



ICAS

Institute for China-America Studies

ICAS  
MARITIME AFFAIRS  
PROGRAM

HANDBILL

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# ICAS MARITIME AFFAIRS PROGRAM

The ICAS Maritime Affairs Program (MAP) gathers, displays, and debates both the historic and the newly developed maritime related issues, including U.S.-China interaction on maritime affairs.

The goal of this program is to inform and stimulate open, fact-based, intellectual discussion on an array of topics including but not limited to international law of the sea, maritime security, fisheries, shipping, oil and natural gas management, and marine environment protection.

There are four featured products currently associated with the ICAS MAP Program:

- **MAP Issue Trackers:** An online, collaborative platform designed to encourage intellectual exchange on maritime developments and issues around the world. The longest-running project at ICAS, it currently features trackers for three regions: Polar, South China Sea, and the East China Sea.
- **MAP Publications:** Written pieces that analyze and explore the evolving and long-standing multinational interactions uniquely found in the maritime realm. MAP publications can range in size from blog posts and commentaries to the Handbill newsletter and full-length books,
- **MAP Events:** Multilateral events designed to promote the free and equal exchange of ideas on maritime affairs and international law, especially as they relate to U.S.-China relations.
- **MAP Media:** A variety of short-form periodicals and Twitter campaigns (#ICASMAP, #MAPWave) to keep our audience informed of major news events as they occur.



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# ICAS MARITIME AFFAIRS HANDBILL

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## Recent News in Global Maritime Affairs

### [1] Climate Change and Blue Carbon Economy [1]

#### [First-of-its-kind freshwater mangroves discovered in Brazil's Amazon Delta](#)

July 20 - *Mongabay*  
[South America]

While on an expedition in the Amazon River Delta, researchers found mangroves growing in freshwater; an unheard-of circumstance. This discovery, which had been overlooked by previous mapping and satellite projects, is about 70 square miles in size and increases the known area of mangroves in the region by 20%.

#### [Pacific islands demand climate action as China, US woo region](#)

July 18 - *Al Jazeera*  
[South Pacific, United States, China]

On July 14, the four-day summit of the 17-nation Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) in Suva, Fiji concluded as China and the U.S. continue to try to warm their relations with the region. The attention of the PIF nations, however, remains firmly on climate issues as they collectively “pledge unity” and apply pressure on the U.S. and China to be more active on climate change issues.

#### [Africa looks to private sector to fund ocean climate action](#)

July 13 - *StarTribune*  
[Africa]

African coastal and island states and conservation groups outlined climate funding plans to “boost livelihoods of oceanside communities and aid biodiversity” through the Great Blue Wall initiative, creating a network of coastal and marine protected areas on the continent's west coast.

#### [Cruise Line Building Two Hydrogen Powered Cruise Ships](#)

July 11 - *CruiseFever*  
[Europe]

MSC Cruises has announced that two of their ships in their new luxury cruise line Explora Journeys, EXPLORA V and VI, which are planned to enter service in 2027 and 2028, will be powered by a new generation of liquefied natural gas (LNG) engines.

### [German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock calls for global response to climate change in Palau](#)

July 9 - DW

[Europe, South Pacific]

While visiting Palau on a six-day trip through Asia, Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, also a member of the Green party, pledged closer ties between the Pacific region and Germany. She called the climate emergency "the most challenging security issue of our time" and noted that "our response as an international community has been insufficient".

### [Japanese construction firm aims for seaweed bed restoration](#)

July 5 - NHK World

[Japan]

Japanese construction company Kajima developed a technology to artificially produce massive amounts of seaweed that can absorb carbon dioxide in the ocean with intentions to work with fisheries cooperatives and nonprofit organizations to rehabilitate the seaweed beds.

### [IUCN & Blue Forest launch New Blue Carbon Partnership @ UN Ocean Conference 2022 - A Model for Sustainable Regeneration](#)

July 2 - EIN News

[Indian Ocean, Europe]

On July 2, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Blue Forest Company signed a memorandum of understanding instigating the New Blue Carbon Partnership, which is designed to restore and preserve extensive tracts of mangrove forest financed through carbon credits in the Western Indian Ocean.

### [Supreme Court limits EPA's power to combat climate change](#)

June 30 - *The Washington Post* [Paywall]

[United States]

On June 30, the U.S. Supreme Court sharply cut back the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to reduce the carbon output of existing power plants, claiming that too much power is vested in executive branch agencies acting without clear authority from Congress. The Biden administration subsequently condemned this action, which reportedly hampers its ability to meet its climate goals.

### [China puts trading index, insurance in place for aquaculture carbon offsets](#)

June 30 - *Seafood Source*

[China]

China's Ocean and Fisheries Bureau signed an agreement between authorities in Wendeng county, a Rushan oyster production cooperative, and the China Life Insurance firm to create a system of indexes for wind, wave height, and other natural conditions. This insurance indexing system protects investors in the event of natural disasters damaging aquaculture stocks that are part of the burgeoning carbon offset movement.

### [World leaders confront 'ocean emergency' at U.N. conference](#)

June 28 - *The Washington Post* [Paywall]

[Global]

Leaders from more than 20 nations met at the United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon to establish the first-ever legal framework on protecting the high seas against exploitation and restoring ocean health. Notably, the declaration will not be binding on its signatories.

## [2] Maritime Economy and Shipping [2]

### [Yiyang Shipping first Chinese user of MariApps smartPAL](#)

July 25 - *Seatrade Maritime News*

[Global, Europe, China]

Yiyang Shipping has become the first Chinese company to establish a partnership with India's MariApps corporation for the use of MariApps' new smartPAL system; an "advanced maritime digital software suite." SmartPAL will be applied to Yiyang's offices in China, Greece, Japan and Vietnam.

### [Maritime Administration Awards Nearly \\$20 Million in Funding to Strengthen U.S. Shipyard Economic Competitiveness](#)

July 21 - U.S. Department of Transportation

[United States]

On July 21, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD) announced a series of grant awards to 24 small shipyards in 19 different states as part of the Small Shipyard Grant Program. The grants, which total \$19.6 million, will help the shipyards "modernize, increase productivity," and expand local employment.

### [Congestion shifts to US East Coast ports](#)

July 19 - *Seatrade Maritime News*

[United States, Global]

After weeks of congestion at U.S. West Coast ports reached record levels, a new report shows that the congestion has now moved beyond just the West Coast to the East Coast as well. According to

this report, although the number of containerships waiting to berth at U.S. ports has fallen from 150 in January to 125, many more are now waiting for East Coast locations.

