About the MKC Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)

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

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

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

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

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IMO NEWS & EVENTS

WHAT’S NEW

Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Advice for IMO Member States, seafarers and shipping

IMO has issued the following circular letters:

- **Circular Letter No.4204/Add.7** (3 April 2020) - Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance concerning unforeseen delays in the delivery of ships
- **Circular Letter No.4204/Add.6** (27 March 2020) Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Preliminary list of recommendations for Governments and relevant national authorities on the facilitation of maritime trade during the COVID-19 pandemic
- **Circular Letter No.4204/Add.5** (17 March 2020) Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance relating to the certification of seafarers
- **Circular Letter No.4204/Add.4** (5 March 2020) contains ICS Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for ship operators for the protection of the health of seafarers
- **Circular Letter No.4204/Add.3** (2 March 2020) - Operational considerations for managing COVID-19 cases/outbreak on board ships
- **Circular Letter No.4204/Add.2** (21 February 2020) contains the Joint Statement IMO-WHO on the Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak and encourages Member States and international organizations to disseminate it as widely as possible. Available in the six official languages of the United Nations system.
- **Circular Letter No.4204/Add.1** (19 February 2020) provides advice on Implementation and enforcement of relevant IMO instruments
- **Circular Letter No.4203/Add.1** (12 February 2020) provides information and guidance on the precautions to be taken to minimize risks to delegates
- **Circular Letter No.4204** (31 January 2020) providing information and guidance, based on recommendations developed by the World Health Organization (WHO), on the precautions to be taken to minimize risks to seafarers, passengers and others on board ships from the coronavirus.

More...
IMO MEETINGS FOR 2020

IMO postpones further meetings due to COVID-19 (updated)

IMO has announced further meeting postponements, in the light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

• the 7th session of the Sub-Committee on Human Element Training and Watchkeeping (HTW) scheduled to take place from 1 to 5 June 2020.

• the 70th session of the Technical Cooperation Committee (TC), scheduled to take place from 15 to 18 June 2020.

More...

LATEST PRESS BRIEFINGS

Tackling COVID-19 – a voyage together
Briefing: March 19, 2020

The power of visibility – IMO launches photo search for women in maritime
Briefing: March 6, 2020

IMO 2020 sulphur limit implementation - carriage ban enters into force
Briefing: March 2, 2020

RECENT SPEECHES BY IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL KITACK LIM

Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE 7), 2-6 March 2020
(Opening remarks)

IMO NEWS MAGAZINE
(Winter 2019)

IMO PUBLISHING
Just Published 2020
March 2020 Newsletter
**UNITED NATIONS**

**UN health agency warns against coronavirus COVID-19 criminal scams.** *UN News.*
29 February 2020. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1058381](https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1058381) Criminal elements, says the UN health agency, are posing as WHO representatives, and recommends that, if anyone is contacting by a person or organization claiming to be from the Organization, they should take steps to verify their authenticity.

UN Humanitarian Chief Mark Lowcock today released US$15 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to help fund global efforts to contain the COVID-19 virus.

**World Wildlife Day: UN chief urges ‘more caring’ relationship with nature.** *UN News.*
People everywhere need to remember that we depend on Mother Earth to survive, the UN chief said in his message for World Wildlife Day marked on Tuesday, advocating for “a more caring, thoughtful and sustainable relationship with nature”.

The extent of the damage to the global economy caused by novel coronavirus COVID-19 moved further into focus on Wednesday as UN economists announced a likely $50 billion drop in worldwide manufacturing exports in February alone.

The slowdown of manufacturing in China due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is disrupting world trade and could result in a $US50 billion decrease in exports across global value chains, according to estimates published by UNCTAD on 4 March.

The organizing committee of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), a major UN conference scheduled to take place in March, has decided to cut the event down to a one-day meeting, citing current concerns surrounding the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

Disadvantaged children are the worst-hit by the emergency measures, declared UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay: “While temporary school closures as a result of health and other crises are not new, unfortunately, the global scale and speed of the current educational disruption is unparalleled and, if prolonged, could threaten the right to education.”

The report finds faltering progress and notes that hard-won advances are being reversed by rampant inequality, climate change, conflict and exclusionary politics.
Report reveals nearly 90 per cent of all people have ‘a deeply ingrained bias’ against women. UN News. 5 March 2020. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/03/1058731 The first UNDP Gender Social Norms Index analyzed data from 75 countries, which are collectively home to more than 80 per cent of the global population, and found new clues to the invisible barriers women face in achieving equality – potentially forging a path forward to breaking through the so-called “glass ceiling”.

Coronavirus update: UN addresses school disruptions, suspends public access to New York Headquarters. UN News. 10 March 2020. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/03/1059121 In an attempt to slow the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, classrooms have been shuttered across the world, causing a record number of students to miss school, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization said on Tuesday.

Flagship UN study shows accelerating climate change on land, sea and in the atmosphere. UN News 10 March 2020. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/03/1059061 A wide-ranging UN climate report, released on Tuesday, shows that climate change is having a major effect on all aspects of the environment, as well as on the health and wellbeing of the global population.


COVID-19 and the world of work: Impact and policy responses

Swift policy action, strong leadership can save millions of jobs, ‘avert the worst’ amid COVID-19 pandemic. UN News. 18 March 2020. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/03/1059672 As dire forecasts about the global economy add to the anxiety surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN’s labour agency (ILO) on Thursday offered a range of urgent measures, which, if governments act quickly, can help to protect workers in the workplace, stimulate the economy and save millions of jobs.

UN health chief announces global ‘solidarity trial’ to jumpstart search for COVID-19 treatment. UN News. 18 March 2020. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/03/1059722 Just 60 days after the genetic sequence of COVID-19 was shared by China, the first vaccine trial has begun, the UN health chief said on Wednesday, calling it “an incredible achievement” and urging the world to maintain “the same spirit of solidarity” that has helped fight Ebola.

‘Solidarity, hope’ and coordinated global response needed to tackle COVID-19 pandemic, says UN chief. UN News. 19 March 2020. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/03/1059752 As public fear and uncertainty grow around the COVID-19 pandemic, “more than ever before, we need solidarity, hope and the political will to see this crisis through together,” UN Secretary-General António Guterres said on Thursday in his first virtual press conference.


‘Concerted efforts’ needed to meet 2030 Global Goals in Asia-Pacific region. *UN News.* 25 March 2020. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/03/1060162](https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/03/1060162) Action to reverse the depletion and degradation of the environment across Asia and the Pacific is a top priority if the region is to stay on course to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to a new United Nations report launched online, for the first time, on Tuesday.

