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.

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

Day of the Seafarer – 25 June 2020 campaign – Seafarers are Key Workers

Seafarers are on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic, playing an essential role in maintaining the flow of vital goods, such as food, medicines and medical supplies. However, the crisis has led to difficult working conditions for seafarers, including uncertainties and difficulties about port access, re-supply, crew changeovers and repatriation.

This year, the Day of the Seafarer campaign calls on Member States to recognize seafarers as key workers – and to provide them with the support, assistance and travel options open to all key workers during the pandemic. More... Seafarers are Key Workers

UN Day of the Seafarer highlights sacrifice of key workers at sea during pandemic

The 2020 Day of the Seafarer pays tribute to unsung heroes of the COVID-19 pandemic: the seafarers who continue to carry essential goods despite facing tremendous challenges, including being stranded on board. Organised by IMO, this year’s campaign calls on governments to take action and formally recognise seafarers as key workers. More...

FAQ: Crew changes and repatriation of seafarers – a key issue explained

Seafarers have been the unsung heroes of this pandemic, as the world relies on them to transport more than 80% of trade by volume, including vital food and medical goods, energy and raw materials, as well as manufactured goods across the globe. They have also been collateral victims of the crisis, as travel restrictions have left tens of thousands of them stranded on ships, or unable to join ships.

Here are the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about crew changes and repatriation of seafarers. More...

Keep ships moving, ports open and cross-border trade flowing, urge UN entities

The International Maritime Organization (IMO), which regulates shipping, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which tracks world trade, reiterated calls for Governments to promote crew well-being by allowing crew changes and ensuring seafarers and other maritime personnel have access to documentation and travel options so that they can return home safely. More...
IMO MEETINGS FOR 2020 – List of meetings postponed to the COVID-19 pandemic

LATEST PRESS BRIEFINGS

UN entities and private sector join forces to tackle invasive species and reduce emissions
Briefing: 18, June 8, 2020

Celebrating the oceans on World Oceans Day – a message from IMO Secretary General Kitack Lim
Briefing: 17, June 8, 2020

RECENT SPEECHES BY IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL KITACK LIM

Webinar "Seafarers are Key Workers: Essential to Shipping, Essential to the World"
24/26 June 2020 (Opening Remarks)

Capital Link Operational Excellence Digital Forum - keynote speech 16 June 2020

Statement on piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea 10 June 2020

IMO NEWS MAGAZINE  (Spring Summer 2020)

IMO PUBLISHING  Just Published 2020  June/July 2020 Newsletter
UNITED NATIONS

World slowly starts travelling again: UN Tourism Organization. UN News. 1 June 2020. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/06/1065242 After months of lockdowns, countries are cautiously starting to ease travel restrictions put in place to stop the spread of COVID-19, according to research published Monday by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili, stressed "the need for vigilance, responsibility and international cooperation as the world slowly opens up again."

‘Dogged pragmatism’ needed to save Ocean: UN Special Envoy. UN News. 2 June 2020. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/06/1065192 Peter Thomson, who hails from the Pacific Ocean island of Fiji, spoke to UN News ahead of World Oceans Day marked annually on 8 June, and explained why it’s crucial not to forget how important the Ocean is, to the future of the planet.

Turkish diplomat elected President of historic 75th UN General Assembly. UN News. 17 June 2020. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/06/1066562 Turkish diplomat Volkan Bozkir was elected President of the forthcoming session of the UN General Assembly in a vote held on Wednesday that was emblematic of its time.


New UN report offers blueprint for greener, more resilient world of work. UN News. 19 June 2020. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/06/1066642 Jobs, livelihoods and the well-being of workers, families and businesses across the globe, continue to take a hit from the COVID-19 pandemic; with micro, small and medium enterprises in particular, suffering the dire economic consequences, according to a new policy brief released by the UN on Friday.

WHO reports largest single day increase in COVID-19 cases. UN News. 22 June 2020. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/06/1066852 The World Health Organization (WHO) reported the largest single-day increase in coronavirus cases over the course of Sunday, registering more than 183,000 new infections in 24 hours, bringing the total to some 8.8 million cases worldwide, with more than 465,000 deaths.


Extreme weather ‘record’ likely in Arctic Circle, says UN weather agency WMO. UN News. 23 June 2020. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/06/1066882 Reports that temperatures in a Russian town in the Arctic Circle likely reached a record 38C (100.4F), last weekend, have been approved by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) pending final verification, it said on Tuesday.


**CASUALTIES**


Shipping containers found in NSW, but authorities 'have a big job ahead'. *Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)*. 2 June 2020. Available from: [https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/shipping-containers-found-in-nsw-but-authorities-have-a-big-job-ahead-20200602-p54yux.html](https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/shipping-containers-found-in-nsw-but-authorities-have-a-big-job-ahead-20200602-p54yux.html). Sixteen of the 50 shipping containers lost off the APL England in heavy seas almost 10 days ago have been recovered, but NSW authorities admit with most still missing "we have a big job ahead of us".


Coast Guard, partner agencies respond to cargo ship fire near Blount Island. *United States Coast Guard*. 5 June 2020. Available from: [https://www.content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/28f1fd1](https://www.content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/28f1fd1). Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville watchstanders were notified at 3:53 p.m. of a fire on board the M/V Höegh Xiamen, a 600-foot vehicle carrier.


Vessel fires flare up off the US coast. Catherine Austin. Safety at Sea. 15 June 2020. Available from: https://safetyatsea.net/news/2020/vessel-fires-flare-up-off-the-us-coast/A fire that started in the cargo area of a roll-on, roll-off (ro-ro) vessel in the port of Jacksonville (JAXPORT) shortly after completing loading operations has finally been fully extinguished after smouldering for a week.

Hawaiian Barge Loses More Than 20 Containers Overboard Off Hilo. Mike Schuler. gCaptain. 22 June 2020. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/hawaiian-barge-loses-more-than-20-containers-overboard-off-hilo/ A Hawaiian interisland barge lost more than 20 containers overboard off the coast of Hilo on Monday morning and several containers remain missing.

Coast Guard, salvage team continues response to containers lost off Hilo, Hawaii. United States Coast Guard. 23 June 2020. Available from: https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/29248a8 The Coast Guard is continuing the response Tuesday to a report of containers lost from the barge Ho Omaka Hou inbound to Hilo Harbor Monday.


ENVIRONMENT


Ocean likely to heat up at 7 times its current rate, new study finds. Jordan Davidson. *World Economic Forum.* 1 June 2020. Available from: https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/06/oceans-heat-up-seven-times-greenhouse-emissions The depths of the oceans are heating up more slowly than the surface and the air, but that will undergo a dramatic shift in the second half of the century, according to a new study.


3 innovations which are leading the fight to save our ocean Kaya Bulbul. *World Economic Forum.* 3 June 2020. Available from: https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/06/3-innovations-that-are-leading-the-fight-to-save-our-ocean/ The ocean is our lifeline - we rely on it for the food we eat, the air we breath, as well as for millions for jobs worldwide.

Protect the environment, prevent pandemics, ‘nature is sending us a clear message’. *UN News.* 4 June 2020. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/06/1065692 On this year’s World Environment Day, celebrated on June 5, the UN is drawing links between the health of the planet, and human health, and highlighting the importance of protecting biodiversity, the system that supports life.
World Environment Day: Celebrating the UK’s precious biodiversity. The Guardian. 5 June 2020. Available from: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2020/jun/05/world-environment-day-celebrating-the-uks-precious-biodiversity To mark World Environment Day, WWF has selected some snapshots of UK nature and wildlife – from land and ocean species to breathtaking plant life – in an attempt to raise awareness of the ongoing fight for our world and its vital biodiversity, the threat to which is both an urgent and existential concern.


Coral reefs are facing their own pandemic—but we have a survival guide. Jack Kittinger. CNN. 7 June 2020. Available from: https://edition.cnn.com/2020/06/07/opinions/coral-reef-survival-guide-spclntl-index.html For years, people have compromised the immunity of these ecosystems through pollution and overfishing.

