

## DAILY COLLECTION OF MARITIME PRESS CLIPPINGS 2007 – 225



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**The DDG 98 USS FORREST SHERMAN seen arriving in Cape Town**  
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## EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS



The **STENA CARIBBEAN** seen departing from Willemstad (Curacao)

Photo : Kees Bustraan ©

## UK. Falmouth RNLI rescues small boat after skipper ignores advice from Coastguard

A small open boat on passage from Falmouth to Helford River last night was towed to safety by Falmouth RNLI lifeboat after becoming lost in poor weather. The vessel got into difficulties after being strongly advised by the Coastguard not to make the passage.

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Falmouth Coastguard had advised the young man skippering the 14 foot open boat not to make the return trip to moorings in the Helston River because they were concerned that the small boat was not suitable for the journey in the poor weather conditions with winds gusting to 27 knots and rough seas. However, the boat set off from Falmouth and some time later contacted Falmouth Coastguard to report that he had broken down and was some way off Falmouth Harbour but unsure of position and in need of assistance.

Falmouth Coastguard requested the launch of Falmouth RNLI all weather and inshore lifeboats and Falmouth Coastguard Rescue Team. Falmouth lifeboat located the boat one mile from Falmouth and towed it back to harbour.

Henry Purbrick, Falmouth Coastguard Watch Manager said, "We urge all boat users to know the limits of their vessel and to take into account the prevailing conditions before setting off. We would rather you reached home late than not at all."



The **EURODAM** seen fitting out in Marghera (Italy) after the "Coin Ceremony".



In the coin ceremony, the shipbuilder FINCANTIERI soldered some coins on deck 12 under the radar mast, most fwd part of the vessel, as a permanent symbol of safe travel and good fortune.

Photo's : Ed van Weijen ©



## SHIPPING “SHOULD CARE ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH”

THE London P&I Club warns that the shipping industry should pay more attention to psychological disorders among seafarers. In the latest issue of its StopLoss Bulletin, the club says, “Too often, such problems are not identified, or dealt with, as quickly, as knowledgeably or as sympathetically as is the case with physical illness and injury. This seems to be particularly the case in the context of the robust working environment typically encountered at sea.”

It adds: “The Club views with concern the large numbers of seafarers now being repatriated early suffering from a range of psychological difficulties. One report suggests that as many as one in three repatriations which require a medical escort are related to such ailments. Great care must be taken to protect the interests of all seafarers when dealing with such issues. In extreme cases, the afflicted crew member can be a danger to others on board, or may constitute a suicide risk.”

The club quotes Prof Francesco Amenta, Italian-based Centro Internazionale Radio Medico's (CIRM) Scientific Director, who says, “When dealing with psychological problems, including stress, anxiety and depression, requests for medical advice should always be sought at the earliest opportunity. What may be lacking in the maritime culture is sufficient sensitivity to health problems. For example, shipping is much more sensitive to technology and safety issues than it is to health problems, so it is perhaps not surprising to hear about the difficulties being encountered in dealing with mental health issues at sea.”



The offshore support vessel **BUCCANEER** seen in the Gulf of Mexico

Photo : Willem Dijkstra ©

## 40 harragas attempt a collective suicide on the high seas

The captain of a fishing boat on board 40 illegal migrants attempted a collective suicide when it collided with Algerian Navy Forces "Shihab" warship.

Navy forces managed to rescue 33 harragas from inevitable death owing to the complete damage caused to their boat. The incident resulted in seriously wounded illegal migrants whose ages range between 18 and 33 years, whereas seven others were listed missing.

Sources within navy forces reported that the arrest of the Harragas was the outcome of a tow-hour hunt on the high seas, as the warship crew noticed, at around 5.30am, that Harragas boat was to change its direction towards the "Shihab" stationed 46 sailor's knots Northern Ras al Hamra, 90 kilometers off Annaba coasts.

Coast guards started investigating with the arrested Harragas who will be referred to the Republic Prosecutor for flee, disobedience to a military order and putting lives at risk.

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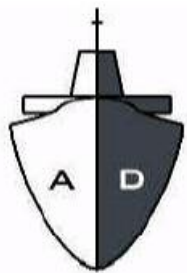
## 6 Chinese sailors missing

Two ships carrying sand collided off the China coast this weekend, spilling 22 sailors into the water -- with six still missing.

