

seafarer crew change

seafarer crew change is a critical operational process in the maritime industry, involving the rotation of crew members on board vessels. This procedure ensures the well-being, safety, and efficiency of the ship's operations by enabling timely rest and recovery for seafarers. The complexities of seafarer crew change have increased significantly due to global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, which introduced travel restrictions and quarantine requirements that disrupted normal crew rotation schedules. Understanding the importance, procedures, challenges, and regulatory framework surrounding seafarer crew changes is essential for shipping companies, port authorities, and maritime professionals. This article provides an in-depth examination of the seafarer crew change process, explores current obstacles, and outlines best practices and international guidelines to facilitate smooth crew transitions. The following sections will cover the importance of crew change, regulatory frameworks, logistical challenges, health and safety protocols, and emerging solutions in the maritime sector.

- Importance of Seafarer Crew Change
- Regulatory Framework and International Guidelines
- Challenges in Conducting Seafarer Crew Change
- Health and Safety Protocols for Crew Change
- Technological and Logistical Solutions

Importance of Seafarer Crew Change

Seafarer crew change plays a vital role in maintaining the operational efficiency and safety standards of maritime vessels. Regular rotation of crew members helps prevent fatigue, which is a significant risk factor for accidents at sea. Fatigue can impair judgment, slow reaction times, and reduce overall performance, making crew changes essential for safe navigation and cargo handling.

Moreover, crew changes support the mental and physical well-being of seafarers by allowing them to return home, rest, and reconnect with their families. This contributes to higher morale and job satisfaction, which in turn impacts retention rates and reduces turnover costs for shipping companies. The seafarer crew change process also ensures compliance with international labor standards and maritime conventions, safeguarding the rights and welfare of maritime workers.

Operational Efficiency and Safety

Effective crew rotation directly affects the smooth functioning of ship operations. Well-rested and adequately trained personnel are better equipped to handle emergencies and routine tasks, enhancing the overall safety profile of the vessel.

Seafarer Welfare and Rights

Protecting seafarers' welfare through timely crew changes aligns with the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) requirements. This includes ensuring adequate leave, humane working conditions, and access to medical care, all of which are critical for the sustainability of the maritime workforce.

Regulatory Framework and International Guidelines

The seafarer crew change process is governed by a comprehensive set of international regulations and guidelines designed to protect seafarers and promote standardization across the maritime industry. The Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006 is the primary international treaty that sets minimum working and living standards for seafarers, including provisions related to crew changes.

In addition to the MLC, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has issued guidelines to facilitate crew changes during extraordinary circumstances, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. These guidelines emphasize the need for cooperation between governments and maritime stakeholders to ensure safe and efficient crew rotations while minimizing health risks.

Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006

The MLC establishes seafarers' rights to shore leave, repatriation, and timely crew changes. It mandates that seafarers should not be required to serve on board indefinitely and that employers must arrange for their replacement and return home at appropriate intervals.

IMO Guidelines on Crew Change

In response to global challenges, the IMO developed recommended practices for crew changes that include health screening, quarantine measures, and safe transportation to and from ports. These guidelines aim to balance operational needs with public health considerations.

Challenges in Conducting Seafarer Crew Change

Despite its critical importance, seafarer crew change faces numerous challenges that can disrupt shipping operations and impact seafarers' welfare. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed vulnerabilities in the global maritime supply chain, resulting in widespread difficulties in crew rotation due to border closures, travel restrictions, and limited flight availability.

Other challenges include bureaucratic delays, inconsistent policies among countries, and logistical hurdles in coordinating transportation and accommodation for crew members. These obstacles can lead to extended contracts for seafarers beyond their contractual limits, raising concerns about fatigue and mental health.

Impact of Global Health Crises

Health emergencies such as pandemics impose quarantine requirements and

travel bans that complicate crew changes. These measures can delay disembarkation and embarkation processes, affecting ship schedules and operational costs.

Administrative and Logistical Barriers

Visa restrictions, lack of standardized documentation, and limited access to medical facilities at ports contribute to delays and increased complexity in crew change operations. Coordination between shipping companies, agents, and authorities is often challenging.