Special World Ocean Day Interview with Ambassador Peter Thomson. Our Daily Planet. 7 June 2020. Available from: https://www.ourdailyplanet.com/story/special-world-ocean-day-interview-with-ambassador-peter-thomson/ We were honoured to get a few minutes with Ambassador Thomson, the UN Special Envoy for Oceans, to talk about the importance of the day and what lies ahead for ocean conservation.

We need to slow down and reconnect with our Ocean for the future of the planet. Stuart Minchin. Pacific Islands News Association (PINA). 8 June 2020. Available from: http://www.pina.com.fj/index.php?p=pacnews&m=read&o=5771539435edda4b5d34902206abc4 The devastating impact of the global pandemic on people’s lives and the world’s economy is a jarring and historic turning point for all of us but it is also an opportunity to re-think many of our practices.


Shipping, aviation 2030 climate goals too weak, research finds. Nina Chestney. Reuters. 24 June 2020. Available from: https://uk.reuters.com/article/climate-change-shipping/shipping-aviation-2030-climate-goals-too-weak-research-finds-idUKL8N2E04QQ The international shipping and aviation sectors’ 2030 climate targets are too weak and their emissions are on course to reach dangerous levels despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, research showed on Wednesday.

Biggest Open Ocean Clean-up Ever! Ocean Voyages Institute. 25 June 2020. Available from: https://www.oceanvoyagesinstitute.org/news-and-updates/. Ocean Voyages Institute’s marine plastic recovery vessel, S/V KWAI, docked at the port of Honolulu today, after a 48-day expedition, successfully removing 103 tons of fishing nets and consumer plastics from the North Pacific Subtropical Convergence Zone, more commonly known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch or Gyre.


ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION


Russian Emergencies Minister to fly to fuel spill area in Norilsk. TASS Russian News Agency. 3 June 2020. Available from: https://tass.com/emergencies/1163825. Russia’s Emergencies Minister Evgeny Zinichev flies to the city Norilsk, where a diesel fuel spill accident occurred at the CHPP-3 power plant, the ministry’s press service told TASS on Wednesday.

Pain in the boat: Ships in Bay cause resident concerns. Louise Hill. Isle of Wight County Press. 4 June 2020. Available from: https://www.countypress.co.uk/news/18496630.pain-boat-ships-bay-cause-resident-concerns/. Sleepless nights, nasty smells and loud noises are just some of the things Sandown residents say they are having to endure as the Bay is turned into a maritime pay and display during the coronavirus crisis.

Our film on the ‘Battle Against Plastic Waste’ launches on World Oceans Day. Seafish. 8 June 2020. Available from: https://www.seafish.org/article/our-film-on-the-battle-against-plastic-waste-launches-on-world-oceans-day. We’ve developed this short film to give the seafood industry a clearer understanding of the challenges created by marine litter, including plastic and lost or discarded fishing gear.
Race to clean up Russia oil spill hampered by strong winds. Alice Tidey. Euronews. 

How face masks, gloves and other coronavirus waste is polluting our ocean. Charlotte Edmond. World Economic Forum. 11 June 2020. Available from: https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/06/ppe-masks-gloves-coronavirus-ocean-pollution/ ⬤ Waterlogged masks, gloves, hand sanitizer bottles and other coronavirus waste are already being found on our seabeds and washed up on our beaches, joining the day-to-day detritus in our ocean ecosystems.


Report highlights risks for container ships in Wadden Sea. Mike Corder and Frank Jordans. Associated Press. 25 June 2020. Available from: https://apnews.com/f310c19dd71979d6d4369a93ab60b30e ⬤ A Dutch safety watchdog said Thursday that it is “undesirable” for large container ships to use a shipping route through an environmentally sensitive, shallow sea off the coast of the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark in heavy northwesterly storms because of the heightened risk of them losing their cargo.


Seawater seeping into decaying oil tanker off Yemen coast. Maggie Michael. Associated Press. 26 June 2020. Available from: https://apnews.com/e8d9e1a1d674a2d6784a2c53dfe628e2 ⬤ The United Nations said an abandoned oil tanker moored off the coast of Yemen loaded with more than 1 million barrels of crude oil is at risk of rupture or exploding, causing massive environmental damage to Red Sea marine life, desalination factories and international shipping routes.

International team of scientists warns of increasing threats posed by invasive species. University of Rhode Island (US). 26 June 2020. Available from: https://today.uri.edu/news/international-team-of-scientists-warns-of-increasing-threats-posed-by-invasive-species/ ⬤ In a new study, scientists from around the world – including a professor at the University of Rhode Island – warn that the threats posed by invasive alien species are increasing.
**Central and South America now ‘intense zones’ for COVID-19 transmission.** UN News. 1 June 2020. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/06/1065252 Greater solidarity must be shown to Central and South American countries which have become “the intense zones” for COVID-19 transmission, a top official with the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Monday.


81% of COVID-positive passengers on Antarctic cruise ship had no symptoms: new study. Sarah Maguire. Macquarie University (Australia). 4 June 2020. Available from: https://lighthouse.mq.edu.au/article/june-2020/81-of-COVID-positive-passengers-on-Antarctic-cruise-ship-had-no-symptoms-new-study The study was carried out in real-time on the Australian-owned MV Greg Mortimer cruise ship, operated by Aurora Expeditions, which became stranded off South America in late March as border closures to combat the spread of COVID-19 swept the globe.


USCG Medevacs Burned Crew Member of Maersk Ship in Atlantic. Mike Schuler. gCaptain. 5 June 2020. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/uscg-medevacs-burned-crew-member-of-maersk-ship-in-atlantic/ The U.S. Coast Guard medevacked a crew member of a Maersk containership who sustained burns in some kind of engine room explosion approximately 275 miles off the coast of Ocean City, North Carolina on Friday.
Coast Guard, assisted by Navy, medevacs man 275 miles off Ocean City, Maryland. United States Coast Guard. 6 June 2020. Available from: https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/28f460f. The Coast Guard medevacked a man from a container ship approximately 275 miles off the coast of Ocean City, Friday morning.


Covid measures prove costly for crewing sector. Hellenic Shipping News. 17 June 2020. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/covid-measures-prove-costly-for-crewing-sector/. Ship operators are doing all they can to ensure the safety of seafarers around the globe and the trade of vital food and supplies – but these important measures are proving costly as well as tricky warns a crew specialist.


Mental health of ships’ crews at risk as they are stuck at sea for months because of coronavirus pandemic. Stuart Heaver. South China Morning Post. 25 June 2020. Available from: https://www.scmp.com/lifestyle/health-wellness/article/3090193/mental-health-ships-crews-risk-they-are-stuck-sea-months 📆 The phrase “lost at sea” has taken on a depressing new meaning for the likes of Captain Hrisheet Barve, who recently arrived home in Goa, India, after more than seven-and-a-half months on a tanker.


Shipowners, agents and insurers: ignore crew fatigue at your peril. Christofer Laskaris. TradeWinds. 26 June 2020. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/opinion/shipowners-agents-and-insurers-ignore-crew-fatigue-at-your-peril/2-1-832629 Fatigue is a state of feeling weary, tired or lethargic that results from physical or -mental work, anxiety, harsh environments or loss of sleep.


Gujarat: Two Filipinos, an Indian captain among four Covid cases at Alang ship-breaking yard. Avinash Nair. Indian Express. 29 June 2020. Available from: https://indianexpress.com/article/india/gujarat-alang-ship-breaking-yard-coronavirus-covid-19-cases-6481994/ The two foreign nationals were among the 14 member crew who had beached a vessel "MV Jakarta" on Saturday at Alang and were immediately quarantined after disembarkation.

