

Overcoming the Seafarer Crisis: Enabling Crew Changes and Repatriation

The Covid-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented crew change crisis which has led to hundreds of thousands of seafarers being impacted and in many instances left stranded on ships¹, beyond the expiry of their contracts. Despite significant efforts by international organizations, governments, industry associations, labor unions, NGOs and individual companies including the adoption on 1 December 2020 by the UN General Assembly of a resolution on International cooperation to address challenges faced by seafarers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to support global supply chains², the issue is still far from resolved.

This is not an acceptable way to treat seafarers, who are the frontline workers of the maritime industry carrying 90% of global trade. Fatigue after extended periods at sea has significant consequences on the physical and mental wellbeing of seafarers. It also increases the risk of maritime incidents and environmental disasters, and poses a wider threat to the integrity of global supply chains, which depend on safe and reliable maritime transport.

This is why a taskforce of stakeholders from across the maritime value chain has identified the following key issues preventing crew changes, that require urgent action:

- While high-quality health protocols have been adopted internationally, they have not been consistently implemented in practice. This has led authorities to perceive seafarers as a Covid-19 risk, which has limited the possibilities of crew changes.
- Implementing high-quality crew change protocols will reduce the economic risk of disrupted supply chains but will lead to increased short-term costs.
- The disruption of international air travel has reduced the number of flights, causing connectivity issues between major crew change hubs and major seafaring nations, which has complicated crew changeovers.

Taking action to deliver on our shared responsibility

We, the signatories to The Neptune Declaration on Seafarer Wellbeing and Crew Change, recognize that we have a shared responsibility to ensure that the current crew change crisis is resolved as soon as possible and to use the learnings from the crisis as an opportunity to build a more resilient maritime supply chain.

We believe that the most effective way of addressing the crew change challenge and building a more resilient maritime logistics chain, is by working together across the value chain with industry stakeholders, organizations and with governments to implement solutions that work in practice.

Therefore, we commit to take action to resolve the crew change crisis, based on our position and role in the value-chain, thereby ensuring the rights and wellbeing of the seafarers supporting global supply chains. We call on our peers and other stakeholders, in particular relevant government bodies, to join us in our efforts.

^{1 &}lt;a href="http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_755390/lang--en/index.htm">http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_755390/lang--en/index.htm

^{2 &}lt;a href="https://www.undocs.org/en/A/75/L.37">https://www.undocs.org/en/A/75/L.37

To make tangible improvements, the following actions should be implemented:

Recognize seafarers as key workers and give them priority access to Covid-19 vaccines

Seafarers should be recognized as key workers by all governments in line with the UN General Assembly resolution adopted on 1 December 2020 and the transition of seafarers across borders should be facilitated based on internationally agreed, high-quality health protocols.

Governments and other stakeholders should work together with the maritime industry to ensure that seafarers, irrespective of their nationality, get priority access to Covid-19 vaccines alongside other key workers and health care professionals in recognition of their critical role in global supply chains and trade. This should include developing protocols that ensure vaccinations are correctly certified and effectively administered to seafarers as well as establishing a standardized format for health passes that contain tamper proof information about vaccination and testing status to facilitate crew changes.

• Establish and implement gold standard health protocols based on existing best practice

The maritime industry and governments should implement *The Recommended Framework of Protocols for ensuring safe ship crew changes and travel during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic*³ which has been recognized by the International Maritime Organization.

To minimize the risk of Covid-19, to build trust that crew changes can be carried out in a safe manner, and to ensure that the measures taken can be universally accepted, the implementation of the Framework of Protocols should be based on the highest practicable standards. The STAR Crew Change Protocols⁴, which are based on existing best practice, are thus recommended for industry-wide adoption.

Increase collaboration between ship operators and charterers to facilitate crew changes

Facilitating crew changes based on high-quality health protocols is a shared responsibility which will create benefits for all by minimizing the risk of Covid-19 spread on vessels, minimizing the risk of disruptions to global supply chains, while contributing to maritime safety and the wellbeing of seafarers.

Ship owners and charterers should share relevant information transparently and collaborate to ensure that necessary crew changes can be carried out with the least impact possible in terms of cost and delays. The owner should provide the charterer with as much notice as possible on intended crew changes, while the charterer should make all reasonable efforts to accommodate crew changes including when the vessel has to make a reasonable deviation.