### [China's exports bounce back, but global risks darken trade outlook](#)

July 13 - Reuters [Paywall]

[China, Global]

China's exports in June bounced back at the fastest pace in 5 months with an increase of 17.9% from June 2021. Simultaneously, import growth is slower as global risks such as the war in Ukraine and "flareups" of COVID cases darken trade outlooks.

### [Singapore Ranked Number One Shipping Centre for Ninth Year Running](#)

July 11 - *The Maritime Executive*

[Global, China, South Asia]

For the ninth year in a row, Singapore has ranked number one in the Xinhua-Baltic International Shipping Centre Development Index Report with a score of 94.88/100. The second ranking went to London at 83.04/100 points.

### [Shipping group Maersk quits board of lobby group ICS over climate concerns](#)

July 8 - Reuters [Paywall]

[United States, Global]

Shipping giant A.P. Moller-Maersk has withdrawn its board member from the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), a major international trade association, after being a part of the ICS board for about a decade. Part of the reason given for the withdrawal, which was done after a routine annual internal review by Maersk of its association memberships, is the ICS' "stance on climate change."

### [Unusually High North Sea Containership Congestion Threatens EU Trade](#)

July 6 - *The Maritime Executive*

[Europe]

German analysts from the ifW Kiel Institute for the World Economy noted that, while there are overall positive signs in recent progress on global trade, the unusually long congestion in the North Sea, high transportation costs, and their subsequent impact on the supply chain could hinder these positive data results.

### [MSC, TIL propose \\$6 billion deal for Vietnam's largest port](#)

July 5 - *Port Technology*

[Europe, South Asia]

The Mediterranean Shipping Company has sent a \$6 billion proposal to Ho Chi Minh City's government to build what would be Vietnam's largest port. Plans for the Can Gio Port, located on global maritime routes, reportedly includes a 7.2km wharf to accommodate 24,000 TEU vessels.

### [Lekki Deep Sea Port takes delivery of first vessel from China](#)

July 2 - *Nairametrics*

[Africa, China]

Nigeria's new Lekki Deep Sea Port, still partially under construction, has successfully conducted its first berthing, which is of a vessel from China containing cranes and gantries.

### [Shipping costs soar as Ukraine war hits maritime trade: UNCTAD](#)

June 29 - *The Hindu*

[Europe, Global]

A new report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development confirms that the conflict in Ukraine, along with the Covid-19 pandemic, has resulted in serious long-term port congestion and significantly higher shipping costs; especially those related to agrifood, oil and gas.

## **[3] Ocean Governance and Maritime Cooperation [3]**

### [IMO welcomes maritime humanitarian corridor in Black Sea](#)

July 25 - *PortNews*

[Europe, Global]

International Maritime Organization Secretary-General Kitack Lim “welcomed” the signing of an agreement between Russia, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Nations that created a “humanitarian maritime corridor” in the Black Sea. This agreement, signed in Istanbul after weeks of discussion, will permit ships to export crucial cargoes of grain and foodstuffs from Ukraine.

### [Two-day int'l ocean forum opens in Incheon](#)

July 21 - *Yonhap News Agency*

[Global, East Asia]

From July 21-22, the Incheon International Ocean Forum (IIOF) 2022 was held in Incheon, South Korea with the theme of “The World Calls, The Ocean Waves.” The IIOF, hosted by South Korea's Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries alongside other local agencies, gathers industry specialists and business leaders to discuss current events in maritime affairs across five regular sessions.

### [UN Ocean Conference ends with call for greater action to tackle crisis](#)

July 14 - *China Dialogue Ocean*

[Global]

On July 1, after two years of delays due to Covid-19, the week-long UN Ocean Conference concluded in Lisbon, Portugal with more than 6,000 participants from over 120 countries. The conference ended with a series of concerned voices and the adoption of a “non-binding political declaration” titled “Our Ocean, Our Future, Our Responsibility”.



### [U.S. to open new embassies, boost aid in Pacific as China's sway grows](#)

July 12 - *The Washington Post* [Paywall]

[United States, China, South Pacific]

On July 12, U.S. Vice President Harris announced plans to expand diplomatic presence in the Pacific during the virtual Pacific Islands Forum, including two additional U.S. embassies in Kiribati and Tonga, and a tripling funding for economic development and ocean resilience of \$60 million a year for the next decade, as efforts to counter China's growing influence.

### [Fiji and Solomon Islands Sign Maritime Boundary Agreement](#)

July 12 - *Solomon Times*

[South Pacific]

In Suva, on the eve of the first day of the Pacific Islands Forum, the governments of Fiji and the Solomon Islands successfully signed an agreement regarding their shared maritime boundary and gave their own remarks on the issue. It is the first boundary agreement signed in the Pacific region in six years.

### [Government of Canada invests in co-management of Marine Protected Areas in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region](#)

July 8 - *Cision Newswire*

[Canada]

The Government of Canada has announced \$7.46 million in commitments over the next four years to support "co-management activities with the Inuvialuit" for two marine protected areas in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

### [CIMAG calls for integrated oceans governance policy](#)

July 7 - *GhanaWeb*

[Africa]

On the sidelines of Ghana's celebration of the Day of the Seafarer, the Executive Director of the Centre for International Maritime Affairs, Ghana (CIMAG) called for an "integrated oceans governance policy" for Ghana, noting that "the backing of political will" is necessary for all stakeholders to come to an agreement.

### [Turkey halts Russian ship, investigates Ukrainian claims -senior official](#)

July 4 - *Reuters* [Paywall]

[Europe, Black Sea]

Turkey detained the Russian cargo ship *Zhibek Zholy* off its Black Sea coast and is conducting an investigation upon request from Ukraine's ambassador to Turkey Vasyl Bodnar. Turkey is accusing Russia of stealing grain from the territories that Russian forces have seized since their invasion began in late February.



### [John Kerry is in Portugal, announces U.S. is joining global alliance against ocean acidification](#)

June 29 - *The Herald News*

[United States, Europe]

On June 29, at the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, U.S. climate envoy John Kerry announced the United States' membership in the Global Alliance against Acidification, which works to increase knowledge about the impacts of acidification and to prevent the warming of the seas.

### [Biden aims at China in new illegal fishing policy framework](#)

June 27 - AP

[United States, China]

On June 27, the White House released its first ever National Security memo on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, directing 21 federal departments and agencies to better share information, coordinate enforcement actions, and promote best practices among international allies. It will be followed by new rules from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration expanding the definition of illegal fishing to include related labor abuses to combat illegal fishing by China.

