Twitter Thread by John Scott-Railton



John Scott-Railton
@jsrailton

So, the #SuezCanal is blocked...

Massive container ship EVER GIVEN stuck in the most awkward way possible.

Ongoing for hours. Every tug Egypt could spare appear to be trying to pull it free.

Vessel tracker: https://t.co/MsTUgVgyTH



"Is there a traffic jam?" Answer ■https://t.co/vD2GYX2bAG

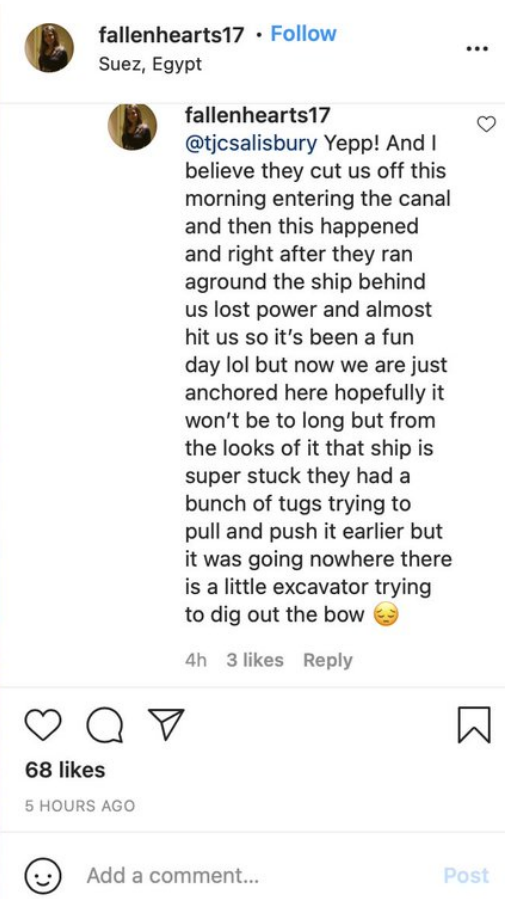
> After all day trying to refloat the mega container ship 'Ever Given', in the Suez Canal, there is a steady log jam of ships waiting in the Mediterranean & Red Sea and in the canal itself pic.twitter.com/aGFKieoWqE
>
> — N South (@nat_ahoy) March 23, 2021

Latest update: the EVER GIVEN is... still ever-jammed across the #SuezCanal.

Also, a teeny excavator tried to help.

Thanks @rmcfadzean for surfacing the pic!
Source: https://t.co/MuUKctj4YP





How soon till one of the big Dutch salvage companies shows up for an ultra-premium re-floating?

Also: forget #iceroadtruckers, marine salvage YouTube is where it's at.
https://t.co/C2hzZWrGJQ

Update: still stuck.

How big is this #SuezCanal plug? Ultra big.

