

Seafarers and the COVID-19 Pandemic

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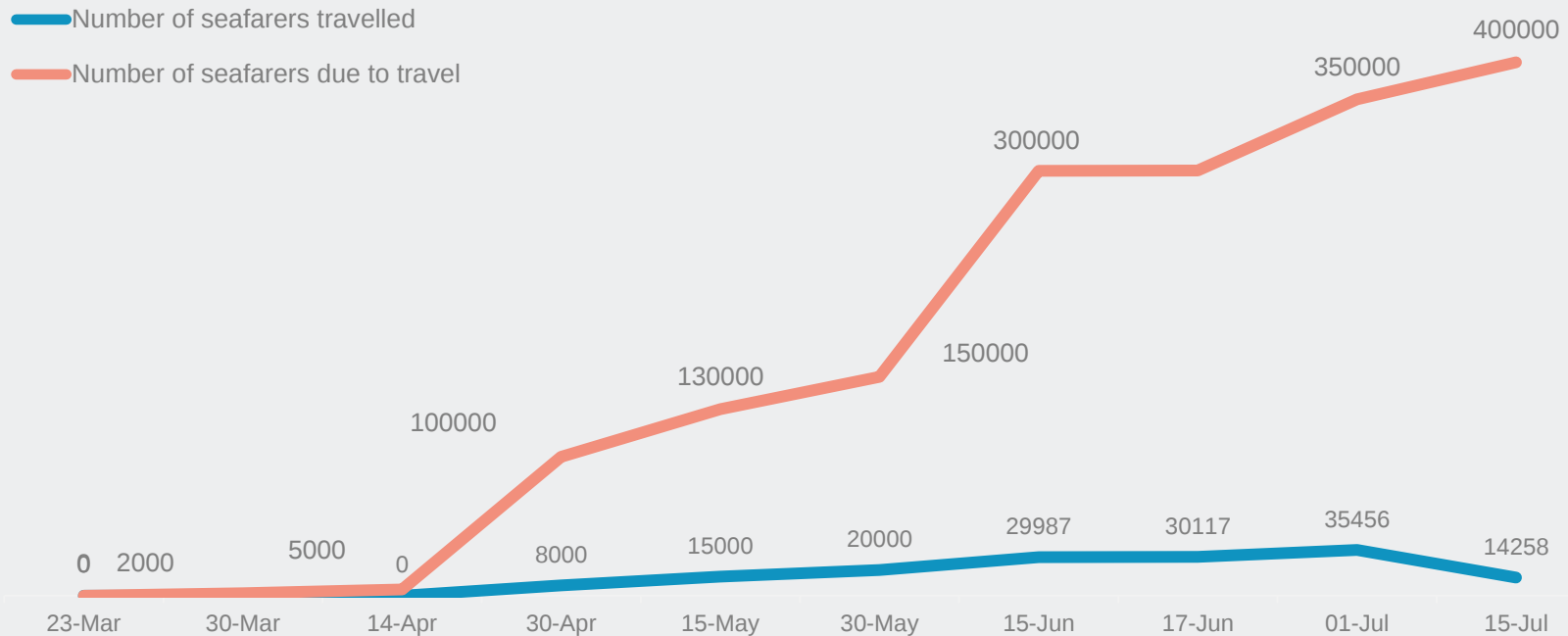


Key issues

- COVID response and recovery requires multi-agency, multi-disciplinary and whole of government approach
- Maritime sector (ports and ships) underpins economic development and will be critical for addressing and recovering from pandemic
- Seafarers and port workers must be designated as key workers and treated accordingly
- Current crew change crisis threatens health and well-being of seafarers, and thus maritime safety and protection of marine environment

Crew change crisis starts (March 2020)

Between March and July 2020, only ~25% of normal crew changes occurred (source: Intermanager, ICS)



Seafarer Crisis Action Team (SCAT)

- Established in April 2020
- **Individual cases:** involved in approximately 500 individual cases, dealing directly with several thousands of seafarers
- **Policy development:** development and communication of policies aimed at providing solutions for the crew change crisis (e.g. medical care, vaccination of seafarers)
- **Bilateral and multilateral engagement:** bilateral meetings to address country-specific matters regarding the crew change crisis
- **Outreach:** participated in more than 100 webinars on crew change crisis and provided information to a broad range of media outlets, including many of the major global networks