**CASUALTIES**

**Polaris Shipping: Stellar Banner has not leaked oil.** Michael Juliano. *Trade Winds.* 29 February 2020. Available from: [https://www.tradewindsnews.com/bulkers/polaris-shipping-stellar-banner-has-not-leaked-oil/2-1-764879](https://www.tradewindsnews.com/bulkers/polaris-shipping-stellar-banner-has-not-leaked-oil/2-1-764879) Polaris Shipping, owner of the ill-fated *Stellar Banner,* has determined that no oil has leaked from the VLOC as a result of running aground off the coast of Brazil.

**Salvage OSRVs Reach the Stranded Vessel Site.** Vale. 29 February 2020. Available from: [http://www.vale.com/EN/aboutvale/news/Pages/salvage-OSRVs-reach-the-stranded-vessel-site.aspx](http://www.vale.com/EN/aboutvale/news/Pages/salvage-OSRVs-reach-the-stranded-vessel-site.aspx) Vale informs that the two Oil Spill Recovery Vessels (OSRVs) mobilized with support from Petrobras have since this morning been at the site where the *MV Stellar Banner* is stranded, 100 kilometers off the coast of São Luís, in the state of Maranhão, Brazil.

**13 missing after cargo ship rams fishing boat off northern Aomori.** Asahi Shimbun *(Japan).* 2 March 2020. Available from: [http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/13179966](http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/13179966) Thirteen crew members of a Belize-flagged cargo ship are missing after it collided with a Japanese fishing vessel off this northeastern prefecture.

**Polaris Shipping aims to take bunkers off Stellar Banner.** Irene Ang. *Trade Winds.* 3 March 2020. Available from: [https://www.tradewindsnews.com/bulkers/polaris-shipping-aims-to-take-bunkers-off-stellar-banner/2-1-765855](https://www.tradewindsnews.com/bulkers/polaris-shipping-aims-to-take-bunkers-off-stellar-banner/2-1-765855) A grounded and laden very large ore carrier is being examined by divers on Brazil’s coast as owner Polaris Shipping gears up to remove bunkers from the vessel, the outfit said.


**Divers discover significant damage near the bow of grounded Polaris VLOC.** Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.* 5 March 2020. Available from: [https://splash247.com/divers-discover-significant-damage-near-the-bow-of-grounded-polaris-vloc/](https://splash247.com/divers-discover-significant-damage-near-the-bow-of-grounded-polaris-vloc/) The latest update from the Brazilian navy shows there’s significant damage near the bow of the *Stellar Banner,* a fully laden Polaris Shipping very large ore carrier that ran aground nine days ago 100 km into its journey from South America to China.


*Annexes*
Arab nations sound alarm over oil tanker moored off Yemen. The National (United Arab Emirates). 21 March 2020. Available from: https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/arab-nations-sound-alarm-over-oil-tanker-moored-off-yemen-1.995369 Six Arab countries are urging the UN Security Council to exercise “maximum efforts” to persuade Yemen’s Houthis to allow the United Nations to inspect a tanker moored in the Red Sea while loaded with over a million barrels to prevent “widespread environmental damage, a humanitarian disaster and the disruption of maritime commerce”.


ENVIRONMENT


The Caribbean can make waves with a blue ocean economy. Gerard Alleng. *Climate Home News*. 6 March 2020. Available from: https://www.climatechangenews.com/2020/03/06/caribbean-can-make-waves-blue-ocean-economy/. Due to their geography, they’re usually more susceptible to disasters and extreme weather events, have limited access to freshwater and land for agriculture, and scarce development options and international trade opportunities.

Cruises Come With Human Health Risks. They Can Be Just As Harmful To The Environment. Amelia Tait. *Huffington Post UK*. 7 March 2020. Available from: https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/cruise-ships-environmental-damage_uk_5e63a408c5b68d616454fc28. In 2012, London-based couple Ben Hewitt and David McDonald were invited to a friend’s wedding they feared was going to be “awful.”


**ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION**


**HEALTH & SAFETY**


Coronavirus leads to cancellation of the biggest shipping conferences. Trine Vestergaard. *ShippingWatch*. 2 March 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/article11977027.ece TPM 2020, which was to take place this week in Long Beach, California, was cancelled at the last minute as a consequence of the coronavirus outbreak.


**Grand Princess Update.** *Princess Cruises*. 4 March 2020. Available from: https://www.princess.com/news/notices_and_advisories/notices/grand-princess-updates.html After collaboration with and guidance from the U.S. Centers of Disease Control (CDC) and local authorities, Princess Cruises can confirm the following proactive measures to ensure the continued safety and well-being of our guests on board *Grand Princess*. 

The new guidelines are based on the International Maritime Organization Guidelines on Fatigue (MSC.1/Circ.1598) and are aimed at regulated Australian and foreign flagged vessels. Fatigue Guidelines


A former cruise ship passenger has died from coronavirus almost two weeks after he returned home, marking California's first death from the illness and the 11th death across the US.


The comprehensive 22-page document has been produced in collaboration with prominent international bodies including: The World Health Organization; The International Maritime Organization; The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control; The International Maritime Health Association.


Christian Santos remembers staying awake at night, anxiously listening to the sound of his colleague coughing.


As we mark this sombre moment, the World Health Organization reminds all countries and communities that the spread of this virus can be significantly slowed or even reversed through the implementation of robust containment and control activities.


U.S. citizens, particularly travelers with underlying health conditions, should not travel by cruise ship.


The State of California has been working in partnership with the federal government to aid in the safe return of passengers from the Grand Princess.


In a joint statement on Monday, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and Singapore Tourism Board (STB) said: "The doctor on board the cruise ship will check on passengers and crew in order to ensure that they are healthy prior to disembarkation."
Coronavirus Protocols: Important Update for Seafarers. Seafarers International Union (SIU). 9 March 2020. Available from: https://www.seafarers.org/coronavirus-protocols-important-update-for-seafarers/ Consistent with Seafarers Appeals Board Action 480, effective immediately, if you have returned from any of the countries identified by the World Health Organization as “hotspots” for the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the last 14 days, DO NOT ENTER ANY HIRING HALL.


Femfi takes measures in addressing mental health awareness for seamen. Genici Factao. Manila Times. 11 March 2020. Available from: https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/03/11/business/maritime-business/femfi-takes-measures-in-addressing-mental-health-awareness-for-seamen/702168/ Far East Maritime Foundation Inc. (Femfi) has taken a suicide prevention action plan for seafarers, for them to be able to work productively and make a fruitful contribution to the economy.


Cruise passengers kept on board in Hobart due to Tasmanian coronavirus cases. ABC (Australia). 14 March 2020. Available from: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-14/cruise-ship-passengers-arriving-in-hobart/12056370. Over 3,000 cruise ship passengers and staff have been barred from disembarking in Hobart, after the captain decided the risk of people becoming infected with coronavirus was too great, with five cases recorded in Tasmania so far.