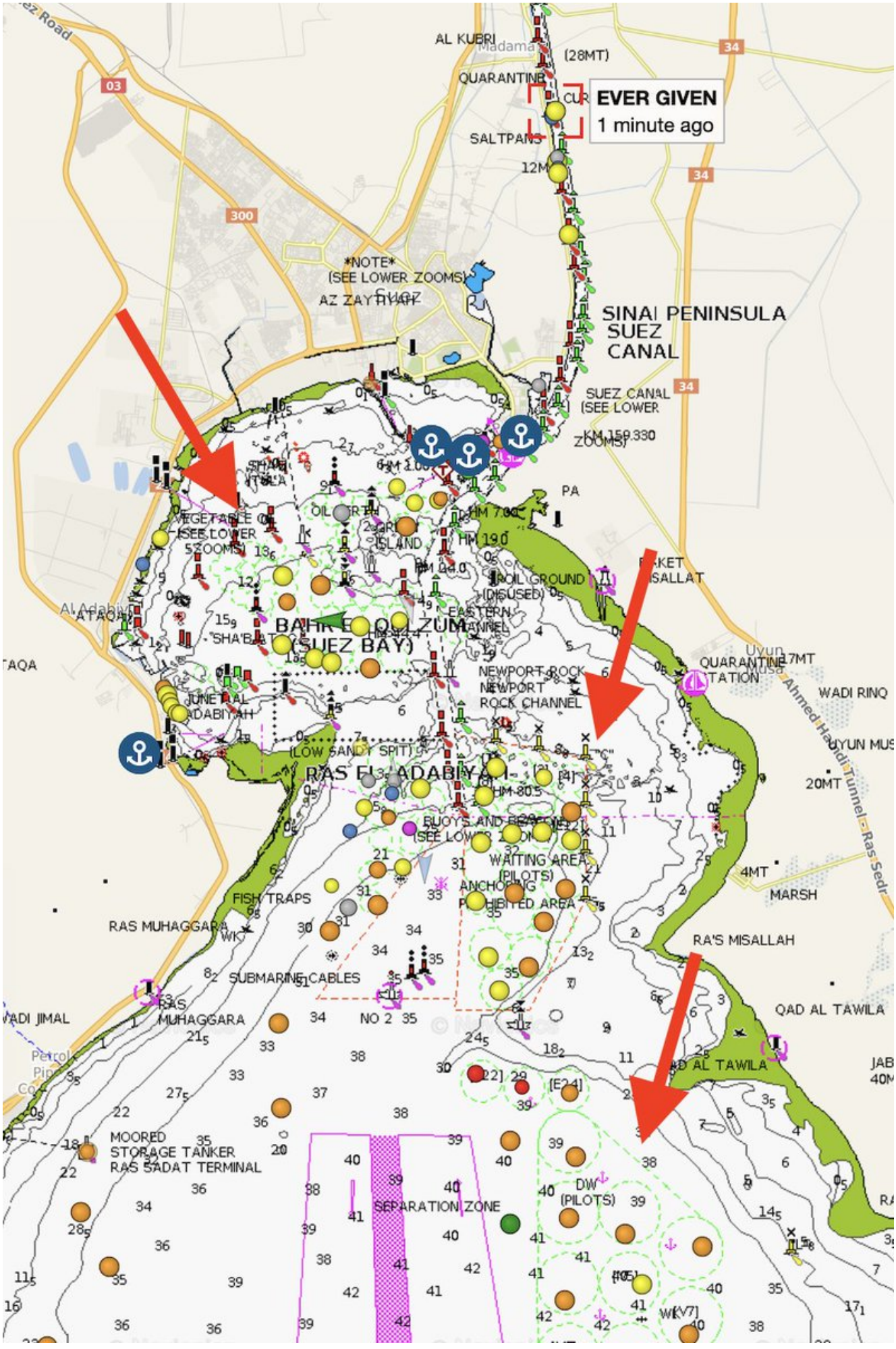
MV #EVERGIVEN
Size: 400m long / 59m wide
Gross tonnage: 219,079
Capacity: 20,388 TEUs (20ft container equivalents).

One of the largest container ships in operation.



Another update: #SuezCanal waiting areas & anchorages have filled right up (I added some arrows.. look for green dashes)

