



# **INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION MARITIME KNOWLEDGE CENTRE (MKC)**

*“Sharing Maritime Knowledge”*

## **CURRENT AWARENESS BULLETIN DECEMBER 2025**

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## About the MKC Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)

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

The MKC *Current Awareness Bulletin* is disseminated monthly and issues from the current and the past years are free to download from this [page](#).

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

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

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## **IMO NEWS & EVENTS**

### **Raft of shipping rules in force from 1 January 2026**

**Amendments to key IMO treaties include reporting lost containers and mandatory training on preventing harassment and bullying at sea.**

A set of amendments to key IMO treaties and Codes have entered into force on 1 January 2026.

They include the following:

#### **Preventing and responding to bullying, harassment and sexual assault**

Amendments to the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code (STCW Code) aim to prevent and respond to violence and harassment in the maritime sector, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault.

The amendments are included in table A-VI/1-4 (*Specification of minimum standard of competence in personal safety and social responsibilities*) of the STCW Code. They outline new mandatory minimum requirements for basic training and instruction for seafarers.

These will equip seafarers with knowledge and understanding of violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault, and information on how to prevent and respond to incidents.

#### **Strengthening safety through improved training and certification of fishing vessel personnel**

Amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995 (STCW-F Convention), together with the newly established mandatory Code on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F Code), entered into force on 1 January 2026.

These amendments follow a comprehensive review of this treaty in order to respond to the evolving needs of the fishing industry by introducing harmonized qualification standards and establishing a minimum level of competence for personnel serving on fishing vessels covered by the Convention.

The revised annex to the STCW-F Convention provides the legal framework within which the mandatory technical standards set out in part A of the STCW-F Code are applied. Part B of the Code offers guidance to support the uniform implementation of the Convention's requirements, particularly for those involved in the education, training, certification, and assessment of fishing vessel personnel.

#### **Mandatory reporting of lost containers**

Amendments to the MARPOL and SOLAS Conventions on mandatory reporting of lost containers entered into force on 1 January. Containers lost overboard can be a serious hazard to navigation and safety at sea as well as to the marine environment.

**MARPOL:** The amendments to article V of Protocol I of the MARPOL Convention (*Provisions concerning reports on incidents involving harmful substances*) add a new paragraph to say that "In case of the loss of freight container(s), the report required by article II (1) (b) shall be made in accordance with the provisions of SOLAS regulations V/31 and V/32".

**SOLAS:** The amendments to SOLAS chapter V (*Safety of navigation*), address in particular regulation 31 (*Danger messages*) and require the master of every ship involved in the loss of freight container(s) to communicate the particulars of such an incident to ships in the vicinity, to the nearest coastal State, and also to the flag State which is required to report the incident to IMO. The amendments also address regulation 32 (*Information required in danger messages*), specifying the information to be reported, including position, number of containers lost, etc.

### **Safety of onboard lifting appliances and anchor handling winches**

A new SOLAS regulation II-1/3-13 covers requirements for the application, design and construction, operation, inspection, testing and maintenance of onboard lifting appliances and anchor handling winches.

Two related sets of guidelines for lifting appliances and anchor handling winches support the implementation of the new SOLAS regulation (MSC.1/Circ.1662 on Guidelines for anchor handling winches and MSC.1/Circ.1663 on Guidelines for lifting appliances).

### **Enhancing the safety of ships using oil fuel**

Amendments to SOLAS chapter II-2 are intended to prevent the supply of oil fuel not complying with SOLAS flashpoint requirements (60°C).

The amendments add new definitions and provisions to SOLAS regulation II-2/4 (Probability of ignition), including requiring that ships carrying oil fuel shall, prior to bunkering be provided with a declaration signed and certified by the fuel oil supplier's representative that the oil fuel supplied is in conformity with regulation SOLAS II.2/4.2.1 and with the test method used for determining the flashpoint.

### **Safety measures for non-SOLAS ships operating in polar waters - Polar Code and SOLAS**

Amendments to the Polar Code, together with associated amendments to the SOLAS Convention, extend the requirements concerning safety of navigation and voyage planning to fishing vessels of 24 m in length overall and above, pleasure yachts of 300 GT and above not engaged in trade and cargo ships of 300 GT and above but below 500 GT, operating in polar waters.

### **Amendments to the 2011 ESP Code**

New amendments to the International code on the enhanced programme of inspections during surveys of bulk carriers and oil tankers (ESP Code) relate to the role of an Administration in relation to firms conducting thickness measurements of the hull structure of bulk carriers and oil tankers under the 2011 ESP Code, including audits of such firms by the Administration in order to ascertain that the firm is duly organized and managed.

### **Electronic inclinometers on new containerships and bulk carriers**

Amendments to SOLAS Regulation V/19, including the appendix (Certificates), the 1978 SOLAS Protocol and the 1988 SOLAS Protocol, require containerships and bulk carriers of 3,000 gross tonnage and upwards constructed on or after 1 January 2026 to be fitted with an electronic inclinometer, or other means, to determine, display and record the ship's roll motion. The carriage requirement for electronic inclinometers should not apply to cargo ships occasionally carrying cargoes in bulk and general cargo ships carrying containers on deck.

### **Fire extinguishing – PFOS ban**

Amendments to SOLAS Chapter II-2 (*Construction – Fire Protection, Fire Detection and Fire Extinction*), as well as the 1994 and 2000 International Code of Safety for High-Speed Craft (HSC Code) prohibit the use or storage of extinguishing media containing perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). The amendments aim to protect persons on board against exposure to dangerous substances used in fire fighting, as well as to minimize the impact of fire-extinguishing media that are deemed detrimental to the environment.

The prohibition applies to ships/high-speed craft constructed on or after 1 January 2026; and all ships constructed before 1 January 2026 shall comply with the ban not later than the date of the first survey on or after 1 January 2026.

### **Fire safety for vehicle, special category and ro-ro spaces**

Amendments to SOLAS Chapter II-2 introduce new requirements to adequately protect ships from the fire hazards in vehicle, special category and ro-ro spaces, and weather decks intended for the carriage of vehicles. They include requirements for a fixed fire detection and fire alarm system; an efficient fire patrol system in special category spaces; and an effective video monitoring system in vehicle, special category and ro-ro spaces for continuous monitoring of these spaces, to allow for quick identification of a fire, with cameras to be installed to cover the whole space, high enough to see over cargo and vehicles after loading. Associated amendments introduced to the FSS Code supplement the engineering and installation aspects of fire protection systems in such spaces.

### **International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG)**

The revised and updated consolidated International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG) incorporating amendment 42-24 entered into force from 1 January 2026.

The requirements apply to all ships carrying dangerous goods in packaged form.

### **Grain Code**

Amendments to the International Code for the Safe Carriage of Grain in Bulk (Grain Code) introduce a new class of loading conditions for special compartments.

### **IGF Code amendments to enhance safety**

Amendments to the International Code of Safety for Ship Using Gases or Other Low-flashpoint Fuels (IGF Code), adopted at MSC 108. They aim to enhance safety by regulating a variety of issues, such as pump suction wells, safety relief valve discharge, fuel preparation rooms, structural fire protection and hazardous zones.

### **Application of high manganese austenitic steel for cryogenic service**

Amendments to the International Code of the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (IGC Code) and IGF Code, adopted at MSC 106, concern application of high manganese austenitic steel for cryogenic service.

### **Life-saving Appliance (LSA) Code**

The amendments introduced to the LSA Code provides new requirements on ventilation for totally enclosed lifeboats (installed on or after 1 January 2029).

### **ECDIS updates**

Revised performance standards for electronic chart display and information systems (ECDIS) introduce a phased implementation of new International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) product specifications (i.e. S-98, S-100 and S-101) for ECDIS, including the capability of digital exchange of ships' route plans. MSC.530(106)/Rev.1 applies to new ECDIS installations from 1 January 2026 on a voluntary basis, and for all new ECDIS installations from 1 January 2029. [More...](#)

## **IMO Secretary-General 2026 new year message**

### **IMO Secretary-General sets his priorities for 2026 in new year message.**

International Maritime Organization (IMO) Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez has emphasized key items on the IMO's upcoming agenda.

In a video message, Secretary-General Dominguez said:

“As we start 2026, I would like to focus on something simple: getting things done. At IMO, this is the year of implementation; moving from plans to concrete actions and measurable progress, reflected in our world maritime theme: “From Policy to Practice – Powering Maritime Excellence.”

“Seafarers. Nearly two million work at sea. Recognizing that training needs to keep up with the new realities of the industry, we will start a major update of the STCW Convention – including emerging technologies, new fuels and changing requirements.

“On decarbonization, we are moving ahead with efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions from the sector by or around 2050. Stay tuned for further developments.

“When it comes to technology, all eyes will be on the finalization of the autonomous ships code.

“And of course, IMO will continue supporting the implementation of the High Seas Treaty as it enters into force this month, underlying our global commitment to protect the ocean and biodiversity.

“I wish you all a successful 2026 and do not forget to check out our new logo!” [More...](#)

## **IMO Assembly adopts new Capacity Development Strategy**

### **Resolutions adopted on the 2026-2027 budget, revised strategic plan and capacity development support for Member States.**

The 34th session of the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) concluded in London with the adoption of a new strategy to strengthen Member State compliance with IMO rules, by expanding capacity-development support.

The Capacity Development Strategy was among 22 resolutions adopted by the Assembly, including decisions on the Organization's budget, financial statements, work programme and strategic plan, among others. The Assembly also elected a new Council to serve for the 2026–2027 biennium.

Concluding the meeting, which ran from 24 November to 3 December, IMO Secretary-General Mr. Arsenio Dominguez said:

“Everything placed before this Assembly has been achieved, adopted, or approved. You have turned ideas into action and transformed collective ambition into concrete outcomes. Your decisions this week have strengthened the governance and strategic direction of IMO.”. [More...](#)

## **MEETING SUMMARIES AND SCHEDULE**

### **Programme of Meetings for 2026**

#### **Forthcoming Meetings**

SUB-COMMITTEE ON SHIP DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION (SDC) – 12th session  
19-23 January 2026

SUB-COMMITTEE ON POLLUTION PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (PPR) – 13th session  
9-13 February 2026



## NEW IMO PUBLICATIONS

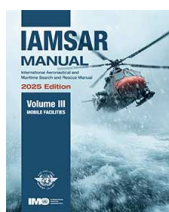


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### **IAMSAR Manual Volume III, 2025 Edition**

Hard copy format: IL962E (English)  
ISBN: 978-92-801-1825-4

The *Mobile Facilities* volume is intended to be carried on board rescue units, aircraft and vessels to help with the performance of a search, rescue or on-scene coordinator function and with aspects of search and rescue that pertain to their own emergencies.

A new edition of the IAMSAR Manual is published every three years. The 2025 edition includes amendments, adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and approved by the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at its 109th session in December 2024 by means of MSC.1/Circ.1686, which become applicable on **1 January 2026**.



### **IAMSAR Manual Volume III Action Cards, 2025 Edition**

Hard copy format: IC966E (English)  
ISBN: 978-92-801-1836-0

The *Mobile Facilities* volume is intended to be carried on board rescue units, aircraft and vessels to help with the performance of a search, rescue or on-scene coordinator function and with aspects of search and rescue that pertain to their own emergencies.

A new edition of the IAMSAR Manual is published every three years. The 2025 edition includes amendments, adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and approved by the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at its 109th session in December 2024 by means of MSC.1/Circ.1686, which become applicable on **1 January 2026**.



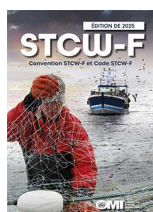


### IMSBC Code, 2025 Edition

Digital format: KM260E (English, digital)  
ISBN: 978-92-801-1841-4

The *International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes Code* (IMSBC Code), adopted on 4 December 2008 by resolution MSC.268(85), entered into force on 1 January 2011, from which date it was made mandatory under the provisions of the SOLAS Convention. The present edition incorporates **Amendment 08-25**, which may be applied from **1 January 2026** on a voluntary basis, anticipating its envisaged official entry into force on **1 January 2027**.