The accident occurred Saturday in the Bohai Sea off Huludao in northeastern Liaoning Province, China's state-run Xinhua news agency reported Sunday.

There was no sign of the six missing sailors, and their chance of surviving was regarded as slim

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## Royal sub to visit SA

A Royal Navy nuclear submarine, **HMS Sceptre**, is to conduct an informal visit to Simon's Town, the SA Navy announced on Monday.

"The visit forms part of the British High Commission's aim of promoting diplomatic relations with South Africa and will further strengthen the existing relations between the SA Navy and the Royal Navy," said navy spokesperson Lieutenant-Commander Prince Tshabalala.

The ship's crew would also participate in various sporting events during their short visit to South Africa, starting on Thursday. The submarine will not be open for public viewing but the media is invited to take pictures of the submarine at the Simon's Town SA Naval Dockyard.

The **HMS Sceptre** is manned by a crew of 114 (18 officers and 96 crew) and is 82,9m in length, with a beam of 10m and a draught of 9,4m. The submarine would be in country until October 6, Tshabalala said.



The 4th patrol vessel from Gryfia shipyard build for the Norwegian Coast Guard is named **W 333 NJORD**

Photo : Tomasz Grotnik ©

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The new **COOLWATER** arrived in Dordrecht for outfitting  
Photo : Hans Lingbeek ©

## SembCorp Marine in new Brazil yard venture

Singapore's Jurong Shipyard, a subsidiary of SembCorp Marine, and Brazil's WTorre Empreendimentos Imobiliarios SA (WTorre) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to form a joint-venture company to own and operate a shipyard in Brazil.

Located in the Southern Brazilian city of Rio Grande, the 553,880 sq.m shipyard will be equipped with a graving dock of 133 m x 350 m and ancillary steel fabrication facilities. The new dry dock is to be fitted with a 600- ton gantry crane. It will be the largest to be built in Brazil for three decades. It is capable of handling the construction and repair of semisubmersible units, including the largest production rigs, ship-shaped FPSOs and fullscale topside fabrication capacity.

Construction started in November, 2006, and will be completed in June, 2008. Petrobras is expected to use the facilities of the shipyard for its projects, and has signed a contract for this purpose, by renting the shipyard for the next ten years.

Sao Paulo based WTorre is a large and well established civil engineering group with expertise and capabilities in infrastructure development. SembCorp Marine says the strategic partnership with WTorre is in line with its strategy to deepen its commitment and investment in Brazil to further grow its offshore business.

Mr Wong Weng Sun, President and COO of SembCorp Marine said "We have been a key player in Brazil's oil and gas construction industry since 1997. In 2001, we teamed up with the Synergy Group in Brazil to participate in the revival and modernization of the country's marine and offshore industry in Niteroi in the state of Rio de Janeiro. The shipyard, Maua Jurong, is today an established yard achieving world-class status. It has well-equipped shipyard facilities, plentiful skilled workforce and proven track record in the offshore oil and gas industry."

"Having fulfilled our obligations and intention, we have exercised our Put Option on the expiry of our joint-venture agreement," Mr Wong continued. "Meanwhile, we have been invited by WTorre to develop the marine and offshore infrastructure and to operate and own a shipyard, targeting at the oil and gas construction industry in Southern Brazil, in the city of Rio Grande. The shipyard, when completed in 2008, will be the largest shipyard in the Southern

Hemisphere and is ideally located in close proximity to cater to the potential offshore market in West Africa. Equipped with one of Brazil's largest newbuild drydocks, the yard is well-positioned to handle semi-submersible rigs, FPSO conversions and newbuild production semi-submersibles and topside modules. It will cater to the needs of Petrobras projects." . Currently, Jurong Shipyard is in an advanced stage of negotiations on the terms of the joint-venture partnership with WTorre Group. It says a further announcement will be made on finalization of the agreements.

## **STX Shipbuilding gives Chinese shipyard US\$30 mln order**

STX Shipbuilding Co., the world's seventh-largest shipbuilder, said Tuesday it has awarded a Chinese shipyard a US\$30 million order to build a handy-size bulk carrier. The order calls for Taizhou Maple Leaf Shipbuilding Co. to deliver the carrier by 2010, STX Shipbuilding said in a regulatory filing.

