PLUMBING THE DEPTHS: HYDROGRAPHIC CONCERNS FOR MODERN-DAY LARGE VESSELS

Marsh calls for a higher priority to be given to hydrographic survey work to protect mega-ships at sea.

Marsh, a global leader in marine insurance broking and risk management, has issued an industry information report that highlights the inherent risks involved in operating ever-larger ships in poorly surveyed waters: Plumbing the depths: Hydrographic Concerns for Modern-Day Large Vessels.

With the Suez Canal axis now open and the expanded Panama Canal system soon to be complete, more and more huge ships will be navigating parts of the world that have never seen so many large vessels before.

In this new research and briefing report Marsh takes a look at the lack of adequately hydrographically surveyed waters internationally and the implications this could have for these new vessels.

With assistance from international bodies, such as the International Hydrographic Organization, and major towage companies, the document looks at the current international obligations in place for mapping the seabed to modern standards and what inter-governmental agreement needs to be reached to take responsibility for mapping international waters.

Marsh makes an appeal to governments to act before a major incident happens at sea due to inaccurate charts.

Readers may wish to download the document here: https://www.marsh.com/uk/insights/research/hydrographic-concerns-plumbing-the-depths.html

Over the past 12 months, ports around the world have heralded the arrival of ever-larger, record-breaking container ships, such as San Francisco recently welcoming the arrival of the CMA CGM Benjamin Franklin (18,000 TEU) and Gothenburg, Sweden, likewise doing the same with the MSC Maya (19,224 TEU). However, having evermore valuable and complex cargoes sailing through areas of the world where the salvage industry is ill-equipped to handle such large casualties is a concern for operators, insurers, salvors, and environmentalists alike.
The report, refers to IHO publication C-55 – *Status of Surveying and Charting Worldwide* and draws attention to the fact that many of the world’s charts continue to rely on older or inadequate surveys that may not be appropriate for the operation of these larger, modern vessels.