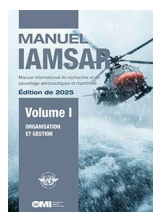
This publication also presents additional information that supplements the IMSBC Code, such as the Code of Practice for the Safe Loading and Unloading of Bulk Carriers (BLU Code), BLU Manual and recommendations on the safe use of pesticides in ships applicable to the fumigation of cargo holds. The IMSBC Code and supplement is commended to Administrations, shipowners, shippers and masters and all others concerned with the standards to be applied in the safe stowage and shipment of solid bulk cargoes, excluding grain.



### STCW-F, 2025 Edition, French Edition

Digital format: KL960F (French, digital only)  
ISBN: 978-92-801-2579-5

This publication contains the *International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel*, 1995, including amendments that enter into force on **1 January 2026**, and introduces the new *Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel* (STCW-F) Code.



### IAMSAR Manual Volume I, 2025 Edition, French Edition

Digital format: KL960F (French, digital only)  
ISBN: 978-92-801-2579-5

The *Organization and Management* volume discusses the global search and rescue (SAR) system concept, establishment and improvement of national and regional SAR systems, and cooperation with neighbouring States to provide effective and economical SAR services.

A new edition of the IAMSAR Manual is published every three years. The 2025 edition includes amendments, adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and approved by the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at its 109th session in December 2024 by means of MSC.1/Circ.1686, which become applicable on **1 January 2026**.

## UNITED NATIONS

**Belgium submits bid to host High Seas Treaty secretariat.** *Brussels Times*. 2 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.brusselstimes.com/belgium/1863249/belgium-submits-bid-to-host-high-seas-treaty-secretariat> Belgium has officially submitted its candidacy to host the secretariat of the United Nations Treaty on ocean biodiversity in Brussels, Foreign Minister Maxime Prévot confirmed on Monday.

**The double-edged sword of AI use by the UN.** Mita Hosali. *PassBlue*. 17 December 2025. Available from: <https://passblue.com/2025/12/17/the-double-edged-sword-of-ai-use-by-the-un> In early November, the United Nations General Assembly's committee on political and decolonization was briefed by the Department of Global Communications about its work. In previous years, multilingualism dominated the discussions, and more recently, they have focused on misinformation and hate speech. This year, a brief spotlight was shone on the use of artificial intelligence by the UN.

## CASUALTIES

**Chinese bulk carrier breaks apart after running aground.** Huaqing Ma. *TradeWinds*. 6 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/chinese-bulker-breaks-apart-after-running-aground/2-1-1912443> A Chinese bulk carrier broke apart after grounding while transiting the Taiwan Strait on Wednesday.

**Shipbuilder blames operator modifications for 'Dali' blackout that brought down key bridge.** Mike Schuler. *gCaptain*. 15 December 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/shipbuilder-blames-operator-modifications-for-dali-blackout-that-brought-down-key-bridge/> Dali shipbuilder HD Hyundai Heavy Industries says changes made after delivery bypassed critical redundancies, triggering the second blackout that left the ship without propulsion or steering in the critical moments before the bridge strike.

**Fatal drone strike on tanker in Rostov-on-Don.** Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*. 18 December 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/fatal-drone-strike-on-tanker-in-rostov-on-don/> The escalation of attacks on commercial shipping in the wider Black Sea region took a deadly turn early Thursday after a Ukrainian drone strike hit a tanker docked at the southern Russian port of Rostov-on-Don, killing two crewmembers and setting the vessel ablaze.

## ENVIRONMENT

**WMU: The Arctic offers opportunities but needs protection.** *Safety4Sea*. 3 December 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/wmu-the-arctic-offers-opportunities-but-needs-protection/> On 2 December, during the IMO Assembly, the World Maritime University and 90 North Foundation released a report on the Arctic, highlighting its economic opportunities and the urgent need for sustainable governance to protect its ecosystems.

**Solomon Islands unveils green plan for shipping and ports.** *Safety4Sea*. 9 December 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/solomon-islands-unveils-green-plan-for-shipping-and-ports/> The Solomon Islands has launched a National Action Plan to modernize domestic shipping and port systems while advancing the country's climate and development goals.

**U.S. helped to weaken report at U.N. environment talks, participants say.** Eric Niiler.

*New York Times*. 11 December 2025. Available from:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/11/climate/unep-climate-report-trump-administration.html>

The Trump administration sided with officials from Saudi Arabia, Russia and Iran in a successful effort to block part of a United Nations report about the dire state of the planet because it called for phasing out fossil fuels, switching to clean energy and reducing plastics, according to two participants.

**Why global environmental negotiations keep failing – and what we can do about it.**

Catalina Turcu. *The Conversation*. 11 December 2025. Available from:

<https://theconversation.com/why-global-environmental-negotiations-keep-failing-and-what-we-can-do-about-it-269749>

In the past year alone, four major environmental negotiations have collapsed. Global talks on a treaty to cut plastic pollution fell apart. Governments did not agree on the timeline and scope for the seventh assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Talks on the International Maritime Organization's net-zero framework failed to reach consensus.

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION


**The garbage men of the sea.** *Nautilus International*. 28 November 2025.

Available from: <https://www.nautilusint.org/en/news-insight/telegraph/the-garbage-men-of-the-sea/> 

Have you ever wondered how you, as a seafarer, can help rid the world's oceans of plastic pollution? Helen Kelly spoke with Laurent Lebreton of The Ocean Cleanup to find the answers.

**Some regions 'may never recover' from a tanker-related oil spill: oceans advocate.**

CTV News (Canada). 29 November 2025. Available from:

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/video/2025/11/28/some-regions-may-never-recover-from-a-tanker-related-oil-spill-oceans-advocate/> 

Oceans campaigner with Stand.Earth Anna Barford says the tanker ban is a 'critical piece of legislation' to prevent potential damage to ocean and marine life.

**Senegal rushes to avert oil spill after Turkish tanker incident off Dakar.** *Reuters*.

30 November 2025. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/senegal-rushes-avert-oil-spill-after-turkish-tanker-incident-off-dakar-2025-11-30/>

Senegalese authorities are racing to prevent a potential oil spill after water entered the engine room of the Panamanian-flagged oil tanker *Mersin* near Dakar's coast, the port authority said on Sunday.

**Potentially toxic harbor sludge pressures marine environment.** Anders Brøndsholm.

*Politiken* (Denmark). 3 December 2025. Available from:

<https://politiken.dk/edition/news/art10645162/Potentially-toxic-harbor-sludge-pressures-marine-environment>

The large ship drags a cloud of brown sludge behind it as it rotates in the blue-green seawater. The mass doesn't quickly sink to the bottom but spreads visibly in the water and remains on the surface for a long time.

**Black carbon emissions from ships measured.** *Natural Sciences.be*. 22 December 2025.

Available from: <https://www.naturalsciences.be/en/science/news/black-carbon-emissions-from-ships-measured>

Black carbon emissions from ships in the southern North Sea were surveyed using the sniffer sensor of the Belgian coastguard aircraft.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

**Experts warn of compliance gaps in ship wastewater.** Craig Jallal. *Riviera Maritime*.

8 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/news-content-hub/greywater-and-blackwater---improving-the-compliance-gap-86822> Experts compared approval-based sewage rules with real-world performance and argued for continuous monitoring, recycled water and evidence-based updates to Marpol Annex IV.

**Cold stress is the risk nobody models.** Pradeep Chawla. *Safety4Sea*.

16 December 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/cold-stress-is-the-risk-nobody-models/> Cold weather remains one of shipping's most overlooked operational risks. We talk about resilience and seamanship, yet crews are routinely expected to perform demanding tasks in conditions that would halt most land-based industries.

## IMO

**China deepens global maritime engagement with launch of permanent mission to IMO.**

*Ships & Ports*. 1 December 2025. Available from: <https://shipsandports.com.ng/china-deepens-global-maritime-engagement-with-launch-of-permanent-mission-to-imo/> China has formally inaugurated its permanent mission to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), marking a significant step in its expanding role within global maritime governance.

**IMO Assembly agrees on plan to help member states follow its rules.** Eric Priante Martin.

*TradeWinds*. 4 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/imo-assembly-agrees-on-plan-to-help-member-states-follow-its-rules/2-1-1911938> The International Maritime Organization has agreed on a new plan that will help smaller and less-developed member states comply with its rules.

**Inuit get permanent voice in setting international shipping policies.** *Nunatsiaq News (Canada)*.

9 December 2025. Available from: <https://nunatsiaq.com/stories/article/inuit-get-permanent-voice-in-setting-international-shipping-policies/> International Maritime Organization assembly approves decision to give Inuit Circumpolar Council permanent consultative status.

**Venezuela complains to maritime body over US Caribbean piracy.** *Morning Star*.

12 December 2025. Available from: <https://morningstaronline.co.uk/article/venezuela-complains-maritime-body-over-us-caribbean-piracy> Venezuela has lodged a complaint to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) about the US seizure of an oil tanker in the Caribbean.


**Divided African states seek to unite for next IMO climate talks.** Craig Eason. *TradeWinds*.

12 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/regulation/divided-african-states-seek-to-unite-for-next-imo-climate-talks/2-1-1915766> African states are being urged to come together to present a unified voice at the International Maritime Organization.

**Global shipping finance transparency initiative reveals closer alignment with climate goals.**

*Global Maritime Forum*. 15 December 2025. Available from:

<https://globalmaritimeforum.org/press/global-shipping-finance-transparency-initiative-reveals-closer-alignment/> Ship financiers' lending portfolios are getting closer to reaching climate alignment with the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) ambitious decarbonisation trajectories, with average scores against the 'minimum trajectory' improving by nearly 8%.

[Poseidon Principles Annual Disclosure Report 2025](#) 

**Officials from UN maritime body visited N. Korea last month for technical audit, report reveals.** *Yonhap News Agency (South Korea)*. 16 December 2025.

Available from: <https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/foreignaffairs/northkorea/20251216/officials-from-un-maritime-body-visited-n-korea-last-month-for-technical-audit-report-reveals>

Officials from the International Maritime Organization (IMO) visited North Korea in mid-November for the audit under the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS), according to the website. North Korea has been an IMO member state since 1986.

**IMO chief condemns Black Sea attacks on civilian ships.** Mike Schuler. *gCaptain*.

16 December 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/imo-chief-condemns-black-sea-attacks-on-civilian-ships/> International Maritime Organization leader calls for protection of seafarers as Russia and Ukraine target merchant vessels in escalating conflict.

**Black Sea attacks: IMO offers to mediate between Moscow and Kyiv to protect commercial shipping.** Harry Papachristou. *TradeWinds*. 17 December 2025.

Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/insurance/black-sea-attacks-imo-offers-to-mediate-between-moscow-and-kyiv-to-protect-commercial-shipping/2-1-1917967>

The International Maritime Organization has offered to mediate between Russia and Ukraine to prevent the conflict from spilling over into attacks on commercial shipping.

## LAW & POLICY

**X-Press Pearl compensation dispute with Sri Lanka intensifies.** *Maritime Executive*.

1 December 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/x-press-pearl-compensation-dispute-with-sri-lanka-intensifies> The London P&I Club, acting as assurer to the owners of the *MV X-Press Pearl*, is intensifying its approaches to the authorities in Sri Lanka over the compensation awarded to cover damage caused by the shipwreck of the vessel off Colombo.

**South Africa moves to prosecute major shipping lines for price-fixing claims.** *Ships & Ports*.

3 December 2025. Available from: <https://shipsandports.com.ng/south-africa-moves-to-prosecute-major-shipping-lines-for-price-fixing-claims/> South Africa's Competition Commission has referred a price-fixing complaint against eight major container lines to the country's Competition Tribunal, alleging collusion over general rate increases (GRIs) on trades between Asia and southern and western Africa.

**Lawsuit says US and Japan responsible for Chuuk oil spill.** *ABC (Australia)*. 4 December 2025.

Available from: <https://www.abc.net.au/pacific/programs/pacificbeat/spilllawsuit/106099974> 

An expert on maritime law says a lawsuit in the Federated States of Micronesia may provide additional incentive for the international community to do more to deal with the environmental risks posed by World War Two shipwrecks.

**Ferry officer jailed over fatal fishing boat crash.** Ammar Ebrahim and Chloe Parkman.

*BBC News*. 4 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2ep3224mzpo> A ship's officer who was in charge of a ferry involved in a fatal collision with a fishing boat has been jailed for one year and eight months.



