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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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

IMO postpones further meetings due to COVID-19 but begins rescheduling plans

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has announced that meetings which were scheduled to be held in July, including the next regular session of the IMO Council, have now been postponed, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, work has begun to prepare for a revised meeting programme for the remainder of 2020.

A priority list of meetings has been drawn up and will be considered by the Council at its thirty-second extraordinary session that will be held by correspondence from May to July. This follows the thirty-first session of the Council that took place, also by correspondence, in March to April (read summary here).

The proposal for rescheduling meetings gives priority to a regular session of the IMO Council, followed by meetings of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) - which will be preceded by the 7th meeting of the Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships - and to the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC). More...

“You are not alone” - IMO Secretary-General issues impassioned personal message to seafarers

“You are not alone. You are not forgotten”. So said IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim in a moving personal message to seafarers everywhere, assuring them that IMO understands the unique problems they face during the coronavirus pandemic and has been working tirelessly at all levels to find solutions for them.

Hundreds of ship sailings have been cancelled as trade has been reduced in line with the slowing global economy and ports all over the world have either closed or drastically cut their operations.

But restrictions on travel and personal movement adopted by most countries have left many seafarers stranded on board ships, unable to disembark or be replaced by relief crews. Others find themselves stuck in hotels, without pay and unable to get flights home.

Estimates suggest that, every month, 100,000 seafarers finish their contracts and would normally be flown home - but the coronavirus has had a huge negative impact on this repatriation process.

Since the start of the global lockdown, IMO has been in urgent contact with trade unions, seafarer welfare organizations, shipowners, governments and fellow United Nations agencies, especially the International Labour Organization, to try and find solutions. More...

IMO MEETINGS FOR 2020
LATEST PRESS BRIEFINGS

Customs and ports urged to maintain flow of critical goods during pandemic
Briefing: 12, April 17, 2020

IMO and port State inspection authorities set pragmatic approach to support global supply chain
Briefing: 11, April 10, 2020

IMO postpones further meetings due to COVID-19 (updated)
Briefing: 10, April 2, 2020

IMO urges keyworker exemptions for crew changes and repatriations
Briefing: 9, April 1, 2020

RECENT SPEECHES BY IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL KITACK LIM

IMO NEWS MAGAZINE (Winter 2019)

IMO PUBLISHING Just Published 2020 April 2020 Newsletter
UNITED NATIONS

$2.5 trillion COVID-19 rescue package needed for world’s emerging economies. UN News. 30 March 2020. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/03/1060612 The economic fallout from COVID-19 is likely to get “much worse” before it gets better for some six billion people living in developing economies, the UN said on Monday, in an appeal for a $2.5 trillion rescue package to boost their resilience to further hardship.


UN launches COVID-19 plan that could ‘defeat the virus and build a better world’. UN News. 31 March 2020. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/03/1060702 The UN chief launched on Tuesday a new plan to counter the potentially devastating socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, calling on everyone to “act together to lessen the blow to people”.


World Health Organization ‘absolutely critical’ to neutralizing coronavirus threat – UN chief. UN News. 8 April 2020. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/04/1061382 The World Health Organization (WHO) must be supported across the world, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said on Wednesday, describing the UN health agency, which has led the multilateral response since the beginning, as “absolutely critical” in overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic.
CASUALTIES


ENVIRONMENT

Nature takes back world’s empty city streets. *CTV News (Canada)*. 30 March 2020. Available from: [https://www.ctvnews.ca/sci-tech/nature-takes-back-world-s-empty-city-streets-1.4873282](https://www.ctvnews.ca/sci-tech/nature-takes-back-world-s-empty-city-streets-1.4873282)  As humans retreat into their homes as more and more countries go under coronavirus lockdown, wild animals are slipping cover to explore the empty streets of some of our biggest cities.


**ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION**

**Seafloor of Fram Strait is a sink for microplastic from Arctic and North Atlantic Ocean.** Ulrike Windhövel. Phys.org. 30 March 2020. Available from: [https://phys.org/news/2020-03-seafloor-fram-strait-microplastic-arctic.html](https://phys.org/news/2020-03-seafloor-fram-strait-microplastic-arctic.html) Working in the Arctic Fram Strait, scientists from the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) have found microplastic throughout the water column with particularly high concentrations at the ocean floor.