IMO


Shipping's decarbonisation efforts are worryingly askew. Adam Sharpe. Lloyd's List. 2 June 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1132549/From-the-News-Desk-Shippings-decarbonisation-efforts-are-worryingly-askew Decarbonisation remains the biggest challenge facing the maritime industry but there are well-founded concerns that not enough shipowners are taking the issue seriously, while there are also question marks over the data being used by regulators to set targets and measure progress.


Pacific Should Ask For Carbon Tax. Peter Nuttall. Fiji Sun Online. 24 June 2020. Available from: https://fijisun.com.fj/2020/06/24/pacific-should-ask-for-carbon-tax/ When the pandemic hit and borders closed around the world, the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) negotiations over how this critically important emitting sector, is already moving at an unacceptable glacial speed, ground to a halt.

Day of the Seafarer: IMO increases call on governments to give crews key worker status. Gabriella Twining. Safety at Sea. 24 June 2020. Available from: https://safetyatsea.net/news/2020/day-of-the-seafarer-imo-increases-call-on-governments-to-give-crews-key-worker-status/ The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is using its annual Day of the Seafarer campaign, on 25 June, to call on Member States to recognise seafarers as key workers and support them with travel assistance.
The diminishment of Arctic sea ice has led to increased human activities in the Arctic, and has heightened interest in, and concerns about, the region’s future.

The diminishment of Arctic sea ice has led to increased human activities in the Arctic, and has heightened interest in, and concerns about, the region’s future.

The Government of Canada continues to monitor the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impacts it is having on the marine and tourism sectors.

Greece on Monday (1 June) attacked Turkey’s plan to carry out oil drilling in the eastern Mediterranean, describing it as “a new provocation”.

Today, the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated four companies for operating in the oil sector of the Venezuelan economy.

Standing NATO Maritime Group Two (SNMG2), is currently deployed in support of Operation Sea Guardian in the Mediterranean, from 10 May 2020.

Katy’s work researching marine Genetic Resources has played an important role in ongoing United Nations negotiations over the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Minister of Transport and Mining, Hon. Robert Montague, says several pieces of legislation will be enacted to ensure improved working conditions for ship workers and to decrease pollution of the country’s maritime space.

Australia has signed a wide-ranging maritime declaration with India, marking a major step forward in the security and defence relationship as part of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between our countries.


IMarEST outlines high level priorities for UN Ocean Decade. Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST). 8 June 2020. Available from: https://bit.ly/2P0mPU2 The IMarEST has set four high-level priorities mapping out its strategy for supporting the aims of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, or Ocean Decade, which runs from next year through to 2030.


‘We Need to Protect the Ocean Before it’s Too Late’. Gitika Bhardwaj and Karen Sack. *Chatham House Royal Institute of International Affairs*. 8 June 2020. Available from: https://www.chathamhouse.org/expert/comment/we-need-protect-ocean-its-too-late President and CEO of Ocean Unite, Karen Sack, speaks to Gitika Bhardwaj about why the first global treaty to protect the world’s ocean is urgently needed.


Legal issues arising from use of tankers as floating storage. *Maritime Cyprus*. 11 June 2020. Available from: https://www.maritimecyprus.com/2020/06/11/legal-issues-arising-from-use-of-tankers-as-floating-storage/ In recent years, international oil markets have witnessed collapsing oil prices as a result of an excess in supply and a corresponding decrease in demand as consumer behaviour switches slowly away from a dependency on oil.
State aid: Commission approves Italian tax measures for maritime transport.


EU takes first step in intervention against Asian state aid. Thomas Kristiansen and Mette Mandrup. ShippingWatch. 15 June 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12222560.ece Wednesday this week, Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager will take the first major step in the intervention against unfair competition from Asia heralded by the EU.


The US sanctions another two ships for trading with Venezuela. Christian Carlsen. ShippingWatch. 19 June 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Tanker/article12233654.ece Two tankers have been blacklisted by the US, which accuses them of participating in a Mexican setup that has exported Venezuelan oil.

APL container vessel released by Australian authorities. Katrine Grønvald Raun. ShippingWatch. 22 June 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article12237744.ece Container vessel APL England is bound for China after it was able to leave the Port of Brisbane this weekend, where the vessel has been detained by Australian authorities since the end of May.


UK climate committee urges IMO to make 2050 GHG goals more strict. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 26 June 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/uk-climate-committee-urges-imo-to-make-2050-ghg-goals-more-strict/ The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) has given a progress report on how well the UK is proceeding in cutting emissions in which it urges for shipping and aviation to be formally included in the UK climate goals and for the UK to put pressure on the International Maritime Organization to make its own 2050 targets more strict.


Maritime Sector Recovery Plan. Maritime UK. June 2020. Available from: https://www.maritimeuk.org/programmes/maritime-sector-recovery-plan/ The UK is one of the world’s leading maritime nations, and maritime is one of the driving forces of the British economy. Maritime Sector Recovery Plan Version 1.0
**MARINE TECHNOLOGY**


**EU grants €7.5m for research into autonomous shipping.** *Digital Ship.* 3 June 2020. Available from: [https://www.thedigitalship.com/news/electronics-navigation/item/6603-eu-grants-7-5m-for-research-into-autonomous-shipping](https://www.thedigitalship.com/news/electronics-navigation/item/6603-eu-grants-7-5m-for-research-into-autonomous-shipping) A project to demonstrate how autonomous ships and automation in ports can make waterborne transport more flexible and reduce environmental impact has received EUR 7.5 million from the EU’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation program.


**ABB provides 24/7 remote support to Sovcomflot’s trailblazing LNG carrier on the Northern Sea Route.** *ABB.* 5 June 2020. Available from: [https://new.abb.com/news/detail/63301/abb-provides-247-remote-support-to-sovcomflots-trailblazing-lng-carrier-on-the-northern-sea-route](https://new.abb.com/news/detail/63301/abb-provides-247-remote-support-to-sovcomflots-trailblazing-lng-carrier-on-the-northern-sea-route) ABB has signed a contract to support icebreaking LNG carrier *Christophe de Margerie* with remote diagnostics services for increased safety and performance as the vessel completed the transit of the Northern Sea Route, bound for China with Yamal LNG cargo two months earlier than usual.


S. Korea to spend 160 bln won on developing self-driving ships. *Kang Yoon-seung. Yonhap News Agency (South Korea).* 17 June 2020. Available from: [https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200617002600320?section=search](https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200617002600320?section=search) South Korea said Wednesday it will spend 160 billion won (US$132 million) to launch a vessel capable of sailing with just a minimum number of sailors by 2025.

New technology in shipping is often used incorrectly. *Tomas Kristiansen. ShippingWatch.* 18 June 2020. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12232269.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12232269.ece) New technology and digitalization in shipping are often used incorrectly or end up being a stress factor for officers, a new report from Danish university Aarhus University concludes based on data from eight vessels.

Sustainable technology on the backburner, but not forgotten. *Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA).* June 2020. Available from: [https://www.rina.org.uk/Sustainable_technology_on_the_backburner_but_not_forgotten.html](https://www.rina.org.uk/Sustainable_technology_on_the_backburner_but_not_forgotten.html) Although overshadowed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the implementation of IMO’s global sulphur cap, the transition to low sulphur fuels and scrubber installations are still ongoing, as are efforts to prevent invasive species transfer, which I-Tech CEO Philip Chaabane claims will all soon return maritime media limelight.

Upward mobility in maritime training and education. Yashika F. Torib. Manila Times. 3 June 2020. Available from: https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/06/03/business/maritime-business/upward-mobility-in-maritime-training-and-education/728982/ In a world where man is measured by his titles, accomplishments, connections and wealth, a few stood certain that their ultimate measure lies not in the long list of achievements but in the depth of passion on which their actions are anchored.

How training has changed during Covid-19. Splash 247.com. 4 June 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/how-training-has-changed-during-covid-19/ Featuring the head of Ocean Technologies Group, Manish Singh, and OSM boss, Bjoern Sprotte, the discussion centres around how training has changed in the last few months and what will be the likely long term changes in training as the Covid-19 pandemic recedes.