Resolutions adopted

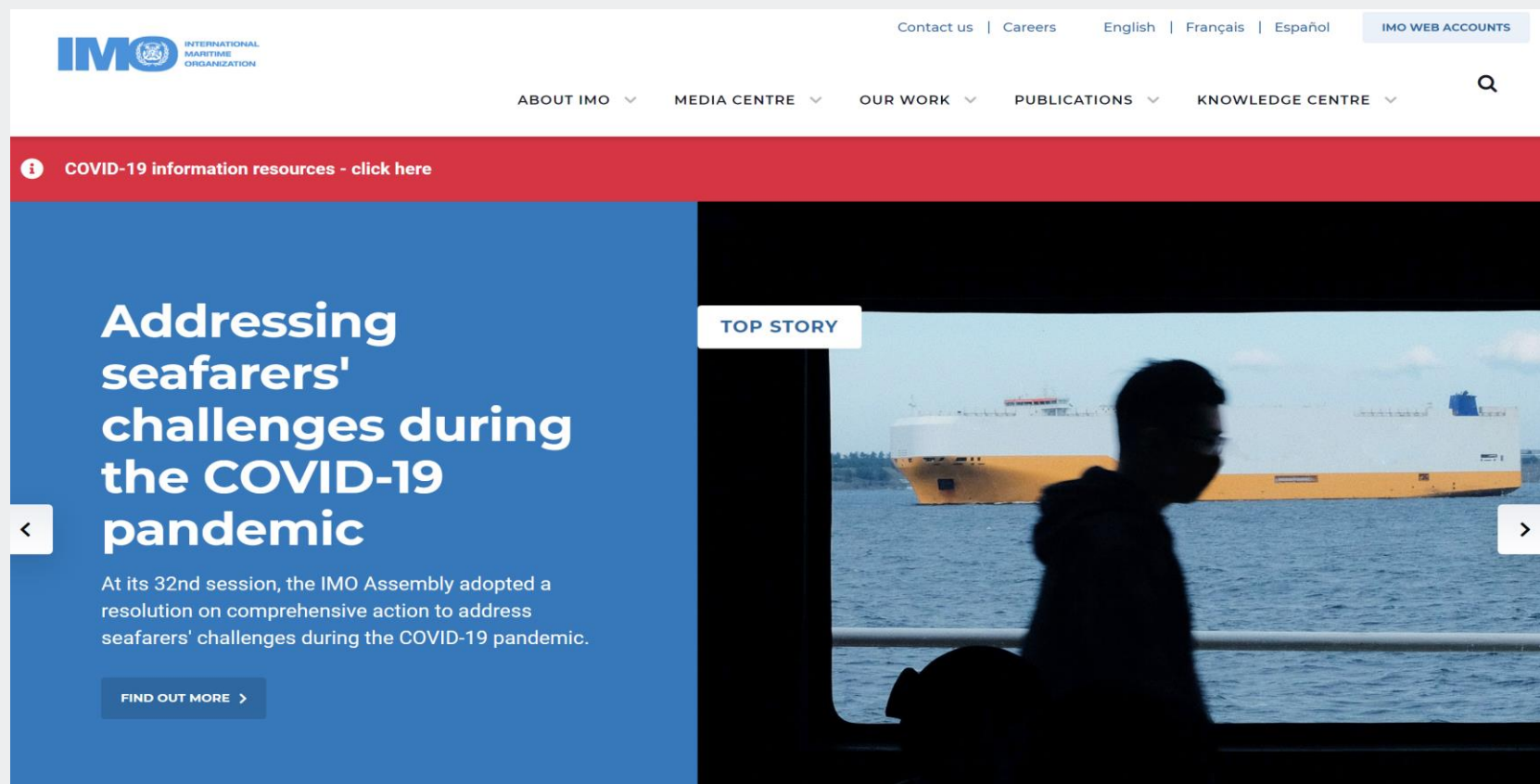
- MSC.473(ES.2) on Recommended action to facilitate ship crew change, access to medical care and seafarer travel during the COVID-19 pandemic (September 2020)
- UN General Assembly: Resolution A/75/17 - International cooperation to address challenges faced by seafarers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to support global supply chains (December 2020)
- MSC.490(103) on Recommended action to prioritize COVID-19 vaccination of seafarers (May 2021)
- A.1160(32) on Comprehensive action to address seafarers' challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic (December 2021)

New Strategic Direction on Human Element

- A 32 included new Strategic Direction on the Human Element in IMO's Strategic Plan for 2018 to 2023 (resolution A.1149(32))
- Ongoing relevance, especially during the pandemic and resulting crew change crisis
- Needs and well-being of seafarers considered in all aspects of IMO's work

Constantly updated IMO website

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