Poorly designed oily water separators put seafarers at risk. Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*. 27 March 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/poorly-designed-oily-water-separators-put-seafarers-at-risk/ For passengers on a Holland America Line cruise ship, a fun-filled voyage on the luxury liner is quickly turning into a nightmare with deteriorating conditions on board and fears of a full-blown coronavirus outbreak after four travellers died and two others were infected.


Maersk confirms corona infections among ship crew. Søren Pico. *ShippingWatch*. 30 March 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article12046441.ece Maersk has now received a response from local authorities in China after several seafarers last week were isolated on ship *Gjertrud Maersk with symptoms of covid-19*.

Seafarers’ Frequently Asked Questions: COVID-19. *International Seafarers’ Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN)*. 31 March 2020. Available from: https://www.seafarerswelfare.org/news/2020/seafarers-frequently-asked-questions-covid-19 Extending the contract should only be used with appropriate safeguards to protect seafarers, such as obtaining their consent and ensuring that they do not lose their accrued annual leave or right to repatriation.


Malta says it will not accept any more migrants, because of COVID-19. Times of Malta. 9 April 2020. Available from: https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/malta-says-it-cannot-guarantee-migrant-rescues_784571 Malta is not in a position to guarantee the rescue of migrants and will not allow any further disembarkation of rescued persons, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the government said on Thursday.


Greater Access to PPE called for by concerned Seafarers. Human Rights at Sea (HRAS). 13 April 2020. Available from: https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/2020/04/13/greater-access-to-ppe-called-for-by-concerned-seafarers/ Some seafarers who have been in direct contact with Human Rights at Sea are increasingly calling for greater levels of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be made more widely available, not just for themselves, but for those maritime workers who come onboard their vessels including surveyors, agents, pilots and stevedores, by way of example. This includes face masks and gloves.


IMO


Green Groups Ask For Online IMO Meeting After MEPC Cancellation. Ship & Bunker. 7 April 2020. Available from: https://shipandbunker.com/news/world/115623-green-groups-ask-for-online-imo-meeting-after-mepc-cancellation Environmental groups have written an open letter to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) asking the UN body to continue with its meetings in a digital-only format to ensure the COVID-19 pandemic does not derail its decarbonisation targets.


Life after IMO 2020: What’s next on the regulatory landscape? Matthew Williams. Lloyd’s Register. 8 April 2020. Available from: https://www.lr.org/en/insights/articles/life-after-imo-regulatory-landscape/ IMO 2020, an outside Emission Control Area (ECA) sulphur 0.50% max. limit on marine fuel, has attracted substantial industry focus in the past few years; rightly so given the preparations needed and the uncertainties arising from delayed regulatory decisions and in-sector compliance relying on out-of-sector changes in fuel supply chains.

LAW & POLICY


Why a landmark treaty to stop ocean biopiracy could stymie research. Olive Heffernan. Nature. 27 March 2020. Available from: https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00912-w In 1945, a young chemist called Werner Bergmann was diving off the Florida coast, scouring its waters for undiscovered marine life.
In the coronavirus pandemic, cruise ships present a perfect storm of problems for governments. Rebecca Turner. ABC (Australia). 27 March 2020. Available from: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-28/cruise-ships-present-a-perfect-coronavirus-storm-of-problems/12093768. It’s a dilemma faced by countries around the world: how to prevent foreign coronavirus patients stuck on cruise ships from overwhelming your health system while also finding a way of keeping your people safe from a virus which appears to thrive in the confined conditions of an ocean liner.


ECSA: European Green Deal must take into account the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. European Community Shipowners’ Associations (ECSA). 2 April 2020. Available from: https://www.ecsa.eu/news/ecsa-european-green-deal-must-take-account-devastating-impact-covid-19-pandemic Following the statement by the Executive Vice-President, Frans Timmermans, on the postponement of the COP26, the ECSA Board of Directors who met today took note of and fully supports the firm commitment of the European Commission towards the European Green Deal, but is also of the opinion that the first priority should be the rescue and full recovery of the EU shipping industry.


