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 Secretary-General assesses progress on sulphur limit implementation

Since 1 January 2020, the global upper limit on the sulphur content of ships’ fuel oil has been reduced to 0.5% from 3.5% (under the so-called “IMO 2020” regulation). This is significantly reducing the amount of sulphur oxide emanating from ships and will have major health and environmental benefits, particularly for people living close to ports and coasts.

Information from various sources has indicated a relatively smooth transition to the 0.50% sulphur limit. Prices for compliant fuels - very-low sulphur fuel oil (VLSFO) and marine gas oil (MGO) rose quickly initially but now appear to be stabilizing. As of 20 January, 10 cases of compliant fuel being unavailable had been reported in IMO's Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS); and the dedicated email address established by the IMO Secretariat (imo2020@imo.org) has not received any specific correspondence reporting issues with implementation.

IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim said “I believe it is testimony to the diligence and dedication of IMO, its Member States, the shipping industry, the fuel supply industry and other relevant industries that such a major rule change is being implemented successfully without significant disruption to maritime transport and those that depend on it.” More…

IMO MEETINGS FOR 2020

Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR), 7th session (15-24/01/2020)

LATEST PRESS BRIEFINGS

IMO 2020 - cleaner shipping for cleaner air
Briefing: 35, December 20, 2019

SOLAS amendments entering into force 1 January 2020
Briefing: 35, December 20, 2019

RECENT SPEECHES BY IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL KITACK LIM

Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR 7), 15-24 January 2020 (Opening address)

IMO NEWS MAGAZINE (Winter 2019)

IMO PUBLISHING Just Published 2020 January 2020 Newsletter
UNITED NATIONS


The United Nations on Wednesday launched the biggest global conversation on the world's future: the UN75 dialogues.


Rising inequality affecting more than two-thirds of the globe, but it’s not inevitable: new UN report. *UN News*. 21 January 2020. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/01/1055681](https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/01/1055681) The World Social Report 2020, published by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), shows that income inequality has increased in most developed countries, and some middle-income countries - including China, which has the world’s fastest growing economy.


CASUALTIES


*Sanchi* families detail cover-up claims. Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*. 8 January 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/sanchi-families-detail-cover-up-claims/ The families of the *Sanchi* disaster have told Splash about the massive cover-up they believe has taken place in one of the worst shipping accidents of the past decade, and they are adamant many survived the inferno and have since been jailed.

Accident Investigation Report 1/2020: Fall on board fishing vessel *Artemis* with loss of 1 life. UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB). 9 January 2020. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/maib-reports/fall-on-board-fishing-vessel-artemis-with-loss-of-1-life At about 1630 on 29 April 2019, Andrew Hay, the skipper of the UK registered fishing vessel *Artemis* (Figure 1) suffered severe head injuries and died after he fell head-first through an access hatch between the vessel’s wheelhouse and its mess deck 2.1m below. Report

3 found dead after missing in Bosphorus collision. Ibrahim Halil Akturk, Guc Gonel and Mucahit Turetken. *Anadolu Agency (Turkey)*. 10 January 2020. Available from: https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/3-found-dead-after-missing-in-bosphorus-collision/1698399 Three bodies were found dead after they went missing in a collision in Istanbul’s Bosphorus Strait on Friday, according to authorities.

**Odjfell tanker collides with fishing vessel, two missing.** Jason Jiang. *Splash 247.com.*


**Containership comes under fire by pirates off Nigeria.** Mike Schuler. *gCaptain.* 22 January 2020. Available from: [https://gcaptain.com/containership-comes-under-fire-by-pirates-off-nigeria/](https://gcaptain.com/containership-comes-under-fire-by-pirates-off-nigeria/) Pirates off the coast of Nigeria chased and shot at a containership underway on Tuesday in the first reported piracy incident in the Gulf of Guinea region so far this year.

**Sinking tanker abandoned off India after engine room floods.** Gary Dixon. *TradeWinds.*

**Crew evacuated from sinking bitumen carrier in Arabian Sea.** *World Maritime News.*
27 January 2020. Available from: [https://worldmaritimene.ws/archives/289994/](https://worldmaritimene.ws/archives/289994/) Thirteen Indian crew members have been rescued from a Panama-flagged bitumen tanker in the Arabian Sea, the Indian Coast Guard said.


**Update: Maersk finds VLSFO not to blame for engine failure off Spain.** *Ship & Bunker.*

**ENVIRONMENT**


Time to step up and save our ocean. Rebecca Pow MP. UK Government. 15 January 2020. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/time-to-step-up-and-save-our-ocean. Environment Minister Rebecca Pow has called for governments around the world to join the UK-led 30by30 initiative to protect at least 30% of the planet’s ocean by 2030.


A wave of sustainability sweeps across the cruise industry. Josh Martin. Stuff (New Zealand). 16 January 2020. Available from: https://www.stuff.co.nz/travel/cruising/118324247/a-wave-of-sustainability-sweeps-across-the-cruise-industry. Although the cruise industry has skirted the controversy of “flight shaming”, critics say it’s a fallacy to think cruises are a low-carbon substitute to a fly-and-flop, because passengers often fly to their embarkation point, and the industry is using a workaround to cut sulphur emissions rather than switch over to less-polluting fuels.

SDG14: Navigating an ocean of risks and opportunities. Toby Hill. Business Green. 16 January 2020. Available from: https://www.businessgreen.com/feature/3084987/sdg14-navigating-an-ocean-of-risks-and-opportunities. The seas are warmer than at any point in human history and life under water is facing myriad threats, but there are still reasons to hope the Sustainable Development Goal focused on the world’s oceans can be met.

Mobile protected areas needed to protect biodiversity in the high seas. Science Daily. 16 January 2020. Available from: https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/01/200116141720.htm. As the United Nations rewrites the laws of the high seas, the new document should anticipate emerging technologies that allow protected areas to move as animals migrate or adapt to climate change.


Ningaloo whale shark study finds one fifth injured by ships and that’s increasing. Rebecca Parish. ABC (Australia). 27 January 2020. Available from: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-01-27/ningaloo-whale-shark-study-finds-one-fifth-injured-by-ships/11903712 There is hope a study of close to 1,000 whale sharks found cruising the picturesque Ningaloo Reef in Western Australia may lead to further changing practices of marine vessels on shipping routes.