Seafarer Fatigue and Mental Health Concerns

Extended time at sea without relief can lead to physical exhaustion and psychological stress, impacting seafarers' performance and well-being. Addressing these issues requires timely and well-organized crew changes.

Health and Safety Protocols for Crew Change

Ensuring the health and safety of seafarers during crew changes is paramount, particularly in the context of infectious disease outbreaks. Comprehensive protocols have been developed to minimize the risk of transmission while facilitating crew rotations.

These protocols include pre-boarding health screenings, testing for contagious diseases, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and controlled movement within port areas. Additionally, training and awareness programs are essential to equip seafarers and port workers with knowledge about preventive measures.

Medical Screening and Testing

Before boarding or disembarking, seafarers undergo medical examinations to detect symptoms or exposure to infectious diseases. Testing may include PCR or rapid antigen tests depending on local regulations and risk assessments.

Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Mandatory use of masks, gloves, and other protective gear helps reduce transmission risks during crew change activities. Proper disposal and hygiene practices are also emphasized to maintain a safe environment.

Quarantine and Isolation Measures

In cases where exposure risk is identified, quarantine protocols are implemented either on board or in designated facilities to prevent spreading infections. These measures are coordinated with health authorities to ensure compliance and safety.

Technological and Logistical Solutions

Advancements in technology and improved logistical coordination have enhanced the efficiency and safety of seafarer crew changes. Digital platforms for

crew management enable real-time tracking, documentation, and communication among stakeholders.

Innovative solutions such as dedicated crew change hubs, specialized transportation services, and automated health screening tools contribute to smoother operations. Collaboration between governments, ports, and shipping companies is crucial to implement these solutions effectively.

Digital Crew Management Systems

These systems facilitate scheduling, documentation, and communication, reducing administrative delays and ensuring transparency throughout the crew change process.

Dedicated Crew Change Hubs

Ports and terminals designated as crew change hubs provide streamlined services tailored to seafarers' needs, including medical support, accommodation, and transportation arrangements.

Automated Health Screening Technologies

Tools such as thermal scanners, contactless temperature checks, and digital health declarations accelerate screening procedures while maintaining safety standards.

- Real-time monitoring of crew health and location
- Efficient coordination between multiple stakeholders
- Minimized physical contact through automation
- Improved compliance with international health regulations

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a seafarer crew change?

A seafarer crew change refers to the process of replacing ship crew members with fresh personnel, ensuring continuous operation of the vessel while allowing rest and rotation for seafarers.

Why is crew change important in the maritime industry?

Crew change is vital to maintain the health, safety, and welfare of seafarers, prevent fatigue, and ensure compliance with international maritime labor regulations.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected seafarer crew

changes?

The pandemic caused significant disruptions to crew changes due to travel restrictions, port closures, and quarantine measures, leading to extended contracts and mental health challenges for seafarers.

What measures are being taken to facilitate safer crew changes during the pandemic?

Measures include implementing health protocols such as testing, vaccinations, quarantine arrangements, and coordination between governments and shipping companies to allow safe and timely crew rotations.

Which international organizations are involved in addressing seafarer crew change issues?

Organizations like the International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Labour Organization (ILO), and the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) actively work to support crew change processes and advocate for seafarers' rights.

What are the challenges faced by seafarers during crew changes?

Challenges include travel restrictions, visa delays, quarantine requirements, limited flight availability, and mental stress due to prolonged time onboard or isolation.

How can technology assist in improving seafarer crew changes?

Technology such as digital documentation, health monitoring apps, and improved communication platforms can streamline crew change logistics and enhance coordination among stakeholders.

What are the legal requirements for crew changes under the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC)?

The MLC mandates that seafarers have the right to repatriation, regular rest periods, and safe working conditions, which includes the facilitation of timely and safe crew changes.

What role do shipping companies play in managing crew changes?

Shipping companies coordinate with agents, authorities, and healthcare providers to plan and execute crew changes, ensuring compliance with regulations and safeguarding seafarers' welfare.

Additional Resources

1. *Seafarer Crew Change: Challenges and Solutions*

This book explores the logistical and regulatory challenges faced during seafarer crew changes worldwide. It examines the impact of international maritime laws, pandemic restrictions, and port policies on crew rotations. The author provides practical solutions and case studies to improve the efficiency and safety of crew change operations.