**Danish war risk insurance for ships unanimously adopted by Parliament.** *Shipping Telegraph*. 5 December 2025. Available from: <https://shippingtelegraph.com/maritime-insurance-news/danish-war-risk-insurance-for-ships-unanimously-adopted-by-parliament/> The Danish Parliament (Folketinget) unanimously adopted on December 2 the act on the war risk insurance of ships. The law ensures that the Danish merchant fleet can continue sailing in the event of war and maintain crucial supply chains.

**France passes huge new tax on cruise passengers costing \$1.3 billion each year.** Tallis Boerne Marcus. *Cruise Passenger*. 5 December 2025. Available from: <https://cruisepassenger.com.au/news/new-french-tax-to-cost-1-3-billion/> The French Senate has just approved one of the most significant new taxes on cruise ships, which could cost the industry as much as \$1.3 billion a year.

**India aims to re-register 300 foreign-owned vessels under Indian flag by 2030.** *Marine Insight*. 8 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.marineinsight.com/shipping-news/india-aims-to-re-register-300-foreign-owned-vessels-under-indian-flag-by-2030/> India plans to re-register 300 foreign-owned vessels under the Indian flag by 2030 to expand the domestic fleet and lower logistics costs.

**Libyan parliament condemns Greece's call to scrap 2019 maritime deal with Türkiye.** Rania R.a. Abushamala. *Anadolu Agency (Türkiye)*. 8 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/libyan-parliament-condemns-greece-s-call-to-scrap-2019-maritime-deal-with-turkiye/3765185> The Libyan parliament has denounced Greece's call to cancel a memorandum of understanding signed between Tripoli and Ankara in 2019 on maritime boundary delimitation, describing it as "a clear violation of national sovereignty."

**Insurers sue liner operator trio over engine trouble that beset container ship voyage.** Eric Priante Martin. *TradeWinds*. 8 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/law/insurers-sue-liner-operator-trio-over-engine-trouble-that-beset-container-ship-voyage/2-1-1911946> Cargo insurers are suing three major container liner operators in a US court in a battle over the salvage of a ship that suffered engine trouble off Mexico.

**Marine surveyors hit with \$70,000 after subcontractor errors.** *Shipping Telegraph*. 9 December 2025. Available from: <https://shippingtelegraph.com/markets/marine-surveyors-hit-with-70000-after-subcontractor-errors/> A single technical error by an uninsured subcontractor has resulted in a \$70,000 settlement and prompted International Transport Intermediaries Club (ITIC) to warn ship surveyors of the financial exposure they face when relying on third-party data without contractual protection.

**German courts debate seizure of Russian oil and shadow fleet tanker.** *Maritime Executive*. 11 December 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/german-courts-debate-seizure-of-russian-oil-and-shadow-fleet-tanker> Eleven months after the German customs authorities first moved to seize a shadow fleet tanker and confiscate its cargo of Russian oil, the courts continue to debate the intricacies of the law in this unusual case. Germany's Federal Fiscal Court on Thursday, December 11, upheld a lower court's decision suspending the ordered confiscation and sale.

**Vessel detained in Odesa over Crimea trade links.** Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*. 11 December 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/vessel-detained-in-odesa-over-crimea-trade-links/> Ukraine's security services have detained the *Gladius*, a Guinea-Bissau-flagged general cargo ship, after the vessel arrived in Odesa to load steel pipes – and investigators say they have uncovered extensive evidence tying the vessel to past illegal calls at occupied Crimea.

**Australia's strategic fleet tender stalls amid growing maritime vulnerabilities.** Kelly Fuller.

*ABC (Australia)*. 11 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-12-11/delay-in-national-marine-strategic-fleet/106121772> The federal government has quietly missed its deadline to announce the first ships for its strategic fleet, designed to boost Australia's maritime resilience. Experts warn the delay highlights growing vulnerabilities in trade and national security.

**NIMASA, Tanzania shipping agency sign MoU to advance regional maritime cooperation.**

*Ships & Ports*. 12 December 2025. Available from: <https://shipsandports.com.ng/nimasa-tanzania-shipping-agency-sign-mou-to-advance-regional-maritime-cooperation/> The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) has held a high-level bilateral meeting with the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Cooperation (TASAC) aimed at strengthening regional collaboration and supporting the growth of Africa's maritime sector.

**EU to reinterpret sea law to confront Russia's shadow fleet.** Aurélie Pugnet. *EurActiv*.

12 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.euractiv.com/news/eu-to-reinterpret-sea-law-to-confront-russias-shadow-fleet/> The EU is preparing to strike at Moscow's shadow fleet and curtail its war revenue by applying existing international maritime law more forcefully, according to a draft declaration under negotiation amongst EU countries.

**Full maritime services ban for Russian oil will reshape tanker markets.** *Safety4Sea*.

15 December 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/full-maritime-services-ban-for-russian-oil-will-reshape-tanker-markets/> Last week news broke that the G7 group of countries were considering removing the oil price cap, which was first implemented at the end of 2022 following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The removal of the cap would see a full and unconditional ban on G7/EU companies providing maritime services to support Russian oil trade, in effect pushing Russian business entirely to the shadow fleet.

**China strengthens legal toolkit with maritime law overhaul targeting international shipping.**

Huaqing Ma. *TradeWinds*. 17 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/law/china-strengthens-legal-toolkit-with-maritime-law-overhaul-targeting-international-shipping/2-1-1917419> China's revised Maritime Code sends a clear signal to international shipping markets that Beijing is aligning its cargo regimes more closely with global practices.

**International flag-state association looks to advancing role in policymaking.** *MarineLink*.

19 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.marinelink.com/news/international-flagstate-association-looks-533751> The International Flag-State Association (IFA), an association of the world's three largest registries—Liberia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Panama—has been meeting since 2021.



## MARINE TECHNOLOGY

### **NYK accelerates use of biofuels in light of net-zero emission targets.** *Safety4Sea.*

26 November 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/nyk-accelerates-use-of-biofuels-in-light-of-net-zero-emission-targets/> NYK has highlighted on its “Progress Report 2025 – NYK Group Decarbonization Story” updates on initiatives toward Net-Zero GHG emissions by 2050, reporting increased use of biofuels.

### **Hull coatings for decarbonisation: solutions, challenges, and next steps.** Craig Jallal.

*Riviera Maritime.* 28 November 2025. Available from: <https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/news-content-hub/hull-coatings-for-decarbonisation-solutions-challenges-and-next-steps-86896> Experts examine hull coatings as a decarbonisation and compliance lever, showing how selection, validation and data-led maintenance impacts EU ETS and CII exposure.

### **Port of Helsinki and Vantaan Energia collaborate for carbon capture project.** Nandika Chand.

*SeaNews.* 1 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.seanews.co.uk/ports/port-of-helsinki-and-vantaan-energia-collaborate-for-carbon-capture-project> Vantaan Energia’s Vantaa Carbon Capture project – Finland’s first industrial-scale carbon dioxide capture and storage project – is set to create a completely new infrastructure and value chain for carbon dioxide capture, utilisation and storage in Finland. It will significantly reduce fossil emissions and create a value chain in Finland.

### **Hyundai Motor expands hydrogen tech to ships and tractors in Korea.**

*Chosun Daily (South Korea).* 3 December 2025. Available from: <https://biz.chosun.com/en/en-industry/2025/12/03/QW7Y7N6VJVA3DHOVC4SGPC4OWM/> The hydrogen ecosystem is expanding into ships and tractors. It appears to be finding new uses in medium- and long-distance means of transport. The actor leading this trend is Hyundai Motor.

### **Crew training shortfall is constraining battery uptake.** *MarineLink.* 4 December 2025.

Available from: <https://www.marinelink.com/news/crew-training-shortfall-constraining-533173> CIMAC and the Maritime Battery Forum have published the second paper on the environmental impact of batteries in deep-sea shipping concluding that the transition to battery-powered deep-sea vessels is no longer constrained primarily by technical or regulatory limitations but rather by the human and organizational readiness.

### **Generative AI and how it is changing ship design.** John Bensalhia.

*Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST).* 4 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.imarest.org/resource/mp-generative-ai-and-how-it-is-changing-ship-design.html> A new project will use AI to help plan maritime vessels, but what are the advantages and limitations? A leading specialist in robotic 3D printing systems is spearheading the manufacturing element of a new £700,000 project to transform maritime vessel design and production.

### **Italy sees first ship-to-ship bio-LNG bunkering at Port of Genoa.** *Safety4Sea.* 5 December 2025.

Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/italy-sees-first-ship-to-ship-bio-lng-bunkering-at-port-of-genoa/> The six-hour bunkering operation, conducted according to current safety regulations and international guidelines, saw 500 cubic metres of bio-LNG successfully transferred to the *GNV Virgo*, enough to fuel the vessel’s return voyage to Palermo.

### **New study explores marine carbon removal technologies.** *Safety4Sea.* 8 December 2025.

Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/new-study-explores-marine-carbon-removal-technologies/> Meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement requires rapid and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, which is a critical priority, according to a new study.

**China's maritime industry embraces green transformation.** Zheng Zheng.

*China Daily*. 8 December 2025. Available from:

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202512/08/WS693671f5a310d6866eb2d73d.html>

The 2025 Marintec China, a major international event in the maritime industry, showcased advancements in green shipping technology and alternative marine fuels during its four-day exhibition starting on Dec 2 in Shanghai.

**Chinese shipbuilder's research arm quantifies cost of removing one tonne of CO2.** Karen Ng.

*TradeWinds*. 10 December 2025. Available from:

<https://www.tradewindsnews.com/sustainability/chinese-shipbuilder-s-research-arm-quantifies-cost-of-removing-one-tonne-of-co2/2-1-1914214>

A Chinese research institute has quantified how much it costs to capture one tonne of CO2 from a vessel's emissions.

**Public-private partnership develops first methanol-powered cement carrier.**

*Maritime Executive*. 11 December 2025. Available from: [https://maritime-](https://maritime-executive.com/article/public-private-partnership-develops-first-methanol-powered-cement-carrier)

[executive.com/article/public-private-partnership-develops-first-methanol-powered-cement-carrier](https://maritime-executive.com/article/public-private-partnership-develops-first-methanol-powered-cement-carrier)

A new project supported by the Norwegian government, along with German shipping company Hartmann Group, will demonstrate new opportunities in sustainable shipping, distributing cement in Norway's domestic market.

**Shipping majors to study methanol fuel supply chain on US Gulf Coast.** *MarineLink*.

12 December 2025. Available from: [https://www.marinelink.com/news/shipping-majors-study-](https://www.marinelink.com/news/shipping-majors-study-methanol-fuel-533447)

[methanol-fuel-533447](https://www.marinelink.com/news/shipping-majors-study-methanol-fuel-533447) American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), Japan's ENEOS, Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha (NYK Line) and SEACOR Holdings have launched a joint study to develop a commercial methanol marine fuel supply network along the U.S. Gulf Coast.

**World's largest battery-electric ship powers up.** Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*.

15 December 2025. Available from: [https://splash247.com/worlds-largest-battery-electric-ship-](https://splash247.com/worlds-largest-battery-electric-ship-powers-up/)

[powers-up/](https://splash247.com/worlds-largest-battery-electric-ship-powers-up/) The largest battery-electric ship ever constructed was powered up yesterday and successfully completed its first e-motor trial in Hobart, Tasmania.

**Odfjell develops green corridor between Brazil and Europe.** Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*.

16 December 2025. Available from: [https://splash247.com/odfjell-develops-green-corridor-between-](https://splash247.com/odfjell-develops-green-corridor-between-brazil-and-europe/)

[brazil-and-europe/](https://splash247.com/odfjell-develops-green-corridor-between-brazil-and-europe/) Odfjell has launched the first operational green corridor between Brazil and Europe with its chemical tankers using certified sustainable biofuel.

**Technip Energies wins engineering scope on PTTEP's Arthit CCS project.** Bojan Lepic.

*Splash 247.com*. 16 December 2025. Available from: [https://splash247.com/technip-energies-wins-](https://splash247.com/technip-energies-wins-engineering-scope-on-ptteps-arthit-ccs-project/)

[engineering-scope-on-ptteps-arthit-ccs-project/](https://splash247.com/technip-energies-wins-engineering-scope-on-ptteps-arthit-ccs-project/) French-based engineering and technology company Technip Energies has been awarded a detailed engineering contract for PTTEP's Arthit CCS facilities project in the Gulf of Thailand.

