Cybersecurity experts warn that a much more damaging cyber breach could be just around the corner, says Mark Sutcliffe, director of CSO Alliance, an online community of shipping company security professionals.

"Cyber-attacks against the maritime sector occur every day," says Max Bobys, vice president of US maritime cyber security solutions provider HudsonAnalytix.

"A worst-case scenario might involve intrusion that creates a cascade failure of a vessel carrying a dangerous cargo," he says.

Pilides urges shipowners and companies to make sure employees follow safe network procedures and adopt good password hygiene.

"If a company has a policy to change passwords after a certain number of logins, employees should comply with it," she says.

"Protecting against the worst case scenario will involve better cyber hygiene," says Sutcliffe.

"It's all about being more vigilant, more cautious, and more aware of how your company is being attacked," he says.

"We need to consider the potential for a global major incident like the WannaCry ransomware attack," he says.

"It's not just about protecting against a ransomware attack but against a much more damaging cyber breach," he says.