Coronavirus: Centre directs returning seafarers to self-quarantine for 14 days. P. Manoj. Hindu BusinessLine (India). 17 March 2020. Available from: https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/coronavirus-centre-directs-returning-seafarers-to-self-quarantine-for-14-days/article31088595.ece The Director General of Shipping (DG Shipping) has asked seafarers who have travelled to coronavirus-infected regions overseas to “self-quarantine immediately on arrival in India for at least a period of 14 days”.


Ruby Princess logged 158 cases of illness before passengers disembarked without coronavirus testing. Ben Smee. The Guardian. 21 March 2020. Available from: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/21/ruby-princess-logged-158-cases-of-illness-before-passengers-disembarked-without-coronavirus-testing The Ruby Princess cruise ship, which docked in Sydney this week and has been linked to six confirmed Australian coronavirus cases, had previously logged 158 instances of illness onboard, according to a News Corp report.


Seafarers call for better support, transparency and information on COVID-19-[Updated].
*Human Rights at Sea (HRAS).* 23 March 2020. Available from: https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/2020/03/23/seafarers-call-for-better-support-transparency-and-information-on-covid19/ Human Rights at Sea has been deluged with cases of seafarers seeking to highlight their plight after being retained on vessels after sign-off, left ashore in foreign countries unable to return to their families without funds, and not having sufficient information being passed to them due to the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis.


Coronavirus – implications for ships and crew. *GARD.* 24 March 2020. Available from: http://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/29112071/coronavirus-implications-for-ships-and-crew Countries around the world are strengthening their border control measures in order to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 and port authorities continue to be in a heightened state of alert in order to identify crew members or passengers displaying symptoms compatible with the disease.


IMO

IMO's draft HFO “ban” is nothing of the sort. Bryan Comer. *International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT).* 27 February 2020. Available from: https://theicct.org/blog/staff/imo-draft-hfo-ban-2020 Last week’s meeting of the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) 7th annual Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) subcommittee was billed as an “Arctic Summit,” and judging by the draft language to ban the use and carriage for use of heavy fuel oil (HFO) by ships in Arctic waters that resulted, the meeting was, in many ways, chilling.
IMO urged to consider market-based measures for emissions. Anastassios Adamopoulos. Lloyd’s List. 28 February 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1131318/IMO-urged-to-consider-marketbased-measures-for-emissions Economic incentives have been a controversial topic for governments previously. But with increasing industry acceptance that eventually they will be necessary, will the IMO manage to agree to one?

IMO is a writer not a fighter. Malcolm Latarche. ShipInsight. 4 March 2020. Available from: https://shipinsight.com/articles/imo-is-a-writer-not-a-fighter Whether its an environmental group lamenting the slow pace of regulation of shipping, an equipment manufacturer with some new piece of kit it thinks ought to be mandated, a member state with a particular axe to grind or even a ship operator appalled at new rules promulgated without regard to cost or practicality, the IMO is constantly accused of falling down and not coming up with the goods.

China dropped out of European IMO-proposal due to corona. Katrine Grønvald Raun. ShippingWatch. 9 March 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/regulation/article11993624.ece France, Denmark and Germany are behind a proposal that aims to lower ships’ emissions a few years from now.


Determined to make shipping more integrated and efficient part of global supply chain. CargoConnect. 19 March 2020. Available from: http://cargoconnect.co.in/?p=528 Kitack Lim, Secretary General, IMO in an exclusive interview with Saurabh Sharma articulates about their security policies, sulphur fuel mandate, India’s accession to the ship recycling treaty, and the organisation’s efforts towards UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).


**LAW & POLICY**


Canada’s ‘dynamic’ plan to protect endangered right whales rests on robots. Elizabeth Pennisi. Science. 28 February 2020. Available from: https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/02/canada-s-dynamic-plan-protect-endangered-right-whales-rests-robots With only about 400 North Atlantic right whales remaining, the Canadian government is stepping up its efforts to keep them safe, even as it tries to keep the nation’s lucrative snow crab and lobster fisheries in business.


North Pentecost chiefs declare marine ban. Vanuatu Daily Post. 3 March 2020. Available from: https://dailypost.vu/news/north-pentecost-chiefs-declare-marine-ban/article_00204848-5cca-11ea-86c2-8fcd4b00ae36.html A 1.38km coastline from Lamalana to Laone in north west Pentecost has been declared recently as a marine protected area following a custom ceremony performed by high ranking chiefs from the area.


Is China’s Belt Road Initiative the start of a new Cold War? Andre Wheeler. Splash 247.com. 5 March 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/is-chinas-belt-road-initiative-the-start-of-a-new-cold-war/ Whilst there has been much commentary around the Belt Road Initiative (BRI) and its geopolitical intentions, not much has been said about the way the Digital Silk Road is seen as being essential to deliver the BRI outcomes.

Pressure builds on EU to dump aviation’s licence to pollute. Sam Morgan. EurActiv. 6 March 2020. Available from: https://www.euractiv.com/section/aviation/news/pressure-builds-on-eu-to-dump-aviations-licence-to-pollute/ EU environment ministers suggested on Thursday (5 March) that airlines should no longer be issued free pollution permits by the bloc’s carbon market, as a review of the emissions trading system fast approaches.

US Coast Guard has no IMO 2020 whistleblowers to report. Matt Coyne. TradeWinds. 6 March 2020. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/law/us-coast-guard-has-no-imo-2020-whistleblowers-to-report/2-1-768207 Whistleblowers have not yet come forward to report IMO 2020 infractions, according to the head of the US Coast Guard.


UAE takes action against MSC over failure to adhere to new HSFO carriage ban. Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*. 16 March 2020. Available from: [https://splash247.com/uae-takes-action-against-msc-over-failure-to-adhere-to-new-hsfo-carriage-ban](https://splash247.com/uae-takes-action-against-msc-over-failure-to-adhere-to-new-hsfo-carriage-ban) The MSC Joanna, a 9,200 teu boxship, has been banned from calling in UAE waters for a year and the ship’s master cannot work on any ships visiting the Middle Eastern nation and faces legal action as the ship becomes one of the first landmark failures to adhere to the new March 1 ban on the carriage high sulphur fuel oil (HSFO).

You have 'little recourse' if you get coronavirus on a cruise, maritime law expert warns. Catherine Thorbecke. *ABC News (US)*. 16 March 2020. Available from: [https://abcnews.go.com/Business/recourse-coronavirus-cruise-maritime-law-expert-warms/story?id=69501800](https://abcnews.go.com/Business/recourse-coronavirus-cruise-maritime-law-expert-warms/story?id=69501800) While the novel coronavirus outbreak on massive cruise liners has quarantined thousands, sickened hundreds and even resulted in a handful of deaths, one maritime law expert warns that there may be very little legal recourse that can be taken by those whose lives have been impacted by the pandemic at sea.


Joint Open Letter to United Nations agencies from the global maritime transport industry. *International Chamber of Shipping (ICS).* 19 March 2020. Available from: [https://bit.ly/2xBUSB](https://bit.ly/2xBUSB) As the COVID-19 pandemic takes hold it is vital that all governments keep maritime trade moving by continuing to allow commercial ships access to ports worldwide and by facilitating the movement and rapid changeover of ships’ crews.


