

DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER 2002 - 038



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**Operation
Enduring Freedom**

EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS

Gulf of Mexico Production Affected by Isidore

Even though Isidore has been downgraded to a tropical storm, operators in the Gulf of Mexico are shutting in production and evacuating crews from offshore platforms and rigs.

Shell said it was shutting in 675,000 barrels per day of crude output and 2.7 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas production. Marathon reported that it will be shutting in approximately 46,000 barrels of crude oil production at seven platforms. Unocal, which has already evacuated non-essential and most of the essential personnel from its offshore platforms, will be shutting in approximately 20,000 boed. Murphy Oil has shut in all of its production of oil and natural gas. BP and ConocoPhillips will be shutting in production as well. The Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP), the Gulf of Mexico's biggest receiver of imported crude oil, shut on Saturday and will remain shut likely to this weekend. "It is probably not likely that we will open the marine facility until after Isidore makes landfall," said Dale Rollins, spokesman for the LOOP. The LOOP takes in an average of 1.4 million bpd of crude, of which 900,000 bpd is from foreign sources and 500,000 bpd from U.S. Gulf of Mexico sources, Rollins said.

The storm, with winds up to 60 miles per hour, was moving off Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, heading mostly north toward Texas and Louisiana on a course that would take it over the Gulf's most active oil producing territory. Waves generated by the storm were as high as 15 feet in parts of the Gulf of Mexico, hindering shipping and drilling operations, according to the NOAA.

OOCL Australia dispute nears conclusion



ANL and the shipping unions are believed to be just days away from finalising an agreement that will reinstate an Australian crew on board the **OOCL Australia**.

The Australian crew were made redundant when ANL reflagged and recrewed the ship in July.

Three maritime unions – the Maritime Union of Australia, Australian Maritime Officers Union, the Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers – disputed this action in

the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC).

AIRC senior deputy president Watson ordered ANL and the unions to enter into discussions to try and resolve the issue.

MUA national secretary Paddy Crumlin said these negotiations have been successful and an understanding will be reached soon that will see the crew go back to work.

ANL chief executive John Lines refused to comment

CASUALTY REPORTING

Container ship rescues four

FOUR sailors have been rescued by a container ship in the Coral Sea off north Queensland.

An Australian couple, a German woman and an American man were picked up by the 10,500-tonne ship MV **Kokopo Chief** after the engine and steering failed on their Melbourne-registered yacht **Just-N-Time**.

The 13-metre yacht had been sailing from Cairns to the Louisiade Archipelago in Papua New Guinea.

The crew contacted the Cairns coastguard when their engine failed.

Kokopo Chief's Captain David Watkins, who was en route from Brisbane to Port Moresby, responded to the coastguard call about 7.30am (AEST) yesterday.

The ship found the yacht about halfway between Cairns and Port Moresby in the Coral Sea.

Engineers from the Kokopo Chief attempted repairs to the yacht's engine and steering today but were unsuccessful and winched the yacht and crew aboard.

Swire Shipping Trades commercial director Richard Kendall said the rescue had been tricky.

"There was a swell running at the time of the rendezvous which made it more difficult to attempt repair of the steering gear," Mr Kendall said.

A spokesman for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority said the container ship's crew had shown great skill and commitment in conducting the rescue.

ROUTE, PORTS & SERVICES

PSA zou voet aan wal willen krijgen in Noord-Amerika

De Singaporese goederenbehandelaar PSA Corporation richt nu zijn blik op de Verenigde Staten voor de uitbreiding op het gebied van containerterminals. De PSA-groep is al aanwezig in Azië, het Midden-Oosten, het Indisch subcontinent en Europa (in het zuiden in Italië en in het noorden in Antwerpen met Hesse Noord Natie). In totaal is de groep in dertien havens ingeplant. Volgens de nieuwe voorzitter van PSA, Stephen Lee, vormen de Verenigde Staten de missing link in het netwerk. De voorkeur zou uitgaan naar de westkust, wat logisch is aangezien de uitwisselingen met Azië daar het grootst zijn

Senator jobs at risk as services face the axe

German liner shipping specialist Senator Lines, which is controlled by Hanjin Shipping, is considering axing some of its services which could lead to job losses at the Bremen-based company.

"We have not taken a decision yet, but are looking actively at our transpacific and transatlantic services," chief executive Hans-Hermann Mohr told Lloyd's List. The target was to focus on profitable businesses only and to increase operations in those markets 'where the strength of the specialised carrier will pay off'. He said that such a reduction of lines operated by Senator might have consequences for the 300 staff at its Bremen headquarters.

