

CORRESPONDENT NEWS CLIPPING

Issue No.2

China P&I Club

I LOCAL

Australia

Source: GAC

According to Australia's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Farming (DAFF), every individual vessel MUST have an effective biofouling management plan. Enforcement will begin on 15 December. So far, approximately 90% of vessels calling to Australia in recent months during the "education phase" have such a plan in place. However, some are just a direct copy of the IMO regulations without being vessel specific, which is not acceptable to DAFF. The management plan must be detailed and vessel specific. DAFF is concerned about vessels and operators submitting misleading or incorrect reports, particularly claiming to have been cleaned recently. This will be policed strongly. DAFF will be focused on the need for all vessels to have an effective

biofouling management plan. If a vessel is found to have a level of biofouling which is not acceptable to DAFF, the vessel will likely be allowed to complete its current port call in Australia but be advised that the issue will have to be addressed and rectified BEFORE the vessel next returns to Australia.

Brazil

Source: Brazil P&I

Brazil P&I has updated No.25 to No.53 Lighthouse Bulletin, covering topics such as Itaguaí port offers tariff discounts of up to 66%, Panama Canal extends traffic restrictions, leasing at port of Itajaí conducted in September, Brazilian Infrastructure Institute promotes port modernization, Brazil national plan for port and airport security, drought

NORMAM Series 100 - MARITIME AND PORT PERSONNEL (MP)		
Old Numbering	New Numbering	Simplified Title
NORMAM-13	NORMAM-101	Norms for Seafarers
NORMAM-30	NORMAM-102	Norms for the professional maritime education of maritime personnel
NORMAM-32	NORMAM-103	Norms for port education and related activities
NORMAM-24	NORMAM-104	Norms for courses and supplementary training
NORMAM-21	NORMAM-111	Norms for merchant marine uniforms
NORMAM-22	NORMAM-112	Norms for merchant marine ceremonies



affecting navigation in Amazon Rivers, etc. It has also issued circular 007 about the new organization of norms (known as NORMAN) prepared by the Brazilian Navy. Now they are divided into eight series, grouped by subjects. The goal is to facilitate access to the documents. The content of the rules has not changed, and the new way of accessing information will be available on <https://www.marinha.mil.br/dpc/> since October.

Source: Proinde

Drought in the Amazon basin is seasonal and reasonably predictable. However, aggravated by the El Niño phenomenon, this season has been particularly harsh, with water levels reaching unprecedented lows and causing severe socio-economic and environmental consequences. Major navigable rivers, such as the Madeira, Rio Negro, and the Tapajos River, continue to fall to alarmingly low levels.

For containerships: Manaus, the largest city in the Amazon, is also home to the busiest container terminals in northern Brazil and the Manaus Free Trade Zone (ZFM). Given the ongoing drought, which has considerably reduced the operational draft and, therefore, the carrying capacity of ships,

carriers have introduced a temporary Low Water Surcharge (LWS) applicable to all containers to or from Manaus. Operators that provide regular shipping and logistics services in the capital of Amazonas have suspended their scheduled calls at Manaus, as river waters reached critically low levels, compromising the manoeuvrability of ships.

For bulk carriers: The 2022/23 soya bean export season comes to an end after a bumper harvest. Maize exports pick up and are bound to reach record volumes. As is common at this time of year, and even more so amid the exceptionally intense drought, traders are routing their commodities through alternative ports, such as Itaquí in São Luís, Santos, Paranagua and Rio Grande. Ironically, persistent bad weather and above-average rains in the latter three southern ports delay loading operations, causing congestion at those ports and anchorages. Since maize is not as biologically prone to mould and self-heating as oilseed, no significant issues are expected with this cereal being shipped from the Amazon other than longer-than-usual transit times and higher inland costs. Nevertheless, masters and crews must pay attention to the apparent condition of the grain during loading and immediately report any deviations to the shipowners and charterers.

The current limitation in the North Bar of the Amazon River stands at 11.58 m. As water levels change daily due to prolonged drought, ships calling the river ports should check prevailing draft limitations with their local agents and terminal operators before entering the Amazon.

Since Seafarers Identity Documents (SID) issued under ILO Convention 185 became mandatory in May, there has been a somewhat expected surge in penalties imposed by the Federal Police, many of which have been imposed on crews from major seafaring nations, particularly China. Proinde has therefore clarified in another circular that despite the Brazil-China Maritime Transport Agreement, all Chinese seafarers are required to obtain a visa from the Brazilian diplomatic representation to arrive by air to join a vessel in Brazil or disembark in a national port for repatriation.