Fact Finding 29 Supply Chain Innovation Teams to Begin Work. US Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) 6 April 2020. Available from: https://www.fmc.gov/fact-finding-29-teams-to-begin-work/ Supply Chain Innovation Teams convened by Commissioner Rebecca Dye as part of Fact Finding 29 (International Ocean Transportation Supply Chain Engagement) will begin work this week to identify what actions can provide immediate relief to the most pressing challenges the American freight delivery system faces from COVID-19 related disruptions.


In Eastern Mediterranean, resolving maritime boundary disputes becomes key.

Could a reborn cruise industry be a better environmental steward? Nick O'Malley. *Brisbane Times (Australia)*. 12 April 2020. Available from: https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/environment/climate-change/could-a-reborn-cruise-industry-be-a-better-environmental-steward-20200409-p54i0.html Well before the *Ruby Princess* came to the attention of Australian police the ship’s parent company, Carnival Corporation, was involved in another scandal on the other side of the world involving something called, colourfully enough, a magic pipe - a home-made device that would eventually cost the company $US60 million in fines.


**MARINE TECHNOLOGY**

Agents must digitalise, warns leading academic. Paul Gunton. *ShipInsight*. 27 March 2020. Available from: https://shipinsight.com/articles/agents-must-digitalise-warns-leading-academic Ship agents will have to embrace digitalisation if they are to retain business for the long term, believes Mikael Lind, associate professor and senior strategic research advisor at Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE) and researcher in maritime informatics at Chalmers University of Technology.

Number of Ships to be Equipped with Scrubbers Hits 4,000: DNV GL. *Ship & Bunker*. 30 March 2020. Available from: https://shipandbunker.com/news/world/814936-number-of-ships-to-be-equipped-with-scrubbers-hits-4000-dnv-g1 The HSFO / VLSFO spread may have narrowed significantly following the recent collapse in oil prices, but orders for SOx scrubbers have continued to roll in.

Strategic maritime technology industry in urgent need for specific EU measures. *Sea Europe*. 1 April 2020. Available from: http://www.seaeurope.eu/ClientData/181/658/444103/3665/4/Covid_19_Declaration_SEA%20Europe_Final%20version.pdf “If the EU fails to adopt tailor-made sectoral policies and financial support beyond its horizontal industrial policies, Europe risks to lose its strategic maritime technology sector to Asia, whilst European shipyards and maritime equipment manufacturers are key for the European Green Deal, for Europe’s Blue Economy and mobility, for Europe’s defence, security and autonomy and for Europe’s access to seas and trade of goods and passengers”, says Kjersti Kleven, SEA Europe’s chairwoman.


MASS concept: A first step toward autonomous operations in shipping. Safety4Sea. 7 April 2020. Available from: https://safety4sea.com/cm-mass-concept-a-first-step-toward-autonomous-operations-in-shipping/ The smart era has already been useful for the sector, while the advancement in the maritime industry has called for the development of autonomous ships, presenting the motion of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS).


MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING


**MARITIME SECURITY**


**Cyber security amid a global pandemic.** *GARD.* 6 April 2020. Available from: http://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/29480434/cyber-security-amid-a-global-pandemic To cope with operational issues such as denied physical access, quarantined vessels and travel restrictions, shipowners are now actively opening for remote access and implementing remote digital survey tools towards vessels and encouraging shore staff to work remotely from home.


**Piracy and armed robbery a threat to ships’ crews, warns IMB.** *ICC International Maritime Bureau (IMB).* 14 April 2020. Available from: https://www.icc-ccs.org/index.php/1289-piracy-and-armed-robbery-a-threat-to-ships-crews-warns-imb Seafarers face continuing threats from pirates and armed robbers on the world’s seas, says the ICC International Maritime Bureau (IMB), reporting 47 attacks in the first three months of 2020, up from 38 in the same period last year.

**MIGRANTS**


**Dozens of Migrants Died in Shipping Container in Mozambique.** *International Organization for Migration (IOM).* 24 March 2020. Available from: https://www.iom.int/news/dozens-migrants-died-shipping-container-mozambique The bodies of 64 men were discovered asphyxiated in a sealed shipping container on the back of a truck at a checkpoint in Tete, Mozambique on Tuesday morning.