No charter contracts should contain clauses preventing necessary crew changes from being carried out, as the aggregate effect of such clauses could be a serious obstacle to the safe operation of maritime trade and the protection of the wellbeing and rights of seafarers.

By implementing high-quality health protocols, ship owners can reduce the risk of trade disruption due to Covid-19, which also creates benefits to charterers. These benefits should be reflected in chartering decisions to create incentives for shipowners to implement high-quality health protocols and be transparent about actions taken as well as costs incurred.

• Ensure air connectivity between key maritime hubs for seafarers

The aviation industry should work together with the maritime industry to ensure that airlift capacity is established between major crew changing hubs and seafaring nations.

Additionally, the aviation and maritime industries as well as governments – involving all relevant ministries and agencies – should work together to establish a universally accepted and harmonized framework of standards for the validation of trusted health data for seafarers to facilitate border crossing and ensure the long-term resilience of air connectivity.

³ https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Documents/C0VID%20CL%20 4204%20adds/Circular%20Letter%20No.4204-Add.14%20-%20Coronavirus%20%28Covid-19%29%20-%20 Recommended%20Framework%200f%20Protocols.pdf

^{4 &}lt;a href="http://www.globalmaritimeforum.org/content/2020/12/The-Neptune-Declaration-STAR-protocols.pdf">http://www.globalmaritimeforum.org/content/2020/12/The-Neptune-Declaration-STAR-protocols.pdf

2020 Bulkers 3Seas Shipping

A

A. M. Nomikos Transworld Maritime

Agencies

A. P. Møller-Mærsk

A. Pérez y Cía ABC Maritime

Aderco International

ADNOC Logistics & Services

Adriatic Crewing and Maritime

Agency

Advanced Polymer Coatings

Advent International

Airports Council International (ACI)

World Alandia

Alassia NewShips Management

Alberta Shipmanagement

Asahi Shipping

Alfa Laval

Alfa Ship & Crew Management

Algeciras Bay Port Community (COMPORT)

Allmode Global

All-Ukrainian Association of Crewing

Companies

Alma Maritime Group Corporation

ALP Maritime Services

Altera Infrastructure

American Express Global Business

Travel

American Maritime Services

AMSOL - African Marine Solutions

Anchor SM (Singapore)

Anglo-American

Anglo-Eastern Univan Group

Anosis Maritime

Anglo International Shipping

Operations

Anthony Veder Group

Apex Ship Management

Apollo Ship Management

APORMAR Seafarers Portuguese

Agency

Apostleship of the Sea of the United

States of America

Aauatrade

ARCADIA SHIPMANAGEMENT

Ardmore Shipping

ARGELAN SHIPS SERVICE

Argo Crew

Armateurs de France

Asahi Shipping

Ashley Chartering Limited

Asiatic/Atlantic Lloyd Group

Assarmatori

Associated Steamship Agents

Association of Malaysia's Maritime Professionals/IKHTISAS KELAUTAN

MALAYSIA (IKMAL)

Association of Marine Pilots Ireland

Atlantic Ship Management

Atlantska Plovidba Atlas Professionals

ATPI Marine & Energy

Auerbach Schifffahrt

AV Global Marine
Avance Gas Holding

Avuilce dus noiumg

AVB Ahrenkiel Vogemann Bolten

В

Bahri Ship Management

Bao-Island Enterprises

BAO-NYK Shipping

BBC Chartering

Belships Management (Singapore)

BEMAC Corporation

Ben Line Agencies

Berge Bulk

BHN Shipping Group

Bibby Marine

BIMCO

Black Sea Contractors

Blackbird Air Charter

Blue Ocean Marine and Offshore

Solutions

Blue Planet Shipping

BMT

Boers Crew Services - a part of the

BCS Group

Borealis Maritime

BOURBON

BP

Brentwood Communications

Bridgefort Crew Management

Briese Crew Management

Briese Schiffahrts

BTH Business Travel Hamburg

Bureau Veritas

Burmester & Vogel

Burnley Marine Services

BW Group

C

Camellia Line

Canarship

Cape Shipping

Caralb Marítima

Caravel Group

Cargill Ocean Transportation

Carisbrooke Shipping

Celsius Shipping

Centrum Marine Consultancy

CF Sharp Crew Management

Channel Bunker Services

Charles Taylor Investment

Management Company

Chevron Shipping Company

China LNG Shipping (International)