Bangladesh

Source: JF Bangladesh

The Ministry of Shipping, Government of Bangladesh has issued a letter on 17 October 2023 announcing that vessels carrying goods (food grain/fertilizer) imported by the Government Enterprise should now be called at Payra Port to discharge at least 20% of their imported goods. Most of the food grains and fertilizers imported from different parts of the world are cleared through Chittagong and Mongla ports, both under a lot of pressure due to the increasing demand, and in this context, the Government is trying to promote the Payra Port, which is the 3rd sea Port in Bangladesh.

Egypt

Source: Inchcape

The Suez Canal Authority (SCA) announced that it will raise the transit fees for ships passing through the canal by 5-15%, effective from 15 January 2024. According to the SCA's statement, the regular transit fees will increase by 15% for Crude Oil Tankers, Petroleum Product Tankers, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Carriers, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Carriers, Chemical tankers and other liquid bulk

tankers, Containerships, Vehicles Carriers, Cruise Ships, and Special Floating Units. The regular transit fees will increase by 5% for Dry Bulk Vessels, General Cargo Vessels, Roll-On/Roll-Off (RO/RO) Vessels and other vessels. However, SCA will exclude the increase from containerships coming directly from northwest European ports and heading directly to Far Eastern ports.

Gabon

Source: TCI Africa

Following the coup in Gabon in August, local representatives in the port of Libreville advised in September that all borders (land/sea/air) are now open. Circulation on roads is possible, with roadblocks only for the curfew. The curfew still as from 18h pm up to 6h am. Port is working, commercial operations are carried out without any problem, and in order not to delay the vessels operating, port authorities decided that two shifts are arranged, dayshift and nightshift so that workers can carry out commercial ops without being blocked with the curfew and vessels can then enter and leave the ports without impact of the local tide in the port. Situation is the same in Port Gentil.

Ghana

Source: TCI Africa

TCI Ghana has issued a circular in relation with local fines. It is recommended that extreme attention is given to all vessels calling at Ghana Ports in respect of MARPOL violation fines as currently imposed by Ghana Maritime Authorities, and particular attention is drawn to Loss Prevention. For more information, please see LP 22/2023 MARPOL Violation Fines in Ghana on the Association's website.

Guinea

Source: BUDD

Since the evening of 4 September, many areas within Guinea's capital Conakry have been under high political tension/instability because of violent

clashes between the government and military police forces and members of “Forces Vives”, an umbrella opposition organisation comprising supporters of the popular opposition parties and other civilian groups. Although all demonstrations were officially banned, the Forces Vives chose the second anniversary of the putsch which brought the current government to power on 5 September 2021, to protest against continuing non-elected military rule. As a result, apart from in the ports, all commercial and public sector activities were paralyzed. Several deaths have been reported.

Israel

Source: Harpaz P&I

Since the state of war that began on October 7, 2023, all Israeli ports including Haifa, Ashdod, Hadera and Eilat operate as usual except port of Ashkelon in which the decision to moored vessel is taken based on the security situation which can be changed any day. All the biggest container shipping companies CMA CGM, Maersk, MSC, HAPAG-LLOYD didn't change their voyage schedule and continue to call the ports of Haifa and Ashdod regularly. Some of the local Israeli insurers began to cancel the war and terrorist risks in cargo marine insurance policies. In order to ensure the local supply chain and the sequence of import and export of goods to and from Israel, the Israeli Ministry of Finance will grant compensation for war damage caused to vessel's hull located in the territory of the State of Israel pursuant to the Property Tax and Compensation Fund Law 1961.

Italy

Source: MGRP

The Mauro Group has issued their Bulletin (“HOW TO DO”) collection from No. 1 to No. 13, covering topics such as how to avert cargo shortages at Italian ports, club letter of undertaking, drought surveys and maritime inquiries in the Italian legal system.

Nigeria

Source: BUDD

Budd Nigeria has advised the lifting of the import ban which was first introduced on 23 June 2015 in accordance with the Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN's) circular No. TED/FEM/FPC/GEN/01/010 and its addendums. 42 items including textiles, furniture, steel drums, processed meat and vegetable products, which were previously restricted are now permitted to engage in foreign exchange transactions in the Nigerian Foreign Exchange Market. According to the CBN, the restrictions pushed importers into the parallel market, contributing to the surplus demand for FOREX. The lifting of the 2015 ban creates new foreign trade opportunities and may boost the economy.

Source: GAC

Nigerian ports and terminals are expected to be affected by an indefinite national strike called by the Nigeria Labour Union which started at midnight 13 November. All inshore terminals have been affected by the strike today, but offshore terminals have not been impacted so far.

Panama

Source: GAC

Since the beginning of the 2023 dry season, the Panama Canal adopted several water saving and conservation measures in the transit operation, including the use of water saving basins in the



Neopanamax Locks and cross-filling in the Panamax Locks. In addition, the late arrival of this year's rainy season, and lack of precipitation in the Canal watershed has obliged the Canal to reduce the transit capacity to approximately 32 vessels per day since July 30, 2023, while managing the available rainfall over the watershed to maintain Gatun Lake at a level that would offer a competitive draft for our clients. On September 29, 2023, the Canal announced an additional reduction in capacity, effective November 1, 2023.

