

# Geopolitical maritime risks and security threats to seafarers

Protecting seafarers in a volatile world



International Maritime Organization (IMO)  
4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR

30 June 2026



# The conference

Recent events have shown that the maritime domain is vulnerable to many known and emerging threats, placing shipping operations and crews under intense stress and strain: Navigating conflict zones, piracy and armed kidnapping, unlawful detentions, abandonment, cyber-attacks, drone and missile attacks, dark fleet activities and much more.

Understanding these risks and how they can manifest and combine is the first step to developing methods and tools to counter them; and to building a future industry capable of sustaining and mitigating them in the longer term.

Join us on 30 June 2026 for a full day conference to explore these themes, hear from industry leaders and exchange views on what needs to change for the future safety and security of the global shipping community – placing the seafarer's safety at its heart.

## Why you should attend

Listen and learn from a mix of speakers; engage in substantive discussion forums and network with an excellent cross-section of mariners, senior managers, surveyors/consultants, insurers, security personnel, navy personnel, and other stakeholders and professionals. This seminar is aimed at analysing the problems from the mariner's point of view and will benefit many involved in the shipping industry, including mariners, owners, charterers, insurers (H&M, cargo, P&I and War Risk) underwriters, surveyors/consultants, claims handlers and lawyers.



## The venue

The IMO Building is the International Maritime Organization's headquarters located at 4 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7SR. It is walking distance from Westminster, Waterloo, Lambeth North or Vauxhall tube stations.

## Registration fees

**(Inclusive of VAT)**

Nautical Institute Sea-going member: £100

Nautical Institute Shore-based member: £195

Cadets, Students: £50  
(Limited number available)

Non-members: £280

Fees include attendance at the conference, all conference papers, refreshments, lunch and a networking evening reception.



Register your place online at

<https://buytickets.at/nauticalinstitutelondonbranch/2091547>



08:30 – 08:50	<b>Registration and welcome coffee</b> Sponsored by CMR
08:50 – 09:00	<b>Opening the Conference</b> Steve Cameron FNI - Chair, London Branch of The Nautical Institute, followed by the Conference Chairman: Mr Walter Vervloessem FNI, President of The Nautical Institute
09:00 – 09:15	<b>Keynote speech</b> Mr Arsenio Dominguez – Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization
09:15 – 09:45	<b>Session 1: Overview of the risks and threats</b> Scene-setting overview of global maritime risks Lyall Hickson – Claims and Loss Prevention Director, UK War Risks Club
09:45 – 10:15	<b>Session 2: Current hot spots of heightened war and other types of risks for seafarers</b> Hans Tino Hansen – Founder and CEO, Risk Intelligence
10:15 – 10:45	<b>Session 3: Global Shipping – the legal challenges for crews</b> Stephen Askins – Partner, Tatham & Co
10:45 – 11:00	<b>Panel Q&amp;A and discussion 1</b> Speakers from sessions 1 to 3 (Moderator: Conference Chairman)
11:00 – 11:30	<b>Coffee and networking</b> Sponsored by BMT
11:30 – 12:00	<b>Session 4: Naval/NATO response</b> Naval protection measures; convoying procedures Brigadier Simon Rogers Royal Marines OBE – Director of the Royal Navy's Operational Advantage Centre
12:00 – 12:30	<b>Session 5: The threats posed by the global shadow fleet</b> Risks from opaque ownership and sanctions evasion Michelle Wiese Bockmann – Senior Maritime Intelligence Analyst, Windward
12:30 – 13:00	<b>Session 6: GNSS disruption: Jamming and spoofing risks; mitigation strategies</b> Thomas Howe – Senior Principal Navigation and Seamanship, BMT
13:00 – 13:15	<b>Panel Q&amp;A and discussion 2</b> Speakers from sessions 4 to 6 (Moderator: Conference Chairman)
13:15 – 14:15	<b>Lunch</b> Sponsored by Stann Law
14:15 – 14:45	<b>Session 7: Cyber risks</b> Shipboard cyber threats and controls – a practical guide Daniel Ng – CEO, CyberOwl
14:45 – 15:15	<b>Session 8: Seafaring in conflict zones</b> Practical guidance for crews in high-risk areas; Citadels; Drone protection measures Steven Jones MNM FRSA FNI, Maritime & International Affairs Specialist
15:15 – 15:45	<b>Session 9: Seafarer welfare and abandonment issues</b> Practical handling of injury/death and abandonment claims Sara Jones – Managing Director, Shipserve (International) Inc.
15:45 – 16:15	<b>Coffee and networking</b> Sponsored by Ambrey
16:15 – 16:45	<b>Session 10: Mental health, welfare and support for seafarers</b> Psychological toll and welfare initiatives Tim Hill MBE – CEO / National Director, Stella Maris UK
16:45 – 17:30	<b>Panel Q&amp;A and discussion 3</b> Speakers from sessions 7 to 10 (Moderator: Conference Chairman)
17:30 – 17:45	<b>Closing remarks and takeaways</b> Conference Chairman
17:45 – 21:00	<b>Reception</b>

# Sponsors

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The generous support of our sponsors has enabled us to keep the cost of the conference at reasonable levels to encourage the attendance of sea-going officers, and to offer students the opportunity to attend at advantageous rates.