## **Shock losses force IHI boss out**

The chairman of IHI Corp, one of Japan's biggest shipbuilders, has stepped down after revealing massive first-half losses. Bloomberg has reported that Mototsugu Ito is taking responsibility for anticipated losses and stepping down. In a statement to the Tokyo Stock Exchange today, IHI Corp stated the losses for the first half of the financial year could be eight times higher than earlier estimates. It added that earnings for previous years may be restated. Net loss could amount to as much as ¥66bn (\$572M) for the six months ending 20 September against an earlier forecast of ¥8Bn. The losses are not thought to be related to the company's shipbuilding activities, though the impact will be felt across the entire organisation. The company had been pursuing a policy of global expansion under the concept of "Total Engineering", with a particular focus on South-East Asia and the US, targeting profits of ¥60bn in the year to March 2010. This policy will now have to be revised.



The **MAERSK ATTENDER** in a not so preferred position, trying to leave the floating dock.

**Photo : Stephen Carson ©**



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The 45 ton BP AHT **SEA ALFA** (Shoalbuster 3009) seen under construction for **SEACONTRACTORS**  
Photo : Xander Schanssema ©

## Oman to take delivery of ferry boats next year

The first of the two multi-purpose auto express 65-metre high-speed ferries built for the Sultanate of Oman was launched at the Austal Image Henderson shipbuilding facility in Australia recently.

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Scheduled for delivery in 2008, the two boats will provide new tourism service to Oman's magnificently rugged Musandam Peninsular and will be the flagship in the Sultanate's expanded marine transport network.

As well as reaching speeds of over 50 knots, the ferries can carry 208 passengers and 56 cars along an intended 180 nautical mile route. According to information provided by Epicor, the leading international e-business platform for aerospace and defence industry, the vessels will set new standards for the Middle East region, not only in terms of performance but also with regard to safety, comfort and quality of finish.

With a top speed in excess of 50 knots (93 km/hour), the vessels will be the fastest diesel-powered vehicle ferries ever built. Passengers will experience unparalleled comfort across three classes — tourist class, first class and VIP.

High quality seating and catering facilities are all located on a single deck, with sea-keeping comfort enhanced by the Austal SeaState Motion Control System. Onboard features also include a helicopter landing facility suitable for a medium class helicopter, which will be capable of assisting in search and rescue and medivac operations.

The Australia-based Austal is a world leading manufacturer of aluminium vessels and its products include vehicle-passenger ferries, cruise vessels and a range of patrol, fast freight and offshore support vessels.

Austal Executive Chairman John Rothwell in a statement said the contract for the Sultanate of Oman's two high-speed vessels is of extreme strategic importance, as it demonstrates Austal's leading design and construction capabilities in one of the fastest growing markets in the world. "With 15 of our company's commercial and military ships now operating in the Middle East and 10 in nearby Turkey, the two Sultanate of Oman ferries further reinforce Austal's commitment to the region and its understanding of the unique needs of the Middle East," Rothwell said.

Both vessels are powered by four MTU 20 cylinder 1163 series diesel engines each producing 6,500kW and driving a Rolls Royce/KaMeWa water jets.

The vessels are being built in accordance with the requirements and under the survey of Det Norske Veritas, conforming to the International Maritime Organisation High Speed Craft code



The **SAPURA 3000** seen during the 2200 tons test lift in Singapore

**Photo : Stephen Carson ©**

## Cal Dive/ Horizon Offshore merger delayed

Cal Dive International and Horizon Offshore in the US have announced that they have each received a request for additional information (commonly referred to as a 'second request') from the Antitrust Division of the US Department of Justice regarding Cal Dive's acquisition of Horizon.

The information request was issued under the notification requirements of the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, as amended, and has the effect of extending the waiting period for a period of 30 calendar days from the date of the parties' substantial compliance with the request.

Both parties intend to continue to work cooperatively to respond to the request and obtain termination of the waiting period as soon as practicable.

## APL warns of congestion nightmare

Congestion in container traffic worldwide has reached critical proportions, a liner executive has warned. Goh Teik Poh, who runs operations and networks at APL, stressed that rail and road bottlenecks were also included in the assessment. "We are not just talking about port to port," he told delegates at the International Maritime and Port Technology and Development Conference today. It is estimated that congestion adds as much as \$200Bn a year to transport costs. Approval of a number of capacity expansion projects in the US have been delayed by environment requirements, he pointed out, warning of a congestion of "nightmarish proportions". While China can put up a berth in six months, India and Vietnam are lagging behind both in expanding capacity and bolstering inland infrastructure, Poh lamented. Europe, with its heavily fragmented rail network that gives preference to passengers over freight, will not be spared severe congestion, he noted.



