

Sri Lanka looking for \$40m in damages after X-Press Pearl fire

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Sri Lanka has said that it would be seeking \$40m in damages from the owner of container ship **X Press Pearl** (IMO 9875343), which caught fire, burned for two weeks and then foundered about 10 miles off the Sri Lankan coast.

A first temporary procedure has been launched against the X-Press Feeders “In addition, we will demand reimbursement of the costs incurred to extinguish the fire,” added the government said, noting that the total impact of the accident on the local economy had not yet fully been assessed. Sri Lanka has requested Australia’s assistance with this assessment.

Fisheries Minister Kanchana Wijesekera announced that the ban on fishing along the 80km of coastline had just been lifted, except for the area closest to the vessel.

The cleaning of beaches affected by pollution was continuing. Some 1,200 tonnes of plastic pellets and other debris were collected and stored in 45 containers. It was claimed that this represented only about half of the debris that had washed ashore.

2021-built, Singapore-flagged, 31,629 gt X-Press Pearl is owned by Eos Ro Pte Ltd care of manager Sea Consortium Pte Ltd (X-Press Feeders) of Singapore, ISM manager is Eastaway Ship Management Pte. It is entered with London Club on behalf of Killiney Shipping Pte Ltd.