Migrants Flee as Tripoli’s Port Shelled. International Organization for Migration (IOM). 10 April 2020. Available from: https://www.iom.int/news/migrants-flee-tripolis-port-shelled Dozens of migrants held at Tripoli’s main port since yesterday fled the facility as it was being shelled early Friday morning.


NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS

Whales face more fatal ship collisions as waters warm. Patrick Whittle. ABC News (US). 28 March 2020. Available from: https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/whales-face-fatal-ship-collisions-waters-warm-69854473 Climate change is imperilling the world’s largest animals by increasing the likelihood of fatal collisions between whales and big ships that ply the same waters.

Cruise company still searching for port for virus ship. France 24. 30 March 2020. Available from: https://www.france24.com/en/20200329-cruise-company-still-searching-for-port-for-virus-ship Passengers on a virus-stricken cruise liner stranded off Panama in Central America were told Sunday the company was still searching for a port which will allow them to disembark, even as they pleaded for help.

Slow down for right whales in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Canada. GARD. 30 March 2020. Available from: http://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/29441513/slow-down-for-right-whales-in-the-gulf-of-st-lawrence-canada Canada further strengthens its vessel speed restriction scheme in the Gulf of St. Lawrence to help prevent collisions between endangered North Atlantic right whales and ships during the 2020 whale season.

NOAA teams with pioneering explorer to understand and map the deepest parts of the ocean. *US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)*. 7 April 2020. Available from: https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/noaa-teams-with-pioneering-explorer-to-understand-and-map-deepest-parts-of-ocean NOAA intends to collaborate with a private company led by Victor Vescovo, the first person to reach the deepest point in all five of the world's named oceans, in an effort to explore, characterize, and map unknown areas of the deep ocean.

Seal the deal: amorous mammals forced to contend with cruise ships. Nicola Davis. *The Guardian*. 8 April 2020. Available from: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/apr/08/seal-the-deal-amorous-mammals-forced-to-contend-with-cruise-ships Cruise ships are drowning out the roars of seals that are important for bagging a mate, researchers have found in the latest study to reveal the consequences of human activity on wildlife.


**PORT STATE CONTROL**

Crew change for cargo ships under special circumstances in the port of Singapore, to minimise risk of community spread of (COVID-19) in Singapore. *Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)*. 27 March 2020. Available from: https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/port-of-singapore/circulars-and-notices/detail/e5d02eff-9b9e-4eac-becb-b20c2a5b7e6c The Port of Singapore remains open for cargo operations and marine services, including bunkering, ship supplies and shipyard repairs in order to maintain commerce by sea and not disrupt global supply chains.

Survey and Inspection information update. *UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency*. 27 March 2020. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/survey-and-inspection-information-update 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. *Guidance - MIN 612 (M+F) Amend 1 Coronavirus (COVID-19) - MCA approach to survey and certification of UK vessels*
Statement 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: NIMASA bans international vessels without thermal screening facilities. Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA). 29 March 2020. Available from: https://nimasa.gov.ng/covid-19-nimasa-bans-international-vessels-without-thermal-screening-facilities/ The Director General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency NIMASA, Dr. Bashir Jamoh has announced that following the current outbreak of COVID-19 and the need to mitigate the spread especially through shipping activities, the Agency has developed Guidance to support all types of ships that operate in the Nigerian maritime domain and banned all vessels without thermal screening facilities from operating in Nigerian waters.

Coronavirus: Cruise ship off Panama coast transfers passengers. BBC News. 29 March 2020. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/latin-america-52072703 A cruise ship carrying more than 1,800 people off Panama has begun moving healthy passengers to another ship after four people died and two others tested positive for coronavirus.


Zaandam and Rotterdam Approved to Disembark Guests at Port Everglades. Lauren M. Holland America Line. 2 April 2020. Available from: https://www.hollandamerica.com/blog/ships/ms-rotterdam/zaandam-and-rotterdam-approved-to-disembark-guests-at-port-everglades/ Holland America Line is pleased to confirm that Broward County and the Unified Command cleared both Zaandam and Rotterdam for arrival to Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to disembark guests who are fit to travel per guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

2019 Port State Control Annual Report Posted. Kurt Fredrickson. US Coast Guard Maritime Commons. 2 April 2020. Available from: https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/04/02/2019-port-state-control-annual-report-posted/ This marks another year of PSC activities with our annual report aimed at providing the global maritime industry key statistics and compliance trends in relation to compliance with U.S. and international regulations, such as the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), and the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS).


