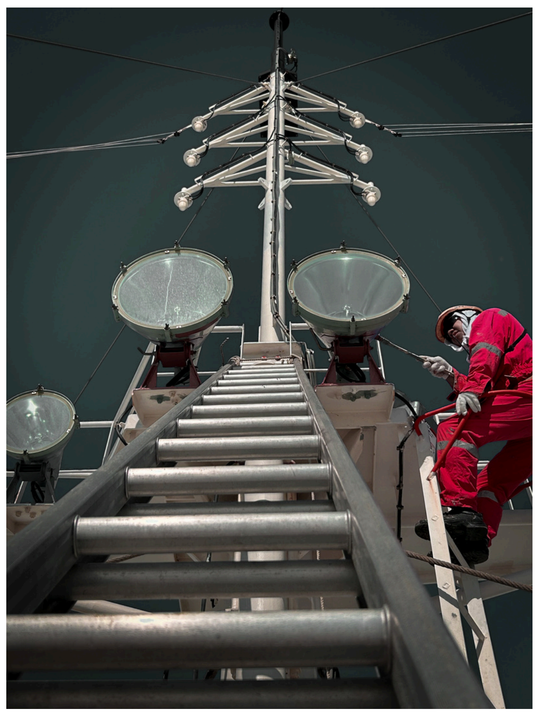
2026 LIFE AT SEA
Photography Competition Finalists

THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS

Sydney



In every stroke, the sea writes his story.

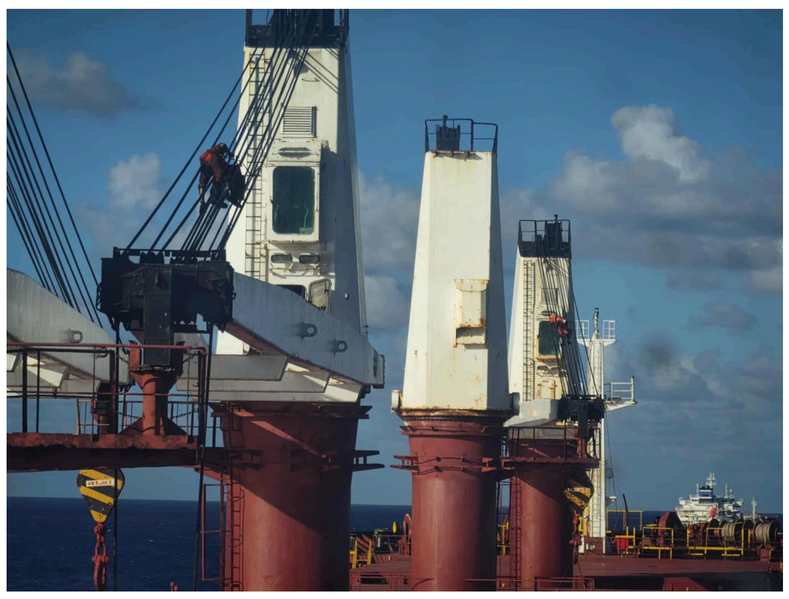
High above the deck, a seafarer paints the ship, keeping it strong against the sea's relentless touch. Every brushstroke tells of unseen labor, of days spent far from the warmth of home. He preserves the vessel that carries the world's needs — but who preserves him? In the silence between waves, his question lingers: who paints the seafarer's soul?

Carlos Antonio C. dela Cuesta

Hydration on the Job

Beneath the scorching sun, a dedicated worker pauses to drink, sweat and dust marking hours of unspoken effort. Surrounded by steel and heat, he stands strong, driven by responsibility and resilience. In this simple moment of hydration, we witness endurance, sacrifice, and the quiet pride of those who build our world.

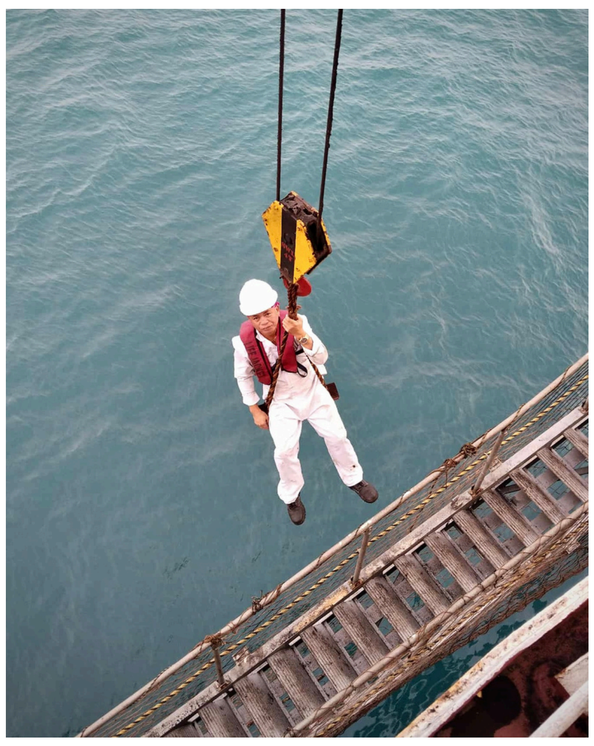
Junie Borce Albacaro Jr.



Greasing the Gears of Sacrifice

Greasing the crane wires may look like a routine work, but for us seafarers, it's a symbol of strength and devotion. We give our all, not for ouselves, but for our families waiting beyond the horizon.