The **MAERSK ROME** seen in Bremerhaven  
Photo : Bram Plokker ©

## Razzmatazz ready to go

That's the word from Ian Powell, the man driving the former cruise ship **MADAGASCAR** and soon to be renamed **RAZZMATAZZ**, which he intends operating on an all year round basis out of Durban.



Powell says the transfer of the ship to his company, Razzmatazz Ocean Cruises is due to be completed within the next week or so after which work can begin on readying her for the first cruise in November – details of this are available on the website at <http://www.razzmatazzoceancruises.co.za>

This work includes a compulsory drydocking for classification purposes and to take care of what he says are minor maintenance matters. Cruises planned for November include 2, 3, 4 and 5-day cruises of the 'to nowhere' variety or to the Mozambique islands. There is also a charter cruise called 'Zest for Birds' listed – presumably to Europa Island which seems to be a favourite among the tweeters.

There have been some predictions that the ship faces a rocky time at sea on account of its size, and attempts to launch the company have had a bumpy start with a legal wrangle involving Razzmatazz Ocean Cruises suing another cruise company, Starlight Cruises and the publishing house Nowmedia, which caters for the travel industry. This is on account of what Razzmatazz says are defamatory statements that led to a delay in the launch and therefore a loss of income.

The ship is at present berthed in a quiet corner of Durban harbour, still looking in remarkably good condition despite the two years in mothballs. From all reports she has been a popular ship in her previous history, with accounts from people who sailed on her attesting to their enjoyment on board.

It would be a pity if she were to languish in an African port for any longer and for that reason alone one hopes the wrangles and obstacles that have held up the ship's re-launch can be cleared.

## **Falklands expect busiest cruise season on record: 81.000 px**

The coming Falkland Islands 2007/08 cruise ship season will be the busiest on record with an estimated 81.000 passengers expected to visit the South Atlantic archipelago beginning October 20, reports the Falkland Islands Tourist Board, FITB.

This represents an increase of 50% over the last season and the busiest day for the capital Stanley is scheduled to be December 4 when 4.900 tourists are expected from three vessels. Stanley's population is estimated in 1.700.

Forty six different vessels are expected to call in the Islands compared to forty two last year. FITB reports that Sullivan Shipping has managed to secure nine new vessels that will make their maiden call this season.

Sullivan have also expanded their operations to offer fourteen different shore excursions and will also offer keen golfers the chance to play a round at Stanley Golf Course and to step into the homes of local Islanders.

FITB underlined that because of all the publicity in the first half of the year with regards to the South Atlantic conflict 25th anniversary commemorations, there has been a surge of land based bookings which has been met with new accommodation facilities and an increase in the number of private tour guides. This is valued as highly positive since Falklands land based tourism results so far has been considered short of its potential.

FITB and Stanley travel agencies were also involved in the promotion of this sector having attended last September Travel Mart Latin America in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, which is one of the most important events in the year for South American travel specialists and international trade press. The 31st edition of Travel Mart convened around 900 delegates representing 250 to 300 "buyers" of the Latin American tourism product and services from global markets, and 250 "suppliers" representing every country in the Latin American Region.

The event has earned a reputation for quality and results, primarily because it features the "SelectMatch Pre-Scheduled Appointments System" that enables buyers and suppliers to have up to 20 business appointments each day, with each appointment lasting 20 minutes and arranged in advance.

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Agents only meet with operators who have a genuine interest in what the Falklands has on offer, and whose clientele are a likely market for the Falklands product. Last July a similar trip was completed by FITB staff to Australia and New Zealand to raise awareness of the Falkland Islands and boost visitor numbers.

On November 5 the new FITB General Manager, Jake Downing is scheduled to arrive in the Islands. Born in Suffolk England, Jake has lived in New Zealand since 2004 where he is currently responsible for the management and development of eight visitor information centres across Auckland and surrounding islands.

The information centres receive in excess of 1 million international visitors each year, and Jake has been instrumental in tripling their profits during his three and a half year tenure.