Global Young Shipping Forum: What now? All About Shipping. 17 June 2020. Available from: https://www.allaboutshipping.co.uk/2020/06/17/global-young-shipping-forum-what-now/ This virtual global gathering managed to have an impact to over 10k viewers with all speakers discussing about Shipping as an ideal career path and what are the right steps for the young generation to enhance their career in it.


Prime Minister Encourages Members Of CMU Council. Jamaica Information Service. 18 June 2020. Available from: https://jis.gov.jm/prime-minister-encourages-members-of-cmu-council/ Prime Minister, Andrew Holness, has encouraged members of the Caribbean Maritime University (CMU) Council to have “unquestionable integrity, knowledge of the field, proven competence, visionary thinking, commitment to excellence and commitment to Jamaica”.

Author: Sharnita Cameron
Date: 21 June 2020

CURRENT AWARENESS BULLETIN | Vol. XXXII | No. 6 | June 2020
MARITIME SAFETY

Fijian Fishers Exploitative and Dangerous Working Conditions Exposed. Patricia Kailola. Human Rights at Sea (HRAS). 3 June 2020. Available from: https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/2020/06/03/fijian-fishers-exploitative-and-dangerous-working-conditions-exposed/ With permission from the author, Dr. Patricia Kailola, of the NGO Pacific Dialogue based in Fiji and partner to Human Rights at Sea, the following article covers the appalling and exploitative working conditions of some fishers in the Pacific region, as told by the individuals and their families.


Höegh Xiamen highlights PCTC fire risks. Declan Bush. Lloyd's List. 18 June 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1132742/ Another fire was reported on a PCTC a week after the Höegh Xiamen fire was put out in Florida.
MARITIME SECURITY

Interview: Ian Bramson – Chair of IMarEST’s Cyber Risk Management SIG. Dennis O'Neill. Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST). 27 May 2020. Available from: https://www.imarest.org/themarineprofessional/interactions/item/5648-interview-ian-bramson-chair-of-imarest-s-new-cyber-security-sig As head of cyber security at ABS Group, a subsidiary of American Bureau of Shipping focused on risk and reliability, Ian Bramson has more than 20 years’ experience helping organisations cope with tough digital environments – and now he’s been drafted in to lead IMarEST’s Cyber Risk Management Special Interest Group (SIG).

Secure at Sea: Is your vessel ready for IMO’s Cyber Security compliance? Corey D. Ranslem. The Triton. 30 May 2020. Available from: https://www.thetriton.com/2020/05/secure-at-sea-is-your-vessel-ready-for-imos-cyber-security-compliance/ Cyber security threats continue to be one of the top threats facing governments, businesses, and private individuals around the globe with attacks increasing exponentially on vessels and the maritime industry.


Number of shipping cyber attacks leaps 400% since February. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 5 June 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/number-of-shipping-cyber-attacks-leaps-400-since-february/ Israeli maritime cyber security experts Naval Dome claim there has been a 400% spike in shipping-targeted hacks since February this year with the coronavirus pandemic leaving the sector very vulnerable.


Vice Adm. Al-Balawi: Promote inter-agency cooperation in DCoC. Saudi Gazette. 12 June 2020. Available from: https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/594172/SAUDI-ARABIA/Vice-Adm-Al-Balawi-Promote-inter-agency-cooperation-in-DCoC Vice Adm. Awwad Al-Balawi, director general of Border Guard and current chairman of the DCoC Steering Committee, stressed that the road map to and for the successful implementation of the DCoC, is rooted in priority-setting and enhancing Maritime Domain Awareness and to build national capacity to respond to threats.


**MIGRANTS**


**Migrants allowed to disembark from tourist boats amid takeover fears.** *Times of Malta.* 6 June 2020. Available from: [https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/all-captain-morgan-migrant-boats-to-be-brought-in-to-malta.796974](https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/all-captain-morgan-migrant-boats-to-be-brought-in-to-malta.796974) Some 425 migrants who were being held offshore on four tourist boats were finally allowed to disembark on Saturday-Sunday night amid fears of a takeover on one of them.


**NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS**


Panama Threatens Sanctions For Ships Disabling Positioning Signals. *Maritime Executive.* 1 June 2020. Available from: [https://maritime-executive.com/article/panama-threatens-sanctions-for-ships-disabling-positioning-signals](https://maritime-executive.com/article/panama-threatens-sanctions-for-ships-disabling-positioning-signals) Panama’s maritime authorities issued a stern warning to all Panamanian flagged vessels seen as another crackdown on common tactics used by ships trying to avoid international restrictions or hide their activities.

A maritime mystery: What has been causing ships to sail in circles? Alexander Martin. Sky News. 4 June 2020. Available from: https://news.sky.com/story/a-maritime-mystery-what-has-been-causing-ships-to-sail-in-circles-11999049 In the early hours of Sunday 31 May, senior officers aboard the oil tanker Willowy were called to the bridge to be told that their ship and four others in its vicinity were mysteriously sailing in circles, unable to steer, and on course to converge.

Middle East owners need to 'pay their way' for navigation aid modernisation. Maritime Optimisation & Communications. 8 June 2020. Available from: https://www.rivieramm.com/opinion/middle-east-owners-need-tonbssplsqopaynbsptheir-waysquonbspfor-navigation-aid-modernisationnbsp-59757 Shipowners need to pay navigation dues to ensure aids to navigation are maintained and modernised to uphold ship safety.

Space for the oceans. European Space Agency (ESA). 8 June 2020. Available from: https://www.esa.int/Enabling_Support/Preparing_for_the_Future/Space_for_Earth/Space_for_the_oceans With its fleet of Earth observation satellites, ESA watches over the ocean to support humanity to monitor and protect the environment, as well as to adapt to any changes.

Oil tankers turn away from Venezuela as more sanctions loom. Marianna Parraga and Jonathan Saul. Reuters. 9 June 2020. Available from: https://reut.rs/3jLJvps Oil tankers that were sailing toward Venezuela have turned around and others have left the country's waters as the United States considers blacklisting dozens of ships for transporting Venezuelan oil, according to shipping data and industry sources.


Registry investigates newly flagged tankers over AIS gaps. Michelle Wiese Bockmann. Lloyd’s List. 12 June 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1132683/Registry-investigates-newly-flagged-tankers-over-AIS-gaps. Middle East Gulf port from where both vessels loaded can not be determined because no AIS signals were being transmitted just before and after the tankers called to load.


4 North Atlantic right whale deaths investigated last year were caused by ship strikes.

Exclusive: Oil tankers carrying two months of Venezuelan output stuck at sea.

PIRACY


U.S. warns of pirates in southern Gulf of Mexico. Reuters. 18 June 2020. Available from: https://in.reuters.com/article/mexico-usa-pirates-idINL1N2DU2W5 The U.S. government on Wednesday issued a warning about the threat posed by pirates to boats and oil installations in the southern Gulf of Mexico, in the latest sign of concern about ongoing security challenges facing Mexico.

Winning War against Pirates. Eromosele Abiodun. This Day (Nigeria). 19 June 2020. Available from: https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/06/19/winning-war-against-pirates/ By the middle of last year when the Nigerian government announced the gradual deployment of the $195 million maritime security equipment it acquired to fight piracy and insecurity in the Niger delta, a not very cheery news broke about the increasing pirates attacks on Nigeria's territorial waters.


PORT STATE CONTROL

Protocol of the Philippines on Crew Change and Repatriation of Seafarers. Government of the Philippines. 29 May 2020. Available from: https://marina.gov.ph/2020/05/29/protocol-of-the-philippines-on-crew-change-and-repatriation-of-seafarers/. The Department of Transportation (DOTr), through the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), has outlined the procedures on ship crew changes and on the repatriation of seafarers in foreign-registered or Philippine-registered vessels docked in international ports or seaports under the jurisdiction of the Philippines amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.