Oil companies must explain how their new “Super Pollutant” shipping fuels ever came to market. Clean Arctic Alliance. 27 January 2020. Available from: https://www.hfofreearctic.org/en/2020/01/27/oil-companies-must-explain-how-their-new-super-pollutant-shipping-fuels-ever-came-to-market/ Responding to the discovery that some of the new blended low sulphur shipping fuels developed and marketed by oil companies to comply with IMO 2020 air pollution standards will actually lead to a surge in the emissions of a Super Pollutant known as Black Carbon, the Clean Arctic Alliance is calling for IMO to support an immediate switch to distillate fuels for ships in the Arctic and develop a global rule prohibiting fuels with high Black Carbon emissions.


IBIA: Still too early to draw conclusions on VLSFO’s black carbon emissions. World Maritime News. 28 January 2020. Available from: https://worldmaritimeneWS.com/archives/290127/ International Bunker Industry Association (IBIA) believes that it is still premature to draw any valid and meaningful conclusions on the level of black carbon emissions associated with the use of 0.50% sulphur fuels.


ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

The plastic polluters won 2019 – and we’re running out of time to stop them. John Vidal. The Guardian. 2 January 2020. Available from: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/01/02/year-plastic-pollution-clean-beaches-seas The beach at Muncar on the island of Java was revolting - the 400-yard wide, mile-long stretch of sand was feet deep in foul-smelling sauce sachets, shopping bags, nappies, bottles and bags, plastic clothes and detergent bottles.


Number of large spills continues to decline, says International Group's Paulson. Insurance Marine News. 22 January 2020. Available from: https://insurancemarinenews.com/insurance-marine-news/number-of-large-spills-continues-to-decline-says-international-groups-paulson/ Statistics continued to point towards a significant decrease in the number of large spills (more than 700 tonnes) over the past few decades, which since 2010 was averaging 1.9 per year, said Tony Paulson, chair of the International Group of P&I Clubs pollutions subcommittee, in the Group’s just-published annual report 2019.


Liquefied natural gas as marine fuel revealed to be worse than business as usual for the climate. Hellenic Shipping News. 29 January 2020. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/liquefied-natural-gas-as-marine-fuel-revealed-to-be-worse-than-business-as-usual-for-the-climate/. A new report from the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) has found that the most popular Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) ship engine, particularly for cruise ships, emits between 70% and 82% more life-cycle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over the short-term compared to clean distillate fuels.


HEALTH & SAFETY


Coronavirus: ‘An emergency in China, but not yet a global health emergency’. *UN News.* 23 January 2020. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/01/1055891](https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/01/1055891) However, after two days of deliberations, the WHO Emergency Committee, which advises the head of the agency, was divided on whether to declare a PHEIC.


WHO announced that four members of a family from Wuhan, who had travelled to the UAE earlier in January, were hospitalized on 25 and 27 January after testing positive for coronavirus.


Shipping is facing a black swan event in the form of a new, deadly coronavirus.


WHO announced that four members of a family from Wuhan, who had travelled to the UAE earlier in January, were hospitalized on 25 and 27 January after testing positive for coronavirus.


The first month of 2020 has seen numerous threats to free trade and the flow of cargo around the world, including escalating tensions between the US and Iran and Brexit.


More than 6,000 people have been prevented from disembarking from a cruise ship in the Italian port city of Civitavecchia after the liner was placed on lockdown over fears two Chinese passengers could be carrying the coronavirus.


The second meeting of the Emergency Committee convened by the WHO Director-General under the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus 2019 in the People’s Republic of China, with exportations to other countries, took place on Thursday, 30 January 2020, from 13:30 to 18:35 Geneva time (CEST).


The sick crew members on board the CMA CGM Ural have recovered and coronavirus has been ruled out, according to a spokesperson with CMA CGM.


Six thousand people on board a cruise ship in Italy have been allowed to disembark after health officials said a Chinese passenger who had symptoms of coronavirus had tested negative.


The new coronavirus has been declared a global emergency by the World Health Organization, as the outbreak continues to spread outside China.

**IMO**

The Interview: Kitack Lim. Anastassios Adamopoulos. *Lloyd's List*. 7 January 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1130567/The-Interview-Kitack-Lim The International Maritime Organization’s secretary-general, elected for a second term until the end of 2023, has overseen an extremely busy four years that were spearheaded by the switch into a new low-sulphur era.


UN shipping chief told to lead sector to finally take climate action. Eoin Bannon. *Transport & Environment*. 20 January 2020. Available from: https://www.transportenvironment.org/publications/un-shipping-chief-told-lead-sector-finally-take-climate-action In this letter, six environmental groups - the Clean Shipping Coalition (which includes T&E), EcoDes, EDF, Clima e Sociedade (iCS), Pacific Environment and WWF - congratulate Kitack Lim on his election to a second term as the secretary-general of the International Maritime Organisation. Letter to IMO Secretary-General, Kitack Lim

UN’s decarbonisation target for shipping to cost over $1 trillion - study. Jonathan Saul. *Reuters*. 20 January 2020. Available from: https://reut.rs/2SlTkS At least $1 trillion (769 billion pounds) of investment in new fuel technology is needed to enable the shipping industry to meet U.N. targets for cuts in carbon emissions by 2050, a study published on Monday showed.


Shipping climate goal to cost 100 times more than industry proposing to raise. Ben Garside. *Carbon Pulse*. 20 January 2020. Available from: [https://carbon-pulse.com/90445/](https://carbon-pulse.com/90445/) Global investment of $50-70 billion a year will be needed to halve emissions from shipping by 2050, a scale 100 times greater than an industry-proposed $2/t levy would raise but a level experts say has already been borne by the maritime sector within living memory.

Shipping reacts to $1,000,000,000,000 decarbonisation bill. Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*. 21 January 2020. Available from: [https://splash247.com/shipping-reacts-to-100000000000-decarbonisation-bill/](https://splash247.com/shipping-reacts-to-100000000000-decarbonisation-bill/) Shipping will need far greater collaboration, both among existing players as well as with governments and land-based business partners, to work out how it pays for the transition necessary to meet the 2050 decarbonisation goals set out by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).


IMO’s marine fuel rules sets shipping industry for a comeback in 2020: IHS. Roslan Khasawneh. *Reuters*. 23 January 2020. Available from: [https://reut.rs/2vbmdV5](https://reut.rs/2vbmdV5) The global shipping market is set for a recovery, benefiting from new global rules on marine fuels that came into effect at the beginning of the year after more than a decade of tough market conditions, according to IHS Markit.

