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Book review: *an introduction to bunkering*

This recently published book comes at an extremely opportune time. Although bunker prices have fallen by 10% since their all time high a couple of months ago, fuel oil is still selling at over \$600 per tonne and distillates over \$1,000 per tonne in major ports; it focuses the mind on the value of a commodity known as residual fuel – potentially a waste product.

Everyone concerned with ship operations should be aware of how the vessels are powered, especially when it accounts for such a significant part of the ship's operating costs, and, for anyone not experienced in bunkering, this is an ideal tome.

To paraphrase a popular TV advert, "It does what it says on the cover". It provides an introduction to bunkering. It does not purport to be the definite reference work of all aspects of bunkering, but does give a very good point from which to start.

The author, Nigel Draffin, has had many years experience in the industry having worked for Shell, afloat and ashore he is a well respected bunker broker, but has also been involved in the International Bunker Industry Association (IBIA) from the outset where he has been prominent in leading the development of the various IBIA courses.

The book covers the origin of bunkers; the roles of the players involved commercial operational and technical aspects of fuel delivery; the quality of bunkers and bunker specifications; measurement, handling and usage of the bunkers and concludes with some of the potential problem areas and how to deal with them.

It is a well written book in very readable language and all of the technical terms are well explained. Illustrations are used to good effect throughout the book and it essential reading for anyone new to the industry.

Not only is it up-to date in its content, it is now available in Spanish as well as English giving an even greater possible readership.

Published by Petrosport Ltd. it costs £39.95 per copy and provides a good value alternative for those who may not be able to attend IBIA Basic Bunkering courses.

Tel: +44 1295 814455

www.petrosport.com