The tug **KSP SUN** seen in Singapore  
Photo : Capt Jelle de Vries ©

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## SILVER CLOUD in African waters

**SILVER CLOUD** will be arriving in African waters in December for an extended three months of cruising – about as close as one gets to a homeporting without any one port becoming the centre of operations. During the three months in these parts **Silver Cloud** will make a number of cruises up and down the South African coast between Richards Bay

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and Walvis Bay, as well as making cruises among the Mauritius and Reunion group (the Mascarenes) and Madagascar, and also among the Seychelles islands in addition to visits to the Comores, Zanzibar, Mombasa and Lamu.

The twin ships **Silver Cloud** and **Silver Wind**, both of 16,900-gt are not exactly everybody's favourite ship, but I will happily confess to having had a fondness for all four ships in the fleet and in particular the two smaller vessels since first clapping eyes on them in the late 1990s. This appreciation for what I have seen (I can't boast of having travelled on any of the four but have visited on board several of them in port) relates not only to the outward appearance but also the general atmosphere on board and it is easy to understand why so many passengers are repeat passengers each year.

Looking at the itinerary for **Silver Cloud**, the ship will be arriving in the western Indian Ocean in mid November (2007) from the Red Sea, making visits to East Africa and the Seychelles and then to Port Louis, Toamasina and Tuléar in Madagascar before arriving in Richards Bay in mid December. She then undertakes a number of 14-day cruises along the South African coast as far as Walvis Bay in Namibia, returning to Richards Bay and Durban and retracing her steps back to Cape Town and Walvis Bay before eventually heading back again to Mauritius and Madagascar, East Africa and the Seychelles by the end of February.



The **SILVER CLOUD** – Photo : Jacques Carney ©

With good air connections between South Africa and most of these destinations there are obviously some excellent opportunities available for discerning travellers. This type of concentrated cruising in this end of the Indian Ocean is going to be good for the industry, even if it is at the top luxury end of the scale. Clearly Silversea has sampled the waters of the Zanj and likes the taste. May they be successful and be emulated by others in the years ahead.

## Island View berth 7 closes for maintenance

The Port of Durban has advised that berth 7 at Island View will be closed for maintenance and refurbishment for much of October. The actual closure is scheduled for between 8 October and 2 November but may be extended if the work is not completed.

Island View berths are undergoing systematic upgrading and are being taken out of service generally one at a time.

Port users are reminded that the widening of the entrance channel is underway at present with a dredger at work in the channel inside the port and also outside the entrance. In addition Transnet National Ports Authority advised earlier that the tug jetty situated at the Point next to the NSRI station is in the process of being demolished. This involves slicing the jetty into approximately 30 pieces with each section being towed to a pre-selected dumping ground out at sea.



The operation of securing the tow and taking each section through the channel takes about an hour, during which the channel is closed to other traffic but the TNPA has given the assurance that the activity will take place with the least amount of disruption to shipping.

## **PRINSENDAM's Grand Africa Cruise**

We've all familiar with the concept of Round the World Cruising, something that used to be limited to one or two of the larger ships but which is now undertaken by a wider variety of cruise operators.



The **PRINSENDAM** – Photo : Piet Sinke ©

Well here's news about something a little different. Early next year Holland America Line will send off the 37,845-gt **PRINSENDAM** on a 73-day Grand Africa Voyage that circumnavigates the continent, exposing almost 800 passengers (assuming the ship is full) to all that Africa has to offer by way of awe-inspiring scenery, exotic wildlife and rich cultural mixtures.

The ship departs Fort Lauderdale on 11 March 2008 and heads across the Atlantic for North Africa on a 20,500 nautical mile journey of wonder, making 28 port stops including three days spent in Cape Town and Mombasa to enable passengers to spend quality time ashore taking part in tours and wildlife safaris. There are also late night departures from the following ports, San Juan, Puerto Rico; Funchal, Madeira; Durban, Victoria, Mahe (Seychelles); Safaga and Alexandria (Egypt); and Malaga, Spain, allowing ample time to shop, dine ashore and enjoy local nightlife in these exciting cities.

## **Allseas wins contract for installations on Ormen Lange Southern Field**

On behalf of the Ormen Lange licencees, Hydro has awarded a contract worth approximately Nkr 200 million to Allseas for the installation of two 16in flowlines for the Ormen Lange Southern Field Development project.

The installation will take place during the second quarter of 2009 at a depth of approximately 900m. Hydro is the operator for the Ormen Lange project during the development phase. Allseas is familiar with the challenging conditions on the Ormen Lange field having carried out pipeline installation work for the Ormen Lange project before.

The Southern Field Development consists of one template, two flow lines, one umbilical and one MEG line tied back to the existing Template A location.