China Merchants Energy Shipping

(Singapore)

Chios Navigation (Hellas)

Chugoku Marine Paints

Citi

Cluster Maritime Français

CMA CGM Group

CMAF- Comité Marseillais des

Armateurs de France

CNMAR Shipping

Coastal Shipping Limited

Coaster Ship Owners and Operators

Association (KOSDER)
Columbia Cruise Services

Columbia Shipmanagement

Compagnie Maritime Nantaise - MN

Concordia Maritime

Confidence Shipping Company

CONFITARMA - Italian Shipowners'

Association

Contships Management

Corpus Christi International

Seamen's Center Cosmos Agency

CPO Containerschiffreederei

COSCO SHIPPING Lines

CoShip

Crowley Maritime Corporation

Cymona Shipping Management

Cyprus Shipping Chamber Charles Taylor Investment Management Company

Chevron Shipping Company

China Merchants Energy Shipping

(Singapore)

Chugoku Marine Paints

D

d'Amico Soc. di Navigazione

D. Oltmann Reederei

Daihatsu Diesel

Daikin MR Engineering

Daiwa Kisen

Danaos Shipping

Danica Crewing Specialists

Dee4 Capital Partners

DEFMED - D.E.U. MARITIME FACULTY

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IZMIR TURKEY

Demurrage Desk Denholm Group

Deutsche Seemannsmission

DFDS

DHT Holdings

Diamond S Shipping

Diana Shipping Services

Döhle Seafront Crewing (Manila)

Donnelly Tanker Management

Dorian LPG Management

Doun Kisen

Drew Marine USA

Dromon Bureau of Shipping

Dufferin Maritime

Dynarep Shipping Consultants

Ε

Eagle Bulk Shipping

Eagle Industry

Eastern Pacific Shipping

EDT Offshore Group

Element Shipmanagement

Elettra

Emarat Maritime

Emirates Ship Investment Company

EMS-Fehn-Group ENESEL Group

ENL Services

Enterprises Shipping and Trading

EP Resources

EPI Group Holdings

Epic Gas

EPSCO Group

Ernst Jacob

ESGPlus

Esvagt

Euronav

European Community Shipowners'

Associations

Evergas

Evergreen Marine Corp

EveryWay Travel

Excelerate Technical Management

Executive Ship Management

FΧMΔR

Exporters Competitive Maritime

Council

F

F. Laeisz

Fednav

Fidelity International

Filipino Association for Mariners'

Employment (FAME)

Filipino Shipowners' Association

(FSA)

Filistos ASCOT

First Ship Lease Trust

Flagship Ship Agencies

Fleet Management

FLEX LNG

FONASBA

Foreign Owners Representatives and

Ship Managers Association

Foremost Group

Foresight Group

Frontline

FrontM Limited

Fugro

France LNG Shipping

Fratelli Cosulich

Fukujin Kisen

FUKUSHIMA

FURUNO ELECTRIC

G

G Travel

G2 Ocean

GAC

GasLog Gazocean Gearbulk Norway

Genco Shipping & Trading
Genid Shipping & Logistics
GERMAN MARINE AGENCIES

Global Marine Group

Global Maritime Consultants Group

Global Maritime Forum

Global Seaways

Golar LNG

Gram Car Carriers

Golden Ocean

Gorrissen Federspiel

Grieg Star

Grieg Maritime Group

Grimaldi Group Grindrod Shipping

Gulf Energy Maritime (GEM)

Gungen Denizcilik ve Ticaret

Gunvor

н

H. Vogemann Group Hachiuma Steamship Hadley Shipping Group

Hafnia Pools

Halcyon Recuitment

Hamanaka Chain Manufacturing

Hammonia CrewCo Hammonia Reederei

Hapag-Lloyd HarpainGas

Harren & Partner

Hartmann Dry Cargo Germany Hartmann Gas Carriers Germany

Helm Specialist Recruitment

Hempel HMM

Höegh Autoliners

Höegh LNG

Honda Heavy Industries
Hong-Kong Maritime Museum
Horizon Maritime Offshore
Horizon Maritime Services
Houston International Seafarers'