**EU's first dedicated offshore CO2 carrier now equipped with CO2 storage tanks (Gallery).**

Nadja Skopljak. *Offshore Energy*. 16 December 2025. Available from: [https://www.offshore-](https://www.offshore-energy.biz/eus-first-dedicated-offshore-co2-carrier-now-equipped-with-co2-storage-tanks-gallery/)

[energy.biz/eus-first-dedicated-offshore-co2-carrier-now-equipped-with-co2-storage-tanks-gallery/](https://www.offshore-energy.biz/eus-first-dedicated-offshore-co2-carrier-now-equipped-with-co2-storage-tanks-gallery/) The eighth and final CO2 storage tank has been installed on *Carbon Destroyer 1*, the first dedicated offshore CO2 carrier built in the EU, set to work on the Greensand project in Denmark.

**New system employs AI for real-time detection of lost containers.** *Safety4Sea.*

18 December 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/new-system-employs-ai-for-real-time-detection-of-lost-containers/> Eyesea and EVI Safety Technologies have announced the rollout of an artificial intelligence system designed to detect and report containers lost overboard using standard onboard cameras.

**China uses green tech dominance to take early lead in clean fuels race.** Edward White.

*Financial Times.* 22 December 2025. Available from: <https://archive.ph/wZf3o> Zhang Lei built Envision into one of the largest wind turbine manufacturers in the world. Now the entrepreneur is using wind energy to produce so-called green ammonia, selling it for use in fertilisers and chemicals and as a fuel for shipping.

**China unveils world's first methanol-powered "smart" oil supertanker, signaling major shift in green maritime tech.** Kevin Hughes. *Natural News.* 23 December 2025.

Available from: <https://www.naturalnews.com/2025-12-23-china-unveils-methanol-powered-smart-oil-supertanker.html> In a landmark achievement for the global shipping industry, China has commissioned the world's first methanol-powered intelligent ultra-large crude oil tanker, marking a significant leap in sustainable maritime technology.

## MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING

**launches coalition to train Yemen's coastguard.** Lemma Shehadi. *The National (UAE).*

2 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/mena/2025/12/02/uk-launches-coalition-to-train-yemens-coast-guard/> The UK has launched a Yemeni coastguard coalition in partnership with the EU, Saudi Arabia, US and Japan. British ambassador to Yemen Abda Sharif chaired the first meeting of the group, which aims to support the Yemeni Coast Guard in securing international waters, combating weapons and drugs smuggling, and reducing "unsafe" immigration.

**Mintra moves deeper into Greek maritime market with SQLearn acquisition.** Adis Ajdin.

*Splash 247.com.* 11 December 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/mintra-moves-deeper-into-greek-maritime-market-with-sqlearn-acquisition/> Norway's Mintra has strengthened its position in maritime e-learning with the acquisition of Greek digital training specialist SQLearn, marking another step in its push to support the sector's ongoing shift toward digital learning and competency management.

**Sailors' Society and ITF Seafarers' Trust roll out Africa training partnership.** Gary Howard.

*Seatrade Maritime News.* 11 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/crewing/sailors-society-and-itf-seafarers-trust-roll-out-africa-training-partnership> Following the success of a training partnership in India, Sailors' Society and the ITF Seafarers' Trust are rolling out their Wellness at Sea training across Africa.

**Sailors' Society and ITFST partner up for maritime training in Africa.** *Safety4Sea.*

12 December 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/sailors-society-and-itfst-partner-up-for-maritime-training-in-africa/> Sailors' Society has announced a second partnership with the ITF Seafarers' Trust (ITFST), rolling out its "Wellness at Sea" training for cadets, ratings and trainees across Africa.

**New mandatory training targets violence, harassment and sexual abuse at sea.** Anish Chand. *Fiji Times*. 20 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.fijitimes.com.fj/new-mandatory-training-targets-violence-harassment-and-sexual-abuse-at-sea/> The Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) has issued a notice to all Fiji-certified seafarers regarding new mandatory training requirements that will take effect from 1 January 2026.

## MARITIME SAFETY

**EMSA: Key considerations for transport of alternative fuel vehicles on Ro-Ros.** *Safety4Sea*. 1 December 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/emsa-key-considerations-for-transport-of-alternative-fuel-vehicles-on-ro-ros/> The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) STARRS has issued a study with recommendations for the safe transport of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) on Ro-Ro ships.

**Banana containers cause shipping disruption.** Dave Gilyeat. *BBC News*. 7 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3v133vl9w7o> Warnings have been broadcast to ships in the Solent after 16 containers, mostly containing bananas, fell overboard off the Isle of Wight.

**Shipboard firefighting standards under scrutiny as vessel complexity strains crew training capacity.** *gCaptain*. 8 December 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/shipboard-firefighting-standards-under-scrutiny-as-vessel-complexity-strains-crew-training-capacity/> With lithium battery fires, alternative fuels, and automated systems reshaping maritime fire risk, industry leaders push for updated response protocols.

**Vessel breakup highlights risk of non-IMO compliance.** *Freight News (South Africa)*. 8 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.freightnews.co.za/article/vessel-breakup-highlights-risk-of-non-imo-compliance> An unregistered Chinese coastal bulker has run aground and broken apart in Xinghua Bay, off the coast of Fuzhou, drawing attention to the use of domestic-only vessels that are not registered with the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

**At least 1,010 fatalities in enclosed spaces aboard vessels between 2000-2024.** *Safety4Sea*. 11 December 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/at-least-1010-fatalities-in-enclosed-spaces-aboard-vessels-between-2000-2024/> Between 2000 and 2024, at least 1,010 ship and shore workers lost their lives in enclosed spaces aboard vessels covered by the SOLAS Convention.

**Ship fires spark India into action with ports of refuge plan.** Paul Peachey. *TradeWinds*. 11 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/insurance/ship-fires-spark-india-into-action-with-ports-of-refuge-plan/2-1-1914943> India plans to designate two ports as specialist centres to handle major shipping casualties after a string of high-profile losses off its coastline.

**Banana container 'carnage': All you need to know.** Joshua Askew. *BBC News*. 13 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c7733ddy676o> A week ago, 16 shipping containers – mostly filled with bananas – fell off a cargo ship near the Isle of Wight. Warnings were broadcast to vessels in the Solent shipping channel to watch out for floating containers as some began to wash up on the shore near Selsey, West Sussex.

**Improperly secured lithium-ion battery cargo caused cargo ship fire.** *Maritime Executive*.

18 December 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/improperly-secured-lithium-ion-battery-cargo-caused-cargo-ship-fire> Two years after a cargo ship crossing the northern Pacific experienced two cargo hold fires, the National Transportation Safety Board issued a report finding that when the vessel encountered heavy weather, improperly secured cargo caused the fires in each hold of the ship. They warn about the unique challenges of handling lithium-ion batteries and the need to properly secure cargo following the manuals and instructions.

## MARITIME SECURITY

**False flag raids: Four ships hit in shadow fleet crackdown.** Paul Peachey. *TradeWinds*.

28 November 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/insurance/false-flag-raids-four-ships-hit-in-shadow-fleet-crackdown/2-1-1908585> The West African nation of Benin says four ships falsely flying its flag have been boarded in “international waters” amid growing demands for action against stateless vessels.

**Experts call for India-Bangladesh cooperation on unresolved Bay of Bengal zones.**

*Business Standard (Bangladesh)*. 30 November 2025. Available from: <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/experts-call-india-bangladesh-cooperation-unresolved-bay-bengal-zones-1298051> A maritime expert says Dhaka and New Delhi must strengthen cooperation to manage overlapping jurisdictions in the Bay of Bengal, as Bangladesh accelerates port modernisation and builds on recent gains in coastal security.

**Gambia moves to reassert control over its flag.** *Windward Ltd*. 30 November 2025.

Available from: <https://windward.ai/blog/gambia-deletes-shadow-fleet-tankers-in-second-flag-governance-crackdown/> Gambia’s maritime administration has begun removing most Russia-trading tankers flagged through its privately run ship registry as a broader crackdown on weak governance gains momentum.

**Tanker ‘Mersin’ operator tied to ‘dark fleet’ STS transfers, several vessels sanctioned.**

Malte Humpert. *gCaptain*. 1 December 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/tanker-mersin-operator-tied-to-dark-fleet-sts-transfers-several-vessels-sanctioned/> Several tankers operated by Turkey’s Be?ikta? Likid, the operator of the *Mersin*, were sanctioned by Ukraine in the past for their involvement in ship-to-ship transfers linked to the so-called dark fleet, according to shipping records and Ukrainian government listings.

**Russia likely to retaliate following Ukraine attacks on shadow fleet tankers.**

Joshua Minchin and Ece Göksedef. *Lloyd’s List*. 1 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.loydslist.com/LL1155706/Russia-likely-to-retaliate-following-Ukraine-attacks-on-shadow-fleet-tankers> Ukraine has attacked two shadow fleet\* tankers off the Turkish coast in a dramatic intensification of conflict in the Black Sea region.

**Maritime security conference pushes for local ownership in Gulf of Guinea.**

*Government of Ghana*. 2 December 2025. Available from: <https://ghanamaritime.gov.gh/maritime-security-conference-pushes-for-local-ownership-in-gulf-of-guinea/> Ghana’s Chief of Naval Staff, Rear Admiral Godwin Livinus Bessing, has stressed the need for the African maritime sector to shift toward African ownership of maritime security and the Blue Economy in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG).



**Russian-flagged tanker reports drone attack off Turkey, authorities say.** *gCaptain*.

2 December 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/russian-flagged-tanker-reports-drone-attack-off-turkey-authorities-say/> A Russian-flagged tanker loaded with sunflower oil reported a drone attack off the Turkish coast on Tuesday, but its 13 crew members were unharmed, Turkey's maritime authority and the Tribeca shipping agency said.

**Putin warns Russia may hit Ukraine allies' ships if attacks last.** *gCaptain*. 2 December 2025.

Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/putin-warns-russia-may-hit-ukraine-allies-ships-if-attacks-last/> Vladimir Putin warned that Russia may consider striking the ships of countries supporting Ukraine if a surge in attacks on Moscow's tanker fleet continues, according to local media reports.

**EU and Africa launch regional maritime security plan to tackle piracy and trafficking.**

Mary Wambui. *Eastleigh Voice (Kenya)*. 2 December 2025. Available from: <https://eastleighvoice.co.ke/regional/249091/eu-and-africa-launch-regional-maritime-security-plan-to-tackle-piracy-and-trafficking> A delegation of EU officials, senior maritime officers from the region, and representatives from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), and INTERPOL have convened a week-long meeting in Nairobi to develop a harmonised regional maritime security plan covering the Red Sea, East Africa, Southern Africa, and the Western Indian Ocean.

**Sinking Russia's 'shadow fleet': Has the Ukraine war reached Senegal?** *France 24*.

3 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20251203-sinking-russia-s-shadow-fleet-has-the-ukraine-war-spread-to-senegal> A Turkish-owned oil tanker that recently visited a Russian port was heavily damaged by explosions off the coast of Senegal last Thursday. While Kyiv has not claimed responsibility for the attack, the bombing follows a campaign targeting ships accused of belonging to Russia's "shadow fleet" – raising suspicions that the Ukraine war has spread all the way to West Africa.

**Kyiv's shadow fleet explosions and Moscow's empty threats.** *TradeWinds*. 3 December 2025.

Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/opinion/kyiv-s-shadow-fleet-explosions-and-moscow-s-empty-threats/2-1-1910960> Russian President Vladimir Putin has tried before to cut off Ukraine's access to the sea. It didn't work in 2022, so why is he suggesting it again?

**Turkish Foreign Minister says "very scary" attacks threaten the Black Sea.** *Safety4Sea*.

4 December 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/turkish-foreign-minister-says-very-scary-attacks-threaten-the-black-sea/> Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan on 3 December said the "very scary" attacks of recent days on Russia-linked tankers in the Black Sea threatened the safety of all in the region and showed the reach of the war in Ukraine was expanding, Reuters reports.