High black carbon emissions from VLSFO heaps pressure on IMO. Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*. 27 January 2020. Available from: [https://splash247.com/high-black-carbon-emissions-from-vlsfo-heaps-pressure-on-imo/](https://splash247.com/high-black-carbon-emissions-from-vlsfo-heaps-pressure-on-imo/) Following on from a landmark study funded by the German Environment Agency that suggests some blends of the new very low sulphur fuel oil (VLSFO) contain higher black carbon emissions than its forebear, high sulphur fuel oil (HSFO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) is coming under pressure to ban the new fuel in Arctic waters.


A resolution drafted by the ITF, the Women’s International Shipping and Trading Association (WISTA International), and several countries at the IMO has led to an initiative to increase the number of women working in the maritime sector.

**LAW & POLICY**


**Establishment of Council of Arab and African Coastal States of Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.** Niklas Krigslund. *Saudi Press Agency (SPA)*. 7 January 2020. Available from: https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2019948 Al-Bilad newspaper said in its editorial that Riyadh witnessed yesterday the founding and signing the Charter of Council of Arab and African Coastal States of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden that to be hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in appreciation of its efforts to strengthen relations between member states and raise the level of coordination and constructive cooperation to face the challenges and risks in this vital waterway, which is of great importance to the global economy and trade.

**Oil spill fines hiked to N$1m.** Lazarus Amukeshe. *The Namibian*. 8 January 2020. Available from: https://www.namibian.com.na/86830/read/Oil-spill-fines-hiked-to-N$1m Any owner or master of a ship, tanker or offshore installation found guilty of spilling oil into any part of the sea considered a prohibited area will be liable to fines of up to N$1 million or a prison term of up to 25 years.

**Federal judge frustrated over Carnival’s continued pollution while on probation.** Taylor Dolven. *Miami Herald (US)*. 8 January 2020. Available from: https://www.miamiherald.com/news/business/tourism-cruises/article239089503.html More than halfway through Carnival Corporation’s five year probation, company executives were in federal court Wednesday trying to assure U.S. District Judge Patricia Seitz that they were making progress on the cruise company’s widespread pollution problem.


**China catches two ships flouting low sulphur rules.** Dale Wainwright. *Trade Winds*. 13 January 2020. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/china-catches-two-ships-flouting-low-sulphur-rules/2-1-736361 China is reported to have caught two ships that were allegedly using non-compliant bunker fuel, according to the Standard P&I Club.
New fuels will fire up new disputes. Paul Gunton. ShipInsight. 13 January 2020. Available from: https://shipinsight.com/articles/new-fuels-will-fire-up-new-disputes When a former director for strategic planning on the White House National Security Council got in touch a few days ago and said he was in “full agreement” with my remarks three weeks ago about the variations in port state responses to IMO 2020 violations, I was reassured that mine was not a lone voice.

Iran’s flag-shopping fleet drags registries into sanctions net. Michelle Wiese Bockmann and Nidaa Bakhsh. Lloyd’s List. 13 January 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1130632 Registries of Panama, Gabon, Honduras and Belize have re-flagged vessels that have either been sanctioned by the US for shipping Iranian energy commodities or engaged in deceptive shipping practices that suggest they are exporting cargoes from the Islamic republic.

New implementation strategy for India’s single-use plastic ban. Gard. 13 January 2020. Available from: http://www.gard.no/web/uploads/content/29011545/new-implementation-strategy-for-indias-single-use-plastic-ban India aims to reduce ships’ use of single-use plastic by 90% during stays in Indian ports in the next 12 months.

Third Chinese port announces sulphur cap violation. Cichen Shen. Lloyd’s List. 13 January 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1130636/Third-Chinese-port-announces-sulphur-cap-violation The Port of Ningbo has found yet another violation of the 2020 global sulphur cap with a Panama-flagged containership caught burning non-compliant fuels, the third such case reported in China this month.


More IMO violations emerge in China’s coastal waters. Argus Media. 15 January 2020. Available from: https://www.argusmedia.com/en/news/2051474-moreIMOviolationsemerges in-chinas-coastal-waters?backToResults=true Chinese maritime authorities have caught at least three vessels using marine fuel that exceeds International Maritime Organization (IMO) standards, in some of the first violations to have emerged since the IMO’s 0.5pc sulphur cap took effect on 1 January.


**RMS Titanic** wreck to be protected under historic treaty with US. Nusrat Ghani MP and The Rt Hon Julian Smith MP. *UK Government. 21 January 2020.* Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rms-titanic-wreck-to-be-protected-under-historic-treaty-with-us The wreck of the most famous ship in history, the *RMS Titanic*, will be better protected under an historic international agreement, Maritime Minister Nusrat Ghani confirmed during a visit to Belfast today (21 January 2020).


**Release of refugee boat captain upheld by Italian Supreme Court.** Insurance Marine News. 22 January 2020. Available from: https://insurancemarinenews.com/insurance-marine-news/release-of-refugee-boat-captain-upheld-by-italian-supreme-court/ The shift in Italy’s official attitude to migrant/refugees arriving by sea was emphasized last Friday when Italy’s Supreme Court of Cassation upheld the release of Captain Carola Rackete, who last year defied official instructions and docked her ship at Lampedusa to offload rescued migrants.

**Research team injects Inuit views into Ottawa’s plan for safe Arctic shipping.** Jim Bell. *Nunatsiaq News Online (Canada).* 22 January 2020. Available from: https://nunatsiaq.com/stories/article/research-team-injects-inuit-views-into-ottawas-plan-for-safe-arctic-shipping/ Most Inuit and local informants agree that designated safe shipping corridors planned for Canadian Arctic waters should be set up to protect marine mammals by avoiding sensitive areas wherever possible, while reducing speed and engine noise, a report published late last December says.

Shipowners warned as Turkey hikes pollution fines by more than 20%. Gary Dixon. TradeWinds. 24 January 2020. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/insurance/shipowners-warned-as-turkey-hikes-pollution-fines-by-more-than-20/-2-1-743999 Turkey has raised shipping pollution fines by more than 20% for 2020.


Fishing regulations as the UK leaves the EU. UK Government. 28 January 2020. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fishing-regulations-as-the-uk-leaves-the-eu The UK will be actively negotiating new trading and fisheries agreements with the EU and other third countries during this transition period, up to December 31st 2020.


British and Dutch maritime leaders to meet as UK leaves the EU. Maritime UK. 28 January 2020. Available from: https://www.maritimeuk.org/media-centre/news/news-british-and-dutch-maritime-leaders-meet-uk-leaves-eu/ UK and Dutch business leaders will meet in Rotterdam and Amsterdam next month to discuss future maritime and trade relations following the UK’s departure from the European Union.