## Biggest Dutch Cruise Ship Arrives to Kamchatka

The cruise season at Kamchatka has closed. On September 29 one of the biggest Dutch cruise ship **Amsterdam** with 1200 tourists and 600 crew members aboard arrived to Kamchatka and became the last tourist ship to visit the region this season.



The foreigners went on excursions around the city of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski, visited all of the city's main sightseeing, and had an opportunity to buy some souvenirs.

**Photo : Henri Lefering ©**

Within the last month of the cruise season Russian Kamchatka was visited by nearly 2000 tourists. Many of them came to the peninsula with the purpose of watching sea animals` wildlife, and some to see the famous Valley of Geysers and volcanoes.

## MOVEMENTS



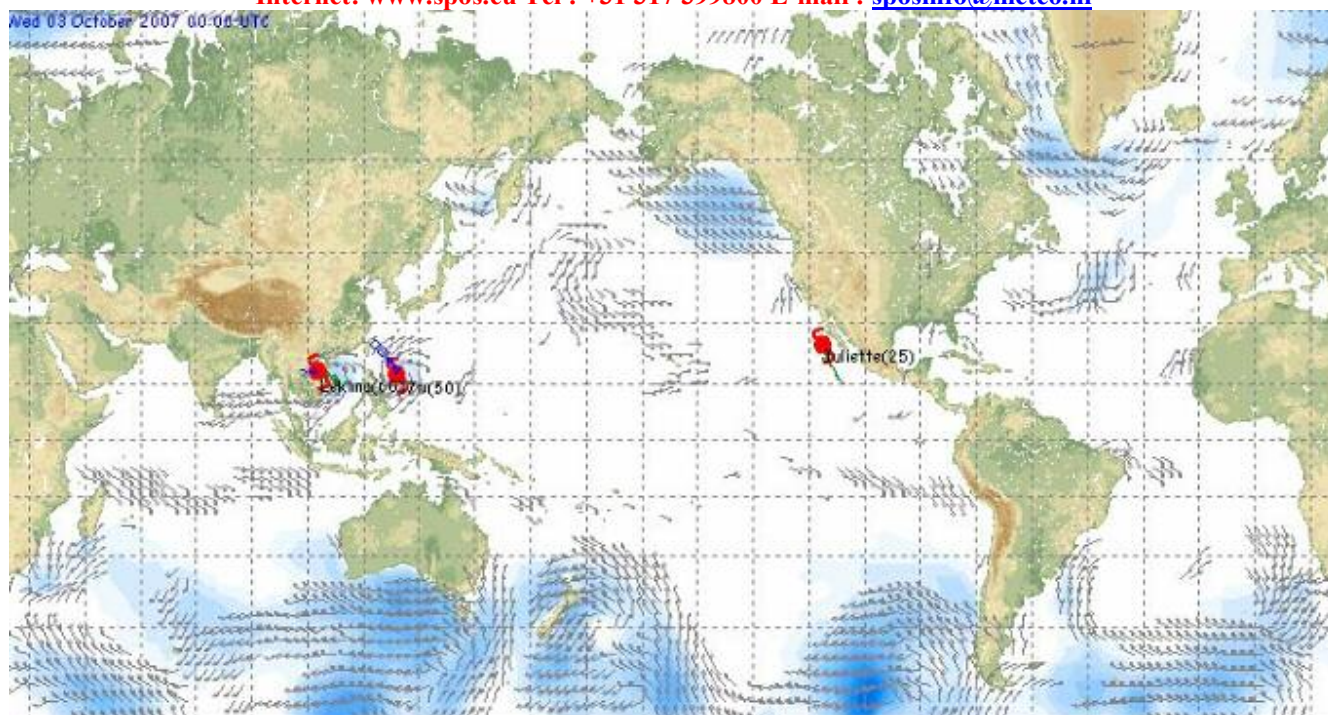
The **LEXA MAERSK** seen in Santos – **Photo : Bruno Pricoli ©**

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## .... PHOTO OF THE DAY ....



## JOHN BEK 35 YEARS WITH SMIT SALVAGE



Last week it was celebrated during the wreck removal of the **ROKIA DELMAS** off La Rochelle that Salvage Supervisor **JOHN BEK** was 35 years working with **SMIT Salvage**, as a present John was handed over a large cake which was consumed later with the whole salvage team.

Photo : Ber Mak ©

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