**MARINE TECHNOLOGY**

Digital disruption holds virtual key to climate action, researchers say. Megan Rowling. Reuters. 2 March 2020. Available from: https://reut.rs/2wsLFXg As the digital revolution hurtles on at breakneck speed, states, businesses and individuals should work together to harness technology to create low-carbon, fairer societies - or risk that vision being undermined, a research group warned on Monday.

Schiebel, Nordic Unmanned successfully test Camcopter S-100 equipped with sniffer capability. Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI). 2 March 2020. Available from: https://www.auvsi.org/industry-news/schiebel-nordic-unmanned-successfully-test-camcopter-s-100-equipped-sniffer-capability The entities note that ships operating in Europe’s busiest sea routes are allowed to emit exhaust fumes with a Sulphur oxide content limited to no more than 0.1 percent.

Will wind-assisted propulsion blow the maritime industry away? Adele Berti. Ship-technology.com. 3 March 2020. Available from: https://www.ship-technology.com/features/wind-assisted-ship-propulsion/ A partnership between NAPA and C-Job Naval Architects is studying the applications of wind-assisted propulsion using voyage optimisation software, hoping to ultimately drive the industry away from polluting fuels and help it prepare for the IMO’s ever-stricter requirements.


Sea Trials Begin for Mayflower Autonomous Ship’s 'AI Captain'. IBM. 5 March 2020. Available from: https://newsroom.ibm.com/2020-03-05-Sea-Trials-Begin-for-Mayflower-Autonomous-Ships-Al-Captain IBM and marine research organization Promare, have announced that a new ‘AI Captain’, which will enable the Mayflower Autonomous Ship (MAS) to self-navigate across the Atlantic later this year, is to go to sea this month for testing.


Bureau Veritas launches digital classification in Rotterdam. Katrine Gørnvald Raun. ShippingWatch. 11 March 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/suppliers/article11999175.ece Classification firm Bureau Veritas is now going digital and will open its first remotely operated center in Rotterdam, a main hub for shipping.


The Digital Age and the Evolving Role of Ship Agents. Mikael Lind and Juan Carlos Croston. Maritime Executive. 16 March 2020. Available from: https://maritime-executive.com/blog/the-digital-age-and-the-evolving-role-of-ship-agents Traditionally, a ship agent (as a representative of the owner, the charterer -or both- of a visiting ship), ensures that the essential requirements for a ship visit are arranged and met.

The application of blockchain in Malta’s maritime and shipping industry. Nina Fauser. Times of Malta. 18 March 2020. Available from: https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/the-application-of-blockchain-in-malta’s-maritime-and-shipping-industry.779009  By definition, a blockchain is a system, within which transactions made in a cryptocurrency are recorded and maintained across several computers, which are linked in a peer-to-peer network.


**MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING**


Developing the country’s maritime human capital Brenda V. Pimentel. Manila Times. 4 March 2020. Available from: https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/03/04/business/maritime-business/developing-the-countrys-maritime-human-capital/699970/  It has been seven years since I had a friend publish in her maritime magazine an article, which calls attention to the bias in maritime educational programs focused on responding to the demand for seafarers.


Developing the country's maritime human capital [Last part]. Brenda V. Pimentel. Manila Times. 11 March 2020. Available from: https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/03/11/business/maritime-business/developing-the-countrys-maritime-human-capital-2/702162/. Until the adoption of the STCW Convention which sets the global standard for seafarers’ training and certification, merchant marine courses received the same attention as any higher education learning, except at that time, seafarers engaged in international voyages were already offered higher compensation packages than most professions.


**MARITIME SAFETY**


Steady on the stairs! *GARD*. 17 March 2020. Available from: [http://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/29369055/steady-on-the-stairs](http://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/29369055/steady-on-the-stairs) When walking up or down stairs onboard, apply the old adage of ‘one hand for yourself and one for the ship’ and keep one hand free to grasp the handrail.


**North Korea fires two projectiles into sea. *BBC News*. 21 March 2020. Available from: [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/asia-51984344](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/asia-51984344) They were launched early on Saturday from Pyongan province towards the East Sea, also known as the Sea of Japan.

**MARITIME SECURITY**


The United States and Gabon Assume the Co-Secretariat of the Friends of Gulf of Guinea.
US Department of State. 4 March 2020. Available from: https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-and-gabon-assume-the-co-secretariat-of-the-friends-of-gulf-of-guinea/ The Department of State is pleased to announce that the United States and the Republic of Gabon have assumed the co-secretariat of the Friends of Gulf of Guinea, also known as the FoGG, for calendar year 2020.

The curious case of Saudi WBIED attacks in the Gulf of Aden. Dryad Global.

Gulf of Guinea Security [Joint Press Releases, Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Round Table of International Shipping Associations (11 Feb 2020 Rome)]. INTERTANKO.


IMO 2021: Shipping now needs to get to grips with cyber security. Paul Berrill. TradeWinds.

This startup is using AI to investigate crime on the high seas. Omer Benjakob. WIRED UK. 18 March 2020. Available from: https://www.wired.co.uk/article/ship-tracking-windward-ai Set up by two former Israeli navy intelligence officers in 2010, Tel Aviv-based Windward is a relentless ocean sleuth.

MIGRANTS


A drop in the ocean: how one plane is trying to save thousands of migrants in the Mediterranean. Sophia Vahanvaty. The National (United Arab Emirates). 13 March 2020. Available from: https://www.thenational.ae/world/europe/a-drop-in-the-ocean-how-one-plane-is-trying-to-save-thousands-of-migrants-in-the-mediterranean-1.991301 As one of a dozen volunteer pilots with the Swiss NGO Humanitarian Pilot’s Initiative (HPI), he conducts search and rescue aerial reconnaissance missions over the Mediterranean, attempting to spot migrant crafts, finding nearby ships to assist and reminding them of their obligation by international law to rescue boats in distress.

NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS


There are downsides to making decisions in isolation. GARD. 3 March 2020. Available from: http://www.gard.no/web/uploads/content/29290809/there-are-downsides-to-making-decisions-in-isolation In an isolated decision-making style decisions are made without consulting the people who will be affected by the decision.


Coronavirus-hit Italian cruise ship to dock in south of France. Marc Leras and Geert De Clercq. 
*Reuters*. 18 March 2020. Available from: [https://reut.rs/3e3k6F0](https://reut.rs/3e3k6F0)  An Italian cruise ship that earlier in its voyage disembarked two passengers who later tested positive for coronavirus has been authorized to dock in Marseille in the south of France, a port authorities spokesman said on Wednesday.