"Our structure is under review", he said.

The target is to get leaner and more flexible for the future. Senator Lines operates around 35 ships and expects to carry 1.4m teu this year, Mr Mohr said. The line had seen a major management reshuffle earlier this year. Jan-Boje Steffens, who was Senator's executive vice-president and had been with the company for 13 years, left to head up Rickmers-Linie. Senator Line's president Hyo Keun Ko, who only arrived in Bremen in February, was replaced in July by Hans-Hermann Mohr and Chan Hee Won, as joint chief executives.

Chiquita plans to bend banana focus



CHIQUITA Brands, one of the biggest players in the refrigerated shipping trades, yesterday unveiled plans to reduce its reliance on the North American and European Union banana markets by building up business in other parts of the world, writes Janet Porter

Details of a strategic review of the US foods giant were presented to fund managers just days after Chiquita sold its five director-class ships to Star Reefers.

The \$54m deal will reduce the size of Chiquita's fleet of reeferships to 11, from about 30 in the mid-1990s.

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However, Chiquita will be exploring alliances with other companies, including banana producers and third party ship operators, as it seeks to lower logistics costs, said Bob Kisting, president and chief operating officer of Chiquita Fresh Group.

Aage Thoen, chief executive of Star Reefers, said yesterday he considered last week's acquisition "a partnership transaction", and that the two sides would be exploring other business opportunities with each other.



Two of the ships bought by Star Reefers are being chartered back to Chiquita at 55¢ per cu ft per 30 days, while the other three are on hire to Seatrade until the end of the year.

The results of Chiquita's wide ranging review and action plan for the next three years, which will include the proposed sale of non-core businesses, coincided with speculation that rival Dole Food Co could find itself in a bidding war.

Dole shares gained 18% Monday following news that the company's chairman, David Murdock, had

launched a \$1.3bn bid to take the company back into private ownership. Shares continued to gain ground on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday morning.

Dole, whose fleet includes the world's only fully containerised reeferships, has about 31% of the North American banana market, with Chiquita's share put at 28% and Del Monte's at 24%.

Both Chiquita and Dole have been hit by the EU's banana regime, with uncertainty about the future of the European market place, when new members join the EU, obscuring prospects.

Chiquita, which emerged from Chapter 11 protection in March, last week announced plans to buy Atlanta, the largest distributor of Chiquita products in Germany and Austria, in a move designed to protect its European interests.

But Chiquita chief executive Cyrus Freidheim said the company would be looking for new markets in Asia, Latin America and eastern Europe where its presence is modest right now.

The aim is also to maintain "best-in-class" logistics costs, said Mr Kisting, although higher fuel prices and a container replacement programme would add to costs in the immediate future.

Rowan Provides Contract Status of Offshore Rigs

Rowan Companies, Inc. announced that the current contract status of its offshore drilling fleet. In the Gulf of Mexico: Gorillas II, III, IV and VI are each operating under well-to-well contracts. Eastern Canada - Gorilla V completed a one-well contract on September 18 and is now in Halifax Harbor. Though the outlook for 2003 is favorable, the near-term outlook for additional work offshore eastern Canada is uncertain. North Sea - Gorilla VII completed a contract as an accommodation unit on

September 12 and is currently under contract for a short-term construction program in the Norwegian Sector. With several bids in process, the near-term outlook for additional work in the North Sea, while uncertain, is, for the moment, more promising than eastern Canada. Other Rigs: The company's remaining 18 rigs in the Gulf of Mexico are under well-to-well contracts.

NAVY NEWS

Voorbereidingen vlootdagen Caribisch Gebied in volle gang



De Kustwacht voor de Nederlandse Antillen en Aruba en de Koninklijke Marine zijn momenteel volop bezig met de voorbereidingen van de Vlootdagen in het Caribisch Gebied. In Willemstad (Curaçao) is op 5 en 6 oktober op maritiem gebied heel wat te beleven.

De vlootdagen beginnen 's avonds op 4 oktober met een Taptoe door de uit 70 man bestaande

Marinierskapel. De Kapel wordt speciaal voor deze gelegenheid uit Nederland overgevlogen. Vijf en zes oktober staan bol van de activiteiten op de kades van Otrabanda. Marine- en Kustwachtschepen uit de Nederlandse Antillen, Aruba, Frankrijk, Groot Brittanië, Trinidad en Nederland leggen hun loopplanken uit voor bezoek.