Chartered flights see crew changes take off. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 1 June 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/chartered-flights-see-crew-changes-take-off/. Crew changes are beginning to filter in with two weeks to go until the final deadline set by seafarer unions comes into effect.


Hong Kong allows unrestricted crew changes. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 9 June 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/hong-kong-allows-unrestricted-crew-changes/. Hong Kong has made the biggest concessions in the crew change saga, making it possible for all seafarers calling the southern Chinese port to either get home or board their vessel with no quarantine measures or special permits.

Coronavirus: 3,000 cases of crew change approved by port authority in Singapore. Toh Ting Wei. Straits Times. 9 June 2020. Available from: https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/transport/coronavirus-3000-cases-of-crew-change-approved-in-singapore. The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) has approved almost 3,000 cases of crew change in Singapore since March 27, with three chartered flights set to help more seafarers leave their ships to go home this week.

New Zealand to allow some maritime vessels, cruise ships still banned. Praveen Menon. Reuters. 12 June 2020. Available from: https://reut.rs/3hGXdrD New Zealand said on Friday that it would allow entry of some maritime vessels as it looks to open up its economy after lifting all coronavirus restrictions earlier this week.


Letter: Crucial role of national health services in ensuring that crew changes are able to take place in EU ports 📧

Carnival Cruise and Panama Partner to Organize Cross-Country Crew Transfer tabs Part of Repatriation Effort. Carnival Corporation & plc. 15 June 2020. Available from: https://bit.ly/2D9tGrU In the final stages of its repatriation efforts for crew members, Carnival Cruise Line worked closely with key Panamanian officials, including the Panama Minister of Maritime Affairs, The Panama Maritime Authority, the Panama Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Panama Ministry of Health, to allow for the safe and efficient transfer of crew members from Carnival Miracle to cross the Isthmus of Panama via bus to join Carnival Glory on the country’s opposite coast.


Netherlands top country for crew changes as repatriations grind to a halt. Nautilus International. 17 June 2020. Available from: https://www.nautilusint.org/en/news-insight/news/netherlands-top-country-for-crew-changes-as-repatriations-grind-to-a-halt/ The Netherlands was the top country for successful crew changes in May, with Port of Rotterdam enabling more crew transits than any other worldwide, according to data from the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS).


**Five cruise ships detained in Essex and Bristol over welfare fears for crew.** *Sky News.* 20 June 2020. Available from: [https://news.sky.com/story/five-cruise-ships-detained-in-essex-and-bristol-over-welfare-fears-for-crew-12010991](https://news.sky.com/story/five-cruise-ships-detained-in-essex-and-bristol-over-welfare-fears-for-crew-12010991) Some of the crews had been on board for more than 12 months, payment of wages was late and "a number of expired and invalid Seafarers Employment Agreements" were found by surveyors acting for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

**Authorities clamp down on ships where seafarer contracts have expired.** Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com.* 22 June 2020. Available from: [https://splash247.com/authorities-clamp-down-on-ships-where-seafarer-contracts-have-expired/](https://splash247.com/authorities-clamp-down-on-ships-where-seafarer-contracts-have-expired/) Authorities around the world are now taking action against ships where seafarers have been working beyond their contracts, without necessarily fixing the key issue of flights for crew repatriation.


Scottish government amends rules on seafarer quarantine rules after letter from UK Chamber of Shipping. *UK Chamber of Shipping.* 24 June 2020. Available from: https://www.ukchamberofshipping.com/latest/scottish-government-amends-rules-seafarer-quarantine-rules-after-letter-uk-chamber-shipping/ The UK Chamber of Shipping has welcomed the decision by the Scottish Government to amend regulations so Scottish seafarers no longer have to isolate for 14-days when returning to Scotland for more than 14 days of leave.

Panama Safeguards Seafarers’ Rights During This World Health Crisis. *Hellenic Shipping News.* 29 June 2020. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/panama-safeguards-seafarers-rights-during-this-world-health-crisis/ The Panama Maritime Authority (AMP) wants to emphasize that the measures adopted through MMN-003-2020 Coronavirus and Seafarers Employment Agreement and Certificates, on the extension of employment agreements for seafarers were implemented to safeguard their rights and working conditions during this health crisis (COVID-19).


**PORTS & HARBOURS**


**Reducing Emissions from Shipping in Ports: Examining the Barriers to Shore Power**

Major business boost for Mombasa port. *Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC).* 29 May 2020. Available from: [https://www.kbc.co.ke/major-business-boost-for-mombasa-port](https://www.kbc.co.ke/major-business-boost-for-mombasa-port) Business at the premier port of Mombasa has received a major boost following the arrival of the first container vessel deployed under the ASEAN service line arrangement commonly known as “School Bus”.


South Korea implements emission reduction initiatives in major port areas. GARD. 11 June 2020. Available from: http://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/29847462/south-korea-implements-emission-reduction-initiatives-in-major-port-areas From 1 September 2020 all ships anchored or at berth in the Korean ports of Incheon, Pyeongtaek-Dangjin, Yeosu-Gwangan, Busan and Ulsan must burn fuel with a maximum sulphur content of 0.10%.


UK debut on the Thames for world’s biggest container ship. Port of London Authority (PLA). 14 June 2020. Available from: http://www.pla.co.uk/UK-debut-on-the-Thames-for-worlds-biggest-container-ship. The world’s biggest container ship, HMM Algeciras, has docked at DP World London Gateway port in Essex at the end of her maiden voyage to the UK.


Tracking Vessel Activity at Key Ports throughout COVID-19. IHS Markit. 16 June 2020. Available from: https://ihsmarkit.com/research-analysis/tracking-vessel-activity-at-key-ports-throughout-covid19.html A virus with such widespread impacts as this is unprecedented, as are the subsequent lockdowns enforced by governments globally.


Increased regulation, the prospect of attracting government ire for failing to resist a cyberattack, the increasing digitisation of the fleet and the growing importance of connectivity between hinterland, port and vessel, all mean that ports are and will remain the subject of close interest to cyber criminals, as well as essential points of resilience for countries.


Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) issued the following statement today to announce that the association’s ocean-going cruise line members will voluntarily extend the suspension of cruise operations from U.S. ports until 15 September 2020.


For the first time since the WPSP survey began, a limited number of sampled ports in predominantly European countries are reporting some activity on passenger and mini- cruise services with major safety restrictions in place on numbers and trajectories.

IAPH-WPSP Port Economic Impact Barometer


A port in New Zealand is pressing on with development plans despite an ongoing debate over its future.


The Dutch seaports of Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Terneuzen/Vlissingen, Moerdijk, and Groningen have jointly won the ‘World Ports Sustainability Award’.


Gothenburg and Sweden could be the first in the world to create a joint infrastructure for the transport of liquefied carbon dioxide extracted using CCS technology.


Life has begun to turn around for thousands of Indian seafarers who were stranded at sea or ports due to travel bans imposed by many governments to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.


The Environmental Port Index (EPI) is a newly launched company designed to measure a vessel’s level of pollution when in port creating incentives to reduce a ship’s environmental impact.

Environmental Port Index: Cleaner Ports for a Greener World Environmental Port Index (EPI). 29 June 2020. Available from: https://epiport.org/ There is no question that local pollution levels and the global climate crisis are two of the biggest challenges we face today.
REGULATIONS


Within their territorial waters, nation states have always had the right to impose on ships whatever restrictions on activities they felt necessary, and since 1983 beginning with MARPOL, international regulations have been developed to cover a wide range of environmental and operational matters.


A phased implementation, grace periods to raise awareness and systematic outreach and engagement with vessel crews, managers and owners are all pillars of California’s thoroughly-planned enforcement of biofouling regulations.


Capt Eero Lehtovaara is also well aware that the regulatory framework that is required for autonomous operations is lagging behind the innovative technologies developed by ABB and other members of the One Sea alliance, of which he is now chairman.