Center Human Rights at Sea

Hunterlink EAP

Ibamari Shipbuilding ID Shipping Agency

IDWAL

Ignazio Messina & C. IHI Power Systems IMC Shipping

INCARGO

Ince

Inchcape Shipping Services

Indeets Consulting

ING

Inmarsat

Indian Maritime Foundation
INTERCARGO - International

Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners

InterManager - - International Association of Ship and Crew

Managers

International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) International Association of Geophysical Contractors (IAGC) International Association of Ports

and Harbours

International Bunker Industry

Association

International Chamber of Shipping
International Christian Maritime

Association

International Federation of Shipmasters' Associations International Harbour Masters'

Association

International Marine Contractors

Association

International Marine Purchasing

Association (IMPA)

International Maritime Association of the Philippines (INTERMAP)

International Maritime Employers'

Council

International Parcel Tankers

Association

International Seafarers' Welfare and

Assistance Network (ISWAN)

International Seaways

International Ship-Owners Alliance

of Canada (ISAC)

International Support Vessel Owners'

Association

International Transport Workers'

Federation

International Union of Marine

Insurance (IUMI)

Internavis

Internship Navigation

Interorient Shipmanagement

INTERTANKO

Ionic

IQrew Management (IQM)

IRIS Security

Irish Institute of Master Mariners

IS Container ISGAM

ISM Shipping Solutions ITF Seafarers' Trust

ITU Maritime Faculty Alumni Association (ITU Denizcilik Fakultesi

Mezunları Dernegi)

J

J&J Denholm

Japan Marine United Corporation

Japan Radio

JCRS Lomar Shipping Marsh Jebsen PTC London Ship Managers Marshal Ship Management Jebsen PTC Maritime Louis Dreyfus Armateurs Martracon Group JIFMAR OFFSHORE SERVICES Louis Dreyfus Company MarTrust Corporation John T. Essberger Lubeca Marine Management Mas0ceans Joint Ship Manning Group (JMG) Lucent Global Ship Services Mastermind Shipmanagement Junge & Co. Versicherungsmakler Mastership (MASTER MARITIME M AGENCIES) M.T. Maritime Management (USA) Matrix Ship Management K Line Ship Management (Singapore) MAC Equity Maritime Services McNeal Law Firm KAMER Marine Denizcilik Mærsk Drilling HURTWORKINGOFFSHORE.com Kaptanoglu Shipping Maersk Supply Service Memisoglu Kurun Law Firm Kawasaki Heavy Industries Mærsk Tankers Merchant Navy Welfare Board Kawasaki Kisenn Kaisa ("K" LINE) Maestro Shipmanagement Metrostar Management KOTUG group of companies Magsaysay MOL Ship Management MF Shipping Group Magsaysay People Resources Kristian Gerhard Jebsen Skipsrederi MH Bland Group Corporation (MPRC) / Magsaysay Kumiai Navigation Michele Bottiglieri Armatore Maritime Corporation (MMC) Kumiai Senpaku MINSHIP Shipmanagement Manabe Zoki Kyklades Maritime MISC Group comprising MISC Bhd. Manaco Marine Kyla Shipping AET and Eaglestar Marine Holdings MarCoPav Kyoei Tanker Mare Supply & Services Mitsubishi Ore Transport Marfin Management Monaco, Mitsubishi Shipbuilding LADOL Free Zone Managers for Topic Fleet Mitsui E&S Shipbuilding Company Lampe & Schwartze Marine Marin Shipmanagement Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Underwriting Marine & Offshore Div., Bureau MK Centennial Maritime Landbridge Ship Management (HK) Veritas Japan (Netherlands) Latsco Marine Management Marine Benefits MK Centennial Maritime (Singapore) Lauritzen Bulkers Marine Capital MM Marine Lauritzen Kosan Marine Services Group MMA Offshore Limited Lemissoler Marine Tours MOL LNG Transport Leonhardt & Blumberg Marine Transport Workers Trade MOL LNG Transport (Europe) Shipmanagement Union of Ukraine MOL LNG Transport (Asia) Leth Agencies Marine Underwriting Services MOL Ship Management Liberian Registry MARINO Party-List MOL Ship Management (S) Lighthouse Shipmanagement Phils Maritima MOL Tankship Management Lindholm Shipping Maritime Association of Shipowners, MPC Container Ships Shipmanagers & Agents LLC Novikontas Kaliningrad MR Marine Group Maritime Industry Australia Lloyds' Register MRM Philippines Maritime Trainer Load Line Marine