## [4] Maritime Security and Defense [4]

### [Australia co-hosts 2022 Indo-Pacific Chiefs of Defense conference](#)

July 25 - Australian Government - Defence News

[Indo-Pacific, Australia, United States]

From July 25-27, the 24th annual Indo-Pacific Chiefs of Defense conference will be held in Sydney, Australia with the theme of "Promoting the Rules-Based Order in the Indo-Pacific." The conference will be co-hosted by Australia's Chief of the Defence Force General Angus Campbell and the United States' Commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Admiral John Aquilino.

### [Hezbollah threatens war over Lebanon-Israel maritime border dispute](#)

July 20 - Axios

[Middle East]

As U.S. President Biden left Israel last week, the State Department released a statement including a commitment to help Israel and Lebanon resolve a long-standing maritime border dispute in the Mediterranean. In response, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah again threatened war if Lebanon's "rights" are not protected and respected.

### [US House passes act supporting Taiwan's participation in 2024 RIMPAC](#)

July 15 - *Taiwan News*

[Global, United States, Pacific Ocean]

On July 14, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, which also includes an invitation for Taiwan to join the 2024 Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, an annual multinational naval exercise hosted by the United States.

### [Solomons leader: Chinese base would make his people targets](#)

July 14 - AP

[South Pacific, China]

In response to concerns and suspicions over the Solomon Islands' new security pact with China, the Islands' Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare reasoned that the security pact would not allow for a military base because such a base would "also put our country and our people as targets for potential military strikes".

### [China says it 'drove' away U.S. destroyer that sailed near disputed isles](#)

July 13 - Reuters [Paywall]

[South China Sea, United States, China]

China says its military "drove away" the USS *Benfold* destroyer that sailed near the disputed Paracel Islands in the South China Sea. July 11 marked the sixth anniversary of the international tribunal award that "invalidated" China's nine-dash line claims in the region.

### [Navy Weighing Recovery of Super Hornet Lost in Mediterranean Sea](#)

July 11 - USNI News

[United States, Europe]

After an F/A-18 Super Hornet blew off the deck of the USS *Harry S. Truman* during heavy weather in the Mediterranean Sea, the US Navy is having to decide how to recover the aircraft, if it will be recovered at all. No personnel were in the aircraft and the incident is under investigation.

### [Russian Ships Transit Tsushima Strait, Continue to Circle Japan](#)

July 8 - USNI News

[East Asia, Russia]

As reported by the Japanese Ministry of Defense, three Russian naval ships were sighted transiting the Tsushima Strait into the Sea of Japan at night and a Russian intelligence ship was sighted near Okinotori Island in the Philippine Sea. Two of the vessels had just completed a full trip around Japan.

### [Chinese Navy, Air Force Active Near Senkaku Islands, Says Japanese MoD](#)

July 5 - USNI News

[East Asia]

As reported by Japanese Minister of Defense Nobuo Kishi, Chinese naval and air force operations near the disputed Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands in the East China Sea are becoming "more frequent" amidst a rise in Chinese and Russian security activity in the Western Pacific. Minister Nobuo noted that Japanese forces will "deal with any attempts by China to change the status quo".

### [Russia abandons Black Sea outpost of Snake Island in victory for Ukraine](#)

June 30 - Reuters [Paywall]  
[Europe, Black Sea]

Russia announced that it decided to withdraw its forces from Snake Island, a key outpost off of Ukraine's southwestern coast, as a "gesture of goodwill" in an effort to prove to the United Nations that Russia is not oppressing UN humanitarian-related grain shipments from Ukraine.

### [PH objects to Taiwan's 'illegal' live fire drills off Ligaw Island](#)

June 28 - Manila Bulletin  
[Southeast Asia, East Asia]

After receiving warnings from "Taiwan (China)" of two days of live fire drills off the coast of Ligaw Island, the Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs released a tweet strongly objecting to the "unlawful" drills over concerns that the drills raised regional tensions and further complicates the South China Sea situation.

## Peer-Reviewed Research on Maritime Issues

- Press Release: The White House - ["In Case You Missed It: Biden-Harris Administration Works with Global Partners to Drive Ocean Action to Combat the Climate Crisis and Boost Ocean Economy at UN Ocean Conference"](#) [July 1]
- Official Release: The White House - ["Remarks by Vice President Harris at the Pacific Islands Forum"](#) [July 12]
- Official Release: The White House - ["Fact Sheet: Vice President Harris Announces Commitments to Strengthen U.S. Partnership with the Pacific Islands"](#) [July 12]
- Official Release: [The Secretary-General's Report: Climate Change & Security Impact Assessment 2022](#) [NATO - June 28]
- Presidential Action: The White House - ["Memorandum on Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing and Associated Labor Abuses"](#) [June 27]
- Analysis: ["Who Will Call The Shots In The Indian Ocean?"](#) [Eurasia Review - July 25]
- Analysis: [Rapid battery cost declines accelerate the prospects of all-electric interregional container shipping](#) [Nat Energy 7 - July 18]
- Analysis: ["Plan to map UK's marine carbon storage could bolster net-zero efforts"](#) [IET - July 13]
- Analysis: ["More Island Upgrades Across the South China Sea"](#) [Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative - July 8]
- Analysis: ["Pacific Islands Forum: Leaders Want to Focus on Climate Change, Not Geopolitics"](#) [United States Institute of Peace - July 7]
- Analysis: ["Beyond the Gulf: U.S. Maritime Security Operations in the MENA Region"](#) [Center for International Maritime Security - July 7]
- Analysis: ["How to Break Russia's Black Sea Blockade"](#) [Foreign Affairs - July 1] [Paywall]

- Analysis: [“The Maritime Counterinsurgency Project Begins”](#) [U.S. Naval Institute - July 2022]
- Analysis: [“New carrier's name, Fujian, mirrors Xi's Taiwan obsession”](#) [Nikkei Asia - June 30] [Paywall]
- Analysis: [“Sinpo South Shipyard Update: Routine Activity”](#) [Beyond Parallel - June 28]
- Opinion: [“Anchor for peace and stability in South China Sea”](#) [KhmerTimes - July 25]
- Opinion: [“Biden's Climate Change ‘Revolution’ Isn't Coming”](#) [The New York Times - July 20] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“A Chinese port in Nigeria will change the world economy”](#) [Nikkei Asia - July 15] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“It took us 30 years to realise oceans need crisis management. 16 rules could save it”](#) [The Print - July 10]
- Opinion: [“Why Norway and the Kingdom of Denmark should work closer together vis-à-vis the United States on security in the Arctic”](#) [Wilson Center - July 6]
- Opinion: [“In Deep Water: Shipping in the Global Economy”](#) [CounterPunch - July 1]
- Opinion: [“The core of security cooperation in BIMSTEC: Maritime Domain Awareness”](#) [Observer Research Foundation - June 29]
- Opinion: [“California's climate-change fight should leverage blue carbon”](#) [The Mercury News - June 29]