Credit Suisse, others back initiative to factor CO2 cuts into shipping finance. Jonathan Saul. Reuters. 30 January 2020. Available from: https://reut.rs/2SuEmoM Credit Suisse (CSGN.S), BNP Paribas (BNPP.PA) and French public investment bank Bpifrance are the latest lenders to join an initiative to link provision of shipping finance to cuts in carbon dioxide emissions.

European shipowners have no official stance on disputed carbon quotas. Tomas Kristiansen and Katrine Grønvald Raun. ShippingWatch. 30 January 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article11908753.ece The EU Commission’s plans to implement CO2 quotas for shipping have been met with great concern from several places in the industry.
MARINE TECHNOLOGY


**100 stakeholders must find common ground on CO2-free ships.** Søren Pico. *ShippingWatch*. 8 January 2020. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/secure/regulation/article11862852.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/secure/regulation/article11862852.ece) Everything from food producers to car manufacturers to bunker suppliers and major shipping companies now share the same vision of developing the world's first ocean-going ship that does not emit CO2.


Pioneering Norwegian autonomous-ship project receives NOK 200 million in EU funding.

Coast Guard, Scripps partner for launch of Blue Technology Center of Expertise. United States Coast Guard. 23 January 2020. Available from: https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/277c48e Ribbon-cutting ceremony for Blue Technology Center of Expertise followed by a technology expo and cake-cutting reception.

Ship surveys made smarter. Claudia Ohlmeier. ShipInsight. 24 January 2020. Available from: https://shipinsight.com/articles/ship-surveys-made-smarter In the push to modernise class services, DNV GL recently introduced two innovations that make ship surveys more efficient, flexible and safe: online-based remote surveys and thickness measurements carried out by drones.

Corvus Energy expects that "big ships" can sail on batteries in two or three years.
Mathias Blædel Lorenzen. ShippingWatch. 27 January 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/suppliers/article11900567.ece Battery producer Corvus Energy expects to have hybrid solutions ready for deep-sea vessels within two or three years, says CEO Geir Bjørkeli in an interview with ShippingWatch.

Artificial intelligence helps experts forecast icebergs. Sophie Armour. Phys.org. 28 January 2020. Available from: https://phys.org/news/2020-01-artificial-intelligence-experts-icebergs.html This year will see a relatively low number of icebergs drifting into busy shipping regions in the north-west Atlantic, according to a combination of control systems and artificial intelligence forecasting models developed by experts at the University of Sheffield.

Shipping company installs ballast water systems on two ships without docking.
Niklas Krigslund. ShippingWatch. 29 January 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/article11905845.ece UK-based shipping company Carisbrooke Shipping has installed ballast water management systems on two ships, without the ships needing to be docked.

The transition to autonomy must be handled sensitively. Richard Clayton. Lloyd's List. 29 January 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1130818/The-transition-to-autonomy-must-be-handled-sensitively The transition from fully manned ships to remotely controlled, then autonomous ships will be complex, messy and painful.

MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING

Panama Maritime Authority Begins The Programme ‘My First Maritime Work Experience’.
Hellenic Shipping News. 10 January 2020. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/panama-maritime-authority-begins-the-programme-my-first-maritime-work-experience/ The Panama Maritime Authority (AMP), through the General Directorate of Seafarers (DGGM), began the program called “My First Maritime Work Experience”, which is inspired by the project that recently became Law 121 of December 30, 2019, “Learn by Doing” (Aprender Haciendo) which is being carried out by the Government of President Nito Cortizo.


**MARITIME SAFETY**


2021 smart guidelines face criticism. Safety4Sea. 9 January 2020. Available from: https://safety4sea.com/2021-smart-guidelines-face-criticism/ In the January issue of Be Cyber Aware at Sea, Phish and Ships focuses on 2021 as a transitional year with new regulations coming into force, but with concerns being raised over the guidelines that “will be already out of date”.


Iridium is now formally authorized to provide GMDSS service. Iridium Communications Plc. 13 January 2020. Available from: http://investor.iridium.com/2020-01-13-Iridium-is-Now-Formally-Authorized-to-Provide-GMDSS-Service Iridium Communications Inc. announced that on December 19, 2019 a Letter of Compliance was signed by the International Mobile Satellite Organization, stating it has positively verified the operational and technical requirements as requested by the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization for Iridium to provide Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) service.

The shipping industry to face recurring challenges in 2020 and a need to tackle misdeclared cargo, says iContainers. Hellenic Shipping News. 16 January 2020. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/the-shipping-industry-to-face-recurring-challenges-in-2020-and-a-need-to-tackle-misdeclared-cargo-says-iconainers/ Online freight forwarder iContainers says 2019 was a year of uncertainty for the shipping industry, and that while certain sectors have seen improvements, the industry should remain alert for the challenges 2020 will bring.


Do you know how many types of lifeboats exist? Safety4Sea. 17 January 2020. Available from: https://safety4sea.com/cm-do-you-know-how-many-types-of-lifeboats-exist/ Chances are that you have never boarded a lifeboat to date, except you are a seafarer who has performed lifeboat drills or someone who has found himself in the very unwelcome experience of a sinking ship.


MARITIME SECURITY


57 crew kidnapped off West Africa in just one month. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 2 January 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/57-crew-kidnapped-off-west-africa-in-just-one-month/ A total of 57 crew were kidnapped last month in and around the Gulf of Guinea, a similar figure to November with shipping now on high alert as the security situation in in West Africa has spun out of control.

Kidnappings in Bay of Guinea likely for another couple of years. Tomas Kristiansen. ShippingWatch. 2 January 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/article11852364.ece Pirate attacks, as was seen in December when crews of 20 were kidnapped, will likely continue another couple of years, warns Risk Intelligence in a new report put together for the tanker sector.

Shipping on alert as Iran vows revenge for deadly American drone strike. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 3 January 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/shipping-on-alert-as-iran-vows-revenge-for-deadly-american-drone-strike/ Merchant shipping heading through Middle Eastern waters has been placed back on high alert over fears Iran may retaliate to American drone strikes earlier today that killed a top Iranian general.