**Dark fleet Red Sea presence remains as mainstream transits creep up.** Matt Coyne.

*TradeWinds*. 4 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/dark-fleet-red-sea-presence-remains-as-mainstream-transits-creep-up/2-1-1911402> The trend of tankers returning to the Red Sea continues, but a significant portion remain dark fleet vessels.

**EU targets Russian LNG carriers still using European ports.** Ben Munster. *POLITICO*.

4 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-targets-russian-lng-carriers-still-using-european-ports/> The European Union wants to stop Russian gas tankers from using a Belgian port to transport shipments of non-Russian gas around the world, in an effort to finally sever ties with the country's energy shipping fleet.

**Nairobi concludes EU maritime security week with calls for increased cooperation among partners.** Mary Wambui. *Eastleigh Voice (Kenya)*. 5 December 2025. Available from:

<https://eastleighvoice.co.ke/national/250783/nairobi-concludes-eu-maritime-security-week-with-calls-for-increased-cooperation-among-partners> A week-long EU Maritime Security Week held in Nairobi concluded on Friday with a clear roadmap for future cooperation against piracy and maritime crime across Africa's coastal regions.

**Takoradi Harbour reports sharp decline in stowaway incidents amid security crackdown.**

*News Ghana*. 6 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.newsghana.com.gh/takoradi-harbour-reports-sharp-decline-in-stowaway-incidents-amid-security-crackdown/> Managers at Takoradi Harbour have announced a notable decrease in stowaway incidents, attributing this success to strict adherence to the International Ship and Port Security Code and other maritime standards.

**Bulgaria rescues sanctioned tanker hit by drones in the Black Sea.** *Safety4Sea*.

8 December 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/bulgaria-rescues-sanctioned-tanker-hit-by-drones-in-the-black-sea/> Bulgaria's maritime authorities, border police and navy are attempting to rescue a vessel that entered the country's territorial waters on 5 December.

**Western Indian Ocean faces \$1.14 billion maritime security threat.**

*United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Africa (ECA)*. 8 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.uneca.org/stories/western-indian-ocean-faces-%241.14-billion-maritime-security-threat> The vital economic engine of the Western Indian Ocean which is the "Blue Economy," is being severely undermined by maritime threats that are costing the region a staggering USD 1.14 billion annually.

**Risk Intelligence: China's dual-use ports influence European supply chains.** *Safety4Sea*.

9 December 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/risk-intelligence-chinas-dual-use-ports-influence-european-supply-chains/> Europe's clean energy transition and defence modernisation rely on secure maritime access to critical minerals, over 80% of which are traded by sea. Yet, Europe remains dependent on Chinese refining and is increasingly exposed to Beijing's expanding overseas maritime footprint, Risk Intelligence highlights.

**Political shifts in Yemen will impact maritime security in the Red Sea.** *Maritime Executive*.

9 December 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/political-shifts-in-yemen-will-impact-maritime-security-in-the-red-sea> Largely unremarked upon in the Western press, southern and eastern areas of Yemen which are not occupied by the Houthis are undergoing a political realignment which is likely to impact the threats posed to shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden areas. Simply put, the threat to shipping will persist while those posing the threat have a secure base from which to operate.

**Ukraine hits third Russia shadow fleet tanker in Black Sea.** Mike Schuler. *gCaptain*.

10 December 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/ukraine-hits-third-russia-shadow-fleet-tanker-in-black-sea/> Ukraine has carried out a third sea drone attack on a Russian shadow fleet tanker in the Black Sea, marking an escalation in Kyiv's campaign to disrupt Moscow's maritime oil trade.

**US seizes oil tanker off Venezuela as Caracas condemns 'act of piracy'.**

Kayla Epstein and Ione Wells. *BBC News*. 11 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1w9lg11jw0o> US forces have seized an oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela, marking a sharp escalation in Washington's pressure campaign against Nicolás Maduro's government.



### **What we know about US seizure of oil tanker off Venezuela.**

Brandon Livesay and Bernd Debusmann. *BBC News*. 11 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwyp7rkkgvdo> The video, released by the US government, shows the latest in a series of escalations in Washington's pressure campaign on Nicolás Maduro's government – the seizure of a crude oil tanker.

**US sanctions six VLCCs as Trump ramps up pressure on Venezuela.** Eric Priante Martin. *TradeWinds*. 11 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/us-sanctions-six-vlccs-as-trump-ramps-up-pressure-on-venezuela/2-1-1915669> The US has sanctioned six tankers as the government of President Donald Trump ramps up pressure on Venezuela's energy sector.

**A peace deal doesn't mean the end of the shadow fleet.** Joshua Minchin. *Lloyd's List*. 11 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1155847/A-peace-deal-doesn%E2%80%99t-mean-the-end-of-the-shadow-fleet> Even if a peace between Russia and Ukraine is agreed, it is unlikely the shadow fleet\* will come back into mainstream shipping, panellists told the Lloyd's List Outlook Forum in London.

**Will Ethiopia go to war with Eritrea over Red Sea access?** Jamal Osman. *Channel 4*. 11 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.channel4.com/news/will-ethiopia-go-to-war-with-eritrea-over-red-sea-access> Ethiopia had only just emerged from 20 years of war with neighbouring Eritrea, when its prime minister, Abiy Ahmed launched a brutal new conflict in the northern Tigray region.

**Russian oil exports plunge amid Ukrainian Black Sea tanker attacks, says IEA.** Paul Peachey. *TradeWinds*. 11 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/russian-oil-exports-plunge-amid-ukrainian-black-sea-tanker-attacks-says-iea/2-1-1915131> Russian seaborne oil exports through the Black Sea have plunged in the wake of Ukrainian attacks on oil facilities and shadow fleet ships, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

**Trading has become riskier for 30 sanctioned shadow fleet tankers.** Jens Thomsen. *ShippingWatch*. 11 December 2025. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Tanker/article18833511.ece> More than 30 oil tankers subject to US sanctions for transporting oil from Venezuela are now in danger after the US military seized a tanker off the coast of Venezuela on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

**Trump uses shipping to turn the screw on Venezuela.** Matt Coyne. *TradeWinds*. 12 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/trump-uses-shipping-to-turn-the-screw-on-venezuela/2-1-1915124> The US seizure of a VLCC laden with Venezuelan crude came as a shock, but it was not the first time President Donald Trump's administration has used shipping to pressure the South American country.

**Ghost oil ships dock in Venezuela, showing challenge for US.** *gCaptain*. 14 December 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/ghost-oil-ships-dock-in-venezuela-showing-challenge-for-us/> Two so-called ghost oil ships are currently loading off the coast of Venezuela, highlighting the challenges the Trump administration faces trying to disrupt exports of the South American country's primary source of revenue.

**Thailand considers blocking fuel exports to Cambodia as border conflict escalates.** *gCaptain*. 14 December 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/thailand-considers-blocking-fuel-exports-to-cambodia-as-border-conflict-escalates/> Thailand's military said it was considering blocking fuel exports to Cambodia, as fighting between the two countries spread to coastal areas of a disputed border region two days after U.S. President Donald Trump said the sides had agreed to a new ceasefire.

**Türkiye suggests new deal for Black Sea security after attacks.** *Daily Sabah (Türkiye)*. 14 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/turkiye-suggests-new-deal-for-black-sea-security-after-attacks> As the spillover of the Russia-Ukraine conflict targets more vessels, including Turkish ones, in the Black Sea, the Turkish foreign minister proposes an agreement between the sides to ensure maritime security.

**Trump news at a glance: US seizure of Venezuela oil tanker an act of 'maritime terrorism', says Cuba.** *The Guardian*. 14 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/dec/14/trump-administration-news-update-today> Cuban officials have denounced the US seizure of the Skipper oil tanker off Venezuela's coast on Wednesday, calling it an "act of piracy and maritime terrorism", as well as a "serious violation of international law" that hurts the Caribbean island nation and its people.

**Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine: Council sanctions 9 shadow fleet enablers.** *European Union*. 15 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/12/15/russia-s-war-of-aggression-against-ukraine-council-sanctions-9-shadow-fleet-enablers/> The Council today sanctioned additional five individuals and four entities responsible for supporting Russia's shadow fleet and its value chain, with a view to further curb Russia's revenue generating abilities.

**Tankers U-turn after U.S. seizure of Venezuelan oil cargo.** *gCaptain*. 15 December 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/tankers-u-turn-after-u-s-seizure-of-venezuelan-oil-cargo/> A tanker carrying Russian naphtha for Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA and at least four supertankers due to pick up crude cargoes in Venezuela have made u-turns after the U.S. seized a vessel carrying Venezuelan crude, ship monitoring data showed on Monday.

**Black Sea shipping carnage deepens as Turkish vessels hit in Russian retaliation.** Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*. 15 December 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/black-sea-shipping-carnage-deepens-as-turkish-vessels-hit-in-russian-retaliation/> The risks facing commercial shipping in the Black Sea escalated sharply over the weekend after two Turkish-controlled vessels were struck amid a wave of Russian attacks on Ukrainian port infrastructure, following Kyiv's recent strikes on Russian-linked shipping and energy assets.

**Venezuelan tanker exports plunge as US becomes 'pirate of the Caribbean'.** Gary Dixon. *TradeWinds*. 15 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/venezuelan-tanker-exports-plunge-as-us-becomes-pirate-of-the-caribbean-/2-1-1916451> Venezuelan crude exports have fallen off a cliff following the US seizure of a VLCC carrying oil from the South American country last week.

**Merchant vessel repels armed attack off Yemen coast as Red Sea transit risks persist.**

Mike Schuler. *gCaptain*. 15 December 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/merchant-vessel-repels-armed-attack-off-yemen-coast-as-red-sea-transit-risks-persist/> A merchant vessel successfully defended against an armed assault by multiple small craft approximately 15 nautical miles west of Yemen, according to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations Centre, marking the latest security incident in waters where major shipping lines are cautiously considering resumed transits through the Red Sea and Suez Canal.

**What are the 'ghost ships' Venezuela is using to evade oil sanctions?** Ángel Bermúdez.

*BBC News*. 17 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4g562vz34ro> In a further escalation of tension between the United States and Venezuela, President Donald Trump has ordered a naval blockade to stop sanctioned oil tankers from entering and leaving the South American country.

**Trump moves to choke Venezuelan oil shipping with 'total and complete' tanker blockade.**

Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*. 17 December 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/trump-moves-to-choke-venezuelan-oil-shipping-with-total-and-complete-tanker-blockade/> In a major escalation of maritime pressure on Caracas, US president Donald Trump has ordered “a total and complete blockade of all sanctioned oil tankers going into, and out of, Venezuela,” intensifying efforts to squeeze president Nicolás Maduro’s lifeline crude exports.

**Venezuela authorizes two unsanctioned loaded oil supertankers to depart, sources say.**

Chen Aizhu and Marianna Parraga. *Reuters*. 18 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/venezuela-authorizes-two-unsanctioned-loaded-oil-supertankers-depart-sources-say-2025-12-18/> Venezuela on Thursday authorized two very large crude carriers (VLCC) to set sail for China, according to two sources familiar with Venezuela's oil export operations, which would be only the second and third supertankers to depart the country since the U.S. seized a ship carrying Venezuelan oil last week.

**Rogue tankers off Singapore: What are shadow fleets and who uses them?** Alex Kozul-Wright.

*Al Jazeera*. 19 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/12/19/rogue-tankers-off-singapore-what-are-shadow-fleets-and-who-uses-them> Singapore has reported a growing number of “rogue” or “shadow fleet” tankers operating off its shores in and around one of the world’s busiest maritime corridors.

**English Channel at risk after Russian tanker attacked in Mediterranean.** Hans van Leeuwen.

*The Telegraph*. 19 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/english-channel-risk-russian-tanker-184231202.html> Ukraine’s dramatic escalation of its sea-drone attacks on tankers carrying Russian oil could spread to the English Channel, experts have warned.

**U.S. pursuing third tanker off Venezuelan coast, official says.** Emmanuel Felton and Alec Dent.

*Washington Post*. 22 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2025/12/21/venezuela-us-tanker-intercept-vessel-seized/> The United States Coast Guard has pursued another tanker off Venezuela, a U.S. official said Sunday, in what would mark the third interception of a tanker in the waters off that country this month.