More than 750,000 tonnes of shipping have been moved in the operation. *ABC (Australia)*. 5 April 2020. Available from: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-04-04/nsw-police-helping-cruise-ships-restock-and-refuel/12122120. Royal Caribbean Cruise Line have been cooperating with NSW Police to prepare cruise ships to leave for their home ports.


Time for a rethink on what a quality flag really is…. *Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA)*. 6 April 2020. Available from: https://www.bahamasmaritime.com/latest-news/time-for-a-rethink-on-what-a-quality-flag-really-is/ For those wondering what a quality flag represents, they need look no further than The Bahamas.


Europe braces for cruise ship arrivals. Sam Morgan. EurActiv. 8 April 2020. Available from: https://www.euractiv.com/section/shipping/news/europe-braces-for-cruise-ship-arrivals/ The European Commission issued more practical coronavirus advice on Wednesday (8 April), urging national governments to set up special ports that can process seafarers and up to 8,000 cruise ship passengers, due to disembark in Europe this week.

Cyprus is no longer part of the Targeted Flag List of the United States Coastguard (USCG). Maritime Cyprus. 8 April 2020. Available from: https://www.dms.gov.cy/dms/shipping.nsf/All/1838C4433BC3EBE6C22585440032D69B The Cyprus Shipping Deputy Ministry (SDM) is proud to announce that, based on the outcome of the US Government’s 2019 Annual Report on Port State Control, Cyprus is no longer part of the Targeted Flag List of the United States Coastguard (USCG) in relation to the safety performance of flag administrations.


PORTS & HARBOURS


REGULATIONS


A midlife crisis? Age-related concerns for ballast water fitments. William Burroughs. Ballast Water Treatment Technology. 8 April 2020. Available from: https://www.rivieramm.com/opinion/copy-of-a-midlife-crisis-age-related-concerns-for-ballast-water-fitments-56997 Analysis from classification society ABS suggests that vessels up to 15 years of age are likely to be the oldest to install a ballast water management system (BWMS), with owners of ships aged 16-20 years and 21 years and above more likely to opt for scrapping.

SALVAGE


SEAFARERS


Norwegian Cruise Lines repatriates 1,000 Filipino crew. Holly Birkett. TradeWinds. 1 April 2020. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/cruise-and-ferry/norwegian-cruise-lines-repatriates-1-000-filipino-crew/2/1-785629 Norwegian Cruise Lines has chartered flights to repatriate almost 1,000 of its seafarers to the Philippines as the coronavirus pandemic takes its toll on the tourism sector.


DG Shipping extends validity of seafarers certificates by six months. P Manoj. Hindu BusinessLine (India). 3 April 2020. Available from: https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/dg-shipping-extends-validity-of-seafarers-certificates-by-six-months/article31251580.ece The Director General of Shipping (DG Shipping) has extended the validity of seafarers’ certificates that were expiring between March 23 and October 01, 2020 by six months in a relief to crew working on board ships amidst a three-week lockdown.

Australian prime minister urged to do the “right thing” for thousands of stranded seafarers. International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF). 3 April 2020. Available from: https://www.itfseafarers.org/en/news/australian-prime-minister-urged-do-right-thing-thousands-stranded-seafarers On March 29, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said that that it was, “important that Australia does the right thing about those who have fallen into our care to ensure that I can say with great moral authority that Australians are doing the right thing, and we would ask you to do the right thing.”
As Goa government mounts rescue effort, some seafarers say they are safer onboard.  
Newton Sequeira. *Times of India*. 4 April 2020. Available from: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/as-govt-mounts-rescue-effort-some-seafarers-say-they-are-safer-onboard/articleshow/74975477.cms Even as the Goa government makes efforts to bring back over 8,000 seafarers, some stakeholders suggest that the offshore seamen remain safer aboard the ships which serves as a natural lock down and quarantine.