Jasonn Darroca



Just hang in there

To hang in there means to keep on persevering through challenging times and difficult situations. It conveys a message of encouragement to keep striving and stay determined despite the hardships. A seafarer faces multitudes of adversities on board — home sickness, missing the family, fatigue from work, and more. Amidst all these challenges, you have to just hang in there until you reach the dock and witness all your sacrifices become worth it.

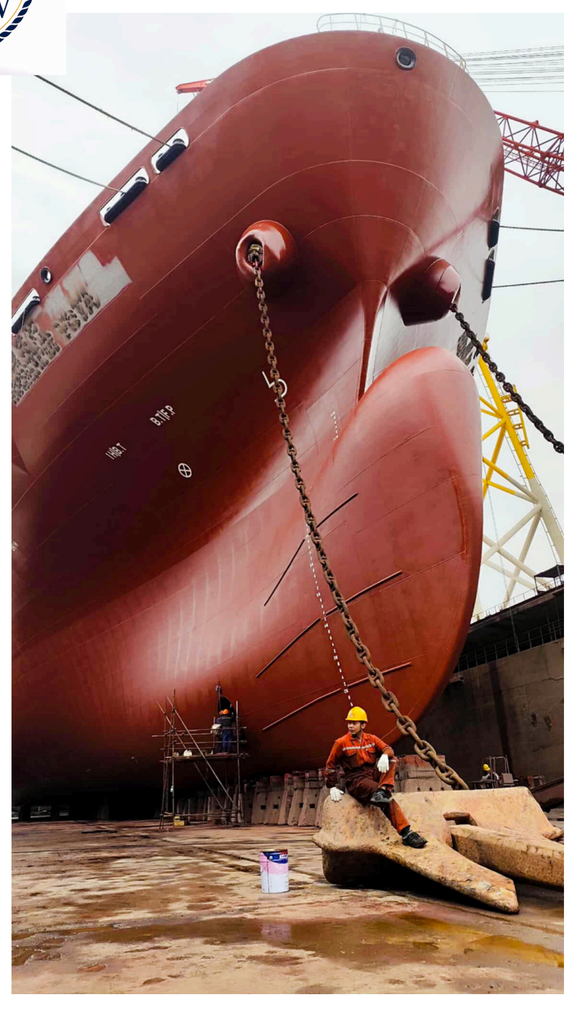
Pionario Jr Liquit

Burying the Rust

An overhead view of a able seaman applying red primer to a freshly de-rusted floor. The bold, blocky paint creates an accidental mosaic as it seals the steel against future corrosion. This shot highlights the contrast between the worker's bright orange gear and the industrial patterns of the deck. It is a simple yet powerful look at the constant battle to protect a ship from the sea.

Ramfel Musca

ALL IN DRAW



Drydock

Dry dock isn't a setback. It's a necessary pause. Every crack gets attention. Every weakness gets addressed. The relaunch will be stronger because of this moment.

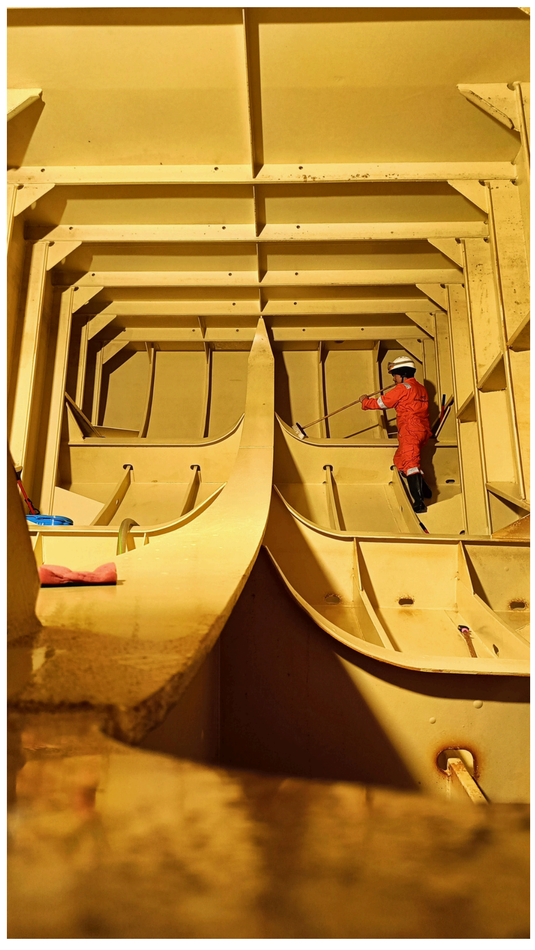
Sherwen Bagnes

BEST PHOTOGRAPH #1

Lunch Above the Hull

During a lunch break inside a ship repair hold in China, workers sit on a crane structure surrounded by steam and steel. A quiet human pause in the middle of heavy industry

Efstratios (Stratos) Mastrantonis



Drinking Water Tank Cleaning

This image shows a worker meticulously cleaning the massive, structured interior of a drinking water tank. The crew, wearing protective orange coveralls and a hardhat, stands on an internal ledge using a long-handled tool to brush a surfaces (sediments and dirt) within the enclosed space. Drinking water tanks on ships provide a vital supply of fresh water for drinking, cooking, and sanitation, while also enabling a vessel to operate independently of port facilities.

Ramfel Vergara Musca

BEST PHOTOGRAPH #2

Bahid (Stain)

Seafarers brave all weather. Cold, wet and the fierce sun.

Erick Peter Boco