**Sanctioned tanker links Russia's Arctic oil trade to Venezuela for first time.** Malte Humpert. *gCaptain*. 22 December 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/sanctioned-tanker-links-russias-arctic-oil-trade-to-venezuela-for-first-time/> A sanctioned oil tanker has for the first time established a direct geographic link between Russia's Arctic "shadow fleet" and oil product exports to Venezuela, connecting two of the world's most sensitive energy and sanctions flashpoints, according to ship-tracking and trade data.

**The open war against the oil 'phantom fleet'.** Andrés Mourenza and Óscar Gutiérrez. *El País (Spain)*. 22 December 2025. Available from: <https://english.elpais.com/international/2025-12-22/the-open-war-against-the-oil-phantom-fleet.html> The US-led battle against cargo ships off the coast of Venezuela, and Ukraine's attacks on Russian vessels have brought to light an illegal industry of 'shadow' ships.

**Oil loading in Venezuela slows, more ships make U-turns after new US interceptions.** Marianna Parraga. *Reuters*. 22 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/oil-loading-venezuela-slows-more-ships-make-u-turns-after-new-us-interceptions-2025-12-22/> Tanker loading in Venezuela dwindled on Monday, with most ships moving oil cargoes only between domestic ports following U.S. action against two more ships and as state-run energy company PDVSA struggles to recover from a cyberattack, according to tracking data and sources.

**How the Ukraine war is increasingly threatening Black Sea security.** Murat Sofuoglu. *TRT World (Türkiye)*. 22 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.trtworld.com/article/f90f8224c341/amp> Turkish-owned commercial vessels were struck in the Black Sea during recent escalations between Ukraine and Russia, highlighting how a vital trade route has become a perilous area.

**US Coast Guard lacks forces to seize Venezuela-linked tanker for now, sources say.** Idrees Ali, Jonathan Saul and Trevor Hunnicutt. *Reuters*. 24 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/us-eyes-additional-coast-guard-assets-seize-fleeing-tanker-sources-say-2025-12-24/> The U.S. Coast Guard is waiting for additional forces to arrive before potentially attempting to board and seize a Venezuela-linked oil tanker it has been pursuing since Sunday, a U.S. official and a source familiar with the matter told Reuters.

## MIGRANTS

**At least 27 people killed, dozens rescued after two shipwrecks off Tunisia.** *Al Jazeera*. **Eighteen die after migrant boat sinks off Southern Greek island.** *gCaptain*. 6 December 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/eighteen-die-after-migrant-boat-sinks-off-southern-greek-island/> Eighteen migrants drowned when their boat overturned 26 miles (40 km) south of the tiny southern Greek island of Chrysi, a coast guard official said on Saturday, while two were rescued from the sea.

**One dead, 60 rescued after illegal migrant boat capsizes off Malta.** *Baird Maritime*. 12 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.bairdmaritime.com/security/incidents/piracy/one-dead-60-rescued-after-illegal-migrant-boat-capsizes-off-malta> Some 60 African illegal migrants were brought to Malta on Friday after their boat capsized close to the Mediterranean island. This is one of the biggest groups to arrive in recent years.

**Greek tanker saves castaways in dramatic Mediterranean rescue.** Harry Papachristou. *TradeWinds*. 12 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/greek-tanker-saves-castaways-in-dramatic-mediterranean-rescue/2-1-1915987> About seven castaways, thought to be migrants trying to make their way without papers to Europe, have been rescued by a Greek product tanker in the Mediterranean Sea.

## NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS

**AIS: Why maritime visibility now depends on remote sensing intelligence.** *Windward Ltd*. 7 December 2025. Available from: <https://windward.ai/blog/why-maritime-visibility-now-depends-on-remote-sensing-intelligence/> The Automatic Identification System (AIS) was never meant to be the single source of truth for maritime visibility. Designed as a collision-avoidance tool, it was built for safety – not sanctions, security, or global risk monitoring. Yet AIS still underpins how most organizations understand vessel movement.

**‘Dark fleet’ LNG carrier forced to turn back as early winter ice blocks access to Arctic LNG 2.** Malte Humpert. *gCaptain*. 8 December 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/dark-fleet-lng-carrier-forced-to-turn-back-as-early-winter-ice-blocks-access-to-arctic-lng-2/> In recent days Russia’s medium ice-class LNG carrier *Buran* has failed repeatedly to reach the Arctic LNG 2 terminal in Ob Bay as thick, early-season ice has shut down regular navigation.

**Russia deploys all eight nuclear icebreakers for first time to keep Arctic export routes open.** Malte Humpert. *gCaptain*. 16 December 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/russia-deploys-all-eight-nuclear-icebreakers-for-first-time-to-keep-arctic-export-routes-open/> Russia has, for the first time, deployed its entire fleet of eight nuclear-powered icebreakers simultaneously to maintain winter shipping lanes in the Gulf of Ob and the Yenisei Gulf, underscoring the strategic importance of Arctic energy exports.

**Maersk returns to Red Sea after two-year absence.** Ian Lewis. *TradeWinds*. 19 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/containers/maersk-returns-to-red-sea-after-two-year-absence/2-1-1919562> Liner giant AP Moller-Maersk has resumed Red Sea passages for the first time in two years.

## PIRACY

**Seafarer hit by stray bullet as nine ‘kidnapped by pirates in Gulf of Guinea’.** Paul Peachey and Gary Dixon. *TradeWinds*. 3 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/insurance/seafarer-hit-by-stray-bullet-as-nine-kidnapped-by-pirates-in-gulf-of-guinea-/2-1-1910713> At least nine crew members have reportedly been kidnapped after a tanker was attacked by pirates off the west African coast, according to security firm Vanguard.

**Barbados-flagged bulk carrier *Bobik* repels twin piracy attempts in Bab el-Mandeb.** *PortNews*. 5 December 2025. Available from: <https://en.portnews.ru/news/385437/> A Barbados-flagged handysize bulk carrier managed by Turkey’s Century Ship Management repelled two pirate approaches in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait on Friday morning, according to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) centre.

**Christiania seeks contact with pirates who abducted nine seafarers.** Gary Dixon. *TradeWinds*. 8 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/gas/christiania-seeks-contact-with-pirates-who-abducted-nine-seafarers/2-1-1912591> Denmark's Christiania Shipping is still trying to contact a pirate group that kidnapped nine seafarers from an LPG carrier off West Africa last week.

## PORTS & HARBOURS

**Auckland to give shipping lines more sustainable options.** Nandika Chand. *SeaNews*. 4 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.seanews.co.uk/ports/auckland-to-give-shipping-lines-more-sustainable-options> Roger Gray said achieving these targets requires a significant transition plan to zero-emission alternatives. Port of Auckland are pleased to be able to support this transition for ships in New Zealand.

**Port of Barcelona plans to halve emissions by 2030, 85% reduction by 2040.** Nandika Chand. *SeaNews*. 8 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.seanews.co.uk/ports/port-of-barcelona-plans-to-halve-emissions-by-2030-85-reduction-by-2040> The Port of Barcelona, a major European transport hub, has approved its Energy Transition Plan derived from the Fourth Strategic Plan. This will set the port's energy policy until 2040 – establishing the objective of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 85 percent in 2040.

**Morocco to expand maritime infrastructure with two major deepwater ports.** Adekunle Agbetiloye. *Business Insider Africa*. 9 December 2025. Available from: <https://africa.businessinsider.com/local/markets/morocco-to-expand-maritime-infrastructure-with-two-major-deepwater-ports/pl2e0qg> Morocco plans to open a new deepwater port on the Mediterranean next year, and another on the Atlantic in 2028.

**Ctg port achieves 'zero observation' in implementation of ISPS Code.** *Daily Sun (Bangladesh)*. 15 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.daily-sun.com/business/846300/ctg-port-achieves-zero-observation-in-implementation-of-isps-code> The Chattogram port has achieved recognition of complying with the ISPS (International Ship and Port Facility Security) Code through the report revealed by the United States Coast Guard following an official inspection.

**India's green maritime odyssey.** *Government of India*. 15 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2203895&reg=3&lang=2> Indian ports are going green, adding renewable capacity, LNG bunkering, green cover expansion to reduce emissions and improve environmental performance.

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## REGULATIONS

**UK seeks to include emissions from international maritime voyages into ETS.** *Safety4Sea.* 27 November 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/uk-seeks-to-include-emissions-from-international-maritime-voyages-into-ets/> The UK ETS Authority is consulting on the inclusion of emissions from international maritime voyages starting or ending in the UK, with the expansion proposed to take effect from 2028.

**New IMO-backed initiatives to strengthen Caribbean maritime governance.** *Safety4Sea.* 28 November 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/new-imo-backed-initiatives-to-strengthen-caribbean-maritime-governance/> The Caribbean region will undertake two new targeted projects to strengthen maritime governance and the implementation of IMO instruments, funded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Oman.

**MAMII and maritime leaders hold talks on methane measurement and abatement.** *Safety4Sea.* 28 November 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/mamii-and-maritime-leaders-hold-talks-on-methane-measurement-and-abatement/> The Methane Abatement in Maritime Innovation Initiative (MAMII) hosted its first event in Brussels last week, bringing shipowners, engine designers, technology providers and EU policymakers together to accelerate efforts to reduce methane emissions from shipping.

**Mediterranean States review plans for possible NOx ECA.** *Safety4Sea.* 1 December 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/mediterranean-states-review-plans-for-possible-nox-eca/> Mediterranean States have gathered to examine the possible designation of the entire Mediterranean Sea as a Nitrogen Oxides Emission Control Area (Med NOx ECA), where stricter limits on NOx emissions from ships will apply.

**Hafnia boss Mikael Skov urges regulators to block shadow fleet tankers' return to mainstream.** Gary Dixon. *TradeWinds.* 1 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/hafnia-boss-mikael-skov-urges-regulators-to-block-shadow-fleet-tankers-return-to-mainstream/2-1-1909476> Chief executive Mikael Skov finished Hafnia's earnings call on Monday with a plea to shipping regulators not to allow shadow fleet tankers back into mainstream markets as a result of any peace deal between Ukraine and Russia.

**Study finds major drop in ship sulfur emissions following IMO regulations.** *Maritime Executive.* 2 December 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/study-finds-major-drop-in-ship-sulfur-emissions-following-imo-regulations> An academic team led by researchers at the UK's National Centre for Atmospheric Science completed a first in-depth study looking at sulfur emissions at sea and found "fairly good compliance" with the IMO regulations introduced in 2020. [Study](#)

**IOPC funds meeting puzzled over shadow fleet implications.** *Safety4Sea.* 4 December 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/iopc-funds-meeting-puzzled-over-shadow-fleet-implications/> According to BIMCO, delegates focused on maritime safety, enforcement challenges and regulatory developments with significant implications for the shipping industry.

**ICHCA urges for early adoption on 2026 ammonium nitrate rules.** *Safety4Sea.* 5 December 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/ichca-urges-for-early-adoption-on-2026-ammonium-nitrate-rules/> ICHCA International has urged the maritime industry to fully adopt the updated IMDG Code requirements for ammonium nitrate before they become mandatory on 1 January 2026.



**Top 10 in regulation 2025.** *Lloyd's List*. 5 December 2025. Available from:

<https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1155694/Top-10-in-regulation-2025> Shipping is used to the plodding and predictable approach of the International Maritime Organization, but the wrenching turns on tariffs and port fees took regulation from mundanity to mania.

**Cruise lines and governments should focus on 'fuel flexibility' to reach 'crucial' emission targets.** Ella Sagar. *Travel Weekly*. 8 December 2025. Available from:

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/cruise-lines-and-governments-should-focus-on-fuel-flexibility-to-reach-crucial-emission-targets> Norwegian coastal specialists and environmental and fuel experts have urged the cruise industry and governments to focus on "fuel flexibility" and "stepping stone" options to reach emissions targets.

**Shipowners warned STCW compliance alone will not stop bullying at sea.** *Safety4Sea*.

9 December 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/shipowners-warned-stcw-compliance-alone-will-not-stop-bullying-at-sea/> As the maritime industry prepares for the introduction of amendments on bullying and harassment training under the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Convention, health and wellbeing experts are warning shipowners not to treat the changes as a mere compliance exercise.