Iranian retaliation for Soleimani could steer clear of shipping, for now. Matt Coyne. TradeWinds. 3 January 2020. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/iranian-retaliation-for-soleimani-could-steer-clear-of-shipping-for-now/2-1-732069 According to security experts, the Islamic republic will look to strike back against the US after it killed Iranian Revolutionary Guard General Qassem Soleimani in an airstrike at Baghdad airport Friday — but shipping might not be the target when it does.
Shipowners call on vessels to exert caution in Strait of Hormuz. Tomas Kristiansen. *ShippingWatch.* 3 January 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Tanker/article11855610.ece The escalation of the conflict between the US and Iran underlines the fact that shipping companies must exert caution when sailing in the Strait of Hormuz, says Danish Shipping in a comment on the killing of Iranian Major General Qassem Soleimani.


Insurance war committee meets as Gulf tensions rise. Ada Corbett. *TradeWinds.* 7 January 2020. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/insurance/insurance-war-committee-meets-as-gulf-tensions-rise/2-1-733553 The Joint War Committee (JWC), which represents Lloyd’s of London and company market war-risk underwriters, met on Tuesday to discuss the security situation in the Middle East Gulf following the death of Iranian general Qassem Soleimani.


Qasem Soleimani: UK puts ships and helicopters on standby in Gulf. *BBC News.* 8 January 2020. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-51027874 The UK has put the Royal Navy and military helicopters on standby amid rising tensions in the Middle East, Defence Secretary Ben Wallace has said.

Shipowners may avoid Persian Gulf; war risk premia spike. Sameer Mohindru and Angeline Cheon. *S&P Global Platts.* 8 January 2020. Available from: https://www.spglobal.com/platts/en/market-insights/latest-news/shipping/010820-shipowners-may-avoid-persian-gulf-war-risk-premia-spikes The cost to deliver commodities is set to rise as additional war risk premia on merchant ships in the Middle East has shot up significantly this week, while security concerns are prompting some shipowners to temporarily steer clear of the Persian Gulf, market participants said Wednesday.

NT Wing Maritime Security Circular No. 01 of 2020 : Sub: Maritime Security Advisory for vessels operating in the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman regions - reg. Government of India. 8 January 2020. Available from: https://dgshipping.gov.in/WriteReadData/News/202001080429170017749NT_Cir_01of2020.pdf Due to recent incident in the Persian Gulf region, there is a possibility of escalation in conflict that could affect shipping not only in the Persian Gulf region but also the Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman and other adjoining regions.


Iran says no need for naval escorts of foreign vessels. Gary Dixon. TradeWinds. 10 January 2020. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/iran-says-no-need-for-naval-escorts-of-foreign-vessels/2-1-735569 Iran has reassured foreign shipowners it is open for business and no overseas naval escorts are needed in its waters, which it called "the safest in the world".

Ambrey Risk: What you need to know when transiting the Strait of Hormuz. Splash 247.com. 10 January 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/ambrey-risk-what-you-need-to-know-when-transiting-the-strait-of-hormuz/ With tanker rates sky high there has been little cut back in traffic along the Strait of Hormuz this past week (see tweet below) despite the sudden rise in tensions between Iran and the US.


Danish authorities raise security level for ships in Strait of Hormuz. ShippingWatch. 10 January 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Tanker/article11869940.ece Danish authorities raise the security level for Danish ships operating in the Strait of Hormuz near Iran, the country's defense ministry tells Ritzau.


Are foreign ships secure in Iran? Laxman Pai. MarineLink. 13 January 2020. Available from: https://www.marinelink.com/news/foreign-ships-secure-iran-474579 Mohammad Rastad, Iran's Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development said that foreign trade ships that transport goods to Iran can be confident that there will be no problem for their movement and there is no obstacle for their arrival in the country.

How IMO addresses cyber risk: An overview. Safety4Sea. 14 January 2020. Available from: https://safety4sea.com/cm-how-imo-addresses-cyber-risk-an-overview/ The era of digitalization and rapid development of technologies in the maritime sector has called for immediate action, for the protection of the seafarers and the whole industry, which led IMO to issue and implement a series of regulations and guidelines on cyber risk management, with, last but not least, the adoption of the Resolution MSC.428(98).

End of support for Windows 7 could be cyber risk. Malcolm Latarche. ShipInsight. 14 January 2020. Available from: https://shipinsight.com/articles/end-of-support-for-windows-7-could-be-cyber-risk/ Windows is the most popular operating system for computers and until Windows 10 was introduced in July 2015, the majority of new computers sold would use Windows 7.


S. Korea’s options on Hormuz strait appear shortlisted. Yonhap News Agency (South Korea). 18 January 2020. Available from: https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200117009100315 The South Korean government has yet to complete a review of options on how to contribute to security in the Strait of Hormuz, a Cheong Wa Dae official said Saturday amid reports that a final decision on whether to send troops there may be imminent.


S. Korea to send troops to Hormuz Strait independently to safeguard people, vessels. Yonhap News Agency (South Korea). 21 January 2020. Available from: https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200121004200325 South Korea will dispatch troops to the Strait of Hormuz by expanding operational areas of its anti-piracy unit deployed nearby to help protect the strategic waterway, the defense ministry announced Tuesday.


Insurer Marsh sees demand spike for political violence cover in the Gulf. Davide Barbuscia. Reuters. 22 January 2020. Available from: https://reut.rs/31As8PJ Marsh, one of the world’s largest insurance brokers and risk advisers, has seen a spike in clients’ enquiries for political violence cover in the Gulf after attacks on tankers and oil installations rattled the region last year, an executive said.


Migrants


Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 4,432 in 2020; Deaths Reach 68. Focus on Greece. *International Organization for Migration (IOM)*. 28 January 2020. Available from: https://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-reach-4432-2020-deaths-reach-68-focus-greece IOM reports that 4,432 migrants and refugees have entered Europe by sea almost four weeks into the new year, down from the 5,266 arriving during the same period last year.

Italy allows migrant rescue boat to dock after days stranded at sea. Angelo Amante. *Reuters*. 28 January 2020. Available from: https://reut.rs/2OBRaIT A charity ship carrying hundreds of people rescued in the Mediterranean said on Tuesday it had received permission to dock in Italy as European governments tried to agree where the migrants should go.


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**Refugees trapped in Libya: Nowhere to go but the sea.**


**English Channel migrants boats using 'surge tactics'.**


**Migrant boat sinks trying to reach UK from Belgium.**


**Seven migrants detected in Channel by Border Force in Dover.**

Eleanor Perkins. *Kent Online (UK)*. 23 January 2020. Available from: https://www.kentonline.co.uk/dover/news/seven-migrants-detected-in-channel-220768/ Seven migrants presenting themselves as Syrian nationals were picked up in English waters this morning.