Op de kades zijn diverse stands ingericht door Mariniers van de 31e Infanteriecompagnie, de Antilliaanse Militie, Kustwacht Nederlandse Antillen en Aruba en verschillende andere organisaties die een band met de Koninklijke Marine hebben. Daarnaast zal de Marinierskapel iedere dag een lunchconcert op de kade geven. Om de dag af te sluiten zullen de Steelband en het combo van de Marinierskapel bij Café de Alphen de vlootdagen muzikaal afsluiten. Op zaterdag en zondag geven vliegtuigen, helikopters en schepen demonstraties in de Annabaai en zullen mariniers afdalen vanaf de Julianabrug en een landing uitvoeren op een ponton in de Annabaai.

Van Amerikaanse zijde nog gewerkt aan deelname van vliegende Amerikaanse eenheden. Het is de bedoeling dat

vliegtuigen van de Forward Operating Location 's middags op 5 en 6 oktober een Fly pass verzorgen.

Navy ship search 'abandoned'



THE Royal Australian Navy has shelved plans for new searches for **HMAS Sydney** documents, the body of a lone sailor washed ashore in a raft, or the wreck itself.

That is, at least until someone can come up with better information on where to start looking.

In one of the enduring mysteries of World War II, HMAS Sydney sank with all 645 hands aboard after a close-range gun battle with the German raider Kormoran off the West Australian coast on November 19, 1941.

Interest in the tragedy remains high and a Parliamentary committee

recommended in 1999 that the Navy should investigate how it might help solve the mystery.

But in a report released today, the Navy said it couldn't do much more than what had already been done.

It said little real progress had been made to date, despite significant research efforts.

"Notwithstanding this result, the door remains open and the Australian Navy remains interested in receiving any new information that may be brought to light by the many persons concerned with this issue," it said.

The statement followed an unsuccessful navy-funded search for hitherto undiscovered documents relating to the loss of the Sydney in the Public Records Office in London.

Also unsuccessful was a navy expedition to Christmas Island last year searching for the grave of an unidentified sailor whose body washed ashore in February 1942.

It's thought he may have been the sole survivor when the Sydney went down but he perished before he could make landfall.

It was hoped that a seminar in Western Australia might help refine possible search areas for the wrecks of the Sydney or the Kormoran.

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But there was no such luck.

The seminar concluded that a search was technically feasible but would require hiring commercial contractors at a cost of some \$1.8 million for a 4,000 square kilometre search.

But no new information emerged to reduce the search area below 7,200 square kilometres, a figure cited in the 1999 committee report.

"The present technology is not yet good enough to search such a vast area with a reasonable probability of success and at a reasonable cost," the navy said



The battered and broken sailboat belonging to 62-year-old Richard Van Pham, who was spotted adrift in his small sailboat by military aircraft conducting drug interdiction operations in the region. Van Pham was rescued by the U.S. Navy frigate **USS McClusky (DDG 41)**, after being adrift at sea for 3 1/2 months. Van Pham set out for a short trip between Long Beach, Calif., and Catalina Island, when high winds damaged his mast, disabling his boat.



Top : a file photo of the **USS McClusky** (FFG 41) –collection **Piet Sinke**

MOVEMENTS

TAKLIFT 1 & TAKLIFT 7



Photo impression of the offloading of the newbuild casco's of the Zhong Ren 3 with the TAKLIFT 1 and TAKLIFT 7 in the Waalhaven in Rotterdam.

Photo's : Jos Leentvaar © – SMIT Heavy Lift



AIRCRAFT / AIRPORT NEWS



The U.S. Navy Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Team performs fly-by formation at the "2002 Neptune Festival Air Show." The Blue Angels were organized under the order of Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, the Chief of Naval Operations, at the end of World War II, to keep the public interested in Naval Aviation. They are flying the sleek McDonnell Douglas F/A-18 "Hornet," the first dual-role fighter/attack aircraft now serving on the nation's front lines of defense. Since 1946, the Blue Angels have flown for more than 260 million spectators.

HAVE A LOOK AT THE FOLLOWING *SITES* FOR SHIPPING INFO AND PICTURES OF SHIPS AROUND HOEK VAN HOLLAND AT :

<http://www.scheepvaarthoek.nl>

And the renewed site of the National Tugboat Museum at :

[http:// www.nationaalsleepvaartmuseum.nl](http://www.nationaalsleepvaartmuseum.nl)