Despite all measures taken, the level of Gatun Lake has continued to decline to unprecedented levels for this time of year. The recorded precipitation for October has been the lowest on record since 1950 (41% below), and so far, 2023 ranks as the second driest year for the same period. Based on the rainfall projections for the following weeks, which as of today is expected to be 38% less for the rest of the year, the ACP finds it necessary to further reduce the daily transit capacity to postpone the need for additional draft reductions below the current 13.41m (44 feet) TFW.

Therefore, from November 3, 2023, to November 6, 2023, the number of booking slots will be reduced to 25, and from November 7 to November 30, 2023, the number of booking slots will be reduced to 24. From December 1 to December 31, 2023, the number of booking slots will further be reduced to 22, and from January 1, 2024, to January 31, 2024, the number of booking slots will be reduced to 20. For booking dates beginning February 1, 2024, and until further notice, the number of booking slots will be reduced to 18 per day.

Sierra Leone

Source: McLEANS

Riots started in Freetown at 3am 26 November with in particular an attack of military barracks and a major detention center. A total of 1,890 inmates escaped from prison and at least 19 people were killed. The correspondent's local colleagues advised that they woke up in the morning with heavy gunshot/ shooting in the city. A nationwide curfew from 9.00pm to 6.00am was declared by the president of the country who also said that almost

of the leaders behind the attack would have been arrested. The port of Freetown has remained open but with reduced working hours. In view of the ongoing nighttime curfew, the port currently closes from 8.00pm to 6.00am.

Singapore

Source: Spica Services

Following the recent MPA Circular on Guidelines for Preventing Pollution during Bunkering Operations, it has now adopted the policy of being the "first responders" on site for any/all reported spill incidents. This has resulted in a more aggressive approach to the appointment of spill response craft, which will in all likelihood escalate costs for Members. Spica Services Singapore would like to highlight that the Master and crew (of the vessel) are still fully responsible for preventing any type of spills that may occur during vessel operations.

Sudan

Source: ELDIBPANDI

The situation in Port Sudan is quite stable and business as usual at the port. Eldib Pandi's daily work in Port Sudan remains uninterrupted and Egypt Air resumed its flights to Port Sudan albeit only once a week. Unfortunately, the situation in the Sudanese Capital Khartoum is unstable to the extent that the Head of the Military Council, all ministries and the majority of the governmental authorities have been shifted to Port Sudan which is becoming the de-facto capital of Sudan. Below is a photo of the correspondent's surveyor working normally from the office in Port Sudan.

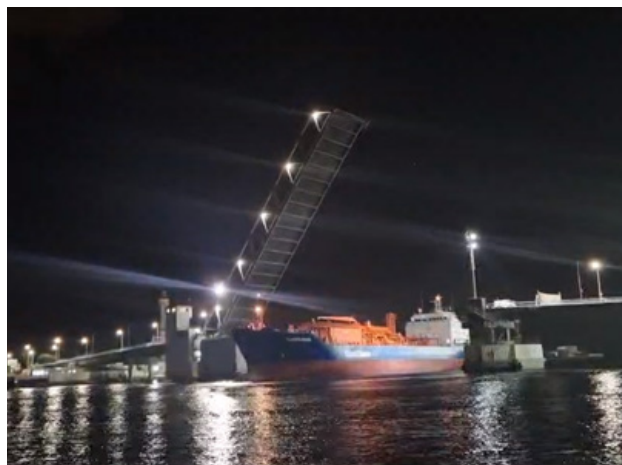




Tunisia

Source: BUDD

Following a fire last July, Bizerte's mobile bridge was closed, making access to the port impossible and preventing several vessels from sailing. Despite the initial successful trials at midnight on 17 November 2023, further repairs were necessary. For the moment, all the vessels that were stranded in Bizerte have sailed.



Turkey

Source: Vitsan

On 24 October 2023 the Ministry of Transportation has issued a new update that the vessels which loaded MARPOL Annex I cargo from a Turkish port and then to discharge at another Turkish port are excluded from P&I confirmation letter request while transiting the Turkish Straits in case they attach the justifier documents to SP-1 report to be submitted to the Turkish authorities.