**Ocean Viking** is seeking a safe port for 223 migrants rescued from the Mediterranean.


**Armed Forces rescue 142 migrants at sea.**


**Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 4,432 in 2020; Deaths Reach 68. Focus on Greece.**


**Italy allows migrant rescue boat to dock after days stranded at sea.**

Angelo Amante. *Reuters*. 28 January 2020. Available from: https://reut.rs/2OBRaIT A charity ship carrying hundreds of people rescued in the Mediterranean said on Tuesday it had received permission to dock in Italy as European governments tried to agree where the migrants should go.

**Are Turkish ships working with the Libyan coastguard in the central Mediterranean?**

NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS

Climate change offers 'invitation to explore the Arctic' as marine traffic hits unprecedented levels. Gabriel Friedman. Financial Post (Canada). 2 January 2020. Available from: https://business.financialpost.com/commodities/mining/climate-change-offers-invitation-to-explore-the-arctic-as-marine-traffic-hits-unprecedented-levels The number of boats voyaging through the Canadian Arctic reached a new high in 2019 as ice coverage in the eastern part of that region shrank to a new low, according to preliminary federal statistics.


How the world's most important oil chokepoint could factor into escalating US-Iran tensions. Sam Meredith. CNBC (US). 6 January 2020. Available from: https://www.cnbc.com/2020/01/06/oil-prices-how-the-strait-of-hormuz-may-factor-into-us-iran-tensions.html A critical gateway to the world's oil industry has been thrust back into the global spotlight, following a dramatic escalation in geopolitical tensions since the targeted killing of a top Iranian general.

Clarksons: The Strait of Hormuz could close. Niklas Krigslund. ShippingWatch. 7 January 2020. Available from: https://www.shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Tanker/article11860551.ece The Strait of Hormuz could close as a result of the conflict between the US and Iran, which has flared up following the killing of a high-ranking Iranian general, assesses Clarksons Platou.


New Wave of Companies Pledge Not to Ship Through Arctic Ocean. Daniel Hubbell. Ocean Conservancy. 7 January 2020. Available from: https://oceanconservancy.org/blog/2020/01/07/new-wave-companies-pledge-not-ship-arctic-ocean/ Eight more companies agreed this week not to ship goods through the Arctic Ocean and signed the Arctic Corporate Shipping Pledge launched by Ocean Conservancy and Nike in October 2019.

VLCC owners braving Strait of Hormuz as tensions simmer. Lucy Hine. TradeWinds. 8 January 2020. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/vlcc-owners-braving-strait-of-hormuz-as-tensions-simmer/2-1-734165 Shipowners with VLCC tonnage are monitoring the situation in the Strait of Hormuz in light of the escalated tensions between Iran and the US but have not yet opted to avoid sending their vessels to the region, brokers said.


Moves to reduce tensions along Middle East shipping lanes. Eric Watkins. Lloyd's List. 12 January 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1130617 US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressed outrage via Twitter on Sunday after a volley of rockets slammed into an Iraqi airbase north of Baghdad where US forces have been based.

Sulfur rules generate differing ship speeds. Søren Pico. ShippingWatch. 14 January 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/article11874046.ece It is not only in fuel expenses that the new sulfur regulations have created a gap from the start of this year between ships sailing on low-sulfur fuels and those that have been equipped with scrubbers so they can continue burning oil with higher sulfur content.


Stena Estrid: Captain highlights difficulties faced during storm Brendan. Safety4Sea. 15 January 2020. Available from: https://safety4sea.com/stena-estrid-captain-highlights-difficulties-faced-during-storm-brendan/ Captain Lynch said that the weather conditions were very severe for the last couple of days so departure from Hollyhead had to be timed to ensure that “were able to make an arrival straight into Dublin” when the worst of the weather conditions were expected.


Mysterious GPS outages are wracking the shipping industry. Katherine Dunn. Fortune. 22 January 2020. Available from: https://fortune.com/longform/gps-outages-maritime-shipping-industry/ For the global maritime shipping industry, spotty satellite navigation is a disaster waiting to happen.


PIRACY


PORT STATE CONTROL


Prohibition on the carriage of non-compliant fuel. Paris MoU on Port State Control. 20 January 2020. Available from: https://www.parismou.org/prohibition-carriage-non-compliant-fuel The Tokyo and Paris Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on port State control (PSC) have been working collaboratively to ensure that vessel owners and operators are aware that the Authorities belonging to these MoUs, inspections will be undertaken to ensure compliance with the new sulphur limit requirements on marine fuel oil, from 1 January 2020.


**PORTS & HARBOURS**


Hong Kong retains prowess as maritime centre. *Lloyd's List*. 9 January 2020. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1130592/Hong-Kong-retains-prowess-as-maritime-centre](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1130592/Hong-Kong-retains-prowess-as-maritime-centre) Decarbonisation and digitalisation emerged as major themes running through the week, while other important areas such as Hong Kong’s role within the Greater Bay Area were also discussed.


Panama Canal to adopt measures to ensure water availability & route’s reliability. *Panama Canal Authority*. 13 January 2020. Available from: [http://www.acp.gob.pa/eng/pr/press-releases/2020/01/13/pr686.html](http://www.acp.gob.pa/eng/pr/press-releases/2020/01/13/pr686.html) Due to changing rainfall patterns and historic low water levels at Gatun Lake, the main source of water for the waterway, the Panama Canal announced today that it will implement a series of new measures beginning February 15 to sustain an operational level of water and provide reliability to customers while it implements a long-term solution to water.


Kyaukpyu port to become model project in China-Myanmar BRI cooperation. *Xinhuanet (China).* 18 January 2020. Available from: [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-01/18/c_138716099.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-01/18/c_138716099.htm) Surrounded by superb natural conditions, the Kyaukpyu deep-water port in the western Rakhine State of Myanmar, is set to become another model project under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) framework, benefiting both Myanmar and China.


Poor low-sulfur bunker found in several key ports. Katrine Grenvald Raun. *ShippingWatch*. 24 January 2020. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/article11897167.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/article11897167.ece) Veritas Petroleum Service, which tests fuel, has issued seven warnings in just one month about excessive sediments in new fuels with 0.5 percent sulfur.


**REGULATIONS**


Blending of fuel on ship for achieving compliance with IMO 2020 regulation. Standard Club. 6 January 2020. Available from: https://bit.ly/31wdk4H The carriage ban of non-compliant fuel oil is on the horizon; from 1 March 2020, ships not fitted with scrubbers will not be permitted to carry fuel over the 0.50% m/m limit.