**SAMSA vows tough action against human abuse on board ships in SA waters.** *South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA)*. 13 April 2020. Available from: [https://blog.samsa.org.za/2020/04/13/samsa-vows-for-tough-action-against-human-abuse-on-board-ships/](https://blog.samsa.org.za/2020/04/13/samsa-vows-for-tough-action-against-human-abuse-on-board-ships/) The South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) has vowed to take all possible steps necessary to prevent people abuse on board ships sailing on South Africa’s oceans, inclusive of taking such harsh punitive measures as necessary, as provided for in law, against established violations.


New alliance of shipowners want politicians to ensure crew changes. Thomas Christiansen. ShippingWatch. 14 April 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12074939.ece Shipping lines like Norden and Grieg Star as well as ship managers like V. Group and Synergy have banded together in a distress call to politicians, who should immediately ensure than crews can be changed aboard vessels.

Talking Point: Mentoring in Maritime. Dr Kate Pike. International Seafarers’ Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN). 14 April 2020. Available from: https://www.seafarerswelfare.org/news/2020/talking-point-mentoring-in-maritime Talking Point is a series of thought pieces written by experts in the maritime industry, offering insights into different topics affecting seafarers. In the second piece of the series, we hear from Dr Kate Pike, Associate Professor Emeritus at Solent University, Southampton and Director of Field Research, who looks at the benefits of mentoring for seafarers and how to implement a successful mentoring initiative.

SEARCH & RESCUE

Underwater drones to improve search and rescue operations. Gabriella Twining. Safety at Sea. 1 April 2020. Available from: https://safetyatsea.net/news/2020/underwater-drones-to-improve-search-and-rescue-operations/ Sibiu Pro and Sibiu Nano portable remotely operated underwater vehicles (ROV) have been developed to enhance an array of marine operations including; aquaculture, inspections, and search and rescue (SAR) operations.


SHIP RECYCLING


**SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR**


**SHIPPING**


**Inmarsat joins Decarbonising Shipping programme.** Inmarsat. 30 March 2020. Available from: [https://www.inmarsat.com/news/inmarsat-joins-decarbonising-shipping-programme/](https://www.inmarsat.com/news/inmarsat-joins-decarbonising-shipping-programme/) Inmarsat is pleased to announce it is a founding member of Asia’s first ‘Decarbonising Shipping’ initiative to harness the power of start-ups to meet UN targets on greenhouse gas emissions, which launched earlier this month.

**Corona crisis works against shipping’s climate plans.** Katrine Grønvald Raun. ShippingWatch. 31 March 2020. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12048501.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12048501.ece) The IMO’s climate plan could be pressed for time due to the coronavirus outbreak, which has so far pushed back important meetings with no new dates set.


**As those aboard the Zaandam cruise wait, Carnival, county scramble to figure out plan.** Taylor Dolven and Samantha J. Gross. Miami Herald (US). 31 March 2020. Available from: [https://www.miamiherald.com/news/business/tourism-cruises/article241647566.html](https://www.miamiherald.com/news/business/tourism-cruises/article241647566.html) Sick people on board the Zaandam and Rotterdam cruise ships fear they are dying as they steam toward South Florida. But Broward County and Carnival Corporation have yet to agree on a plan that will allow them on shore once they arrive.


ECSA Board: Shipping industry keeps Europe running but will need more EU support to recover. *European Community Shipowners’ Associations (ECSA).* 2 April 2020. Available from: [https://www.ecsa.eu/news/ecsa-board-shipping-industry-keeps-europe-running-will-need-more-eu-support-recover](https://www.ecsa.eu/news/ecsa-board-shipping-industry-keeps-europe-running-will-need-more-eu-support-recover) In their meeting on 2 April, ECSA’s Board of Directors thanks all maritime professionals across the whole shipping industry for their dedication and sacrifices made to continue the supply of goods and equipment and the necessary transport services to millions of citizens currently affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.


Denmark’s shipping industry focuses on carbon emissions. *Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA).* 3 April 2020. Available from: [https://www.rina.org.uk/Denmarks_shipping_industry_focuses_on_carbon_emissions.html](https://www.rina.org.uk/Denmarks_shipping_industry_focuses_on_carbon_emissions.html) Since 2017, Danish Shipping has seen a growth of 7% in its number of ships and has surpassed its 10% target increase in operational tonnage.


