli.it/en/read_168.html. Among the 400 shipping professionals who attended the ceremony there were also representatives of the main international organizations in the sector, such as the Secretary General of IMO (International Maritime Organization), Kitack Lim, and the Secretary General of ICS (International Chamber of Shipping), Guy Platten.

Decarbonisation – on the brink of a breakthrough? Malcolm Latarche. ShipInsight. 16 December 2019. Available from: https://shipinsight.com/articles/decarbonisation-on-the-brink-of-a-breakthrough. Almost nobody in shipping expects that fossil fuels will be out of fashion by 2030 especially since that would involve replacing the power systems of more than 80,000 vessels at a cost that would be so huge that many within the industry could never survive.


The Lloyd’s List Podcast: Shipping’s biggest questions answered by the experts. Lloyd’s List. 16 December 2019. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1130346/The-Lloydys-List-Podcast-Shippings-biggest-questionsanswered-by-the-experts Lloyds List has been polling the industry on everything from AI to zero carbon fuels over the past months and the results formed the backbone of the discussions at our annual Outlook Forum in London last week, with a panel of experts offering the analysis and context.


Maritime industry gears up for new decade. Ambassador Carlos Salinas. Manila Times. 18 December 2019. Available from: https://www.manilatimes.net/2019/12/18/business/maritime-business/maritime-industry-gears-up-for-new-decade/665169/ We welcome the good news of the Philippines’ reelection as member of the IMO Council during the 31st Session of the IMO Assembly in London on November 29.

Here is an overview of shipping’s new green billion dollar fund. Trine Vestergaard. ShippingWatch. 18 December 2019. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/regulation/article11834861.ece A new green billion dollar fund will pave the way for reduced CO2 emissions.

We recognise our role in perpetuating the climate crisis, and we’re taking responsibility. Guy Platten. TradeWinds. 18 December 2019. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/we-recognise-our-role-in-perpetuating-the-climate-crisis-and-we-re-taking-responsibility/2-1-726881 As an industry that is accountable to the United Nations via the IMO but not bound by country, the Paris Agreement notably did not account for the role of shipping in perpetuating the climate crisis.

Shippers: Liner low-sulfur surcharges are not ethical or transparent. Mike King. Freight Waves. 18 December 2019. Available from: https://www.freightwaves.com/news/shippers-liner-low-sulfur-surcharges-are-not-ethical-or-transparent Shippers are furious that low-sulfur IMO 2020 fuel surcharges introduced by lines vary so widely, even between carriers offering the same service within an alliance.

IKEA wants to speed up the use of biofuels among shipping companies. Tomas Kristiansen. *ShippingWatch*. 19 December 2019. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/secure/logistics/article11832889.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/secure/logistics/article11832889.ece) ShippingWatch has interviewed Global Sustainability Manager at IKEA Transport & Logistics Services Elisabeth Munck af Rosenschöld about IKEA's CO2 reduction efforts.

New report: Shipping industry headed for uncharted waters. Niklas Krigslund. *ShippingWatch*. 19 December 2019. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/article11836716.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/article11836716.ece) The most recent decade within shipping has expressed more than just a cyclical downturn, according to Danish Ship Finance.

IMO transition charges boost ocean freight spot rates. Will Waters. *Lloyd's List*. 19 December 2019. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1130431/IMO-transition-charges-boost-ocean-freight-spot-rates](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1130431/IMO-transition-charges-boost-ocean-freight-spot-rates) Carriers have begun applying new low-sulphur fuel surcharges, which have been implemented and accepted on some routes, notes Drewry, highlighting a 'huge disparity in charge levels' ranging between $60 and $281 per teu.


Annual Review: The year shipping grew up. Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*. 20 December 2019. Available from: [https://splash247.com/annual-review-the-year-shipping-grew-up/](https://splash247.com/annual-review-the-year-shipping-grew-up/) After the toughest decade imaginable, those that have made it to the end of this century's angst-ridden teenage years are determined to be more in control of the 2020s.


IMO 2020 is only the start in shipping fuel shake-up. Jack Jordan and Paul Hickin. S&P Global Platts. 30 December 2019. Available from: https://bit.ly/2tD1yJ9 Some 11 years after the International Maritime Organization committed to a 0.5% sulfur limit for marine fuels and three years after it confirmed a 2020 start date, the deadline for the IMO’s lower sulfur cap has arrived.

Scrubber premiums hit five-figures with IMO 2020 closing in. Matt Coyne. TradeWinds. 30 December 2019. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/scrubber-premiums-hit-five-figures-with-imo-2020-closing-in/2-1-730773 According to Deutsche Bank’s Amit Mehrotra, VLCCs with the emissions-cleaning technology are earning $17,000 per day more than their scrubber-less peers in the spot market.


ITOPF — An invaluable resource of marine pollution assistance available to Members. Shipowners’ Club. 31 December 2019. Available from: https://www.shipownersclub.com/itopf-an-invaluable-resource-of-marine-pollution-assistance-available-to-members/ Vessels entered with the Club are automatically enrolled with the ITOPF as members (for tankers) or associates (for other vessel types) and can benefit from free access to its comprehensive range of technical services.


Tests raise alarms over fuel blends coming for ocean-going vessels. Collin Eaton and Jonathan Saul. Reuters. 31 December 2019. Available from: https://reut.rs/30o8XYD As a global clean-fuel mandate takes effect Jan. 1, testing companies examining newer, low-sulfur marine blends acquired in Antwerp, Belgium; Houston and Singapore have found sediment at levels that could damage the engines of ocean-going vessels.
RESEARCH


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