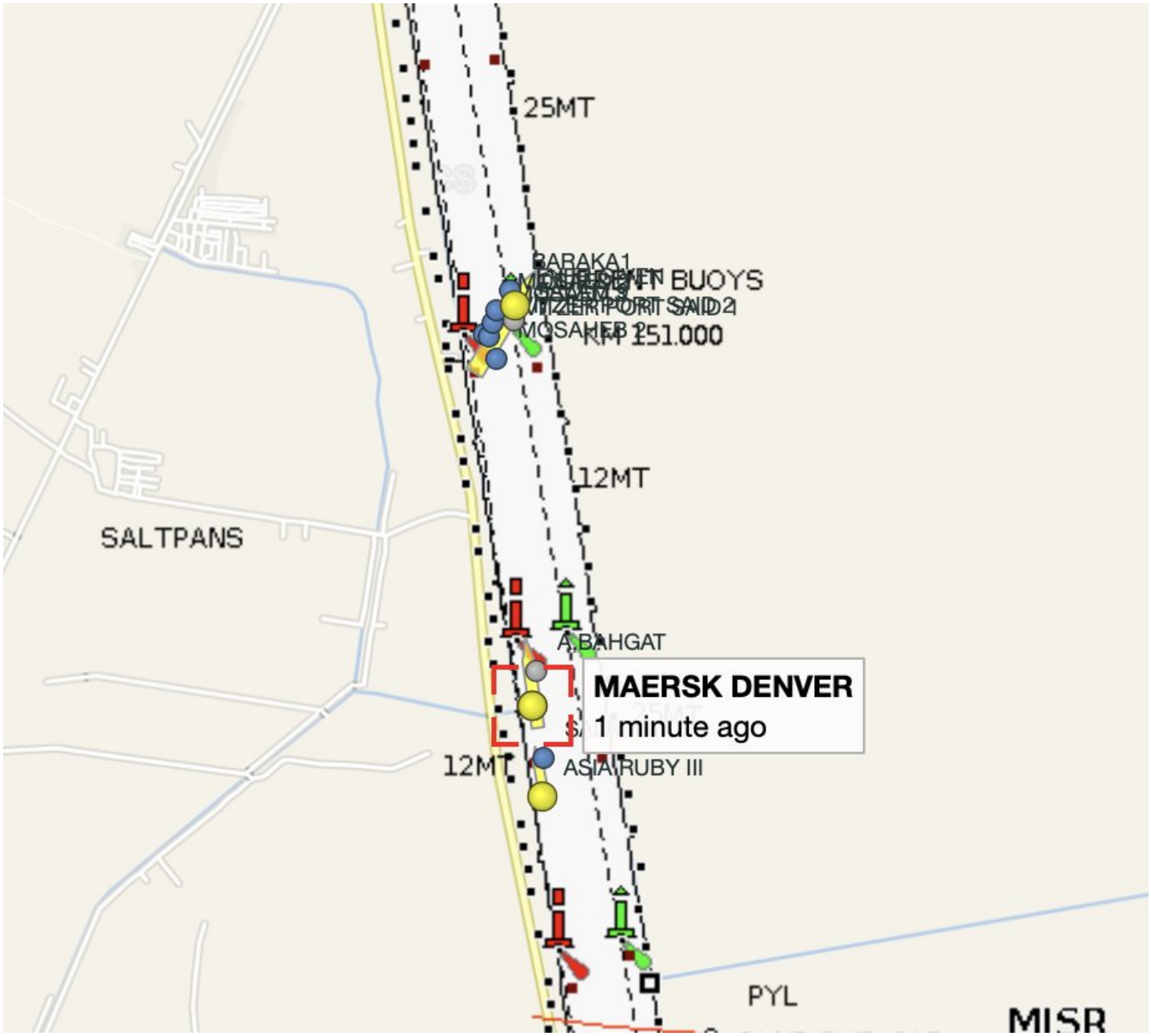
For the confused: MV EVER GIVEN's operator is Evergreen Marine (https://t.co/ROoStEAGmk) and Ever___ is a naming convention for some vessels.


EVER GIVEN
1 minute ago
AL KUBRI
(28MT)
QUARANTINE
SALTPANS
12M
NOTE
(SEE LOWER ZOOMS)
AZ ZAYTIYAH
SUEZ
SINAI PENINSULA
SUEZ CANAL
SUEZ CANAL
(SEE LOWER
KM 159.330
ZOOMS)
PA
OIL GROUND
(DISUSED)
EASTERN
CHANNEL
BAHR EL QULZUM
(SUEZ BAY)
NEWPORT ROCK
NEWPORT
ROCK CHANNEL
QUARANTINE
STATION
WADI RINQ
UYUN MUS
20MT
(LOW SANDY SPIT)
RAS EL ADABIYA
WAITING AREA
(PILOTS)
ANCHORING
PROHIBITED AREA
4MT
MARSH
FISH TRAPS
RAS MUHAGGARA
RA'S MISALLAH
SUBMARINE CABLES
QAD AL TAWILA
MOORED
STORAGE TANKER
RAS SADAT TERMINAL
SEPARATION ZONE
DW
(PILOTS)

The pic we have comes from insta user fallenhearts17, who is on the @Maersk MV DENVER, stuck right behind MV EVER GIVEN.