The shipping industry has largely experienced a smooth sailing six months into the implementation of IMO 2020, though dispute cases are expected to increase and even drag on, according to an industry panel speaking during the Informa Markets Digital Maritime Week.

SALVAGE


The refloating comes following the removal of approximately 145,000 metric tons of iron ore from the vessel’s holds.


Emergency towage tugs and salvage companies saved 214 vessels from danger in 2019 and prevented environmental pollution worldwide.
SEAFARERS


Holland America Line Crew Repatriation Plan. Holland America Line. 28 May 2020. Available from: https://www.hollandamerica.com/blog/topics/staff-crew/holland-americain-line-crew-repatriation-plan/ We have been diligently working to repatriate our crew to their families and loved ones, but given country closures, port closure and travel restrictions this process has evolved into a more challenging and complex endeavour in recent weeks.

Best practices for crew managers and the impact of COVID-19 on seafarer rights. InformaConnect. 28 May 2020. Available from: https://bit.ly/3jl3iWV In this webinar, we will investigate the effect of the global pandemic on ship owners’ responsibilities and human rights in the shipping industry.


Governments must recognise Seafarers as Professional key workers. Nish Wijayakulathilaka. Daily News (Sri Lanka). 29 May 2020. Available from: http://www.dailynews.lk/2020/05/29/finance/219585/governments-must-recognise-seafarers-professional-key-workers As an IMO Goodwill Maritime Ambassador and the council member of the Nautical Institute United Kingdom and Secretary of the Sri Lanka Branch, I feel this is one of my duty and the time to raise the voice on behalf of the seafaring professionals and future mariners as more than 100,000 mariners are stranded at sea, and living as prisoners on board due to the travelling restrictions imposed worldwide.

Andrew on the challenges seafarers are having and the efforts of the team in The Philippines. Mission to Seafarers. 29 May 2020. Available from: https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/news/andrew-on-the-challenges-seafarers-are-having-and-the-efforts-of-the-team-in-the-philippines Many seafarers from the Philippines have been very badly affected by the current crisis, with many having to work on beyond the end of their contracts because of the severe difficulties with transit arrangements.

Coronavirus: Boy yearns to see seaman dad moored outside house. Angie Brown. BBC News. 30 May 2020. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-52844016 A mother has told of the heartbreak of seeing her four-year-old son waving to his father who is unable to get off his ship when it is moored outside their house during the coronavirus lockdown.

Safer Waves seeks seafarer feedback on sexual assault and harassment. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 1 June 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/safer-waves-seeks-seafarer-feedback-on-sexual-assault-and-harassment/ A new organisation has launched a confidential survey to collect the experiences of seafarers who have been subject to sexual assault or harassment, enabling them to share their stories.

Interim Guidance for Mitigation of COVID-19 Among Cruise Ship Crew During the Period of the No Sail Order. US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 1 June 2020. Available from: https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/cruise-management/interim-guidance-no-sail-order.html This document provides guidance for cruise ship operations in any international, interstate, or intrastate waterways subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to help prevent, detect, and medically manage confirmed and suspected COVID-19 infections, as well as exposures among crew members during periods of suspended cruise ship operations.

CDC Provides Updated Guidance Helping Cruise Ship Crew Reparations. Maritime Executive. 4 June 2020. Available from: https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/cdc-provides-updated-guidance-helping-cruise-ship-crew-reparations The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provide an important update on its guidance for the cruise lines designed to help with the repatriation efforts of crew members during the suspension of service.


**Notice to All Shipmasters.** *International Federation of Shipmasters’ Associations (IFMSA)*. 8 June 2020. Available from: https://bit.ly/3318zmn This global COVID-19 pandemic has had an enormous impact on all the maritime industry, but it is you the seafarer who must not be forgotten.

**Shipmasters urged 'not to sail if their complaints not resolved'.** *Nautilus International*. 9 June 2020. Available from: https://www.nautilusint.org/en/news-insight/news/shipmasters-urge-not-to-sail-if-their-complaints-not-resolved/ In a move that vindicates an earlier statement issued by the twenty-two unions affiliated to the Nautilus Federation, the International Federation of Shipmasters’ Associations (IFMSA) has taken the unusual step of issuing a direct Notice to all Shipmasters calling on them to ‘protect themselves and their crew against fatigue’ and reminding them of their duty and responsibility to report to shipowners any complaints of breaches of the MLC.


**If seafarers were tourists, crew changes would not be a problem.** David Osler. *Lloyd’s List*. 10 June 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1132632/If-seafarers-were-tourists-crew-changes-would-not-be-a-problem For too many governments, reopening bars is a higher priority than sending stranded crews back home, and that is morally unacceptable.

**The seafarers stranded on the high seas.** *BBC The Documentary Podcast*. 11 June 2020. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p08gnld8 There are currently 200,000 seafarers stuck working on vessels across the globe and unable to be relieved of their duties.

**RF Transport Ministry elaborates on validity period of seafarers’ documents.** *Port News*. 11 June 2020. Available from: https://en.portnews.ru/news/297244/ Validity of credentials and medical certificates has been extended for crewmembers of sea-going ships amid the challenging epidemiological situation in different regions worldwide and with the purpose to ensure uninterrupted operation of ships flying under the flag of the Russian Federation, says the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation.

Financial and Mental Pressures Weigh Heavily on Stranded Seafarers as Lockdown Continues. Handy Shipping Guide. 12 June 2020. Available from: https://handyshippingguide.com/shipping-news/financial-and-mental-pressures-weigh-heavily-on-stranded-seafarers-as-lockdown-continues-12987 Concern continues to grow for the tens of thousands of seafarers who are still unable to repatriate back to their family homes, and for those who are unable to reach their vessels and are therefore not being paid during the pandemic.

Seafarers rejected at ports, stranded at sea, tell of physical and mental exhaustion. Nabilah Awang. Today (Singapore). 13 June 2020. Available from: https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/seafarers-rejected-ports-stranded-sea-tell-physical-and-mental-exhaustion He had been out at sea for four months beyond his original contract, as the ship on which he worked had been repeatedly turned away at more than five ports.


Unions ready to take action as crewing deadline passes. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 15 June 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/unions-ready-to-take-action-as-crewing-deadline-passes/ Today marks the deadline for what was described in May as the final day before crews working beyond their stipulated contracts must be repatriated.


Panama Makes The First Isthmic Transshipment In The World, During The Health Crisis Of Covid-19 Moving Crews From The Pacific To The Atlantic. Hellenic Shipping News. 15 June 2020. Available from: https://bit.ly/32ZTZvh We are providing a humanitarian and effective response to seafarers from twenty-five (25) nations, among which are: the Philippines, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Haiti, who arrived in our jurisdictional waters in the ships: Carnival Miracle, Carnival Inspiration and Carnival Imagination, which are Cruises of the Carnival Company, coming from the west coast of the United States.


**Coronavirus: 1,400 'trapped' seafarers repatriated from OSV sector.** John Snyder. *Offshore Support Journal*. 15 June 2020. Available from: [https://bit.ly/3f4d9Cz](https://bit.ly/3f4d9Cz) More than 1,400 seafarers from the OSV and offshore oil and gas industry have been repatriated by ship manager V. Group since the start of travel and crew change restrictions imposed during the Covid-19 lockdown.


**PODCAST: “Cargo can keep coming on and off even if the sailors don’t”— how the pandemic forgot merchant seamen: No port in a storm: the world’s stranded sailors.** The Economist. 16 June 2020. Available from: [https://www.economist.com/podcasts/2020/06/16/cargo-can-keep-coming-on-and-off-even-if-the-sailors-dont-how-the-pandemic-forgot-merchant-seamen](https://www.economist.com/podcasts/2020/06/16/cargo-can-keep-coming-on-and-off-even-if-the-sailors-dont-how-the-pandemic-forgot-merchant-seamen) Pandemic policies seem to have overlooked the key workers who keep the global trade system afloat: merchant seamen.


