



AMWS E-News January 2024

"Welcome to the January 2024 Edition of the AMWS E-News" - Chairman, Mr David Parmeter

One of the great qualities of our organisation is the culture of volunteerism that permeates what we do. AMWS would simply not be able to function if it wasn't for the selfless efforts of many individuals who willingly give of their time to support the cause of seafarer welfare. To all of you, I say thank you very much.

We are also very conscious of the need to make the industry and wider community aware of the work we do and the causes we support. Our newsletters are an important part of this, but we also need to be fully engaged on social media.....

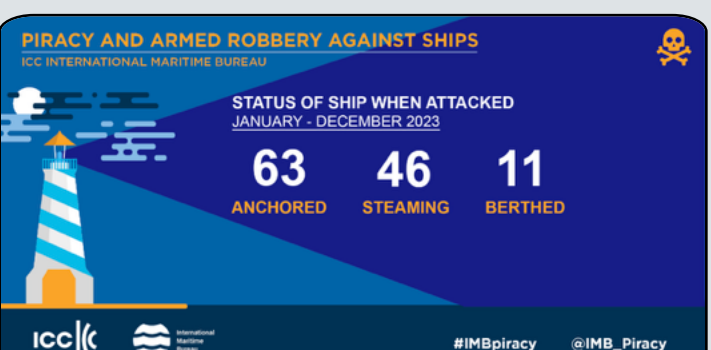
[View David's comments and read his text for January 2024 here >>](#)



New ISWAN YouTube Promotional Video Released, January 2024

The **International Seafarers' Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN)** is an international maritime charity which works to improve the lives of seafarers and their families with services, resources, strategies and advocacy.

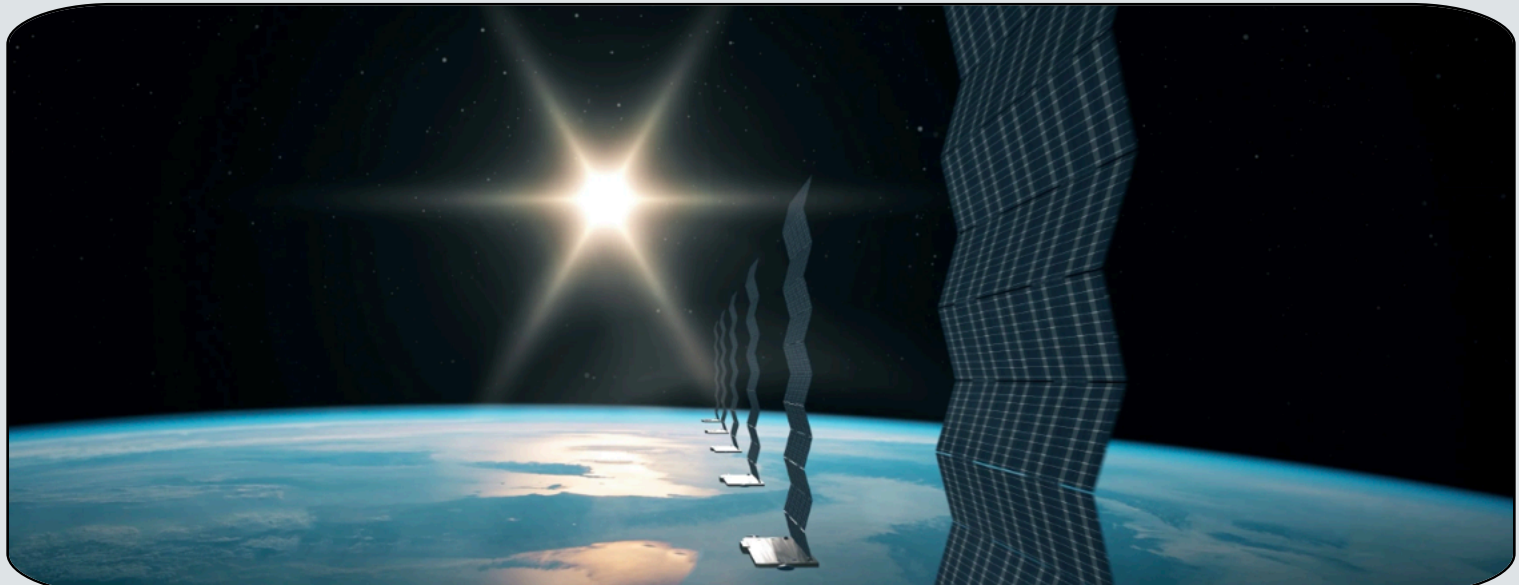
In recognition of this work for seafarers, a new YouTube video has just been released that gives an overview of their development, affiliations and current operations across the globe.



ICC International Maritime Bureau (IMB) Annual 2023 Report on Piracy & Robbery Against Ships. DCN, 15th January 2024.