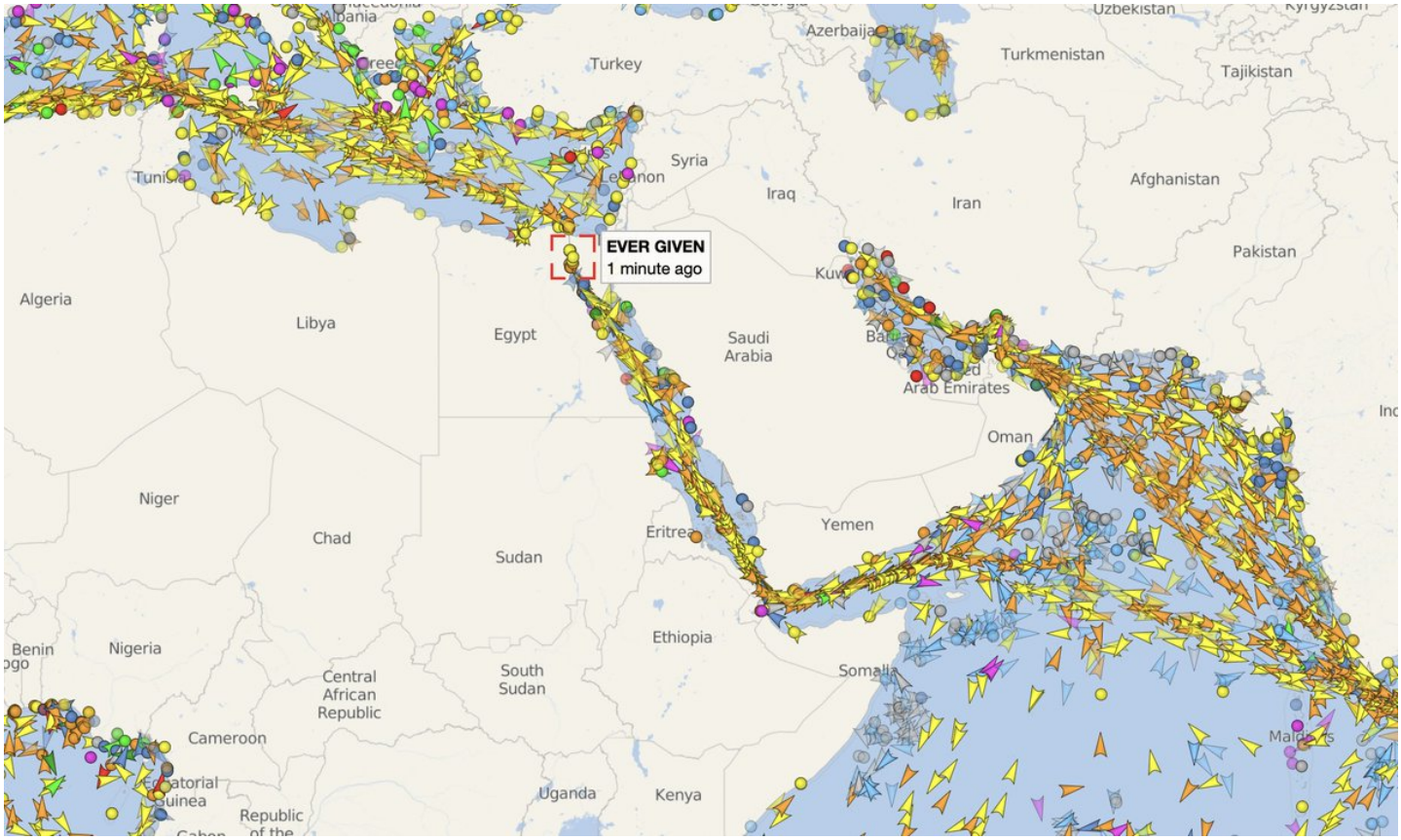
Sincerely hope she posts again, Egyptian twitter shows up, or...if you know someone else on the DENVER, drop them a line!