**For you, it’s a late delivery; for them, it’s months trapped at sea.** Giulia Carbonaro. *China Global Television Network (CGTN)*. 17 June 2020. Available from: [https://newseu.cgtm.com/news/2020-06-17/For-you-it-s-a-late-delivery-for-them-it-s-months-trapped-at-sea-RgRob78Izy/index.html](https://newseu.cgtm.com/news/2020-06-17/For-you-it-s-a-late-delivery-for-them-it-s-months-trapped-at-sea-RgRob78Izy/index.html) Hundreds of thousands seafarers are currently stranded on high seas or on shore by the coronavirus pandemic.


Close to one third of Maersk's seafarers have exceeded their contracts. Trine Vestergaard. ShippingWatch. 22 June 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article12239559.ece. Upwards of 35 percent of the seafarers currently deployed on Maersk's ships have been at sea for longer than required by their contracts, the shipping line tells CNN.


Seafarers are key workers — NIMASA. Obiageli Chuma Ugbo. Vanguard (Nigeria). 24 June 2020. Available from: https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/06/seafarers-are-key-workers-nimasa/ The most important thought that comes to mind when the keel for a ship is about to be laid is the crew that would man the ship.
Day of the Seafarer: ‘Slow Response from Governments Pushing Seafarers to their Limits’. International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners (INTERCARGO). 24 June 2020. Available from: https://www.intercargo.org/media-release-day-of-the-seafarer/ Despite a universal campaign from all sectors of the shipping industry to classify seafarers as key workers, and to facilitate crew transfers, many governments are still dragging their heels, says INTERCARGO, the body representing the world’s dry bulk shipowners. Media Release


‘Panama is denying seafarers their basic workers’ rights’. Mark Dickinson. Lloyd’s List. 24 June 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1132791/Panama-is-denying-seafarers-their-basic-workers-rights Panama’s decision to allow seafarer tours of duty to be extended to up to 17 months verges on forced labour, writes the leader of maritime union Nautilus International.


A heartfelt plea on Day of the Seafarer – Don’t Forget the Families. Seafarers UK. 25 June 2020. Available from: https://www.seafarersuk.org/news/a-heartfelt-plea-on-day-of-the-seafarer-dont-forget-the-families/ As the International Maritime Organization makes a call for seafarers worldwide to be recognised as key workers, the welfare charity Seafarers UK has issued a public plea to remember seafarers’ families impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.


Approved Cases of Crew Change Cross 13,000 as Singapore Observes Day of The Seafarer. *Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)*. 25 June 2020. Available from: [https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/media-centre/news-releases/detail/bb91d1fb-5362-4eaf-ad31-bda5bb9ea8d8](https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/media-centre/news-releases/detail/bb91d1fb-5362-4eaf-ad31-bda5bb9ea8d8) The annual Day of the Seafarer pays tribute to seafarers and acknowledges the contributions they have been making in maintaining the flow of goods.


Day of the Seafarer: Commissioner Vălean supports the rights of seafarers and their vital role. 

Day of the Seafarer 2020: Let them go home! *European Transport Workers’ Federation.* 25 June 2020. Available from: [https://www.etf-europe.org/day-of-the-seafarer-2020-let-them-go-home/](https://www.etf-europe.org/day-of-the-seafarer-2020-let-them-go-home/) It seems like everybody is aware of the situation by now – due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, seafarers around the world have been facing difficulties in being replaced by other crew and getting repatriated.


2,000 distressed seafarers seeking help to get off ships. Katrine Grønvald Raun. *ShippingWatch.* 29 June 2020. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12255546.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12255546.ece) The International Transport Workers’ Federation, ITF, has over the course of six days received inquiries from around 2,000 stranded seafarers requesting to go ashore as soon as possible.

**SEARCH & RESCUE**


**SHIP RECYCLING**


Light at the End of the Tunnel for Ship Recycling. Nikos Roussanoglou. *Hellenic Shipping News.* 4 June 2020. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/light-at-the-end-of-the-tunnel-for-ship-recycling/ Shipbroker Clarkson Platou Hellas commented that “with various reports this week suggesting the lockdown across the Indian sub-continent were set to be lifted after the Eid celebrations, there have been further rumours again that we may still have to wait for some time to see a change to the current regulations and India, in particular, are rumoured to be planning an extension until 15th June.


**SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR**

Qatar signs deal with South Korean yards for more than 100 LNG ships. Christian Carlsen. *ShippingWatch.* 2 June 2020. Available from: [https://www.shippingwatch.com/carriers/Tanker/article12182620.ece](https://www.shippingwatch.com/carriers/Tanker/article12182620.ece) South Korea’s three major shipyards have signed a billion-dollar deal with Qatar to reserve capacity to build more than 100 LNG vessels in the coming years.


World’s first full scale ammonia engine test - an important step towards carbon free shipping. Wärtsilä Corporation. 30 June 2020. Available from: https://bit.ly/2OZadN6 The technology group Wärtsilä, in close customer cooperation with Knutsen OAS Shipping AS and Repsol, as well as with the Sustainable Energy Catapult Centre, will commence the world’s first long term, full-scale, testing of ammonia as a fuel in a marine four-stroke combustion engine.

**SHIPPING**

Danish shipping wants to be climate-neutral by 2050. Katrine Grønvald Raun. ShippingWatch. 29 May 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12178206.ece Denmark’s maritime interest group Danish Shipping has a clear ambition to become climate-neutral in 30 years.


Adjusting to the new normal: same coverage, different frequency. MundoMaritimo. 1 June 2020. Available from: https://mundomaritimo.net/noticias/adjusting-to-the-new-normal-same-coverage-different-frequency Exclusive interview with Maersk LAM CEO on COVID-19 outlook - For the maritime industry, the COVID-19 crisis is a very different one from others, as it is not a ‘shipping crisis’ but a worldwide domino effect that affects all industries across the global supply chain.


COVID-19 Protocol on Crew Change and Repatriation of Seafarers: Singapore Crew Change Guidebook


Danish shipowners see fossil fuel ban as one solution among several. Katrine Grønvald Raun. ShippingWatch. 3 June 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12186681.ece A global ban on fossil fuels could be one tool for achieving climate neutrality, says Danish Shipping Chair Jacob Meldgaard.

Live export sheep from coronavirus ship Al Kuwait to remain in Australia after ban exemption denied. Eliza Laschon and Joanna Menagh. ABC (Australia). 3 June 2020. Available from: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-02/fate-of-live-export-sheep-on-coronavirus-ship-al-kuwait/12307376 The Federal Department of Agriculture has refused to grant an exemption to Australia's live export ban to allow 56,000 sheep to be transported to the Middle East after the shipment's original carrier was locked down by a coronavirus outbreak.

InterManager encourages seafaring community to submit data to ‘Maritime Champions Club’. InterManager. 3 June 2020. Available from: https://www.intermanager.org/2020/06/intermanager-encourages-seafaring-community-to-submit-data-to-maritime-champions-club/ InterManager – the international trade association for ship and crew managers – launched its Maritime Champions League at the beginning of May 2020, and has today announced a name change of the initiative to the Maritime Champions Club.


Heavy fuel oil used by more than one-third of ships in Canadian Arctic waters, study finds. Julien Gignac. The Narwhal (Canada). 4 June 2020. Available from: https://thenarwhal.ca/heavy-fuel-oil-used-more-than-one-third-ships-canadian-arctic/ During a span of eight years, 37 per cent of ships in the Canadian Arctic were run on heavy fuel oil, according to a new report.


Impacts of marine fauna on shipping. GARD. 4 June 2020. Available from: http://www.gard.no/web/updates/content/29808557/impacts-of-marine-fauna-on-shipping While shipping traffic is one of many human activities in the ocean that may have an adverse impact on marine life, the opposite is also true.