UAE

Source: ES Global

Circular No.13/2023 was issued by the UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure on 5 September. Ships double banking is strictly prohibited for all types of ships in UAE waters including the exclusive economic zones without the permission from the local port authorities or the Federal Maritime Administration (FMA). Foreign Flag Ships found double banking without the permission will be

expelled and banned from UAE waters and ports. In the case of UAE Flag ships, the navigation license will be cancelled and/or de-registered from UAE Registry. Legal actions will be taken against the master and the owner/manager of the violating ship. The actions apply as well to the ships anchored illegally at the non-designated anchorage areas and without obtaining the approvals from the competent authorities. It is also applicable to ships anchoring or transiting through UAE waters with non-operational automatic identification system (AIS). In case of ships with defective AIS, the Master of the ship should inform the nearest port authority or the FMA immediately.

Port of Fujairah issued Notice to Mariners No.341 on 16 November 2023 regarding vessels classified by the Non-IACS category are permitted to call Port of Fujairah and Fujairah Offshore Anchorage for non-cargo activities. Vessels classified by Non-IACS and aged above 30 years are not permitted to call.

USA

Source: Lamorte Burns

The Mississippi River is once again seeing record low water levels due to consistently high heat and a lack of rainfall both in Southeast Louisiana and regions upriver. The New Orleans region is currently in a state of "Extreme or Exceptional Drought." While this has been an issue for some months, the current harvest season in the midwestern breadbasket further emphasizes the Mississippi's commercial importance. The extremely low water levels further upriver in places like Memphis and St. Louis have a great effect on transportation of cargo for export via barge.

According to the USDA, as an example of the effects of the low river, barge spot rates from St. Louis are up 49% from last week and 42% from last year at \$23.34/ton. This is 85% higher than the past 3-year average. Delays in transported import cargo upriver increase the importance of discharge and follow up inspections as longer transit times provide more time for deterioration. Concerns about the quality of cargo when it finally does reach New Orleans for export lends to greater potential for disputes at load port. NOAA predicts that low water levels are likely to persist through at least January.

2 CORPORATE

GAC Oman

In a historic moment for Oman's clean energy aspirations, the world's first liquefied hydrogen carrier, the Suiso Frontier, has made its inaugural visit to Oman. And it was GAC that acted as its agent for its maiden call to Muscat's Sultan Qaboos Port. Arrival of the Suiso Frontier marks important step towards country's sustainable energy ambitions.

*Jimenez Graffam & Lausell

The Association's legal correspondent in Puerto Rico, Jiménez Graffam & Lausell, has announced its rebranding as JGL Attorneys at Law, LLC ("JGL"). This strategic rebrand marks a milestone in the firm's evolution, reflecting its continued growth and commitment to providing exceptional legal services. The ownership structure and legal staff of JGL remain unchanged, and the same high-quality advice clients have come to expect from JGL's lawyers will continue under the new brand. A cornerstone of this rebranding is the firm's all-new website, accessible at www.jgl.com. It allows clients to navigate the firm's services, areas of expertise, attorneys, and recent news effortlessly.

*Norton Rose Fulbright

Norton Rose Fulbright Greek office has advised Citibank N.A and BNP Paribas on a \$2.8bn sustainability- and gender diversity-linked facility to GasLog Ltd. The revolving facility is secured on GasLog's fleet of LNG carriers and incorporates KPIs linked to both carbon emissions and female representation in the company's cadetship program.

Pandi Liquidadores

The Association's correspondent in Argentina has announced an increase of fees as of 1 December 2023. The hourly rate will be adjusted from USD 220 to USD 250, and the basic administrative expenses from USD 180 to USD 210. Fees for operational matters will be kept with no changes for the time being (i.e. in the region of USD 400 to 680 as general guide albeit these are quoted on a case-by-case basis). This is despite the tendency on the handling of operational matters becoming more time-consuming.

The economy in Argentina is caught in a cycle of economic crises, with a major loss of confidence in the peso driving steady depreciation, triple-digit inflation, negative central bank reserves and a flagging economy due to drought hitting farming. The country has just gone through a presidential election that heightens uncertainty, volatility, and further worsening expectations for the coming year.

The correspondent claims to have not increased fees since 2018, as they are in a situation in which it is difficult to maintain the same level of fees in order to cope with their expenses and investments; or the costs they spent in training staff to improve the quality of services in a never-ending chain due to which they gain reputation in the P&I world through our 53 years of history.



Pandiman Philippines

Pandiman, the Association's correspondent in the Philippines, was one of the sponsors during the King's Birthday Party held at the British Ambassador's Residence. The event was hosted on the 14th of November to pay tribute to His Majesty King Charles III on His 75th Birthday.

*Thynne & Macartney

The Association's legal correspondent in Australia has celebrated its 130th anniversary in November, and has welcomed its new General Manager Richard Knox, who was previously the HR Director of Allianz Partners Australia.

*The above is a non-exhaustive list of the information provided to the Association by its correspondents and serves only as a reference for the Members. As the global landscape changes all the time, please consult local agent/correspondent for updated information should there be any clarification needed.