Source: https://t.co/PPQOYD8AED



@Maersk NARRATOR: the all-important #SuezCanal lets ships bypass the historically treacherous Horn of Africa...

... to mariners, canal officials have a historic reputation for 'appreciating' cartons of cigarettes...earning it the nickname "Marlboro Canal"



1:30 AM Egypt Time Update: screws are turning & helm moving but... #EVERGIVEN appears to be in the same spot.

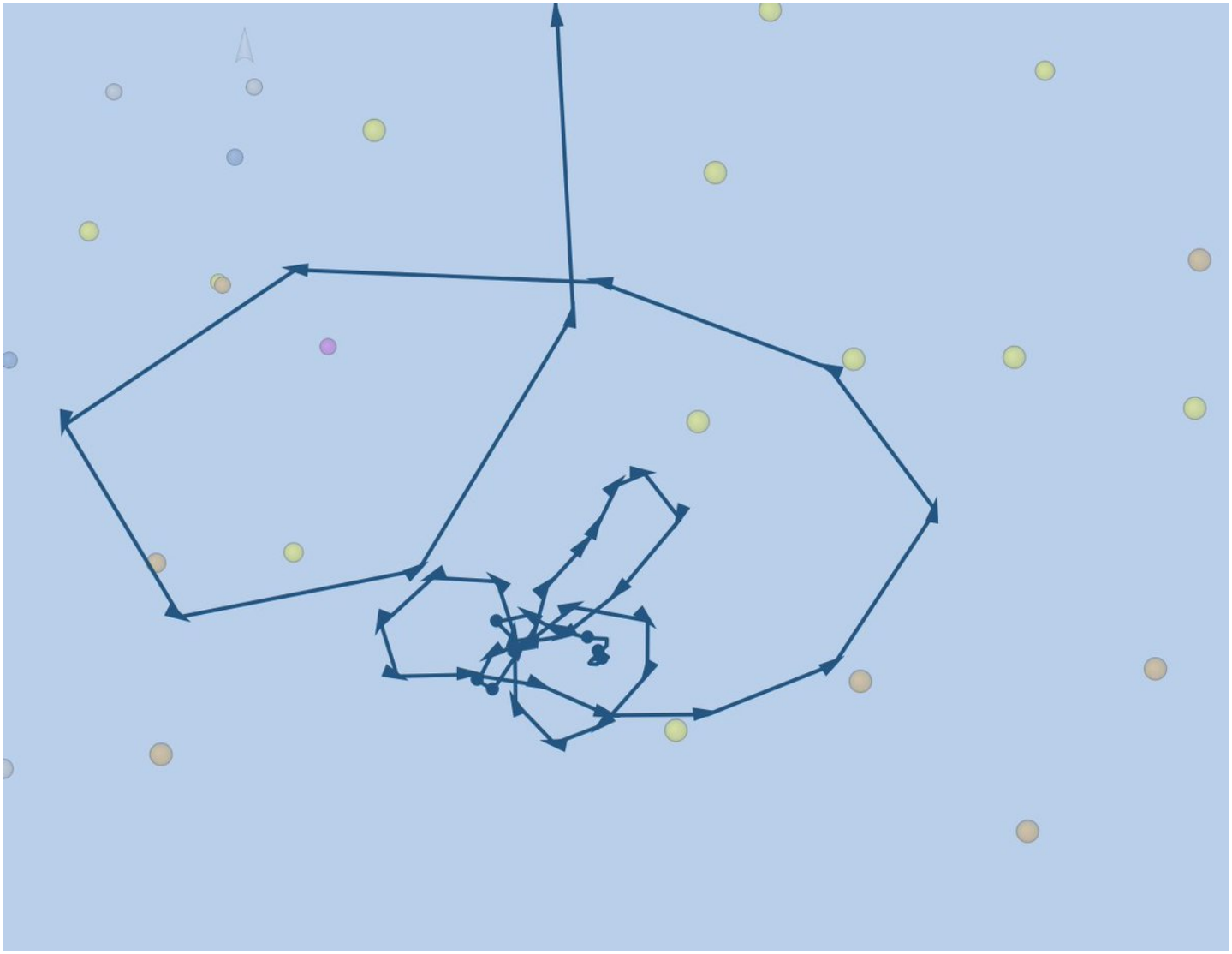
Austin-powers-stuck-in-tunnel vibe is getting stronger.