Marlow Navigation

Logbridge (UK Southhampton)

MSC Mediterranean Shipping

Company

MSea Management MTM Ship Management Multiport Ship Agency Network Munich Re Syndicate MURELOIL

N

Naftomar Shipping and Trading Nagasaki Sempaku Sobi Nakakita Seisakusho Namura Shipbuilding Nautilus Labs

Navig8 Chemical Tankers

Navigator Gas

Neda Maritime Agency NET Ship Management

Netvision

Nihon Shipyard

Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (ClassNK)

Nippon Pusnes Nissen Kaiun Nitta Kisen Kaisha Norbulk Shipping UK

Norden

Nordic Bulk Carriers

Nordic Hamburg Shipmanagement

Nordic P&I Group Norse Shipholding

Norstar Ship Management

North American Maritime Ministry

Association

Northern Lighthouse Board

Northern Marine Group

Norwegian Shipowners' Association

Nova Marine Carriers

NRP Finans

NRP Maritime Asset Management

NSB Group

NYK Bulk & Projects Carriers

NYK Bulkship (Asia)

NYK Bulkship (ATLANTIC)

NYK Bulkship (Korea)

NYK Cruises

NYK Energy Transport (Atlantic) NYK Energy Transport (USA)

NYK FIL Maritime E-Trainina

NYK Line

NYK LNG Shipmanagement (UK)

NYK LNG Shipmanagement

NYK Shipmanagement

NYK-FIL Ship Management

NYK-TDG Maritime Academy

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Ocean Networks Express Ocean Technologies Group Oceanwide Expeditions

Odfjell SE

Olympic Shipping & Management

OMA Group West Africa Oman Shipping Company

OMS Group Orange Marine ORION Reederei

Ortaköy Maritime Alumni Association

Oshima Shipbuilding Osiris Consultants OSM Maritime

OSPR - The Offshore Safe Professionals Register

P

P&O Maritime Logistics Pacific Basin Shipping Pacific Carriers Limited

PACIFIC GAS

Pacific International Lines
Pangaea Logistics Solutions

Petredec PetroStrat

Philippine Association of Manning Agencies and Ship Managers

(PAMAS)

Philippine Transmarine Carriers

Philippine-Japan Manning Consultative Council (PJMCC)

Phoenix Shipping Group

Pleiades Shipping Agents

Pole Star

Polski Zwiazek Przedsiebiorcow Zeglugowych (Polish Shipping Companies Association)

Port Arthur International Seafarers'

Center

POSH Fleet Services

POSH Saudi

Potentia Unleash The Power of

People

Precious Shipping PCL
PREVENTION at Sea

probunkers Promar

PROPEL Social PSA International

088

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Qatar Gas Transport (Nakilat)
Queensway Navigation
Queensway Services

R

Rederiet Stenersen Reederei Bernd Sibum

Reederei Hamburger Lloyd

"Reederei Nord Shipmanagement

on behalf of

REEDEREI NORD Group" Ridgebury Tankers

RightShip

Rio Tinto

Rocktree Logistics

Roll Group

S

S5 Agency World

Safe Bulkers

Safe Bulkers Management

Safebridge

Safety Management Overseas

Saga Shipholding (Norway)

Saga Welco Sailors' Society Samudera Indonesia Santoku Senpaku

Scalabrini Center for People on the

Move

Scalabrini Development Office

Scorpio

Sea Culture Association of Turkey

Sea Globe Management & Trading

Sea World Management & Trading

Seacor Marine Seafarers UK

Seamar Management

Seamen's Church Institute

Seanergy

Seaspan Ship Management SeaTankers Services (UK) Senator Crewing (Manila)

SFG Engineering Services

SFL Corporation

Shell Shipping & Maritime Shin Kurushima Dockyard

Shinko Shinkoh

Shinyang NF Shipping

ShipMoney ShipParts.com Shipping Australia Shunzan Kaiun

Singhai Marine Services (Shanghai)

Sirius Ship Management

Sitara Shipping

Skuld

SMT Shipping Poland

SOCATRA

Sogestran Shipping Solstad Offshore Someca Transport

Sonangol Marine Services

Songa Container

Songa Shipmanagement

South Trade Shipmanagement

South32

Southfield Agencies

Sovcomflot

Star Bulk Carriers Corp.