DECADE AHEAD: Regulation expected to fuel 'revolution' for shipping. Adam Corbett and Dale Wainwright. TradeWinds. 7 January 2020. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/decade-ahead-regulation-expected-to-fuel-revolution-for-shipping/2-1-722605 Increasingly, the global maritime industry will have to adapt to a new operating norm defined by three Ds: disruption, digitalisation and decarbonisation.


Are you 95% confident that your very low sulphur fuel is on spec and MARPOL compliant? Sammy Christopher Smallbone and Kim Jefferies. GARD. 9 January 2020. Available from: http://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/28989213/are-you-95-confident-that-your-very-low-sulphur-fuel-is-on-spec-and-marpol-compliant Bunker fuel is a commodity and, like all commodities, is produced and sold according to specifications.

Poten: Relatively smooth sailing as IMO 2020 enters into force? World Maritime News. 13 January 2020. Available from: https://worldmaritimene newsletter.com/archives/289212/ Two weeks into January 2020, it appears the shipping industry is coping better than expected following the entry into force of the highly dreaded sulphur cap, according to Poten Tanker Opinion.

BIMCO publishes interpretation of discord between fuel oil samples. Insurance Marine News. 15 January 2020. Available from: https://insurancemarinene sendex.com/insurance-marine-news/bimco-publishes-interpretation-of-discord-between-fuel-oil-samples/ BIMCO has reported an increase in questions related to the discord between the verification produces for statutory fuel oil samples and commercial fuel oil samples as the new sulphur cap kicks in.

Vestager not buying Maersk CEO's critique of regulation. Trine Vestergaard. ShippingWatch. 17 January 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/regulation/article11881899.ece EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager is not buying Maersk CEO Søren Skou's criticism that the EU's rejection of a railroad merger could make it difficult for European companies to compete with China.


The growing problem of IMO 2020 VLSFO bunkers with marginally off-spec sulfur.


IMO 2020 preparations pay off. Unni Einemo. *International Bunker Industry Association (IBIA)*. 22 January 2020. Available from: [https://ibia.net/imo-2020-preparations-pay-off/](https://ibia.net/imo-2020-preparations-pay-off/) IBIA met with several large globally operating shipping and bunkering companies during a visit to Copenhagen in mid-January, who were all reporting a surprisingly smooth transition to the 0.50% sulphur limit for marine fuels which came into force on 1 January, 2020.


**SALVAGE**


Hope for 10 stranded seafarers as embassies intervene. Mbaruku Mohammed. *The Star (Kenya).* 1 January 2020. Available from: [https://www.the-star.co.ke/counties/coast/2020-01-01-hope-for-10-stranded-seafarers-as-embassies-intervene/](https://www.the-star.co.ke/counties/coast/2020-01-01-hope-for-10-stranded-seafarers-as-embassies-intervene/) The ITF has come to the rescue of 10 Kenyan seafarers who had travelled to Pemba, Mozambique through Tanzania in August 2019, to work on an EU-bound vessel, *MV Jireh*, and its nine crew members detained for four weeks in Portland Port have been released.


Sailors urged to follow the law for ease of repatriation. Mohammed Mbaruku. *The Star (Kenya).* 12 January 2020. Available from: [https://www.the-star.co.ke/counties/coast/2020-01-12-sailors-urged-to-follow-the-law-for-ease-of-repatriation/](https://www.the-star.co.ke/counties/coast/2020-01-12-sailors-urged-to-follow-the-law-for-ease-of-repatriation/) Seafarers have been cautioned against dealing with unauthorised agents in their search for employment to avoid repatriation snags when they are abandoned.


Guidelines for shipowners to avoid age discrimination on board ships. *International Chamber of Shipping (ICS).* January 2020. Available from: [http://www.ics-shipping.org/docs/default-source/resources/guidelines-for-shipowners-to-avoid-age-discrimination-on-board-ships.pdf?sfvrsn=6](http://www.ics-shipping.org/docs/default-source/resources/guidelines-for-shipowners-to-avoid-age-discrimination-on-board-ships.pdf?sfvrsn=6) This guidance has been produced to help to eliminate age discrimination and to improve the working environment on board ships.


**SEARCH & RESCUE**


SHIP RECYCLING


Norwegian police raids Teekay office on suspicions of illegal scrapping. Niklas Krigslund. *ShippingWatch*. 29 January 2020. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Tanker/article11905746.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Tanker/article11905746.ece) Teekay’s office in Stavanger was raided on Tuesday by the Norwegian financial police, which suspects the company might have committed environmental crimes in relation to the scrapping of a ship in India.

SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR


Shipping players look to cut carbon emissions with vessel powered by ammonia. Jonathan Saul. Reuters. 15 January 2020. Available from: https://reut.rs/2urvKYa A shipbuilder and engine maker are among leading companies looking to develop a vessel that can run on ammonia as part of efforts to speed up carbon reductions in shipping through cleaner fuel options, officials said on Wednesday.

RRS Sir David Attenborough fires up. Cammell Laird. 22 January 2020. Available from: https://www.clbh.co.uk/project-news/rrs-sir-david-attenborough-fires The RRS Sir David Attenborough achieved an important milestone at Cammell Laird's shipyard this month with the commissioning and testing of its power systems.


**SHIPPING**


Shipping has reasons to be optimistic despite serious challenges. Lee Hong Liang. *Seatrade Maritime News*. 3 January 2020. Available from: [https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/containers/shipping-has-reasons-be-optimistic-despite-serious-challenges](https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/containers/shipping-has-reasons-be-optimistic-despite-serious-challenges) The shipping industry has a number of reasons to be cheerful as it enters a new decade, despite some serious challenges in the immediate future, according to accountancy and business advisory firm BDO.


Ten years on and little change. Malcolm Latarche. *ShipInsight*. 6 January 2020. Available from: [https://shipinsight.com/articles/ten-years-on-and-little-change](https://shipinsight.com/articles/ten-years-on-and-little-change) A little bit of crystal ball gazing is usual at this time of year but sometimes it can be equally enlightening to look back at what was being said and predicted at dates in the past.


Headhunter seeks female candidates to no avail. Trine Vestergaard. ShippingWatch. 7 January 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/article11861647.ece
A company could be searching for a long time if it seeks to employ a woman in its top management or in the technical part of its business.


In 2019 the global shipping fleet passed 2bn dwt as a whole, however, the new decade starts with a “less frightening supply situation”, according to Clarksons Research Services.


