2001:BUNKERS CONVENTION



WHAT?





St. Petersburg. Summer 2019





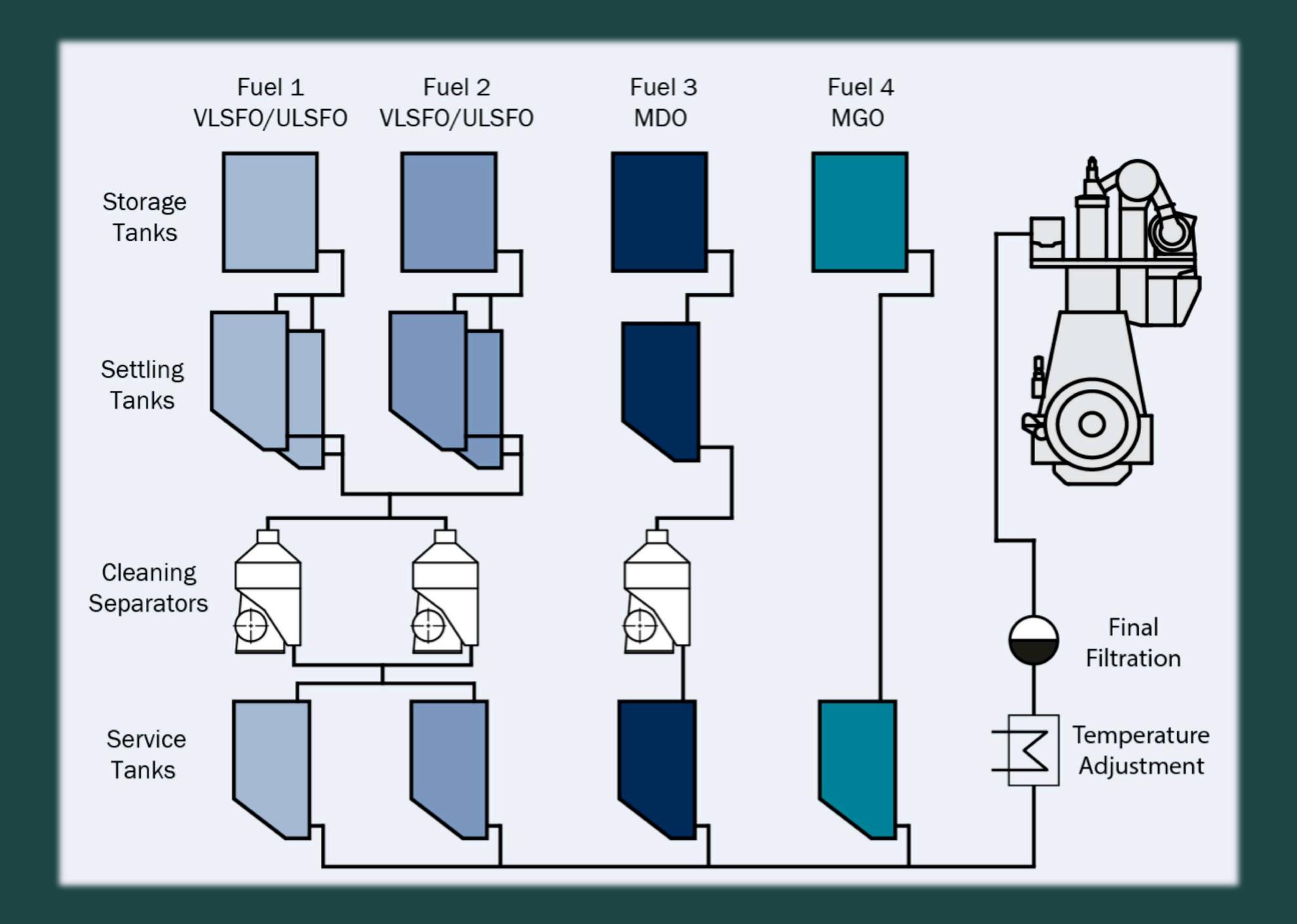
St. Petersburg. Summer 2019













HOW MUCH?