**From regulation to reality: Fuel assessment update of the Mediterranean ECA.**

*Hellenic Shipping News*. 9 December 2025. Available from:

<https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/from-regulation-to-reality-fuel-assessment-update-of-the-mediterranean-eca/> By the end of October 2025, six months had passed since the implementation of the Mediterranean Emission Control Area (ECA). This article will set out to review what's changed in terms of the fuel mix and fuel quality, across the region between 1st November 2024 – 31st October 2025.

**An outdated ISM code awaits a doctor.** *Splash 247.com*. 10 December 2025. Available from:

<https://splash247.com/an-outdated-ism-code-awaits-a-doctor/> Captain Naveen Singhal and Captain M M Saggi write for Splash today, calling for significant regulatory change to make shipping safer.

**Nordic countries launch phase two of maritime decarbonisation plan.** Craig Eason.

*TradeWinds*. 10 December 2025. Available from:

<https://www.tradewindsnews.com/sustainability/nordic-countries-launch-phase-two-of-maritime-decarbonisation-plan/2-1-1914313> Businesses and organisations across Norway, Sweden and wider Europe have teamed up to draft a new strategy to decarbonise the region's shipping sector.

**Campaigners call on IMO to tighten rules on livestock carriers.** Craig Eason. *TradeWinds*.

11 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/ship-management/campaigners-call-on-imo-to-tighten-rules-on-livestock-carriers/2-1-1915566>

A group of more than 35 animal rights organisations have written to International Maritime Organization secretary general Arsenio Dominguez, urging for tighter rules for livestock carriers.

**Poseidon Principles shipping banks make big progress on net zero as targets get tougher.**

Gary Dixon. *TradeWinds*. 14 December 2025. Available from:

<https://www.tradewindsnews.com/finance/poseidon-principles-shipping-banks-make-big-progress-on-net-zero-as-targets-get-tougher/2-1-1915988> The association of maritime lenders noted further steps forward in emissions-reduction scores and reporting transparency in their portfolios for 2025.

**Middle East and North Africa focus on enforcing IMO liability and compensation conventions.**

*PortNews*. 15 December 2025. Available from: <https://en.portnews.ru/news/385838/> Maritime stakeholders from 10 Middle East and North Africa countries completed a regional workshop in Alexandria, Egypt, on strengthening enforcement of the IMO liability and compensation regime, according to the International Maritime Organization.

**Shell and Chevron quit Sea Cargo Charter in blow to voluntary decarbonisation framework.**

Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*. 17 December 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/shell-and-chevron-quit-sea-cargo-charter-in-blow-to-voluntary-decarbonisation-framework/> Two of the biggest names in energy shipping have quietly exited the Sea Cargo Charter, raising fresh questions about industry commitment to voluntary emissions transparency and decarbonisation.

**Harassment awareness moves up agenda for Cyprus and global shipping.**

Souzana Psara. *Cyprus Mail*. 17 December 2025. Available from: <https://cyprus-mail.com/2025/12/17/harassment-awareness-moves-up-agenda-for-cyprus-and-global-shipping> Cyprus' shipping community has increasingly been drawn into global efforts to tackle harassment at sea, as the island's maritime cluster aligns with international campaigns, regulatory changes and growing expectations around crew welfare and inclusion.

**Clean Arctic Alliance welcomes IMO Polar Fuels Proposal.**

*Safety4Sea*. 19 December 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/clean-arctic-alliance-welcomes-imo-polar-fuels-proposal/> The Clean Arctic Alliance has welcomed the submission of a proposal (PPR 13-6) to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) that aims to establish a fuel measure under MARPOL Annex VI that would reduce the impact of black carbon emissions from international shipping on the Arctic.

**Wind-assisted propulsion market size to reach USD 10,727.4 million in 2032.**

*openPR*. 22 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.openpr.com/news/4323490/wind-assisted-propulsion-market-size-to-reach-usd-10-727-4> Stringent environmental regulations aimed at cutting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are a major factor driving revenue growth in the wind-assisted propulsion (WAP) market. The maritime sector is undergoing a transformative shift toward sustainability as it seeks to reduce its carbon footprint.

## SEAFARERS

**Women on the rise in the Greek fleet.**

*Safety4Sea*. 28 November 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/women-on-the-rise-in-the-greek-fleet/> Greece is recording one of the most dynamic increases in female maritime employment worldwide, according to a Greek study.

**20 Filipino seafarers remain detained onboard bulk carrier in Lagos after 20kg cocaine discovery.**

*Marine Insight*. 28 November 2025. Available from: <https://www.marineinsight.com/shipping-news/20-filipino-seafarers-remain-detained-onboard-bulk-carrier-in-lagos-after-20kg-cocaine-discovery/> Twenty Filipino seafarers remain detained onboard the Panamanian-flagged *MV North Bosphorus* in Lagos, Nigeria, after authorities discovered about 20 kilogrammes of cocaine during a port inspection earlier this month.

**NMA: Almost 1 in 5 seafarers has their off-duty hours interrupted to work.**

*Safety4Sea*. 1 December 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/nma-almost-1-in-5-has-their-off-duty-hours-interrupted-to-work/> The Norwegian Maritime Authority's (NMA) survey on maritime safety reveals that fatigue remains a significant risk in the maritime sector – but there are also bright spots.

**Seafarer exodus casts a shadow over maritime safety.** Paul Bartlett. *Seatrade Maritime News*.

1 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/crewing/seafarer-exodus-casts-a-shadow-over-maritime-safety> The exodus of seafarers giving up life at sea for jobs ashore is accelerating and now poses a serious threat to the world's principal means of bulk trade including manufactured goods, major bulk commodities, oil, gas, and chemicals.

**Houthis release crew of Greek-operated cargo ship struck in Red Sea.** *Reuters*.

3 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.reuters.com/world/houthis-release-crew-greek-operated-cargo-ship-struck-red-sea-2025-12-03/> The crew of the Greek-operated cargo ship *Eternity C*, which sank in the Red Sea in July after being attacked by Yemen's Houthis, have been released, an official with the ship's operator and a maritime security source told Reuters on Wednesday.

**Seafarers kidnapped from LPG carrier off Equatorial Guinea.** Adis Ajdin. *Splash 247.com*.

3 December 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/seafarers-kidnapped-from-lpg-carrier-off-equatorial-guinea/> A Portugal-flagged LPG carrier has been attacked by pirates off Equatorial Guinea, with at least nine seafarers reportedly kidnapped. Security firm Vanguard said the CGas *Saturn* was boarded around 50 nautical miles west of Mbini early Monday.

**Nine Filipino seafarers to be released after Red Sea Houthi attack.** Sam Chambers.

*Splash 247.com*. 3 December 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/nine-filipino-seafarers-to-be-released-after-red-sea-houthi-attack/> Nine Filipino seafarers held hostage by Yemen-based Houthi militants following an attack on the *Eternity C* are set to be released and transferred from Sana'a to Muscat, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has confirmed.

**German seafarers agree to new 30-month contract with real wage increases.**

*Maritime Executive*. 5 December 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/german-seafarers-agree-to-new-30-month-contract-with-real-wage-increases> German shipowners, the association for the industry, and the trade union ver.di are all saying that a fair agreement has been reached for a new contract for German seafarers. They concluded an agreement during the second round of talks, which took place on December 4, and will apply to all seafarers sailing on German-flag ships that are members of the collective bargaining association.

**WMU launches new project focusing on seafarer abandonment.** *Safety4Sea*. 5 December 2025.

Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/wmu-launches-new-project-focusing-on-seafarer-abandonment/> The World Maritime University (WMU) has announced the launch of a research project to address the ongoing challenge of seafarer abandonment.

**Tackling harassment at sea.** *Splash 247.com*. 8 December 2025. Available from:

<https://splash247.com/tackling-harassment-at-sea/> Anti-bullying and harassment mandatory training is welcomed, but training alone will not solve the problem, writes Marinos Kokkinis, the CEO of OneCare Group.

**Panhellenic Seamen's Federation calls for the protection of women at sea.** *Safety4Sea*.

10 December 2025. Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/panhellenic-seamens-federation-calls-for-the-protection-of-women-at-sea/> The Panhellenic Seamen's Federation (PNO), recognizing the gaps that still exist regarding the protection of female seafarers, particularly regarding pregnancy, motherhood and safety has submitted a proposal for the development of a more modern and fair legislative framework.

**CMA CGM doubles number of female seafarers, sets higher diversity targets.**

*India Seatrade News*. 11 December 2025. Available from: <https://indiaseatradenews.com/cma-cgm-doubles-number-of-female-seafarers-sets-higher-diversity-targets/> CMA CGM has announced a significant milestone in its gender diversity efforts, revealing that it has doubled the number of female seafarers within its fleet over the past year.

**The critical importance of shore leave.** Ben Bailey. *Splash 247.com*. 11 December 2025.

Available from: <https://splash247.com/the-critical-importance-of-shore-leave/> Every day, close to 2m seafarers sail the world's oceans, keeping global trade flowing and economies alive. These men and women operate in environments defined by isolation, long hours, and immense responsibility. Yet, as our latest Seafarer Happiness Index (SHI) reveals, the well-being of those at sea is under renewed strain, and the loss of meaningful shore leave plays a critical role in that decline.

**Black Sea tanker attacks put civilian seafarers at risk, ITF warns.** Mike Schuler. *gCaptain*.

12 December 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/black-sea-tanker-attacks-put-civilian-seafarers-at-risk-itf-warns/> The International Transport Workers' Federation has condemned recent attacks on vessels operating in the Black Sea following the third Ukrainian sea drone strike on a Russian shadow fleet tanker, warning that civilian seafarers must never be treated as targets in conflict.

**Burnout wave hits crews worldwide.** Ronald Spithout. *Splash 247.com*. 12 December 2025.

Available from: <https://splash247.com/burnout-wave-hits-crews-worldwide/> As the festive season approaches, many people look forward to rest, celebration and time with family and friends. However, for many seafarers, this period is spent miles away from home, often working long hours in isolation.

**Shortfall in funding for seafarer welfare raised in UK Parliament.** *Human Rights at Sea*.

15 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/news/shortfall-funding-seafarer-welfare-raised-uk-parliament> An estimated 23,700 seafarers work in the UK shipping industry. Without them, and international seafarers, supermarket shelves would be empty within seven days.

**Targeting of crew in Black Sea slammed by seafarer union.** Harry Papachristou. *TradeWinds*.

15 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/targeting-of-crew-in-black-sea-slammed-by-seafarer-union/2-1-1916422> The seafarers' global trade union, the International Transport Workers' Federation, has condemned the wave of attacks on commercial vessels in the Black Sea that have put dozens of crew members in danger.

**Dark side of the shadow fleet: Seafarer abandonment.** Jonathan Boonzaier. *TradeWinds*.

16 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tw/dark-side-of-the-shadow-fleet-seafarer-abandonment/2-1-1917152> The crew of a product tanker anchored off the Indonesian island of Batam have been marooned on their vessel for months.

**Women gaining ground in maritime leadership – WIMOWCA President.** Laudia Anyorkor Nunoo.

*Ghana News Agency*. 17 December 2025. Available from: <https://gna.org.gh/2025/12/women-gaining-ground-in-maritime-leadership-wimowca-president/> Madam Sylvi Asana Dauda Owu, the Regional President of Women in Maritime in West and Central Africa (WIMoWCA), has said that women are increasingly gaining opportunities and leadership space within the maritime sector.

## SEARCH & RESCUE

**Every minute counts at sea. Will you help save lives?** Steve Wills. *TradeWinds*.

4 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/opinion/every-minute-counts-at-sea-will-you-help-save-lives-/2-1-1908216> A global review of the maritime search and rescue (SAR) system has been launched by the International Maritime Rescue Federation amid concerns that the world's rescue network may be struggling to keep pace with rising maritime risk.

**AMVER Awards honour UK Maritime companies for commitment to search and rescue.**

*Cyprus Shipping News*. 5 December 2025. Available from:

<https://cyprusshippingnews.com/2025/12/05/amver-awards-honour-uk-maritime-companies-for-commitment-to-search-and-rescue/> Maritime healthcare specialist VIKAND, in partnership with the US Coast Guard, was honoured to host and coordinate the 2025 AMVER Awards at the United States Embassy in London yesterday (2 December). The gathering of leading maritime stakeholders was co-sponsored by ABS, Lockton Marine and NAVTOR.

## SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR

**Beyond US port fees: China remains 'gravitational centre of world shipbuilding'.** Irene Ang.

*TradeWinds*. 26 November 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/special-reports/beyond-us-port-fees-china-remains-gravitational-centre-of-world-shipbuilding-/2-1-1901090>

China's dominance in global shipbuilding faced an unprecedented challenge this year when the US sought to disrupt the balance of power. The now-delayed threat of port fees on Chinese-built vessels brought a significant drop in newbuilding orders in the country between February and July.

**Japanese shipbuilders and owners team up to design LCO2 carrier.** *Maritime Executive*.

1 December 2025. Available from: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/japanese-shipbuilders-and-owners-team-up-to-design-lco2-carrier> The leaders in the Japanese shipbuilding industry and joining up with several of the largest Japanese shipping companies in a new effort to develop a standardized design for a liquified CO2 carrier (LCO2). The effort is designed to increase efficiency in the building of the vessels to meet the anticipated demand from the sector.

**Northern Lights' liquefied CO2 carrier arsenal grows as third vessel joins its fleet.**

Melissa Cavcic. *Offshore Energy*. 3 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.offshore-energy.biz/northern-lights-liquefied-co2-carrier-arsenal-grows-as-third-vessel-joins-its-fleet/>

China's Dalian Shipbuilding Industry (DSIC), part of China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC), has delivered a new liquefied carbon dioxide (LCO2) carrier to Northern Lights, a joint venture (JV) encompassing three European oil majors: Shell, Equinor, and TotalEnergies.

**Bulker newbuilding orders plunge to five-year low amid market uncertainty.** Mike Schuler.

*gCaptain*. 4 December 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/bulker-newbuilding-orders-plunge-to-five-year-low-amid-market-uncertainty/> The dry bulk shipping sector has seen a dramatic pullback in new vessel orders, with bulker newbuilding contracting capacity falling 54% year-over-year to 25 million deadweight tonnes between January and November 2025, according to data from BIMCO.

**ClassNK approves low-pressure CO2 cargo tank design from Mitsubishi Shipbuilding.**

*Ship & Bunker*. 5 December 2025. Available from: <https://shipandbunker.com/news/world/123565-classnk-approves-low-pressure-co2-cargo-tank-design-from-mitsubishi-shipbuilding> Class society ClassNK has given general design approval (GDA) to a new low-pressure liquefied CO2 cargo tank developed by Mitsubishi Shipbuilding.



**HD Hyundai readies \$2bn giant yard in southern India.** Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com*. 8 December 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/hd-hyundai-readies-2bn-giant-yard-in-southern-india/> South Korea's HD Hyundai has signed a partnership with the Tamil Nadu state government regarding the establishment of a new \$2bn shipyard in Madurai in southern India.

**Cosco mega-order marks first foray into LNG fuelling.** Irene Ang. *TradeWinds*. 10 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/gas/cosco-mega-order-marks-first-foray-into-lng-fuelling/2-1-1914083> Chinese titan Cosco Shipping has branched into LNG dual-fuel newbuildings for the first time as part of its latest mega-order.

**Hapag-Lloyd orders eight methanol dual-fuel boxships in \$500m newbuild push.** Adis Ajdin. *Splash 247.com*. 15 December 2025. Available from: <https://splash247.com/hapag-lloyd-orders-eight-methanol-dual-fuel-boxships-in-500m-newbuild-push/> Hapag-Lloyd has firmed up its fleet renewal plans with an order for eight dual-fuel methanol container ships at China's CIMC Raffles, alongside agreements to charter a further 14 vessels on long-term contracts.

## SHIPPING

**WTO: Global trade momentum slips as frontloading surge fades.** Mike Schuler. *gCaptain*. 28 November 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/wto-global-trade-momentum-slips-as-frontloading-surge-fades/> The world's seaborne trade flows are showing signs of slowing after frontloading imports drove a strong first half of 2025, according to the World Trade Organization's latest Goods Trade Barometer, which points to slower but still above-trend growth heading into the year's final quarter.

**British Columbia Shows Norway How To Decarbonize Ferries. UNCTAD Trade and development report 2025.** *UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*. 2 December 2025. Available from: <https://unctad.org/publication/trade-and-development-report-2025> On the surface, global trade looks resilient. Goods are moving, supply chains are adapting, and trade grew about 4% in early 2025 – even amid tariff hikes and geopolitical tensions. But under the surface lies a volatile system powering trade – built more on balance sheets and financial flows than on supply chains.

**Insurers remain cautious on Red Sea transits.** Nidaa Bakhsh. *ShippingWatch*. 2 December 2025. Available from: <https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article18800453.ece> Insurers are still cautious on ships transiting the Red Sea despite a halt on ship attacks.

**Ambitious Vietnamese shipowner gets its hands on country's first methanol-fuelled ship.** Gary Dixon. *TradeWinds*. 2 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/ambitious-vietnamese-shipowner-gets-its-hands-on-country-s-first-methanol-fuelled-ship/2-1-1910098> Vietnam's rapidly expanding Asia Pacific Shipping (ASP) has claimed a first for methanol propulsion in the country. The company has taken delivery of Vietnam's only methanol dual-fuel ship, the 50,000-dwt MR tanker *ASP Rainbow*.

**Maersk unveils Red Sea–routed reefer solution for Indian exporters: Sources.** *India Seatrade News*. 3 December 2025. Available from: <https://indiaseatradenews.com/maersk-unveils-red-sea-routed-reefer-solution-for-indian-exporters-sources/> A.P. Moller–Maersk has introduced a specialised service product designed to support India's refrigerated cargo exporters amid ongoing uncertainty in the Red Sea corridor, according to industry sources familiar with the development.



**Freightos weekly update: Red Sea rebound false start?** Judah Levine. *Container News*.

4 December 2025. Available from: <https://container-news.com/freightos-weekly-update-red-sea-rebound-false-start/> Last week, statements by the Suez Canal Authority indicated that Maersk's return to the Red Sea was imminent. Maersk quickly denied they had set a date, and now it appears all the excitement may have been mostly a misunderstanding, though there are signs that Maersk is at least dipping some toes back to the lane through third parties.

**Many dark fleet tankers lying idle as sector remains 'super-inefficient', says broker.** Karen Ng.

*TradeWinds*. 4 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/many-dark-fleet-tankers-lying-idle-as-sector-remains-super-inefficient-says-broker/2-1-1911477> A leading shipping analyst believes the dark fleet is one of the most inefficient businesses in shipping.

**CMA CGM signals controlled Red Sea comeback through Suez.** *India Seatrade News*.

6 December 2025. Available from: <https://indiaseatradenews.com/cma-cgm-signals-controlled-red-sea-comeback-through-suez/> CMA CGM has announced its INDAMEX service will transit Suez Canal on fronthaul and backhaul voyages between India/Pakistan and the US East Coast in a notable step towards a largescale return of containerships to the Red Sea region.

**Ukraine's Black Sea attacks trigger surge in shipping insurance prices.**

Lee Harris and Jamie John. *Financial Times*. 7 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.ft.com/content/b5962cf4-aec1-445e-805e-0122d43d67be> Insurance prices for vessels trading in the Black Sea have tripled over the past month and are set to keep climbing following recent Ukrainian attacks on ships and ports in the region, insurance brokers say.

**Xeneta: Return of container ships to Red Sea edges closer.** *Safety4Sea*. 8 December 2025.

Available from: <https://safety4sea.com/xeneta-return-of-container-ships-to-red-sea-edges-closer/> CMA CGM has announced its INDAMEX service will transit Suez Canal on fronthaul and backhaul voyages between India/Pakistan and US East Coast in a notable step towards a largescale return of container ships to the Red Sea region.

**World Shipping Council flies the flag for ocean shipping at UN launch of Decade of Sustainable Transport.** *World Shipping Council*. 10 December 2025. Available from:

<https://tinyurl.com/4t2x55zu> 📄 The World Shipping Council (WSC) today joined political leaders and transport industry representatives at the United Nations launch of the Decade of Sustainable Transport, highlighting the essential role of ocean shipping in cutting emissions across global supply chains.

**Analysing recent trends and drivers of maritime transport CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.**

OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development). 11 December 2025.

Available from: [https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/analysing-recent-trends-and-drivers-of-maritime-transport-co-emission\\_6bb2bd69-en.htm](https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/analysing-recent-trends-and-drivers-of-maritime-transport-co-emission_6bb2bd69-en.htm) 📄 International shipping is a cornerstone of global trade, but comes with a significant carbon footprint, at 2.5% of total energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2024. [Report](#)

**Supertankers racing empty to lift oil highlight vessel shortage.** Weilun Soon. *gCaptain*.

11 December 2025. Available from: <https://gcaptain.com/supertankers-racing-empty-to-lift-oil-highlight-vessel-shortage/> A shortage of oil tankers is becoming so acute that newly built vessels, which usually carry refined fuels on their maiden voyages, are instead racing empty to pick up crude as soon as possible.

**Maersk exec says reopening of Red Sea could take up to six months.** Jens Thomsen.

*ShippingWatch*. 11 December 2025. Available from:

<https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article18833404.ece> It will take Maersk between three and six months to redirect the shipping company's container ships once the Red Sea and thus the Suez Canal are once again safe waters for civilian shipping, says Ole Trumpfheller, managing director of North Europe at Maersk, to *Deutsche Verkehrs-Zeitung*.

**LNG supply growth outstrips carrier orderbook to 2030.** *Argus Media*. 17 December 2025.

Available from: <https://www.argusmedia.com/en/news-and-insights/latest-market-news/2767075-lng-supply-growth-outstrips-carrier-orderbook-to-2030> The number of newbuild LNG carriers scheduled to deliver by 2030 will not be enough to transport the planned growth in global liquefaction capacity, particularly if the retirement of older vessels accelerates compared with recent years.

**Shipping and maritime 2025 – a year in review.** Marcus Hand. *Seatrade Maritime News*.

18 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/containers/shipping-and-maritime-2025-a-year-in-review> The year started out with the inauguration of Donald Trump for a second term as US President and Panama finding itself one of the first countries in the spotlight of the new administration.

**Lowest bunker price in years may delay shipping's return to Suez.** Jens Thomsen.

*ShippingWatch*. 19 December 2025. Available from:

<https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Container/article18862317.ece> Transit through the Suez Canal is so expensive that it is currently cheaper for shipping companies to sail the long way around Africa thanks to low oil prices, says analyst.

**Fitch says global shipping outlook is deteriorating in 2026.** *Daily FT (Sri Lanka)*.

22 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.ft.lk/shippingaviation/Fitch-says-global-shipping-outlook-is-deteriorating-in-2026/21-785932> Fitch Ratings has maintained its deteriorating outlook for the global shipping sector, reflecting geopolitical and policy risks, according to an Outlook report released recently.

## RESEARCH

Branstrator DK, Larson CE, et al. **The International Maritime Organization standard for ballast water reduces but does not eliminate establishment probability of a zooplankton in mesocosms.** *Journal of Great Lakes Research*. 2 December 2025. Available from:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0380133025001820> Ballast water is a leading vector of primary and secondary spread of nonindigenous aquatic invasive species in the Laurentian Great Lakes, prompting the development of regulatory standards to minimize its risk.

Okafor-Yarwood I, Kadagi NI, et al. **Comment to: Rethinking maritime security from the bottom up: Four principles to broaden perspectives and centre humans and ecosystems.** *npj Ocean Sustainability*. 3 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s44183-025-00156-z>

In response to Fabinyi et al.<sup>1</sup>, "Rethinking maritime security from the bottom up," we raise a matter of scope and inclusivity. The article argues convincingly, and rightly so, for reimagining maritime security through the lenses of pluralism, agency, justice, and coordination.

Oo CW, Lenczewski M, et al. **Assessing the impact of shipping on microplastic concentration of filtered samples.** *Microplastics and Nanoplastics*. 23 December 2025. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s43591-025-00147-4> As microplastics research expands across laboratories worldwide, filtering samples onto inexpensive metal filters and shipping them in metal tins could become the standard practice, replacing the impractical transportation of large water or environmental samples.

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[maritimeknowledgecentre@imo.org](mailto: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.