## Events on the Maritime Domain

- From June 27-July 1, the United Nations Development Programme held its second [UN Ocean Conference](#) in Lisbon, Portugal and online, which focused on “Scaling up Ocean Action Based on Science and Innovation for the Implementation of Goal 14”. Recordings of the conference are available for viewing [online](#).
- On July 5, the Center for Strategic & International Studies held a virtual book launch for [On Dangerous Ground: America's Century in the South China Sea](#), written by Gregory Poling.
- On July 13, the U.S. Naval Institute and the Center for Strategic & International Studies held a [Maritime Security Dialogue: Naval Aviation Update](#) in Annapolis, MD.
- On July 18, the U.S. Naval Institute and the Center for Strategic & International Studies held a [Maritime Security Dialogue: A Discussion with the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps](#) in Washington, DC.
- On July 26, the Center for Strategic & International Studies will hold their [Twelfth Annual South China Sea Conference](#), which will be webcast live.
- On August 2 and 9, respectively, the Federal Communications Commission will host the [Eleventh](#) and [Twelfth Meeting of IWG-1 Maritime, Aeronautical and Radar Services \(WAC23\)](#) through Zoom.
- On August 17, the Institute of Marine Engineering Science & Technology will be holding a branch webinar on [Our Approach to Wave Energy](#).
- From September 20-22, the International Maritime Lecturers Association will be holding the [28th International Maritime Lecturers Association Conference](#) in Odessa, Ukraine with the theme of “MET Maritime Heritage: Traditions and Perspectives.”
- On October 25, the U.S. Naval Institute and the U.S. Naval Academy will be co-hosting an in-person conference on [The Russia China Partnership: A Challenge to the World Order?](#) in Annapolis, MD. The keynote speakers and panelists will “look at Russia and China’s efforts to change the world order, including activities aimed at challenging the United States.”

## Handbill Spotlight

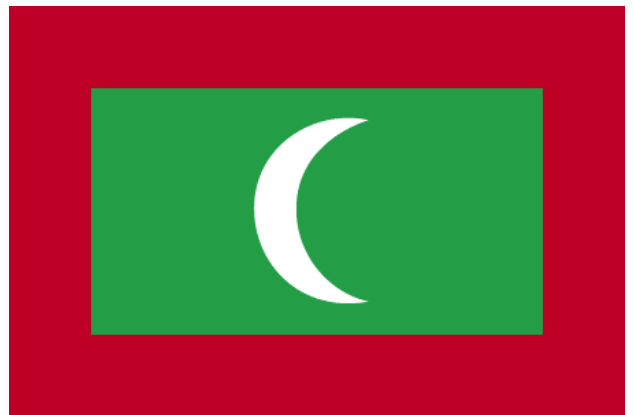
### The Maldives

#### Issue Background <sup>1</sup>

The Republic of Maldives is an archipelagic country located approximately 470 miles (750 kilometers) southwest of India in the Indian Ocean. Its [territory](#) consists of nearly 1,200 islands and atolls—ring-shaped reefs, islands, or chain of islands formed of coral—spanning approximately 40,000 square miles (104,000 square kilometers) of sea with only 115 square miles (298 square kilometers) of that area being land. Geographically, while the Maldives is the smallest Asian country by land area, it is also one of the world's most dispersed sovereign states and is the world's lowest-lying country with an [average](#) ground-level elevation of just under 5 feet (1.5 meters).

The Government of Maldives, located in the capital city of [Malé](#) on the Male Atoll, is made up of almost [two dozen](#) active ministries, agencies and public bodies that specialize in issues ranging from environment, climate change, education, arts, and culture, to technology, finance and defense. Most of these ministries' websites appear active, including regular updates on all the activities, addresses, and agreements that the Maldivian government is currently conducting.

Unsurprisingly, the Maldives' economy and society primarily relies on tourism, which makes up 28% of its GDP. For [instance](#), 1.2 million tourists came in 2014—30.2% of them being from China—and they collectively spent \$2.6 billion during their stay. The Maldives Monetary Authority and its partner ministries are very attentive to its economic status and progress, releasing economic updates and [monthly statistics reports](#) that include tourist arrivals, tourist bed nights, exports (nearly all of which are fish or fisheries products), imports (most of which are food and beverage, fuel and lubricants, machinery or transportation products), pensions, and even offenses reported to the police, among other figures of interest.



Other than its tourism industry and growing internal disputes over socioeconomic disparities, the Maldivian government's primary attention for more than a decade has been on climate security—especially about the rising sea levels from melting polar ice caps. In November 2008, the then-president—and the first democratically elected president—of the Maldives Mohamed Nasheed even [shared plans](#) to set aside the nation's tourist revenue to purchase land for his 300,000 strong population to live on once the sea levels rise too high. "We can do nothing to stop climate change on our own, so we have to buy land elsewhere. It's an insurance policy for the worst possible outcome,"

<sup>1</sup> Image Source: Official national flag of the Republic of Maldives, [Wikimedia, CC3.0](#)



he said on the eve of his inauguration. This issue remains at the top of the government's list of concerns today and will even make a strong appearance in the Maldives' upcoming Defence White Paper, which is currently being drafted.

## Recent Events

Despite the small size of their nation, representatives of the Maldavian government have been very active at the international and regional levels, working to establish connections and partnerships on common issues. For instance, this June the Maldivian Minister of Defence Uza. Mariya Didi gave an [address](#) at the 19th Shangri-La Dialogue's Special Session on Climate Security and Green Defence, highlighting Maldavian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's "razor-sharp focus" on the climate change fight "on the global stage, despite growing security worries and the challenges of keeping Maldives on the track of democratic consolidation."

On the climate security front, aside from speaking at a variety of regional and international groups and forums, Maldivians are already working to prepare for rising sea levels with projects like the [Maldives Floating City](#); a project that was [jointly designed](#) by a company in the Netherlands and is a finalist in the MIPIM Awards (also known as the "Oscars for Global Development").