- 95 mt declared upon entry into the port (customs declaration)
- 105 mt found onboard the vessel after the spill (surveyor's measurement)
- 150 mt found after the customs authority measurement

(approximate figures)





Claims & Arrests

Public law

Police interrogation

- Criminal case
- Arrest / detention

Private law (civil law claims)





Port Administration / Oil response team



Arrest / detention



Police Interrogation

- Article 263 of the Criminal Code of Russia: violation of the safety regulations, including as regards operation of seagoing vessels
- Master of the ship was interrogated, crewmembers were transported in the luggage boot from the seaport to the airport
- NB: a seagoing vessel may be considered as an instrument of a crime =>
- the vessel may be arrested for the whole period of a criminal investigation: 6-12-18 months and more





Customs Investigation



- Obviously, customs were not happy to see the difference between
 - the bunker oil declared (95 mt) and
 - found afterwards onboard the vessel (105/150 mt)
- Sanctions for violations of customs regulations:
 - Arrest of the bunker oil
 - Confiscation of the vessel
 - Fine amounting up to 200 % of the undeclared oil



Applicable law and jurisdiction

- The 1952 Arrest Convention
- The 2001 Bunker Convention
- Chapters XIX.1 and XXIII of the MSC of Russia (implementation of the conventions)
- Commercial Procedure Code of Russia

Commercial Court of Saint Petersburg and Leningrad Region – place of harm and the vessel

Article 6 of the 1952 Convention

. . .

The rules of procedure relating to the arrest of a ship ... and to all matters of procedure which the arrest may entail, shall be governed by the law of the Contracting State in which the arrest was made or applied for.

Article 90 of the Commercial Procedure Code:

the applicant must prove on a probability basis the difficulty or impossibility of enforcing the future judgement on the merits.



FIRST CIVIL CLAIM

(by Environmental Authority)



HOW DO YOU ESTABLISH BUNKER POLLUTION DAMAGE?

$$\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{K}_{\mathtt{Br}} \times \mathbf{K}_{\mathtt{B}} \times \mathbf{K}_{\mathtt{MH}} \times \mathbf{K}_{\mathtt{MH}} \times \sum_{i=1}^{n} H_{i}$$

RUB 99,999,999 or US \$ 1.6 million



Article 1(1)(a):

"Maritime Claim" means a claim arising out of one or more of the following:

damage caused by any ship either in collision or otherwise...

Article 3(4): When in the case of a charter by demise of a ship the charterer and not the registered owner is liable in respect of a maritime claim relating to that ship, the claimant may arrest such ship...

Main points of the Environmental Authority:

- The bunker pollution damage amounts to RUB 99,000,000
- The environmental claim is a maritime claim under the MSC of Russia / 1952 Arrest Convention
- The vessel shall be arrested



The court refused to impose an arrest and held that the Applicant did not comply with the mandatory pre-trial complaint procedure

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SECOND CIVIL CLAIM

(by Container Terminal)



Main points of the Container Terminal:

- There is no claim on the merits yet, but the arrest should be imposed as a preliminary interim measure
- Applicant's claim is a maritime claim under the Convention (Art. 1(1)(a) of the 1952 Convention)
- Maritime arrest is a special measure in comparison to the ordinary interim measures of the local procedural law
- The shipowner has no other property in Russia, so the enforcement of the future judgement on the merits may become impossible (Art. 3(4) of the 1952 Convention)
- The vessel shall be arrested



The court refused to impose an arrest and held that

- The Applicant asked for a preliminary interim measure before filing the claim on the merits, but at the same time,
- The Applicant did not comply with the rules of the Commercial Procedure Code of Russia and did not provide a counter-security against the preliminary arrest of the vessel



THIRD CIVIL CLAIM

(by Port Administration)



Same points as for the Container Terminal:

- There is no claim on the merits yet, but the arrest should be imposed as a preliminary interim measure
- Applicant's claim is a maritime claim under the Convention (Art. 1(1)(a) of the 1952 Convention)
- Maritime arrest is a special measure in comparison to the ordinary interim measures of the local procedural law
- The shipowner has no other property in Russia, so the enforcement of the future judgement on the merits may become impossible (Art. 3(4) of the 1952 Convention)
- The vessel shall be arrested