Connecting crew during COVID-19. Ronald Spithout. *Inmarsat*. 26 March 2020. Available from: [https://www.inmarsat.com/blog/connecting-crew-during-covid-19/](https://www.inmarsat.com/blog/connecting-crew-during-covid-19/)  Given Inmarsat’s position as the leading provider of maritime VSAT services at sea, it is hardly surprising that we have been alert to the direct connection between coronavirus and surging demand for crew voice call and data services.


**PIRACY**


Seven crew kidnapped from Greek boxship off Gabon. Dale Wainwright and Gary Dixon. *TradeWinds*. 23 March 2020 Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/seven-crew-kidnapped-from-greek-boxship-off-gabon/2-1-779010 Seven crew members are reported to have been kidnapped from a Greek-owned feeder containership of Gabon in West Africa.

**PORT STATE CONTROL**


Shipowners and operators could face detention of ships from 1st March under IMO rule. *International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)*. 2 March 2020. Available from: https://bit.ly/34foR9K Port state control authorities will begin to enforce the IMO’s Sulphur 2020 from 1st March, making it an offense for ships to carry fuel that contains a sulphur content higher than 0.5 percent unless the ship has an Exhaust Gas Cleaning System.


Singapore sets entry ban due to fear of coronavirus. *ShippingWatch*. 5 March 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/article11985913.ece Seafarers and passengers who have been to China, South Korea, Iran or northern Italy within the past 14 days will no longer be able to enter Singapore, as the country at midnight Wednesday introduced an entry ban, informs Singapore’s Maritime and Port Authority, MPA, in a press release.

With cruise ships being seen as fertile grounds for the Coronavirus (Covid-19), Mormugao Port Trust (MPT) has decide to turn away all international cruise vessels till the end of this month, as a precautionary measure.


Passengers of British coronavirus-hit cruise ship evacuate in Cuba. Sarah Marsh and Nelson Acosta. Reuters. 18 March 2020. Available from: https://reut.rs/39TfFcB Passengers aboard a British cruise ship that has been stranded for more than a week in the Caribbean after several cases of the new coronavirus were confirmed onboard disembarked in Cuba on Wednesday in order to fly home.

Australia slams door on cargo ships; desperately needed goods at risk. Seatrade Maritime News. 19 March 2020. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/opinions-analysis/australia-slams-door-cargo-ships-desperately-needed-goods-risk Late yesterday morning (March 18) Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) banned all commercial ships from entering ports in Queensland if the ship, or any person onboard, has been in any country outside of Australia within the last 14-days.

Nearly half of coronavirus-hit cruise ship passengers can disembark in Marseille. Marc Leras and Geert De Clercq. *Reuters*. 19 March 2020. Available from: [https://reut.rs/2XfTudM](https://reut.rs/2XfTudM) Passengers who have tickets to travel back to their home countries will be allowed to disembark from the coronavirus-hit Costa Luminosa cruise ship in Marseille, the port authority and the cruise operator said on Thursday.

**Italy closes all ports to cruise ships.** *The Local (Italy)*. 20 March 2020. Available from: [https://www.thelocal.it/20200320/italy-closes-all-ports-to-cruise-ships](https://www.thelocal.it/20200320/italy-closes-all-ports-to-cruise-ships) The transportation ministry said late Thursday that Italian ships already at sea will have to return to port and undergo tests on all crew and passengers.


Non-compliant or missing paperwork main causes for detentions in UK. Gabriella Twining. *Safety at Sea*. 23 March 2020. Available from: [https://safetyatsea.net/news/2020/non-compliant-or-missing-paperwork-main-causes-for-detentions-in-uk/](https://safetyatsea.net/news/2020/non-compliant-or-missing-paperwork-main-causes-for-detentions-in-uk/) Non-compliant or missing certificates and implementation of the International Safety Management (ISM) code was the basis for seven out of the ten vessel detentions carried out by the Maritime Coast Agency (MCA) in the UK in February.

Public Health Responses to COVID-19 Outbreaks on Cruise Ships — Worldwide, February–March 2020. *US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*. 23 March 2020. Available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6912e3.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6912e3.htm) More than 800 cases of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases occurred during outbreaks on three cruise ship voyages, and cases linked to several additional cruises have been reported across the United States.


Stop ‘infested’ ships from entering our ports. Ghana Maritime Authority. 25 March 2020. Available from: https://www.ghanamaritime.org/news_page.php?id=89 The Ghana Maritime Authority has directed all seaports to prevent from entering the country any ship whose crew are suspected to be infected with the coronavirus.


At least 13 crew members evacuated as cruise ships carrying people with flu-like symptoms sail off Florida. Stephanie Gallman and Rosa Flores. CNN. 26 March 2020. Available from: https://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/cruise-ship-zaandam-flu-symptoms-florida/index.html At least 13 crew members who were displaying respiratory symptoms consistent with pneumonia and bronchitis have been evacuated from two cruise ships near Florida, according to Miami-Dade County government.

Statement[s] Regarding Zaandam. Holland America Line. 28 March 2020. Available from: https://www.hollandamerica.com/blog/ships/ms-zaandam/statement-regarding-zaandam/ We are aware of reported permission for both Zaandam and Rotterdam to transit the Panama Canal in the near future.

Covid-19 Map. V. Group Ltd. 2020. Available from: https://vgrouplimited.com/covid-19-map This map provides that latest updates on the restrictions that ports are imposing on vessels and crews as well as any other relevant updates coming from that country.

PORTS & HARBOURS

COVID-19 virus: how vulnerable are European container ports to the drop in Chinese port volumes? Theo Notteboom. Port Economics. 27 February 2020. Available from: http://www.porteconomics.eu/2020/02/27/covid-19-virus-how-vulnerable-are-european-container-ports-to-the-drop-in-chinese-port-volumes/ At the time of writing there were more than 73,000 cases of the COVID-19 virus and more than 1,850 deaths. China, and particularly the Hubei province, is responsible for most of the recorded cases and deaths.
Port of Tyne first UK port to become a connected ports partner. *Port of Tyne.* 2 March 2020. Available from: [https://www.portoftyne.co.uk/news-and-media/news/port-of-tyne-first-uk-port-to-become-a-connected-ports-partner](https://www.portoftyne.co.uk/news-and-media/news/port-of-tyne-first-uk-port-to-become-a-connected-ports-partner) The global data and resource sharing initiative was welcomed by the new Maritime Minister, Kelly Tolhurst MP, as she congratulated the Port of Tyne on being at the forefront of driving innovation across the North East’s international logistics cluster.


American and European ports suffer record low container equipment availability. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 16 March 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/american-and-european-ports-suffer-record-low-container-equipment-availability. The massive box imbalance brought about by the trade war and then the coronavirus sees Chinese ports rammed full of boxes waiting to move, while carriers are urgently deploying extra tonnage to other hubs where equipment shortages are now at their lowest levels ever.