The last two years have also [witnessed](#) a "[tremendous](#)" expansion in U.S.-Maldives relations; especially in defense and security. On September 11, 2020, representatives from the United States and the Maldives signed a [defense and security pact](#) which was called "an important milestone" by Minister Didi. In response, the Maldivian Ministry of Defense [tweeted](#) that the pact "will add immense value to the excellent US-Maldives partnership defined by shared principles & interests in peace & security" of the Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. Notably, this pact also included a mutual commitment to a "free and open Indo-Pacific," which has now become a meaningful phrase to use. This pact also led to an inaugural [U.S.-Maldives Defense and Security Dialogue](#) on January 5, 2021 and a [signing ceremony](#) of the Montana National Guard State Partnership Program on April 4, 2022, both in Malé.

Notably, this 2020 pact follows a 2013 draft agreement on a Status of Forces Agreement, which was agreed to by the two parties but ultimately discouraged by India on the basis that such an agreement would make way for a similar agreement between the Maldives and China. The 2020 pact, however, is [reportedly](#) supported by India, though some [observers](#) have still wondered what the pact means for the Maldives' northern neighbor. One researcher directly [points](#) towards "the growing challenge from an aggressive China in the Indo-Pacific region" as India's shift in support for this defense pact.

## Keep In Mind

Though on the outlying border of the region and not yet a part of regional forums like ASEAN, it is officially part of Asia. Its government is active in regional politics. And, despite its dispersed set of islands and atolls, the Maldives' location in the center of the Indian Ocean is a strategically sound checkpoint for any nation interested in the Indian Ocean region to be connected with.

Furthermore, between the Maldives' long-time expertise and interest in and the Biden administration's—and the world's—heavy push towards climate security, it would not be surprising to see the Maldives be given more space at the international table. As one of the first nations to have to deal with rising sea levels, it has already proven itself to be a leader in innovative problem-solving with projects like the Maldives Floating City. It would also not be surprising to see an increase in promotions for Maldivian tourism in the United States or support for infrastructure projects, as a show of improving bilateral relations.

Maldivian Minister of Defence Mariya has been a particularly popular voice for the Maldives, appearing at regional and international conferences on maritime, security, [climate](#), and even [civil rights](#) issues. It appears that Minister Mariya and the rest of the Maldivian government are working to make sure that the Maldives continues to have a meaningful seat at the table. Especially recently, as its partnership with the United States has been growing, Maldivian representatives have been [promoting](#) the ideas of “building trust and friendships through defence partnerships” created alongside a “shared vision for a rules-based international order;” a key phrase that has become as popularized and labeling to its user as a “free and open Indo-Pacific” has. If Malé continues to choose to affirm these phrases, and continues to create partnerships and hold dialogues with U.S. representatives—on climate, security, trade, or any other kind of issue—then Washington may soon be able to officially call the Maldives—a nation situated in the heart of the vital Indian Ocean—a reliable, key partner; if it does not already.

*This issue's Spotlight was written by Jessica Martin, ICAS Research Assistant & Chief Editor of the MAP Handbill*

## ICAS Maritime Affairs Program: New and Upcoming

### — ICAS BCCC Quarterly Issue 2 —

BCCC Quarterly Volume 1, Issue 2  
(April - June 2022)

Issue 2 of the newly developed Blue Carbon & Climate Change (BCCC) Quarterly has been released! Each quarter, ICAS releases a newsletter which will record the most important trends and developments regarding blue carbon policies and regulations in China, the U.S., and other regions, as well as international regimes such as the United Nations. The ICAS team will also produce a Chinese language version of this product to disseminate to a wider audience so that both sides have access to our research.

[Explore & Share the BCCC Quarterly](#)

[View & Share as a PDF](#)



#### This Season's Global Climate Affairs

##### Special News Focus: Global Corporate Action on Climate Change

- Tesla's exclusion from the S&P environmental index and a recent investigation from a nonprofit watchdog group have called into question the greenhouse gas emissions reductions that the company claims to reduce overall.
- The Net Zero Tracker collaboration found that only 702 firms on the Forbes Global 2000 list of publicly traded companies have set zero emissions targets, and two-thirds of those fell far short of necessary detail, leaving major corporations open to accusations of greenwashing.
- The Energy and Policy Institute accused Southern Company of spending over \$30 million on climate misinformation while aware of the link between emissions and climate change. A statement was later issued by the company touting its reductions in greenhouse gas emissions for the past 15 years.
- In response to allegations of the Clean Air Act and state air pollution control laws violations, five subsidiaries of Westlake Chemical Corporation made \$110 million in upgrades and compliance measures to eliminate thousands of tons of air pollution from flares, with a payment of \$1 million civil penalties.
- On May 25, leaders of more than 50 global corporations convened at the World Economic Forum in Davos and declared the First Movers Coalition, pledging to purchase aluminum, steel, and other commodities made from processes that emit little to no carbon.
- On May 9, LG Chem and the Korea Institute of Science

##### Multilateral & Government Activity

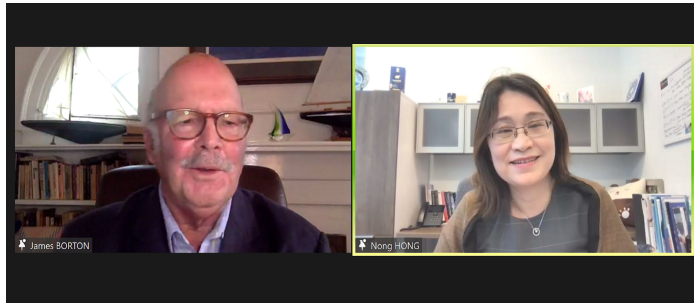
- On June 30, the U.S. Supreme Court voted to restrict the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to regulate carbon emissions by citing the "major questions doctrine". This means that all government agencies, including the EPA, cannot enact rules that are transformational to the economy without explicit authorization from Congress.
- On June 26, G7 leaders launched the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment with \$600 billion to offer low- and middle-income countries a choice to advance climate and energy security through the development of clean, climate-resilient infrastructure that drives job creation, accelerates clean energy innovation, and supports inclusive economic recovery.
- On June 17, COP26 leaders made plans to further strengthen national climate efforts by reducing methane emissions, speeding the commercialization of critical technologies, putting more zero-emission vehicles on the road, decarbonizing ocean-based shipping, and increasing fertilizer efficiency and alternatives.
- South Korea's industrial hub of Ulsan is increasing its efforts to transition to a hydrogen-based economy, aiming to replace fossil fuels with hydrogen-fueled vessels in the near future while developing business opportunities. For example, H2Korea, a public-private joint venture, has conducted tests on boats with hydrogen fuel cell power systems since last year.
- On May 24, Quad leaders launched the Quad Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Package in Tokyo, committing to further advance practical cooperation in



— MAP Academic Engagement —

**Virtual Book Talk on *Dispatches From the South China Sea: Navigating to Common Ground***

Hosted by China Institute, University of Alberta, Thursday, July 14, 2022



On Thursday, July 14, 2022, ICAS Executive Director Nong Hong moderated a virtual book talk and Q&A session with James Borton, the author of *Dispatches from the South China Sea: Navigating to Common Ground*. The hour-long discussion included a presentation from the author followed by a conversation with Dr. Nong

Hong and questions from the audience on Borton's research methodology and his expert perceptions on key issues like managing multilateral relations, fishing conflicts, and marine environmental security in the South China Sea.