2. *Maritime Crew Management in the Modern Era*

Focusing on the human element of seafaring, this book delves into the complexities of managing diverse crews during changeovers. It discusses cultural considerations, psychological impacts of extended sea service, and strategies for smooth transitions. The book is a valuable resource for ship managers and HR professionals in the maritime industry.

3. *The Global Seafarer Crew Change Crisis*

This title addresses the global crisis that emerged due to COVID-19, which severely disrupted crew changes. It details the struggles faced by seafarers stranded on vessels and the efforts by international organizations to resolve the issue. The book offers insights into policy responses and future preparedness for similar disruptions.

4. *Best Practices for Efficient Crew Change Operations*

A practical guide aimed at shipping companies and port authorities, this book outlines best practices for planning and executing crew changes. Topics include scheduling, health and safety protocols, and coordination with immigration and port officials. Real-world examples highlight the importance of communication and contingency planning.

5. *Seafarer Welfare and Crew Change Dynamics*

This book emphasizes the welfare aspects of crew changes, focusing on mental health, fatigue management, and family communication. It discusses how timely and well-organized crew changes contribute to overall seafarer well-being and operational safety. The author advocates for industry-wide standards to enhance crew welfare during transitions.

6. *Technological Innovations Transforming Crew Change*

Examining how technology is reshaping crew change processes, this book covers digital documentation, remote medical assessments, and automated scheduling systems. It highlights the role of technology in reducing delays and improving transparency. The book is ideal for maritime technology developers and fleet operators.

7. *International Maritime Law and Crew Change Protocols*

A comprehensive analysis of the legal frameworks governing seafarer crew changes, this book explains conventions like the Maritime Labour Convention and guidelines from the International Maritime Organization. It provides clarity on the rights and responsibilities of seafarers, shipowners, and governments. Legal professionals and maritime administrators will find this resource invaluable.

8. *Case Studies in Crew Change Management*

Through detailed case studies from various shipping companies and ports, this book illustrates successes and failures in crew change management. It offers lessons learned and practical recommendations for improving processes. The case studies cover different vessel types and geographic regions, providing a broad perspective.

9. *Future Trends in Seafarer Crew Change*

Looking ahead, this book explores emerging trends affecting crew changes, including automation, environmental regulations, and evolving labor markets. It discusses how the maritime industry can adapt to changing circumstances while prioritizing seafarer rights and operational efficiency. The author combines research and expert interviews to present a forward-thinking analysis.

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seafarer crew change: *Regulation of Risk* Abhinayan Basu Bal, Trisha Rajput, Gabriela Argüello, David Langlet, 2022-12-28 Regulation of Risk provides comprehensive insight into regulation of risk in transport, trade and environment. Contributions provide national, regional and international perspectives on pressing questions: How is risk conceived in light of novel technological deployment, climate change, political upheaval, evolving geopolitics, and the COVID-19 pandemic? What legal tools such as contractual frameworks and governance structures are available to manage the changing landscape of risk? This book highlights the importance of dialogue and collaborative decision-making on risk between policymakers, institutions, societal stakeholders and the scientific community.

seafarer crew change: *UNCLOS at 40* Sumathy Permal, James Kraska, 2023-12-12 The 45th Annual Conference on Oceans Law & Policy (COLP), themed UNCLOS at 40, was hosted virtually by the Maritime Institute of Malaysia and the Stockton Center for International Law, United States Naval War College from 16-18 March 2022. The COLP is a preeminent global international maritime law meeting conducted annually by SCIL in conjunction with prominent co-sponsors from across the world. The 45 COLP was co-sponsored by the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia, the World Maritime University -Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute, and the Korea Maritime Institute, with generous support from the Centre for International Law, Turkey's National Center for the Sea and Maritime Law, and the Japan Institute of International Affairs. The COLP brings together some of the most preeminent figures in oceans law and policy with new voices and perspectives, especially from East Asia and the developing world, to address pressing issues of oceans law and policy. The 45 COLP explored laws governing illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing, laws applicable to the continental shelf, including submarine cables, protection of the marine environment, biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, climate change, and measures to enhance maritime security and stability in the oceans.