I feel for this crew, & the tugboat operators. Nobody is getting any sleep.



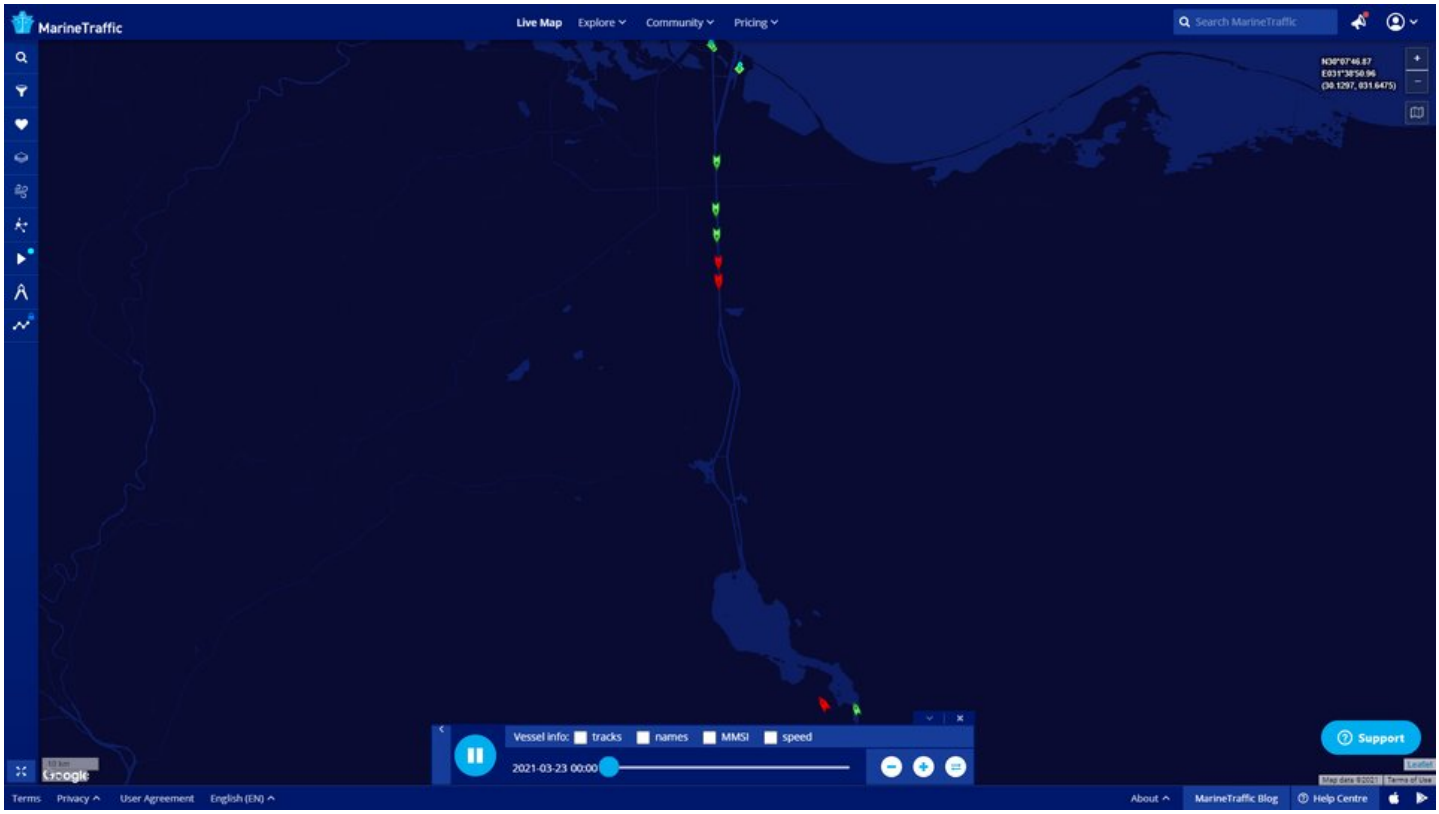
OH NO: misfortune's unerring aim touched #EVERGIVEN's track as it departed the designated anchorage and steamed into the Canal.