Cruise passenger traffic in Singapore down 52% since COVID-19 outbreak; STB to give industry more support. Aqil Haziq Mahmud. Channel News Asia. 18 March 2020. Available from: https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/cruise-passenger-traffic-down-covid-19-stb-more-support-12549696. Cruise passenger traffic in Singapore has fallen by 52 per cent year-on-year since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak on Jan 23, the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) said as it pledged to give the industry more support.


Overview: Ports across the globe have put restrictions on ships and seafarers. Niklas Krigslund. ShippingWatch. 19 March 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/Ports/article12022174.ece. Ports all over the world have introduced restrictions on ships and crew arriving from corona-stricken countries.

China Shipping Exports Rebound, Just as Western Ports Cope With Coronavirus Downturn. Hellenic Shipping News. 21 March 2020. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/china-shipping-exports-rebound-just-as-western-ports-cope-with-coronavirus-downturn/. Two months after a near complete standstill in China that rattled global supply chains, the country’s ports are again pushing out thousands of containers that were stranded at the onset of the coronavirus outbreak.


India lockdown: Ports declare force majeure, ship operations go awry. Carina Li, Rason Chen, Angeline Cheong, Pradeep Rajan, Sameer Mohindru and Ratnajyoti Dutta. *S&P Global Platts*. 25 March 2020. Available from: [https://bit.ly/2JHvPLg](https://bit.ly/2JHvPLg) India’s three-week nationwide lockdown to contain the deadly coronavirus pandemic will delay both imports and exports of commodities such as crude, coal, iron ore, vegetable oils and refined energy products as several ports have declared force majeure, while shipping operations across its sprawling coastline are going awry.


**REGULATIONS**


We refer owners and members to the club’s circular issued on 4 June 2015 on the Regulations of the People’s Republic of China on the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships and the requirement that owners/operators of (a) any ship carrying polluting and hazardous cargoes in bulk or (b) any other ship above 10,000 GT enter into a pollution clean-up contract with a Ship Pollution Response Organisation before the ship enters a PRC port or engages in loading.

**SALVAGE**

**Stellar Banner Update: De-Bunkering Plan Submitted for Review.** Mike Schuller. gCaptain. 3 March 2020. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/stellar-banner-update-de-bunkering-plan-submitted-for-review-images/ Official in Brazil continue to confirm that the grounded Stellar Banner remains stable as plans to remove fuel oil from the vessel progresses.

**Stellar Banner Debunkering Continuing.** Mike Schuler. gCaptain. 20 March 2020. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/stellar-banner-debunkering-continuing/ Salvage crews are continuing with the debunkering operation on the grounded MV Stellar Banner off Brazil.


**SEAFARERS**

**Shipping accused of being worse than Big Tobacco when it comes to human rights and sustainability.** Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 4 March 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/shipping-accused-of-being-worse-than-big-tobacco-when-it-comes-to-human-rights-and-sustainability/ It is almost a decade since the United Nations adopted its principles on business and human rights, but a new report out this week suggests shipping continues to ignore the livelihoods of its most precious commodity, the men and women working at sea, with international shipping groups coming in for particular stick.


**Are the 2011 UN Guiding Principles Working Effectively and being Rigorously Applied in the Maritime Industry?**


Filipino seafarers have a hard time when onshore. Safety4Sea. 8 March 2020. Available from: https://safety4sea.com/filipino-seafarers-have-a-hard-time-when-onshore/ Filipino seafarers have to deal with stress beginning from shore, months prior to their shipboard deployment when training, assessments and examinations consume a chunk of their shore leave.

Celebrating women at sea. International Seafarers’ Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN). 8 March 2020. Available from: https://www.seafarerswelfare.org/news/2020/celebrating-women-at-sea-part-1 In honour of International Women’s Day today, we spoke to a group of women from across the industry about their work as seafarers and asked what advice they would give to others wishing to follow the same path. Part 2 Part 3


ICS to convene emergency global crew change meeting on Thursday. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 17 March 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/ics-to-convene-emergency-global-crew-change-meeting-on-thursday. The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) will be using its convening power to bring national shipowning associations from around the world together on Thursday for the first of an ongoing set of meetings designed to identify swift and effective solutions with crew change near the top of the agenda.

Crew members could be at risk as ships are being prevented from taking on supplies because of Coronavirus, says ISSA. Ship Management International. 17 March 2020. Available from: http://shipmanagementinternational.com/crew-members-could-be-at-risk-as-ships-are-being-prevented-from-taking-on-supplies-because-of-coronavirus-says-issa. Seafarers could be the ones to suffer as ships find themselves unable to take on essential medical supplies and provisions as the extent of the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic takes hold around the world, according to the International Shipsuppliers & Services Association (ISSA).


An update to better reflect the way we are known by those we serve. *Apostleship of the Sea (AoS)*. 18 March 2020. Available from: https://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/update-better-reflect-way-we-are-known-those-we-serve Apostleship of the Sea has long been known as Stella Maris by seafarers and fishers across the globe and so, as part of our Centenary this year, we are refreshing our logo and updating our name to better reflect the way we are known by those we serve.


Maritime professionals top of agenda as Union and social partners lobby for vital protections. *Nautilus International*. 20 March 2020. Available from: https://bit.ly/3aW78qy The importance of maritime and shipping professionals to the world economy has been driven home by Nautilus International in highlighting the vital role they play keeping trade and goods flowing – including medical supplies - during the coronavirus pandemic.


Sailors trapped off UAE coast for 9 months appeal for help. Mazhar Farooqui. Gulf News (UAE). 21 March 2020. Available from: https://gulfnews.com/uae/sailors-trapped-off-uae-coast-for-9-months-appeal-for-help-1.70540560 Eight sailors trapped on a ship off the UAE for the past nine months have send out an SOS as some of them have taken ill.

All fishing vessels to discontinue any crew changes on high seas or at any port visited. Iva Danford. Fiji Village. 23 March 2020. Available from: https://fijivillage.com/news/All-fishing-vessels-to-discontinue-any-crew-changes-on-high-seas-or-at-any-port-visited-xt845r/ The Fiji Ports Corporation Limited has directed all fishing vessels, local and foreign, to follow set protocols and discontinue any crew changes on high seas or at any port visited.

Thanking our seafarers. InterManager. 24 March 2020. Available from: https://www.intermanager.org/2020/03/news-release-tuesday-24-march-2020-thanking-our-seafarers With all the anxiety and uncertainty that is happening the world over as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, now might seem like a surprising time to talk about remaining positive.


Indian seafarers delay homecoming amid 21-day lockdown. Inderpreet Walia. Lloyd’s List. 24 March 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1131663/Indian-seafarers-delay-homecoming-amid-21day-lockdown Indian seafarers are advised not to sign off from their ships and return to India after completing their contracts, except in an emergency, due to the 21-day nationwide lockdown in an attempt to slow the spread of the coronavirus.
Indian seafarers working abroad on Indian/foreign ships told not seek repatriation post completion of contract. P Manoj. *Hindu BusinessLine (India).* 24 March 2020. Available from: [https://bit.ly/2yyL1bc](https://bit.ly/2yyL1bc) The Director General of Shipping has advised Indian seafarers working overseas either on Indian or foreign ships not to sign off after completing their contract and return to India except in an emergency, citing restrictions imposed by the government on international and domestic travel to check the spread of coronavirus.