In 2023, the ICC International Maritime Bureau (IMB) reported an increase in maritime piracy, marking the first successful Somali-based hijacking in years. The annual report detailed 120 incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships, slightly higher than the 115 recorded in 2022. Noteworthy statistics included 105 vessels boarded, nine attempted attacks, four hijackings, and two instances of firing upon ships. The report emphasized a troubling surge in crew hostage and kidnapping cases, with numbers rising from 41 to 73 hostages and from two to 14 kidnappings between 2022 and 2023. Ten crew members were threatened, four were injured, and one assaulted in 2023. Of significant concern was the successful hijacking off the coast of Somalia on December 14, 2023—the first since 2017. Three of the four reported hijackings occurred in the Gulf of Guinea, accounting for most globally reported hijackings, crew kidnappings, and hostages in 2023. The IMB also expressed worries about seafarers in the Singapore Straits, Malacca Straits, and Indonesian archipelago, citing successful opportunistic crimes in the Singapore Straits where 95% of reported incidents were successful. The IMB underscored the importance of caution for crew safety and urged adherence to recommended practices.

[Read the IMB Report here >>](#)



Major Shipowners opt for Starlink Services to Boost Crew retention. International Chamber of Shipping, December 2023

Shipping giants such as MOL, NYK, Hapag Lloyd, and Maersk are increasingly embracing Low Earth Orbit (LEO) internet services, with a particular focus on Elon Musk's Starlink, to improve crew retention, wellbeing, and digital operations across their fleets.

Maersk, for instance, plans to equip over 330 vessels with Starlink services by Q1 2024. Crew connectivity and welfare are identified as key drivers for the adoption of LEO internet, with NYK intending to use Starlink for crew communications and welfare services. MOL emphasizes the importance of crew welfare in its decision to implement Starlink across all vessels. Yuja Inoue from Mitsui OSK Lines highlights the demand-supply gap in the maritime industry and the need to use Starlink to attract and retain seafarers.

Despite the adoption of LEO internet services, it is noted that they will not replace VSAT and L-band, as Starlink is considered a "best-effort" service and is not suitable for safety services or communications requiring guaranteed throughput. The current focus is on enhancing crew connectivity, wellbeing, and operational efficiency.

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CSIRO Research Ship Embarks on its Longest Voyage to Date. Hobart, 5th January 2024

The CSIRO research vessel Investigator has begun its longest voyage to date, a 60-day expedition to the Southern Ocean, covering a 9260-kilometer round trip from Hobart to the Antarctic ice edge and back to Fremantle.

Led by the Australian Antarctic Program Partnership (AAPP) and CSIRO, the mission, named MISO (Multidisciplinary Investigations of the Southern Ocean), aims to enhance the understanding of the Southern Ocean's impact on climate change. Scientists on board will investigate the interconnections between physics, biogeochemistry, plankton, aerosols, and clouds in the Southern Ocean, a region influencing global climate patterns. The Southern Ocean plays a crucial role in absorbing heat and carbon dioxide. The expedition will use advanced technology, including deep-diving robots, to collect data on ocean changes over the next five years. Researchers will also study gases and particles released by phytoplankton to understand their role in cloud formation, addressing a gap in climate science.

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Seafarer Abandonment Figures a Cause for Concern. ITF Seafarers, 11th January 2024

The International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) has recently unveiled its 2023 statistics on abandoned vessels, revealing a concerning surge compared to the preceding year. The reported total of 132 vessel abandonments marks a 10.92% increase, with 129 of these cases reported by the ITF itself. According to the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC), abandonment is defined by a shipowner's failure to cover a seafarer's repatriation costs, lack of necessary maintenance and support, or unilateral severance of ties, including non-payment of contractual wages for at least two months.

Noteworthy findings include owed wages exceeding \$12.1 million from the 129 ITF-reported cases, 1,676 seafarers seeking assistance from ITF due to vessel abandonment, and Indian seafarers experiencing the highest number of abandonments, surpassing 400 cases. The ITF has successfully recovered over \$10.9 million in owed wages from 60 vessels, with the final sum expected to exceed \$12.1 million as cases progress and additional seafarers come forward, increasing the recoverable wage amount.

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The Beacon:

Monthly Section Illuminating Interesting Activities, Trends, and Developments within the Australian Maritime Industry



The Australian Association for Maritime History (AAMH)

Established in May 1978, The Australian Association for Maritime History is dedicated to advancing the study, publication, and overall appreciation of maritime history. Membership is open to individuals interested in maritime history, covering diverse topics such as Indigenous marine practices, exploration, trade, immigration, warfare, shipbuilding, shipping, shipwrecks, marine resource utilization (e.g., sealing, whaling, guano mining, trepanning, and commercial fishing), piracy, maritime law, ports, environmental impacts, yachting, surfing, marine art, and other cultural and recreational activities related to the sea. Maritime history encompasses various research disciplines, including history, anthropology, archaeology, environmental studies, marine science, and law.

AAMH publish a refereed journal titled "The Great Circle" twice a year. They also publish a regular email AAMH Newsletter.

[Interested in maritime history and want to know more? Visit the AAMH website here >>](#)



AMWS are looking for a 'volunteer social media coordinator.

We are keen to find someone passionate about mariners' welfare and the maritime industry here in Australia who has a creative flair with modern communications to update and increase interaction on AMWS's social media platforms so as to increase awareness of AMWS's work.

Interested? Please contact the AMWS Secretary at the following address.

secretaryamws@gmail.com



The AMWS Vision

"To ensure all seafarers and their dependents, irrespective of nationality, gender, or beliefs, are treated with dignity, respect, and compassion".

Interested in this AMWS vision and want to know more?

[Consider becoming an AMWS member >>](#)