seafarer crew change: *Seafarers' Security Measures Under the MLC 2006* Sandra Lielbarde, 2024-07-19 The book is intended to be about the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC 2006), about seafarers' security measures available before MLC 2006 and after its adoption. The following security measures will be addressed in the book: mandatory financial security established by the MLC 2006, flag State responsibility, labour supplying responsibility, port State control, and a ship arrest. The responsibility of the shipowner in respect of the seafarers engaged in work on his ship will be discussed in analysis of nowadays seafarers' recruitment process and a legal structure of shipping companies. Content will include the analysis of international (UNCLOS, ILO and IMO conventions, UNCCRO's, and Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963) and national law

(Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Norway, The Philippines, and The UK), and relevant legal documents - agreements, guidelines, and court cases. Under the MLC 2006 the shipowner has an obligation to ensure appropriate working conditions on board a ship, due payment of wages, repatriation of seafarers and to fulfil other obligations in accordance with international and national law and the seafarer's employment agreement. Even nowadays, there are still shipowners who do not take care of the people who work on their ships: the crew onboard is left without food and drinking water, has not been paid for their work and cannot go back home because the shipowner does not pay for their repatriation. Current COVID-19 pandemic turned out to be a serious challenge to the MLC 2006 operation in practice. The MLC issues and seafarers' employment and social rights continue to be on the agenda of shipping industry. It is expected that on 24 December 2024 the amendments of 2022 to the Code of the MLC 2006 will come into force. The Guidelines for port State and flag State authorities on how to deal with seafarer abandonment cases were adopted on First Meeting of the Joint ILO-IMO Tripartite Working Group to identify and address seafarers' issues and the human element, held on 13-15 December 2022. The book aims to promote uniformity in implementation of the MLC 2006 by this increasing effectiveness of the MLC 2006. Book will bring a new knowledge in the area of maritime labour law. Accordingly, the author hopes that the book will be an important contribution for promoting understanding of seafarers' rights and shipowners' responsibilities under the MLC. It is intended that the book will be interesting for the professionals, seafarers, and also for students in Law/shipping faculties.

seafarer crew change: The Global Business Environment Janet Morrison, 2023-03-09 This text challenges students to think critically about global issues that affect the business environment and provides them with a wealth of pedagogical features that help cement learning. Its coverage includes the economic, political, social, legal, cultural, technological and financial environments. The book is truly global in coverage, with case studies and examples from all over the world, including Afghanistan, China, Sweden and Thailand. It also has a strong focus on ethics, responsibilities and sustainability and what this means for business organizations. Janet Morrison's writing style makes difficult concepts easy to understand and its clarity makes it suitable for students with English as a second language. New to this edition: - The theme of uncertainty in global contexts, examining how best to assess and confront the challenges of uncertainties and risks in the differing dimensions of the business environment - A chapter on the worldwide pandemic and the global business environment - Increased coverage of FDI, industrial policy and global communication - New coverage relating to race relations and decolonising the curriculum - 10 new cases, making a total of 52 cases, with all other cases fully updated - A brand new decision-making feature linked to some of the cases studies

seafarer crew change: Maritime Cooperation and Security in the Indo-Pacific Region , 2022-12-12 More than twenty Indo-Pacific scholars and emerging experts come together in this definitive volume to deliver fresh perspectives and original research on maritime cooperation and security. With subjects ranging from the Philippines to Antarctica, Coast Guards to climate change, these essays pay tribute to the late Commodore Sam Bateman (PhD) while laying the academic groundwork for the improved policies and behaviours that provide for expanded good order at sea.

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crisis. Covering topics such as employee rights, occupational safety, and psychological effects, this book is an essential resource for senior executives, leaders and managers, HR professionals, lecturers, business clusters, entrepreneurs, researchers, scholars, academicians, and faculty of higher education.