The court imposed an arrest and held that

The Applicant has taken preventive measures to eliminate bunker pollution damage

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- The Applicant's claim is a maritime claim (Art. 1(1)(a) of the 1952 Convention)
- Provision of a counter-security against the preliminary arrest of the vessel is not an imperative procedural rule, and
- Failure to provide a counter-security cannot serve as the only sufficient reason to dismiss the application for preliminary arrest of the vessel
- Articles 3(1) and 3(4) of the 1952 Convention



Lifting the Arrest

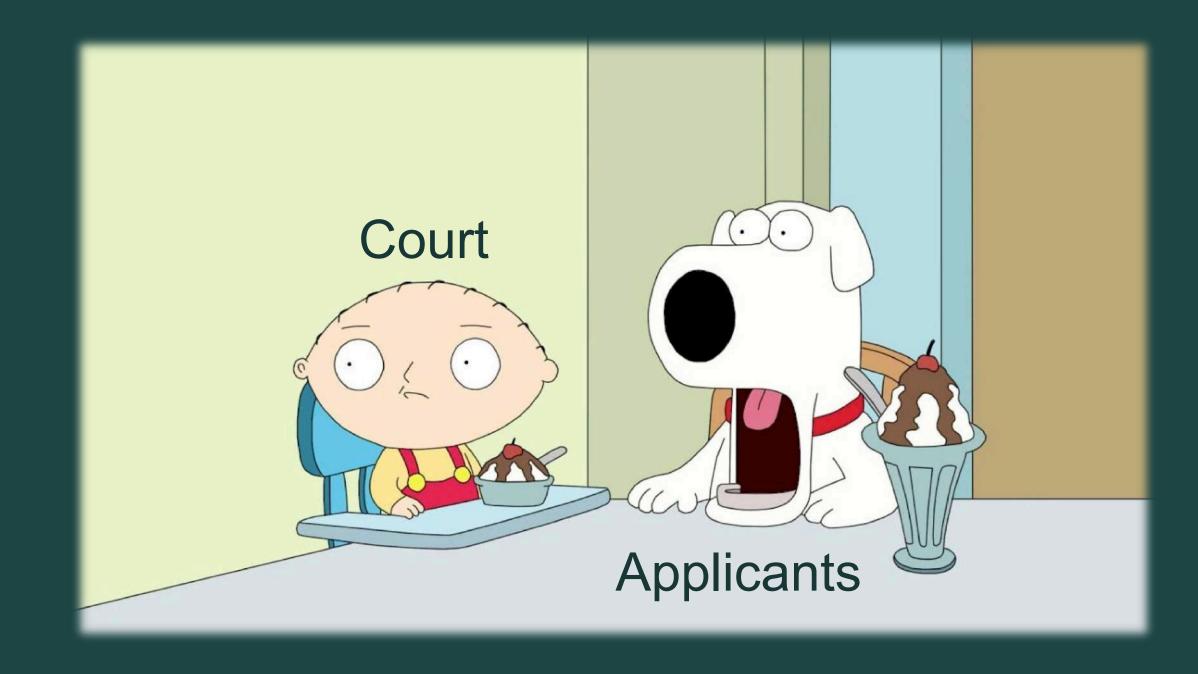
- Thursday P&I Club makes a payment of US \$ 580,000 as a preliminary reimbursement of losses
- Friday Club issues a LoU for another
 US \$ 580 000 to be paid after the court proceedings
- Sunday vessel leaves the seaport





Lifting the Arrest

- Monday joint application to lift the arrest against the LoU
- Wednesday hearings as to lift the arrest or not
- Thursday the arrest is officially lifted (though the vessel is already far away from St. Petersburg)







T.: +7 495 640 07 98 (Moscow)

T.: +7 812 640 07 98 (St.

Petersburg)

E-mail: navicus@navicus.law

1-A Orlovskaya street, office 31-H, St. Petersburg, 191124, Russia







Claim of the Port Administration in Courts

First Claim – app. Cassation Appellate US \$ 1.6 million instance instance instance January 2021 October 2020 July 2020 First Appellate app. US \$ 140,000 instance instance were adjudged June 2021 September 2022





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