The large crude tanker sector will face numerous and multiple challenges over the next decade. Firstly — and most critically — will be meeting the stringent emissions targets set by the IMO.

DECADE AHEAD: Finance sector forecasts greater focus on environment. Holly Birkett and Joe Brady. TradeWinds. 9 January 2020. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/finance/decade-ahead-finance-sector-forecasts-greater-focus-on-environment/2-1-722634 One of the biggest challenges facing the shipping industry as we head into the 2020s is the uncertainties surrounding new regulations and new technology.

DECADE AHEAD: 2020s seen as ‘transformational’ for boxships. Ian Lewis. TradeWinds. 9 January 2020. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/containerships/decade-ahead-2020s-seen-as-transformational-for-boxships/2-1-722864 This represents the challenges and opportunities of a carbon-neutral global shipping industry — with the 2020s poised to be the decade for us to identify and develop the new, bold solutions that will get us on track to deliver on the Herculean effort that decarbonisation requires.
How analytical statistics lead to standard specifications. Gard. 9 January 2020. Available from: http://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/28989211/how-analytical-statistics-lead-to-standard-specifications. One of the central tenets of analytical science is that the tests conducted have been verified and can be repeated by other scientists using the same methods and equipment.


Lack of low sulphur bunker to halt ship operations on east coast. P Manoj. Hindu BusinessLine (India). 12 January 2020. Available from: https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/lack-of-low-sulphur-bunker-to-halt-ship-operations-on-east-coast/article30548813.ece. Coastal shipping operations along India’s eastern coast will come to a halt this week due to lack of availability of low sulphur fuel oil which ships are mandated to use as per a new global rule that came into force from January 1 to cut emissions.


Grappling with the high cost of greening marine transportation. Timothy Renshaw. Business in Vancouver (Canada). 14 January 2020. Available from: https://biv.com/article/2020/01/grappling-high-cost-greening-container-cargo-shipping-and-other-marine. For consumers at the end of the global shipping chain, the question will be how much the shift to greener ocean carrier fuels will add to their shopping bills, because it is going to significantly increase the operating costs of container ships, tankers and other ocean carriers.


Shipping’s big bang sends two global industries spinning. Jack Wittels. gCaptain. 14 January 2020. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/shipings-big-bang-sends-two-global-industries-spinning/. Two weeks ago, the vast majority of the world’s ships were forced to change the fuel they use.


S Korea cleaner marine fuels market to grow on new ECA. Su Ling Teo, Surabhi Sahu and Charles Lee. S&P Global Platts. 16 January 2020. Available from: https://www.spglobal.com/platts/en/market-insights/latest-news/petrochemicals/011620-s-korea-cleaner-marine-fuels-market-to-grow-on-new-eca Demand for cleaner bunker fuels, including marine gasoil, in South Korea is expected to increase further, with fuel bills for shipowners likely to rise, as a result of plans to create an impending emission control area, or ECA, industry sources told S&P Global Platts.


Low sulphur fuel found to have higher black carbon emissions than HSFO. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 20 January 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/low-sulphur-fuel-found-to-have-higher-black-carbon-emissions-than-hsfo/ Mandated into law for less than three weeks and very low sulphur fuel oil (VLSFO), shipping’s new number one bunkering choice, is already facing calls to be banned, especially in Arctic waters.

Shell endorses carbon pricing for shipping. Michelle Wiese Bockmann. Lloyd’s List. 20 January 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1130705/Shell-endorses-carbon-pricing-for-shipping Oil company Royal Dutch Shell, the world’s second-largest tanker charterer, has come out in support of carbon pricing in shipping, saying any offsets could buy the industry time as alternative maritime fuels are developed for commercial application.


Fraught with environmental baggage, the cruise industry is trying to go green, but is it enough? Morgan Hines. *USA Today.* 21 January 2020. Available from: https://eu.usatoday.com/story/travel/cruises/2020/01/21/cruise-ship-environmental-impacts-how-industry-going-green/2844697001/ The cruise industry has come under fire for its environmental footprint from environmental organizations, and the U.S. Department of Justice has taken up cases against specific lines for environmental violations.


**How decarbonizing shipping could unlock a global energy transition.** Johannah Christensen. *World Economic Forum.* 22 January 2020. Available from: https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/01/decarbonizing-shipping-global-energy-transition/ Climate change requires urgent action in all sectors of the economy - including maritime shipping, which carries close to 80% of global trade and accounts for 2-3% of global greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) annually.


**The shipping industry: Its role and unique needs.** Carlos Salinas. *Manila Times.* 22 January 2020. Available from: https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/01/22/business/the-shipping-industry-its-role-and-unique-needs-2/676383/ The American writer E. B. White often cited an expression about the weather that sailors are fond of: "the weather is a great bluffer… things can look dark, then a break shows in the clouds, and all is changed, sometimes rather suddenly."


The case for direct air capture: Decarbonising shipping. David Izikowitz. *Medium.* 24 January 2020. Available from: https://medium.com/carbon-infinity/the-case-for-direct-air-capture-decarbonising-shipping-1be87e51c92c The first in this 'The Case for' series touched on the merits of using direct air capture (DAC) technology as a means to decarbonise the aviation industry.

Container lines struggling to pass sulfur bill on to customers. Katrine Grønvald Raun. ShippingWatch. 27 January 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Container/article11900759.ece The container shipping lines have not been able to push the costs of the new sulfur regulations on to customers in January.


Tankers leave Libya empty as hopes fade for end to blockade. Julian Lee. ShippingWatch. 30 January 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Tanker/article11909649.ece Tanker vessels are now leaving Libya without oil cargoes after waiting for days in vain for the blockade of the country's export terminals to end.

RESEARCH


Johansen DF and Vestvik RA. The cost of saving our ocean - estimating the funding gap of sustainable development goal 14. Marine Policy. 31 December 2019. Available from: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X19305111 While there have been estimates for the overall funding needs of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and for specific SDGs, there has been no attempt to estimate the funding needs of SDG 14, life below water, despite an impressive mobilization of financial sources the last couple of years.


Bourtoukidis E, Pozzer A, et al. The Red Sea Deep Water is a potent source of atmospheric ethane and propane. Nature Communications. 28 January 2020. Available from: https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-14375-0 Non-methane hydrocarbons (NMHCs) such as ethane and propane are significant atmospheric pollutants and precursors of tropospheric ozone, while the Middle East is a global emission hotspot due to extensive oil and gas production.

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