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seafarer crew change: *MIMA Bulletin Special 2020 Issue* , 2020-12-17 MIMA strives to provide the best reads on a multitude of maritime subjects, and this issue proves our range. We hope you enjoy reading them!

seafarer crew change: *The Global Seafarer* T. Alderton, Seafarers International Research Centre, International Labour Office, 2004 This volume offers a systematic account of the effects of globalization on the shipping industry and seafarers' lives. The seafarers' labor market is changing rapidly and this study discusses the challenges encountered in recruitment practices, trade unions, and collective bargaining, as well as training, certification, and fraudulent certification. Wages, contracts, and tours of duty are also investigated, and the book includes in-depth treatment of seafarer safety and hazard exposure. Innovations such as automated engine rooms and the global maritime distress and safety system, the internationalization of ship registrations, multinational crewing and reductions in crewing levels, and the rise in ship management companies have had a profound effect on seafarers' living and working conditions. This perceptive book examines these and future issues for regulation and enforcement.

seafarer crew change: *Mediterranean Seafarers in Transition* , 2022-10-17 This volume discusses the effects of industrialization on maritime trade, labour and communities in the Mediterranean and Black Sea from the 1850s to the 1920s. The 17 essays are based on new evidence from multiple type of primary sources on the transition from sail to steam navigation, written in a variety of languages, Italian, Spanish, French, Greek, Russian and Ottoman. Questions that arise in the book include the labour conditions, wages, career and retirement of seafarers, the socio-economic and spatial transformations of the maritime communities and the changes in the patterns of operation, ownership and management in the shipping industry with the advent of steam navigation. The book offers a comparative analysis of the above subjects across the Mediterranean, while also proposes unexplored themes in current scholarship like the history of navigation. Contributors are: Luca Lo Basso, Andrea Zappia, Leonardo Scavino, Daniel Muntane, Eduard Page Campos, Enric Garcia Domingo, Katerina Galani, Alkiviadis Kapokakis, Petros Kastrinakis, Kalliopi Vasilaki, Pavlos Fafalios, Georgios Samaritakis, Kostas Petrakis, Korina Doerr, Athina Kritsotaki, Anastasia Axaridou, and Martin Doerr.

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seafarer crew change: When the World Closed Its Doors Edward Alden, Laurie Trautman, 2025-01-07 In *When the World Closed Its Doors*, Edward Alden and Laurie Trautman tell the story of how nearly every country in the world shut its borders to respond to an external threat during the COVID-19 pandemic. They detail the consequences of the COVID border restrictions and explain why governments used their harshest containment measures on those coming from outside. A sweeping overview of the re-bordering of the world after 2020, this synthetic, wide-angle view of a singular shock to the international systems of travel and migration will be necessary reading for anyone interested in international migration and border policy.

seafarer crew change: Seafarer & Community Peter H. Fricke, 2023-10-27 *Seafarer & Community* (1973) examines life on shipboard and how the communities which rely on the sea for their livelihood exist. The main theme running through the chapters in this book is the observation of seafaring as an occupational community, as observed by anthropologists, economists, geographers, psychologists, seafarers and sociologists. The book explores the nature of seafaring communities, and asks whether they exist as communities in their own right or if they are occupational subgroups within a larger community. It also examines the psychological impact on seafarers of working within the closed communities of ships, and analyses the problems of training and recruitment.

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pressing topic amongst academics, policy makers, governments and non- governmental agencies alike, this book takes on one of the most overlooked but central devices underscoring many modes of oceanic management: the border. Uniquely combining contemporary border scholarship with cutting edge ocean governance research this book tackles themes ranging from biodiversity conservation and asylum regulations to shipping management measures, tourism, and the growing blue economy. This edited volume hence explores varied bordering practices, whilst also addressing the 'common-senseness' with which bordering is deployed at sea, questioning – and problematising – its function and efficacy. Throughout 12 carefully curated chapters, authors ask: What borders are present in the seas and oceans, where and why? In doing this the book offers readers a simple provocation: Do we need borders? And can we govern differently?