[View Event Page](#)

[Watch the Event](#)

[Learn More About the Book](#)

— MAP Academic Engagement —

**The 8th Ocean Dialogue - 40th Anniversary of UNCLOS: Promoting Maritime Cooperation in Southeast Asia**

Co-organized by The Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV), the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) office, and Australian Embassy in Hanoi

Tuesday, June 29, 2022

On June 29, 2022, ICAS Executive Director Dr. Nong Hong participated in the 8th Ocean Dialogue- 40th Anniversary of UNCLOS: Promoting Maritime Cooperation in Southeast Asia. She spoke about the BBNJ Negotiation in the Context of the South China Sea and shared her research findings on regional and state practices of area-based management.



[View Event Page](#)



# ICAS MARITIME AFFAIRS HANDBILL

August 30, 2022

Volume 1, Issue 7

## Recent News in Global Maritime Affairs

### [1] Climate Change and Blue Carbon Economy [1]

#### [“Our Ocean Conference”, Climate Change and Energy Transition in Shipping Dominate Mitsotakis-Kerry Meeting](#)

August 29 - *The National Herald*  
[Mediterranean, United States]

As part of his recent visits to Europe, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry met with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis to discuss ways to strengthen their countries' cooperation on climate change and to discuss preparations for holding the “Our Ocean Conference” in Greece in 2024. “No one can solve the problems linked to the oceans without paying proper attention to the climate crisis,” Kerry explained at one point.

#### [The iceman cometh: Biden creates an Arctic ambassador](#)

August 26 - *Politico*  
[United States, Arctic]

The U.S. State Department announced on August 26 the establishment of a U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for the Arctic Region position. The position, which will be subject to Senate confirmation, is described as an elevation of the current “Arctic coordinator” position into an ambassadorship.

#### [Up to 90% of marine species could be at high or critical risk if greenhouse gas emissions continue as-is: Study](#)

August 22 - *ABCNews*  
[Global]

According to a new study published in the *Nature Climate Change* academic journal, climate change is impacting “virtually all marine life” with almost 90% of the 25,000 known species being at “high or critical risk” under high emissions (SSP5-8.5).

### [China races to alleviate drought, power cuts amid record heatwave](#)

August 17 - Reuters [Paywall]

[China]

China continues to battle a drought along the Yangtze river basin amid an unprecedented heat wave with temperatures reaching 45 °C (113 °F)—the highest-ever recorded temperature in China outside of Xinjiang. Largely dependent on hydropower, several provinces and municipalities along the river have begun rationing power supplies and launched ‘cloud seeding’ programs to boost precipitation.

### [World's largest ice sheet crumbling faster than previously thought, satellite imagery shows](#)

August 11 - CNN

[Antarctic]

A study by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) has revealed that the loss of Antarctic ice from ‘calving’ off into the ocean is nearly as great as the continent’s loss of ice from melting due to rising sea temperatures. Factoring this new factor into ice loss estimates means Antarctica has been shedding ice at double the previous estimates; as much as 12 trillion tons since 1997.

### [California Sets Ambitious Goal to Get Power From Offshore Wind](#)

August 10 - Bloomberg [Paywall]

[United States]

The California Energy Commission has approved a plan to install wind turbines generating at least 5 gigawatts of power off the Pacific coast by 2030, with a further target of 25 gigawatts by 2045. These targets exceed Governor Gavin Newsome’s announced goal to hit 20 gigawatts of offshore power generation by 2045, and the effort is poised to be a key factor in the state’s transition to carbon-free energy sources over the next two decades.

### [U.S.-China diplomatic breakdown clouds outlook for global climate progress](#)

August 6 - Reuters [Paywall]

[Global, United States, China]

As one of the eight retaliations over U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi’s visit to Taiwan, China has halted climate change talks with the United States. The unexpected event brings uncertainty to international climate change protection as it takes place less than 100 days before the COP27 global conference. John Perry said that this suspension is not punishing the United States but the world.

### [New Zealand readies for climate impact](#)

August 2 - Blue Mountains Gazette

[South Pacific]

New Zealand’s Climate Change Minister James Shaw released a new report in early August that lays out a six-year plan to “embed adaptation to global warming into policies and legislation.” Much of

the plan, which Shaw notes is in an “astonishingly complex area of public policy to work through,” is focused on rising sea levels and how at least one in seven New Zealanders live in flood-prone areas.

### [Việt Nam, US hold fourth energy security dialogue](#)

July 30 - Viet Nam News

[United States, Southeast Asia]

On July 27 and 28, the United States and Vietnam held their fourth energy security dialogue in Washington, DC. This dialogue featured presentations and discussions on bilateral energy cooperation in areas such as clean electricity production, electricity market development, energy saving and efficiency, transmission and energy storage.

### [Council receives multimillion dollar Blue Carbon grant](#)

July 28 - Sunshine Coast Council

[Australia]

The Sunshine Coast Regional Council and its partners in Australia have recently provided a \$2 million grant to support the Blue Heart project; one of five successful Blue Carbon restoration projects being supported across Australia by the Federal Government. The funds were secured through the Commonwealth government’s Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration Grants.

## [2] Maritime Economy and Shipping [2]

### [MIDA and Maersk enter into strategic partnership to promote investments in Malaysia](#)

August 29 - Maersk

[Global, Southeast Asia]

On August 29, A.P. Moller-Maersk (Maersk) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) in Kuala Lumpur. While the MOU includes an array of projects and sectors, its ultimate goal is to “bring in more targeted global investments into Malaysia” and “transform Malaysia into a regional logistics hub in ASEAN.”

### [Container Lines Brace for Slowdown as Shipping Rates Keel Over](#)

August 25 - Bloomberg [Paywall]

[Global]

After more than two years of increased profits and stressful delays for the container shipping industry, the World Trade Organization (WTO) announced this week that merchandise trade flows slowed in Q2 of this year and will likely not increase for the rest of 2022; reports which are in line with the WTO’s forecast for 3% growth in global merchandise in 2022.