(innocent, but terrible luck)
Source: https://t.co/MsTUgVgyTH



AIS data playback of the #SuezCanal the moment things went very, very wrong for the #EVERGIVEN...and then rest of global shipping.

By @TankerTrackers



Update: #EVERGIVEN still hard aground.

Reports from logistics company GAC say cause of grounding was a blackout.

This is worst-nightmare material when doing a canal transit.

Source: https://t.co/J2yMtcXLFD

> A container ship en route from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean ran aground at KM 151 in the Suez Canal at about 07.40 hours local time this morning (23 March). The vessel suffered a black out while transiting in a northerly direction.
>
> The 199,489 GT ship was fifth in the northbound convoy. None of the vessels before it were affected, but the 15 behind it were detained at anchorages waiting for the Canal to be cleared. The southbound convoy was also blocked.

Effect on oil prices? Yes, likely temporary says head of commodities at ING.*

(~10% of global seaborne traded oil transits Suez & SUMED . ~9% of LNG.)

So, what if this closure persists...

*Source: https://t.co/LgazpjlSdm



If for some reason the #SuezCanal blockage persists, shipping can divert.

Some oil will still flow through SUMED, but for everything else: global logistics madness. For example, US EIA calculates that a US tanker from KSA would add ~2,700 miles.

https://t.co/eLGmEQBsfR

> The **Suez Canal and the SUMED Pipeline** are strategic routes for Persian Gulf oil and natural gas shipments to Europe and North America. Located in Egypt, the Suez Canal connects the Red Sea and the Gulf of Suez with the Mediterranean Sea. In 2016, 3.9 million b/d of crude oil and refined products transited the Suez Canal in both directions, according to data published by the Suez Canal Authority. Northbound flows rose by about 300,000 b/d in 2016, largely because of increased crude oil exports from Iraq and Saudi Arabia to Europe. Southbound shipments decreased for the first time since at least 2009, largely because of lower exports of petroleum products from Russia to Asia.
>
> The 200-mile long SUMED Pipeline transports crude oil through Egypt from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea. Crude oil flows through two parallel 42-inch pipelines that have a total capacity of 2.34 million b/d. The SUMED Pipeline is the only alternate route to transport crude oil from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea if ships cannot navigate through the Suez Canal.
>
> Closure of the Suez Canal and the SUMED Pipeline would require oil tankers to divert around the Cape of Good Hope near the southern tip of Africa, which would add approximately 2,700 miles to the transit from Saudi Arabia to the United States. In 2016, 1.6 million b/d of crude oil was transported through the SUMED Pipeline to the Mediterranean Sea and then loaded onto tankers for seaborne trade.

Errata: nothing like a nit in a fun thread to bug me to no end...

I inadvertently left on the cutting room floor NARRATOR saying "AND the Cape of Good Hope."■

No wonder I had so many chars to work with..

Also, #EverGiven is still stuck.

https://t.co/6AAZa5wciV

> NARRATOR: the all-important #SuezCanal lets ships bypass the historically treacherous Horn of Africa...
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> ... to mariners, canal officials have a historic reputation for 'appreciating' cartons of cigarettes...earning it the nickname "Marlboro Canal" pic.twitter.com/TXmC6v5nje
>
> — John Scott-Railton (@jsrailton) March 23, 2021

OUF: new pics suggest the #EVERGIVEN might have impaled the canal shore with its bulbous bow. Wild if true.

Bulbous bows look weird but modify how water flows around the bow, making ships more efficient.

Cant find credits on pics 1&2, 3 is shipbuilder Samusung Heavy Industries.