seafarer crew change: Seafarers' Rights in the Globalized Maritime Industry Desislava Nikolaeva Dimitrova, Roger Blanpain, 2010-01-01 The enormous technological, financial, and structural changes of recent decades have revolutionized the international shipping industry, bringing about lower freight rates, shorter time in port and fast turnarounds, reduction in crew size, employment of cheap labour from developing countries, avoidance of national regulations and taxes, and diminished living and working standards on board. Exploitation of seafarers has always existed, but now it has become more common and frequent. Shipowners can cut costs in various ways, but the most profitable and easiest to achieve are those at the expense of labour costs, in particular costs for maintaining proper living conditions on board the ship. This bulletin examines in detail the structure of the shipping industry, focusing on problems concerning the working and living conditions of seafarers on board merchant ships serving the global sea transport system. Exploring all levels of maritime policymaking on a global and European level, the author analyses seafarers' rights in the light of international enforcement mechanisms and particularly in the light of the recent ILO Maritime Labour Convention. He also considers relevant case law, as well as advisory opinions and policy statements from various pertinent agencies, especially in the EU context.. Among the issues raised and discussed in depth in relation to their effect on seafarers' labour standards are the following: * ship manning companies; * illicit crewing agencies; * flags of convenience; * hours of work and rest; * wages; * occupational health and safety; * accommodation, food, water, and catering; * recreational facilities; * filing of grievance; and * port controls. The author shows that, expansion and progress of the maritime industry notwithstanding, there is a great need for effective enforcement mechanisms in this area. This is the first detailed analysis to connect the working and living conditions of seafarers with international, supranational, and national maritime legislation. A giant step towards establishing a global monitoring system to enforce international maritime conventions regarding seafarers' labour standards, it is sure to make an important contribution to both international labour and employment law and the law of the sea.

seafarer crew change: COVID-19 Pandemic, Geospatial Information, and Community Resilience Abbas Rajabifard, Daniel Paez, Greg Foliente, 2021-06-07 The Open Access version of this book, available at <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/oa-edit/10.1201/9781003181590>, has been made available under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-No Derivatives 4.0 license. Geospatial information plays an important role in managing location dependent pandemic situations across different communities and domains. Geospatial information and technologies are particularly critical to strengthening urban and rural resilience, where economic, agricultural, and various social sectors all intersect. Examining the United Nations' SDGs from a geospatial lens will ensure that the challenges are addressed for all populations in different locations. This book, with worldwide contributions focused on COVID-19 pandemic, provides interdisciplinary analysis and multi-sectoral expertise on the use of geospatial information and location intelligence to support community resilience and authorities to manage pandemics.

seafarer crew change: The Routledge Handbook of Ocean Space Kimberley Peters, Jon Anderson, Andrew Davies, Philip Steinberg, 2022-07-29 Invisible as the seas and oceans may be for so many of us, life as we know it is almost always connected to, and constituted by, activities and occurrences that take place in, on and under our oceans. The Routledge Handbook of Ocean Space

provides a first port of call for scholars engaging in the 'oceanic turn' in the social sciences, offering a comprehensive summary of existing trends in making sense of our water worlds, alongside new, agenda-setting insights into the relationships between society and the 'seas around us'. Accordingly, this ambitious text not only attends to a growing interest in our oceans, past and present; it is also situated in a broader spatial turn across the social sciences that seeks to account for how space and place are imbricated in socio-cultural and political life. Through six clearly structured and wide-ranging sections, *The Routledge Handbook of Ocean Space* examines and interrogates how the oceans are environmental, historical, social, cultural, political, legal and economic spaces, and also zones where national and international security comes into question. With a foreword and introduction authored by some of the leading scholars researching and writing about ocean spaces, alongside 31 further, carefully crafted chapters from established as well as early career academics, this book provides both an accessible guide to the subject and a cutting-edge collection of critical ideas and questions shaping the social sciences today. This handbook brings together the key debates defining the 'field' in one volume, appealing to a wide, cross-disciplinary social science and humanities audience. Moreover, drawing on a range of international examples, from a global collective of authors, this book promises to be the benchmark publication for those interested in ocean spaces, past and present. Indeed, as the seas and oceans continue to capture world-wide attention, and the social sciences continue their seaward 'turn', *The Routledge Handbook of Ocean Space* will provide an invaluable resource that reveals how our world is a water world.

seafarer crew change: The IMLI Manual on International Maritime Law: Shipping law

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