Coronavirus is disrupting the supply of ships as well as demand. Peter Sand. BIMCO. 6 April 2020. Available from: https://www.bimco.org/news/market_analysis/2020/20200403_coronavirus_is_disrupting_the_supply_of_ships_as_well_as_demand The coronavirus outbreak has affected all aspects of the shipping industry, lowering, if not wiping out, demand growth prospects for the year across all segments.


Countries propose environmental rating system for vessels. Katrine Grønvald Raun. ShippingWatch. 6 April 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12062944.ece It should be much easier for parties collaborating with the shipping industry to understand a ship's environmental profile, and this should be achieved through a rating system adopted by the UN, according to new proposal submitted to the IMO.


Joint ETF-ECSA Declaration of Intention to Address the Enhanced Participation of Women in European Shipping. European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA). 7 April 2020. Available from: https://www.ecsa.eu/news/joint-ETF-ECSA-declaration-intention-address-enhanced-participation-women-european-shipping The European social partners for maritime transport, the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) and the European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA), are jointly seeking to increase the participation of women in careers in the European shipping industry.

Maersk maintains its ambitious climate targets despite coronavirus. Katrine Grønvald Raun. ShippingWatch. 7 April 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12065602.ece While some worry that the coronavirus outbreak could end up postponing key milestones in shipping's climate work, nothing has changed at the world's biggest container shipping line, Maersk, the company's head of regulatory affairs, Simon Bergulf, tells ShippingWatch.

Coronavirus will trigger revolutionary change in shipping. Frank Coles. Maritime Optimisation & Communications. 7 April 2020. Available from: https://www.rivieramm.com/opinion/coronavirus-will-trigger-revolutionary-change-in-shipping-58867 In a few short months, the mayhem wrought by coronavirus has changed the world.


Inactive boxship fleet to surpass 3m teu for the first time. Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com.* 8 April 2020. Available from: [https://splash247.com/inactive-boxship-fleet-to-surpass-3m-teu-for-the-first-time/](https://splash247.com/inactive-boxship-fleet-to-surpass-3m-teu-for-the-first-time/) The sudden massive volume of blanked sailings announced in recent days is set to create new records in terms of the inactive containership fleet, which analysts at Alphaliner are now saying will breach the 3m teu mark for the first time meaning some 13% of the entire global box fleet will be out of work.


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**Maritime Knowledge Centre (MKC)**
Shipping industry requests European Commission to put public consultations and impact assessments on hold. European Community Shipowners’ Associations (ECSA). 14 April 2020. Available from: https://www.ecsa.eu/news/shipping-industry-requests-european-commission-put-public-consultations-and-impact-assessments ECSA, together with the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA Europe), the European Dredging Association (EuDA) and Interfer sent a joint letter to the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, requesting that all public consultations and impact assessments be put on hold, due to the current specific situation created by the COVID-19 outbreak. Joint Letter

This could be the end of the line for cruise ships. Freya Higgins-Desbiolles. The Conversation. 14 April 2020. Available from: https://theconversation.com/this-could-be-the-end-of-the-line-for-cruise-ships-135937 Stranded cruise ships have become a symbol of the COVID-19 pandemic. Passengers and crew are desperate to get off but the ports to which they’ve headed don’t want them.


Now is ‘not the time’ to reduce funding for the World Health Organization in COVID-19 fight, urges Guterres. UN News. 14 April 2020. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/04/1061762 Now is a time for unity in the global battle to push the COVID-19 pandemic into reverse, not a time to cut the resources of the World Health Organization (WHO), which is spearheading and coordinating the global body’s efforts, said UN chief António Guterres, on Tuesday.


RESEARCH


Milner J, Hamilton I, et al. Health benefits of policies to reduce carbon emissions. *BMJ.* 30 March 2020. Available from: https://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/368/bmj.l6758.full.pdf James Milner and colleagues argue that carefully considered policies to lower carbon emissions can also improve health, and we should use these benefits to push for strong climate action.


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About the cover

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