**Seafarers on ‘front line of this global calamity’.** Kim Link-Wills. *Freight Waves.* 25 March 2020. Available from: [https://www.freightwaves.com/news/seafarers-on-front-line-of-this-global-calamity](https://www.freightwaves.com/news/seafarers-on-front-line-of-this-global-calamity) The IMO has issued a reminder that seafarers are essential to the movement of goods by water, even as ships’ crews around the world are being prohibited from going ashore in the global effort to fight the spread of the coronavirus.


**Parliament: Seafarers will continue to be paid if they are kidnapped, under changes to Act.** Fabian Koh. *Straits Times.* 25 March 2020. Available from: [https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/parliament-seafarers-will-continue-to-be-paid-if-they-are-kidnapped-under-changes-to-act](https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/parliament-seafarers-will-continue-to-be-paid-if-they-are-kidnapped-under-changes-to-act) Seafarers who are abducted by pirates or armed robbers in an attack while out at sea will stay employed and be paid their salaries while being held captive, said Senior Minister of State for Transport Lam Pin Min on Wednesday (March 25).

**Synergy Group Calls For Collective Action On Shipping’s Coronavirus Crewing Crisis.** *Hellenic Shipping News.* 27 March 2020. Available from: [https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/synergy-group-calls-for-collective-action-on-shippings-coronavirus-crewing-crisis/](https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/synergy-group-calls-for-collective-action-on-shippings-coronavirus-crewing-crisis/) The organisation of collective crew changes at key hub ports by ship managers and owners has the potential to solve the seafarer welfare crisis currently threatening global supply chains, believes Captain Rajesh Unni, Founder and CEO of Singapore-based ship manager Synergy Group, which employs over 12,000 seafarers on more than 300 vessels.

SHIP RECYCLING


Every year hundreds of ships and oil rigs are sold to shipbreaking yards in south Asia where they are cut apart by low-paid migrants.


SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR

Shipping lines can expect two months of delay on newbuilds. Niklas Krigslund. ShippingWatch. 5 March 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/article11987744.ece

Shipping lines can expect delays of two months on newbuild vessels due to the coronavirus outbreak, which has halted production at shipyards in China, Japan and South Korea.

ABB and DNV GL make history with first vessel cybersecurity verification. ABB. 5 March 2020. Available from: https://new.abb.com/news/detail/58018/abb-and-dnv-gl-make-history-with-first-vessel-cybersecurity-verification In a milestone for the marine industry, ABB’s solutions on board a large passenger ship have been awarded cybersecurity verification from classification society DNV GL.

Want Electric Ships? Build a Better Battery. Daniel Oberhaus. WIRED. 19 March 2020. Available from: https://www.wired.com/story/want-electric-ships-build-a-better-battery/ Later this year, the world’s largest all-electric container ship is expected to take its maiden voyage, setting sail from a port in Norway and traveling down the Scandinavian coast.

SHIPPING


Some docks in China are clogged with arriving shipping containers or iron ore.


Wärtsilä and partners to pursue greater fuel efficiency in major EU-funded project. Wärtsilä Corporation. 2 March 2020. Available from: https://www.wartsila.com/media/news/02-03-2020-wartsila-and-partners-to-pursue-greater-fuel-efficiency-in-major-eu-funded-project-2652626. The technology group Wärtsilä, together with a consortium of six other industry and academic partners, has been awarded EU funding for a major project aimed at reducing fuel consumption and lowering emission levels for shipping.


“Can your idea change the future of shipping for the better?”. UK Chamber of Shipping. 3 March 2020. Available from: https://www.ukchamberofshipping.com/latest/can-your-idea-change-future-shipping-better. The UK Chamber of Shipping has launched a competition to find new ideas that could help make the shipping industry greener, cleaner, more sustainable and get to net zero Shipping by 2050.
Maritime SheEO will help remove glass ceiling in shipping industry: Sanjam Sahi Gupta. Hellenic Shipping News. 3 March 2020. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/maritime-sheeo-will-help-remove-glass-ceiling-in-shipping-industry-sanjam-sahi-gupta/ In an industry where women in leadership roles are an exception rather than the norm — Harjeet Kaur Joshi, the current Chairperson and Managing Director of Shipping Corporation, is a prime example — Gupta has been at the forefront of driving gender equality and diversity in shipping.


Small island states want part of shipping’s new CO2 fund. Katrine Grønvald Raun. ShippingWatch. 3 March 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/regulation/article11980426.ece The Solomon Islands and Tonga want to ensure that small island states can share in a future shipping fund meant to raise billions of US dollars in order to develop the fuel of the future.


Corona outbreak gave Norden CEO flashbacks to the SARS era. Katrine Grønvald Raun. ShippingWatch. 4 March 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Bulk/article11984391.ece When Jan Rindbo heard about the outbreak of coronavirus in the Chinese city of Wuhan shortly after New Year’s Eve, he was transported roughly 17 years back in time.


EU resurrects moves to pull shipping into its ETS plans. Justin Stares. TradeWinds. 5 March 2020. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/eu-resurrects-moves-to-pull-shipping-into-its-ets-plans/2-1-766979 Accelerated plans to fold shipping into the European Union’s existing emissions trading scheme are set to be revealed before the Brussels summer recess.


Italian shipping hit hard by virus outbreak. Soren Pico. ShippingWatch. 6 March 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Container/article11988048.ece According to the country’s maritime cluster in the form of organization Assarmatori, there has recently been a large reduction of activity at Italian ports.

U.S. retailers face $700 million hit as virus disrupts ocean shipping. Jonathan Saul and Lisa Baertlein. Reuters. 6 March 2020. Available from: https://reut.rs/2XeYoI6 U.S. retailers face an estimated $700 million sales hit from the coronavirus and some shipping lines are sending vessels to retrieve empty cargo containers from Los Angeles to prevent further supply disruptions.

The Lloyd’s List Podcast: How is shipping coping with coronavirus? Lloyd's List. 6 March 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/L1131399/The-Lloyds-List-Podcast-How-is-shipping-coping-with-coronavirus The impact of coronavirus continues to ripple through the shipping industry and the wider global supply chain, so to help make sense of the increasingly complex picture we have once again sought a diverse range of industry insight for this week’s edition.


Q&A: Lloyd’s Register on how ammonia can be the ideal renewable marine fuel. Varsha Saraogi. Ship-technology.com. 10 March 2020. Available from: https://www.ship-technology.com/features/ammonia-powered-ships/ The International Maritime Organization has set a goal to halve greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, as the sector accounts for more than 2% of global emissions.
The cruise industry is the fastest growing sector of the travel industry, with an increase in demand of 20.5% in the past five years.