### [Indian Ocean Off Somalia to Lose ‘High-Risk Area’ Designation as Piracy Dips](#)

August 22 - Bloomberg [Paywall]

[East Africa, Middle East]

Due to successful international efforts to combat piracy attacks off Somalia, several associations of the global shipping industry have jointly reported that merchant ships have not experienced piracy attacks since 2018. Consequently, the associations have decided that, starting next year, the Indian Ocean area near the coastline of Somalia will no longer be designated as a “High Risk Area.”

### [The U.S. supply chain is now facing two trade hurdles](#)

August 16 - CNBC

[United States, China, Global]

While the waiting time of vessels at U.S. East Coast ports have slightly decreased, U.S. carriers remain concerned about the lingering issue of empty containers at West Coast ports. Furthermore, stalled trade union negotiations in Germany can lead to local congestions. The extreme weather in China has led to power restrictions, which in turn affect production and exports. Both incidents can mean further challenge to the U.S. and global supply chain.

### [U.S. Solar Shipments Are Hit by Import Ban on China’s Xinjiang Region](#)

August 9 - *The Wall Street Journal* [Paywall]

[United States, China]

As U.S. agencies enforce import restrictions on products from China’s Xinjiang region over human rights abuse concerns, the solar industry in the United States is witnessing significant and lasting delays in imports and supplies. The full extent of the disruption is yet to be determined.

### [IATTC meeting closes with agreements on transshipment and monitoring](#)

August 8 - *Seafood Source*

[North America, South America]

On August 5, the 100th meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) concluded. The meeting resulted in multiple commitments to include establishing a working group on electronic monitoring and, like the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), developing “stronger oversight for transshipment at sea.”

### [Ukraine war: Four more grain ships leave Ukraine as hopes grow for export stability](#)

August 7 - BBC

[Europe, Black Sea]

After reaching a renewable deal with Russia that will last for at least 120 days, Ukraine has resumed its seaborne exports of grain that had been interrupted since February in a deal considered as a

diplomatic breakthrough. Russia had been blocking Ukrainian ports since the beginning of the conflict.

### [China's Military Exercises Around Taiwan Disrupt Shipping](#)

August 4 - *Bloomberg* [Paywall]

[East Asia]

Although Taiwan's ports remained open and accessible, the live-fire exercises launched by Beijing following U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei disrupted regional supply chains as companies sought to avoid the area. The exercises lasted four days and encircled Taiwan and the Taiwan Strait; key ocean routes for vessels sailing to or from China, Taiwan, Japan and South Korea.

### [Singapore and Rotterdam to Establish 'World's Longest' Green Shipping Corridor](#)

August 2 - *gCaptain*

[Global, South Asia, Europe]

The port authorities of Singapore and Rotterdam signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) and become partners in launching what they say will be the world's longest green corridor for shipping. The MOU also includes goals to use alternative fuels and "optimize maritime efficiency, safety, and the transparent flow of goods" through a "digital trade lane."

### [Malaysia, Indonesia exports surge as energy and food prices soar](#)

July 28 - *Nikkei Asia* [Paywall]

[South Asia]

New economic reports have revealed Southeast Asian nations like Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore have all been seeing significant increases in exports in the first half of 2022 while Japan reported a record trade deficit for the first half of the year. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership trade pact, which includes China, Japan and all ASEAN members, took effect in January and included "liberalized" trade rules for regional companies.

## [3] Ocean Governance and Maritime Cooperation [3]

### ['Missed opportunity': No agreement in latest UN high seas talks](#)

August 27 - *Al Jazeera*

[Global, United States]

On August 26, after sitting for two weeks, the fifth session of the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, also known as BBNJ IGC 5, concluded with agreements to convene again as soon as possible with hopes to conclude negotiations.



### [Israel must hold referendum on potential Lebanon maritime deal, says non-profit](#)

August 25 - *The Times of Israel*

[Mediterranean, Middle East]

Throughout August, Israel and Lebanon have been inching closer to successfully establishing a maritime border demarcation deal, with the U.S. acting as mediator. Some report that a deal could be signed in September. After the Israeli government announced it would not submit this potential deal to a national referendum, a domestic think tank filed a petition to prevent unilateral approval of a potential deal by the Israeli cabinet.

### [Chinese military ship leaves Sri Lanka after controversial visit](#)

August 22 - *Reuters* [Paywall]

[South Asia, China]

After discussions were held between India and Sri Lanka, the Chinese ship *Yuan Wang 5* docked at the Hanambota port in Sri Lanka for a week despite initial outcry from neighboring India. China designates the ship as a research and survey vessel, but officials in Washington and New Delhi claim that the ship—operated by the Strategic Support Force of the PLA—could have sailed to Sri Lanka as a pretense to surveil and undermine Indian defense installations.

### [Ministry explores student exchange cooperation with ASEAN countries](#)

August 20 - *Antara*

[Southeast Asia]

Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) is looking into cooperation in student exchange with other ASEAN member countries specifically for marine and fisheries education units. The program, operated through Indonesia's Marine and Fisheries Research and Human Resources Agency (BRSDM), aims to "improve the quality of education in Southeast Asia and boost global competitiveness in the marine and fisheries sector."

### [Quảng Ninh refutes allegations of sea encroachment in Ha Long Bay](#)

August 17 - *Viet Nam News*

[South Asia]

Photos of a new development project in what was suspected to be the Hạ Long Bay area, which is a UNESCO-recognized site, circulated online causing confusion. The local government of Vietnam's northern coastal province of Quảng Ninh has called the claims that it has allowed for a project involving sea encroachment and the sale of land plot in the Hạ Long Bay area "not true," explaining that the photos were taken in a specialized economic zone, not the Hạ Long Bay area.



### [Talks with China on rail projects, maritime cooperation resume](#)

August 14 - *Phil Star*

[Southeast Asia, China, South China Sea]

The Philippines' Transport Secretary Jaime Bautista met with Chinese Ambassador Huang Xilian at the Chinese Embassy where they "agreed to restart negotiations for major transport projects." More specifically, these projects include the previously-terminated Philippine National Railway South Long Haul Project or the PNR Bicol, the Subic-Clark Railway Project, and the Mindanao Railway.

### [The Nature Conservancy and Global Partners Hold Session on Improving Protected Marine Areas at UN Oceans Conference With Support From Mary Kay Inc.](#)

August 9 - *Business Wire*

[Global]

As part of the United Nations Ocean Conference 2022 held in Portugal from June 27 to July 1, The Nature Conservancy alongside Mary Kay Inc. held an event in collaboration with various public and private partners from around the world to highlight the "critical importance of ensuring quality Marine Protected Areas" and how to properly manage such areas.

