

CANADA Daily News and Updates February 19th 2025

Ocean Updates

- Salvage Teams Seeking Options for Grounded MSC Boxship
- Pushback Campaign Against Biofuels Launches at the IMO

International Business/Government

- China Seeks Debate on Trade Turbulence at WTO After Trump Tariffs

Ocean Updates

Salvage Teams Seeking Options for Grounded MSC Boxship

The Canadian Coast Guard reports that resources are being marshaled while teams were beginning surveys of the *MSC Baltic III* after the ship was driven aground in a strong winter storm on Saturday. Efforts are being made in coordination with the owners of the vessel and a hired salvage contractor to survey the ship after the crew was rescued.

The ship blacked out and did not have time and distance to use its anchor to avoid going aground. Rescue teams said the efforts on Saturday were hampered by a snowstorm and blizzard-like conditions.

The Canadian Coast Guard is monitoring for environmental hazards but says so far there have been no signs of damage.

Weather conditions in the area have been hampering efforts, but the weather is predicted to moderate midweek.

Teams are evaluating the best approach to refloat the vessel and minimize dangers.

Read more in an [article from The Maritime Executive](#).

Pushback Campaign Against Biofuels Launches at the IMO

Hapag-Lloyd and Louis Dreyfus Armateurs are among a host of shipping lines and organizations that have initiated a big pushback campaign against the growing use of biofuels in shipping, warning that an area the size of Germany would need to be recultivated to meet potential projected growth of this alternative marine fuel.

The 18th Intersessional Working Group on Greenhouse Gases (ISWG-GHG 18) started its meeting at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on February 17, discussing regulatory measures to enable the shipping industry to become net zero by 2050.

Determined to push back against the rise in biofuel use, many NGOs and shipping lines have come out in force arguing that the majority of biofuels produced now from food crop-based feedstocks come with direct and indirect deforestation and many other sustainability issues, ranging from water scarcity to food security.

A study by Cerulogy on behalf of NGO Transport & Environment (T&E) shows that palm and soy oil would likely make up nearly two-thirds of the biodiesel used to power the shipping industry in 2030, as they represent the cheapest fuels to comply. This poses a serious climate problem, warns T&E, as palm and soy are responsible for two to three times more carbon emissions than even the dirtiest shipping fuels today, once deforestation and land clearance are taken into account.

Read more in an [article from Splash](#).

International Business/Government

China Seeks Debate on Trade Turbulence at WTO After Trump Tariffs

China has called for a debate at the World Trade Organization on "trade turbulence" and how the global trade watchdog should respond in an apparent reference to tariffs launched or threatened by the United States.

The WTO discussion, set to take place late on Tuesday or early Wednesday, will be the first time that mounting trade tensions will be formally addressed on the agenda of the watchdog's top decision-making body, the General Council.

An official at China's mission to the WTO said the ambassador was set to make a statement voicing "strong concerns" about unilateral and protectionist measures, without naming a country, and to call on members to work to counter such steps.

Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala has so far urged the WTO's 166 members to refrain from retaliating in the event of tariffs, in order to avoid "catastrophic" trade wars.

Trade delegates said they did not expect any immediate outcome from the meeting, but that countries' reactions could indicate the likelihood of an escalation of trade wars in response to planned U.S. measures.

Read more in an [article from the American Journal of Transportation](#).