Last Cruise Ship Passengers Disembark After Six Month Adventure. Maritime Executive. 8 June 2020. Available from: https://maritime-executive.com/article/last-cruise-ship-passengers-disembark-after-six-month-adventure Twelve weeks after the global cruise industry announced its suspension of service, and just as some cruise lines are exploring a return to service, the last eight cruise passengers aboard an ocean-going cruise ship have arrived home.

Slow adoption of crew change protocols is a ticking time bomb. Nidaa Bakhsh. Lloyd's List. 8 June 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1132608/Slow-adoption-of-crew-change-protocols-is-a-ticking-time-bomb Crew changes are taking place, but it is slow and not to the scale expected when the 12-point blueprint was unveiled a month ago.

Total joins the “Getting to zero coalition” to contribute to shipping industry’s decarbonization. Total 8 June 2020. Available from: https://www.total.com/media/news/communiquestotal-joins-getting-zero-coalition-contribute-shipping-industries Total has joined the Getting to Zero Coalition to support the maritime industry's decarbonisation by collaborating with companies across the maritime, energy, infrastructure and finance sectors.

Petrojam makes transition to low sulphur heavy fuel oil. Jamaica Observer. 8 June 2020. Available from: http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/petrojam-makes-transition-to-low-sulphur-heavy-fuel-oil _195786 A release from the company stated that on January 1, 2020, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) introduced new regulations to lower the sulphur cap on marine fuels, reducing the global limit from 3.5 per cent to 0.50 per cent.

S. Korea to support LNG bunkering ship project. Yonhap News Agency (South Korea). 9 June 2020. Available from: https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200609001200320 South Korea said Tuesday it will support a business building a liquefied natural gas (LNG) bunkering ship with 15 billion won (US $12.4 million).


Canada positions itself as crew change hub. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 10 June 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/canada-positions-itself-as-crew-change-hub/ Canada is positioning itself as a crew change hub with public and private sectors coming together to make the movement of seafarers far easier than most places on Earth with continued restrictive travel bans meaning there are some 200,000 men and women stuck at sea working beyond their contracts.

Jutta Paulus plays a key role in the fight for CO2 quotas: "I am a big fan of shipping". Katrine Grønvald Raun. ShippingWatch. 10 June 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article12209960.ece MEP Jutta Paulus is not opposed to the shipping industry, but she would like it "to become more efficient, to use proper fuels, to use clean fuel and to stop pretending that they should not do anything."


Maersk fleet to improve ocean and climate science. Maersk. 10 June 2020. Available from: https://www.maersk.com/news/articles/2020/06/10/maersk-fleet-to-improve-ocean-and-climate-science Maersk vessels will be assisting global research efforts on weather patterns and climate change by committing 300 company-owned vessels to participate in the global Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) program.


Corona restrictions could paralyze crew changes for a long time to come. Tomas Kristiansen. ShippingWatch. 11 June 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article12213488.ece Crew changes are slowly starting to be implemented in several places around the world.


New efficient ships won’t be enough to curb shipping sector’s environmental damage. University of Manchester (UK). 12 June 2020. Available from: https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/new-efficient-ships-wont-be-enough-to-curb-shipping-sectors-environmental-damage/ New climate research has stated that urgent action on emissions from existing ships is the key to tackling shipping’s impact on climate change.

As oil prices crashed, tankers idled off California—spewing pollution for weeks.  
This scrum of oil tankers, right next to the Los Angeles basin, emitted tons of air pollutants and CO2 while they were parked.

ECSA launches video #EveryShipmentCounts. *European Community Shipowners’ Associations (ECSA)*. 15 June 2020. Available from: [https://www.ecsa.eu/news/ecsa-launches-video-everyshipmentcounts](https://www.ecsa.eu/news/ecsa-launches-video-everyshipmentcounts). Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the European shipping industry has been working hard to ensure that goods such as food and medical supplies, as well as energy supplies and the transport services continue to be delivered to millions of EU citizens.

Shippers have a new way to participate in the global drive to achieve carbon neutrality while working to directly lower the carbon footprint of their supply chains and cargo shipments.

Industry has worked together like never before to tackle change-over emergency, but governments have yet to get the message.

Marine fuel quality has worsened this year amid production challenges from the IMO 2020 switch and coronavirus pandemic, with substandard issues most conspicuous in Europe, according to bunker experts.

Trade in many developing countries is expected to take a "nosedive" in the second quarter of 2020, owing to the unprecedented effects of the coronavirus pandemic, UN economists said on Tuesday.

Gard today launched its first sustainability report as part of its commitment to the UN Global Compact.  

Shipowners Ioanna Procopiou and Alexander Saverys bemoan lack of alternative fuels available, but say who pays is the answer to finding them.

Today, the Federation of European Private Port Operators (FEPORT) and the European Association for Forwarding, Transport, Logistics and Customs Services (CLECAT) once again asked the European Commission to take action to restrict the use of the tonnage tax system for shipping companies.
UK Chamber of Shipping writes to UK PM on crew changes. *UK Chamber of Shipping.* 17 June 2020. Available from: [https://ukchamberofshipping.com/latest/uk-chamber-of-shipping-writes-uk-pm-crew-changes/](https://ukchamberofshipping.com/latest/uk-chamber-of-shipping-writes-uk-pm-crew-changes/) The UK Chamber of Shipping has written a letter to the British Prime Minister Boris Johnson demanding urgent action is taken to facilitate crew changes.


**The Lloyd’s List Podcast: Emanuele Grimaldi on waiting for the world to restart.** *Lloyd’s List*. 26 June 2020. Available from: [https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1132827/The-Lloyds-List-Podcast-Emanuele-Grimaldi-on-waiting-for-the-world-to-restart](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1132827/The-Lloyds-List-Podcast-Emanuele-Grimaldi-on-waiting-for-the-world-to-restart)  Italian shipowner Emanuele Grimaldi is our return guest and he talks candidly about waiting for the world to restart in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, why he has launched antitrust complaints against the governments he feels are distorting the marketplace and the persistently troubling subject of roro safety in the wake of yet another care deck fire, this time aboard Grimaldi’s ro-Pax vessel *Cruise Bonaria*.

**CEO Bulletin: Pressure paying off.** *UK Chamber of Shipping*. 26 June 2020. Available from: [https://ukchamberofshipping.com/latest/ceo-bulletin-pressure-paying](https://ukchamberofshipping.com/latest/ceo-bulletin-pressure-paying)  As we have enjoyed sweltering heat this week here in the UK my thoughts turned to the hundreds of thousands of seafarers stuck on board ships across the world.


Tankers to the rescue again: a solution to storage woes. Julian Hines, Rahul Sapra and Nick Dimokidis. Safety4Sea. 29 June 2020. Available from: https://safety4sea.com/tankers-to-the-rescue-again-a-solution-to-storage-woes/ The Standard Club’s loss prevention (LP) department comments on how this current crisis in oil prices coupled with the fall in demand has pushed several oil producers, traders and consumers to stock up, leading to a shortage in storage space for oil, not just crude but even clean products such as aviation fuel and gasoline.


China’s Influence on Global Shipping Now More Important Than Ever. Nikos Roussanoglou. Hellenic Shipping News. 30 June 2020. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/chinas-influence-on-global-shipping-now-more-important-than-ever/ During the past two decades, China’s rise as an economic powerhouse has also triggered a massive expansion of the shipping industry, both in China, but also globally.


MTCC Caribbean Newsletter: Green Bow, Clean Wake. MTCC Caribbean. June 2020. Available from: https://mailchi.mp/641c69e2b5cd/june-2020-newsletter-1384844 In this communication, we have reflected on the impact of Covid 19 on various aspects of the maritime and logistics sector, our wellbeing, and of course the Global MTCC Network Project.
RESEARCH


Henning E, Bakir MS, et al. Digital versus analogue record systems for mass casualty incidents at sea—Results from an exploratory study. PLOS ONE. 5 June 2020. Available from: https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0234156 Objective Mis-triage may have serious consequences for patients in mass casualty incidents (MCI) at sea.


To subscribe or unsubscribe, send an email with your contact details to: 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.