Stealth Maritime Stella Maris

Stella Maris - Cape Town

Stella Maris - Catholic Diocese of

Beaumont, Texas USA Stella Maris - Manila

STELLA MARIS Rio de Janeiro

Stella Maris Scalabrinian Network

Stena Bulk

Stichting Pastoraat Werkers Overzee

Stena Shipping and Ferries

Stolt Tankers StratumFive

Subsea Global Solutions

Suisse-Atlantique

Sunrui Marine Environment

Engineering

Sunship Schiffahrtskontor Sustainable Shipping Initiative

Swire Pacific Offshore

Swire Shipping

Swiss Ocean Yacht Management

Swiss Re Corporate Solutions

Synergy Marine Group

1

Tagashira Kaiun Taiheiyo Kisen Kaisa

Taihua Ship Management

TAIKO KIKAI INDUSTRIES

Tamar Ship Management

Ta-Na Crew Manning Agency

Tankerska plovidba Tata NYK Shipping

Taylor Maritime (HK)
TCC Group

Team Tankers International

Technomar Shipping

Teekay Group

The China Navigation Company

The CSL Group

The Dow Chemical Company

The International Propeller Club of the United States, Port of Piraeus.

The Merchant Navy Association

The Mission to Seafarers
The Nautical Institute

The Nautical Institute - US Gulf

Branch

The Nautical Institute of Ukraine

The Naval Connection

The Shipping Corporation of India

The Shipping Professional Network

London

The Standard Club
Thomas Miller Holdings

Tidewater

TMS-Hamburg Technical Marine

Services Thome Group Tohmei Shipping

Tokyo Keiki Inc. Marine Systems

Company Tomini Shipping

Torm

Tortoise Engineering Torvald Klaveness Total Marine Solutions Tototheo Maritime

Trafigura

Transmed Maritime Limited
Transmed Shipping Co. Ltd.
Transocean Shipmanagement

(Phils)

Transportation Institute

TriNøden Marine

Tsakos Shipping and Trading

Tsuneishi shipbuilding

Tufton

Turkish Chamber of Shipping

Turkish Maritime Federation

Turkish Maritime Pilots' Association (TUMPA)

Turkish Ocean-going Masters' Association

Turkish Shipowners' Association

Türkiye Denizciler Sendikası (Seafarers' Union of Turkey)

U

U Ming Marine Transport UK Chamber of Shipping

UK Club Ultranav

Uni-Tankers

Unibaltic Shipping

Unicrew Management

Unifeeder

Unilever Unisea Philippines

Unisea Shipping

Uniteam Marine Limited

United European Car Carriers

United Offshore Support

Ushio Reinetsu

Utkilen

V

V. Group

Vale

Van Ameyde McAuslands

Vanmar Shipping

Vento Shipping

ViraHaber

Viridian Maritime

Vitol

Vortexa

Vroon

W

Wah Kwong Maritime Transport

Holdings Limited

Wallem Group

Wallenius Wilhelmsen

Wan Hai Lines

WaterFront Maritime Services DMCC

Wesmans

Western Shipping

Wilhelmsen Ahrenkiel Ship

Management

Wilhelmsen Ship Management

Windward

Wisby Shipmanagement

WISTA International

WISTA USA

World Economic Forum

World Fuel Services Corporation

World Marine Offshore

X

X-Press Feeders

Xiamen Hailong Manning Service

XT Management

Y

YANMAR POWER TECHNOLOGY

YDK Technologies

Yokogawa Electric Corporation

Z

Zeaborn Ship Management

ZIM Integrated Shipping Services

Z-Mariner

7odiac Maritime