The World of Beaching

What happens to ships at end of life? They need to be recycled. The vast majority of the world's end-of-life fleet, full of toxic substances, is simply broken down - by hand - on the beaches of South Asia. There, unscrupulous shipping companies exploit minimal enforcement of environmental and safety rules to maximise profits.

In 2018, 518 out of 744 end-of-life ships were scrapped on the shores of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. Ship owners from Asia, Europe and North America top the list of dumpers that sell vessels for dirty and dangerous breaking.

Pakistan dismantled 80 ships in 2018. The shipbreaking yards are situated in Gadani, on the south coast, close to Karachi.

Bangladesh dismantled 185 ships in 2018. The shipbreaking yards are situated in Chittagong, on the south-east coast.

India dismantled 253 ships in 2018. The main shipbreaking yards are situated in Alang, on the west coast.