Growing fears around the global coronavirus outbreak could spell eventual "doomsday" for the embattled cruise sector, according to analysts.

A virus-shaped squall is threatening to capsize Carnival, the world’s biggest cruise company.

The St Kitts and Nevis International Ship Registry (SKANReg) has underlined its commitment to the need for greater gender diversity in the shipping industry by sponsoring a female cadet to attend this year’s WISTA AGM and International Conference in Hamburg.

An all-female bridge and onboard leadership team set sail from Florida this week aboard a 300m cruise ship to commemorate International Women’s Day.

In 2008 fans watched with bated breath as the world’s fastest runners lined up to compete in the 100 m sprint final at the Beijing Olympics.

On 4 March 2020, ICS received a letter from the European Commission Directorate General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE), seeking input about specific measures adopted by the maritime transport sector to monitor, contain and mitigate the effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

What seems like a simple car purchase order involves a complex chain of warehousing, shipping agents, ocean carriers and customs clearance in order to make the entire process run smoothly and ensure your car arrives on your doorstep in a few days’ time.

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**Maersk cancels all crew changes for a month.** Soren Pico. *ShippingWatch.* 17 March 2020. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article12015213.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article12015213.ece) As a direct consequence of the efforts to contain the spread of coronavirus, Maersk has called off all crew changes on its ships for the next month.


**Coronavirus: the shipping sector needs urgent support.** *UK Chamber of Shipping.* 18 March 2020. Available from: [https://www.ukchamberofshipping.com/latest/coronavirus-shipping-sector-needs-urgent-support/](https://www.ukchamberofshipping.com/latest/coronavirus-shipping-sector-needs-urgent-support/) What we do know is that shipping is going to play a major part in keeping Britain open for business during these very difficult moments.


2020 Fuels: The New Normal. Bill Stamatopoulos. Safety4Sea. 18 March 2020. Available from: https://safety4sea.com/cm-2020-fuels-the-new-normal/ Before the implementation of IMO Sulphur Cap, there were two famous myth busters: firstly that cat fines will be a big problem for the VLSFOs and secondly that the 2018 fuel incidents related to HSFOs from Houston were a pre-warning for VLSFOs issues.


The shipping industry is not Immune to a pandemic. Peter Sand. BIMCO. 19 March 2020. Available from: https://www.bimco.org/news/market_analysis/2020/20200319_shipping_industry_is_not_immune BIMCO expects that the strict containment measures imposed by governments around the world will result in substantially lower global economic growth and consequently, lower demand for shipping.


IN THE KNOW Podcast 14: The Impact of COVID-19 on Global Shipping. Maritime Executive. 19 March 2020. Available from: https://www.maritime-executive.com/podcast/in-the-know-podcast-14-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-global-shipping The outbreak and the public health response have had a serious impact on every sector of the maritime industry: global cruise lines have halted operations, container carriers have had to blank dozens of sailings, and offshore operators are looking at a severe downturn in the oil market.

MSC statement on MSC JOANNA fuel carriage UAE. Hellenic Shipping News. 19 March 2020. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/msc-statement-on-msc-joanna-fuel-carriage-uae/ In relation to the 16 March 2020 Circular from the Federal Transport Authority (FTA) in the United Arab Emirates, MSC is discussing the matter with the FTA and would like to provide the following context to our customers and partners.


Coronavirus Panic Causes More Crude Losses as Analysts Readjust Downward Demand Forecasts. Ship & Bunker. 20 March 2020. Available from: https://shipandbunker.com/news/am/405808-coronavirus-panic-causes-more-crude-losses-as-analysts-readjust-downward-demand-forecasts About the only good thing that can be said about Friday's crude trading in the face of the spreading coronavirus is that had not the two major benchmarks enjoyed the single best day on record in the previous session, the performance would have been all the more devastating for industry.


Shipping industry in choppy waters as coronavirus evokes 2016 slump and Hanjin bankruptcy. Ryan Swift. South China Morning Post. 23 March 2020. Available from: https://www.scmp.com/business/companies/article/3076117/shipping-industry-choppy-waters-coronavirus-evokes-2016-slump The shipping industry is expected to remain under pressure in 2020, as freight rates and profits in the container and dry bulk sectors slide, with the coronavirus outbreak pushing the global economy closer to a recession.

Don’t leave the shipping industry high and dry. UK Chamber of Shipping. 23 March 2020. Available from: https://www.ukchamberofshipping.com/latest/dont-leave-shipping-industry-high-and-dry/ At a time when the expertise of seafarers is needed more than ever, the Government must not stand idly by.

The triple shock of Coronavirus in shipping: will it last? Hellenic Shipping News. 24 March 2020. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/the-triple-shock-of-coronavirus-in-shipping-will-it-last/ Transport capacity shortages, disruptions to supply chains and inability to plan since late January have been a dangerous combination. But will all 3 major problems last for shippers?

The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and the International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH) have joined forces to call on G20 leaders to act quickly to protect global supply chains from the impact of COVID-19.


Another virus has now reached our shores, and this time around, it is a virus in its true sense.


As such, major shipping lines like Maersk, Torm and Norden do not expect to fire employees, according to a survey conducted by ShippingWatch.


The International Maritime Organization (IMO) member states agreed in 2018 “to reduce the total annual GHG emissions by at least 50% by 2050 compared to 2008” as part of the “initial IMO Strategy on reduction of GHG emissions from ships”.


A container ship leaves a trail of white clouds in its wake that can linger in the air for hours.


The transport sector has a crucial role to play in the supply of goods, in particular medicines, medical devices, food and other essential commodities needed to overcome this crisis.


As the world battles the coronavirus pandemic, the global maritime transport industry is playing a critical role in the response.


Ian Adams, executive director of the Clean Shipping Alliance 2020 has released a statement on current bunker prices and the use of marine scrubbers, also known as exhaust gas cleaning systems (EGCS).


Green LNG Seen as a Way to Meet IMO Emissions Targets, Study Shows. gCaptain. 25 March 2020. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/green-lng-seen-as-a-way-to-meet-imo-emissions-targets-study-shows/ Bio-methane, produced from biomass, and synthetic methane made using renewable energy could emulate liquefied natural gas as a marine fuel, according to a study conducted by Dutch researcher CE Delft and commissioned by industry group SEA-LNG.


RESEARCH


Ranasinghe R, Mentaschi L, et al. Sandy coastlines under threat of erosion. *Nature Climate Change*. 2 March 2020. Available from: [https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-020-0697-0](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-020-0697-0) Sandy beaches occupy more than one-third of the global coastline and have high socioeconomic value related to recreation, tourism and ecosystem services.


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maritimeknowledgecentre@imo.org

About the cover

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