### [Saudi shipping firm Bahri signs two MoUs with Greek maritime logistics companies](#)

August 8 - *Hellenic Shipping News*

[Mediterranean, Middle East]

The National Shipping Company of Saudi Arabia, informally known as Bahri, has signed two "initial agreements" with Dynacom and SeaTraders, two Greek maritime firms. The one-year agreements will "establish avenues to transfer technology and services" and are a sign of strengthening commercial relations between the two nations.

### [East Africa: Indian Ocean Commission Kicks Off Initiative to Enhance Regional Maritime Connectivity](#)

August 3 - *allAfrica*

[Africa]

In early August, the Regional Technical Committee under the Enhancing Maritime Connectivity Project (EMCP) was held in Ebène, Mauritius. The \$875,000 EMCP, which is funded by the Government of Japan, aims at "strengthening regional maritime connectivity" and is intended for both Indian Ocean Commission states and African coastal states.

### [Solomon Islands joins global call to conclude work on Ocean governance treaty](#)

August 3 - SIBC Online

[South Pacific, Global]

While speaking in Parliament, Solomon Islands Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade Jeremiah Menele announced that his country has “joined the call to have the Intergovernmental Conference [on Marine BBNJ] to conclude its work,” noting that the treaty will have far-reaching impacts.

## [4] Maritime Security and Defense [4]

### [Taiwan: Two US warships sail through strait](#)

August 28 - BBC

[China, East Asia, United States]

For the first time since the U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi’s controversial visit to Taiwan earlier in August, two U.S. warships conducted a freedom of navigation operation through the international waters of the Taiwan Strait on Sunday. The same day, Taiwan’s defense ministry said it detected 23 Chinese aircraft and 8 Chinese ships operating around Taiwan while Beijing said its military was monitoring the two U.S. vessels’ progress and “maintaining a high alert.”

### [Destroyer photos offer clues about Chinese navy’s growing fleet](#)

August 23 - South China Morning Post [Paywall]

[East Asia, Southeast Asia]

New photos that were circulated on social media site Weibo show five large ships under construction, at least two of which might end up being 052DL guided-missile destroyers. All five ships are in the same dry dock, which appears to be the Dalian Shipyard.

### [Turkiye’s Indigenous 76/62 Naval Gun Completes Sea Trials](#)

August 21 - NavalNews

[Mediterranean]

Turkish state-owned company MKE has been working with three subcontractors and the Istanbul Naval Shipyard to develop the domestic 76/62 mm National Naval Gun, which successfully passed harbor and sea trials on August 19. As announced by MKE, the gun was developed on the orders of the Turkish President and with the support of the Turkish Defence Minister.

### [U.S. 7th Fleet commander sees increase in ‘unsafe’ intercepts by China](#)

August 18 - *NavyTimes*

[United States, China, Asia-Pacific]

Vice Adm. Karl Thomas said in a press briefing on August 16 in Singapore that the U.S. and its allies' aircraft have been more frequently unsafely intercepted by Chinese aircraft in recent months. Thomas said that the U.S. would not be deterred and contest the territorial claims by China.

### [Chinese Research Ship Arrives in Sri Lanka Over India's Objections](#)

August 16 - *The Wall Street Journal* [Paywall]

[China, India, South Asia]

After days of delay born from security concerns raised by India, on August 16 Sri Lanka announced that Chinese research ship *Yuan Wang 5* had been given permission to dock in the southern Hambantota port for ten days to refuel and take on supplies. The ship was originally scheduled to arrive on August 11.

### [China announces new drills around Taiwan as a U.S. delegation visits the island](#)

August 15 - NPR

[East Asia, China, United States]

Less than two weeks after a U.S. delegation led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan, another U.S. delegation visited with the island's leader Tsai Ing-wen, prompting China to announce more military drills around Taiwan in response.

### [U.S. Insists It Will Operate Around Taiwan, Despite China's Pressure](#)

August 10 - *The New York Times* [Paywall]

[East Asia, United States]

Following U.S. Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei, the U.S. Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Colin Kahl told reporters that the U.S. will "continue to fly, to sail and operate wherever international law allows" in spite of coercion by China. Meanwhile, on August 8 President Biden expressed "concern" about the extent of China's movements.

### [RIMPAC 2022 Officials Reflect on Lessons Learned, What to Change for RIMPAC 2024](#)

August 9 - *USNI News*

[United States, Asia]

After the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2022 multinational naval exercise concluded on August 4, two naval leaders from the U.S. and Canada held a media call to reflect on key takeaways. Aside from emphasizing the extensive planning and discussions held between all participants, the two leaders listed thinking through unpredictable scenarios as one of the biggest lessons learned.

### [Chinese and Russian Ships Sailing Near Japan, Japanese MoD Says](#)

August 2 - USNI News

[East Asia, Russia]

Chinese PLA Navy and Russian Navy warships continue to be spotted independently sailing around the entirety of Japan. Though the passages were in accordance with international law, the Japanese Defense Minister Nobou Kishi has repeated that Japan will continue to closely monitor military activities of China, Russia and North Korea in the region.

### [Indian Navy Accepts Delivery Of Indigenous Aircraft Carrier “Vikrant”](#)

July 29 - Naval News

[South Asia]

On July 28, the Indian Navy took delivery of the 262-meter-long Indigenous Aircraft Carrier *Vikrant*, which was designed by the Indian Navy's own Directorate of Naval Design and built by Indian public sector shipyard CSL under the Ministry of Shipping. The delivery coincided with celebrations to commemorate the 75th anniversary of India's independence.

## Peer-Reviewed Research on Maritime Issues

- Government Policy Paper: Government of the United Kingdom - [“National Strategy for Maritime Security”](#) [August 2022]
- Government Paper: U.S. Congressional Research Service - [“IN FOCUS - The Pacific Islands”](#) [Updated August 17, 2022]
- Press Release: U.S. Department of State - [“Establishing an Ambassador-at-Large for the Arctic Region”](#) [August 26, 2022]
- Press Release: U.S. Embassy & Consulates in Indonesia - [“United States Announces Partnership to Reduce Ocean Plastic Pollution in Indonesia”](#) [July 27, 2022]
- Journal Article: [“Social equity is key to sustainable ocean governance”](#) [NPJ Ocean Sustainability 1, 4 - August 10]
- Journal Article: [“Carbon removal using 'blue carbon' habitats 'uncertain and unreliable”](#) [Science Daily - July 28]
- Opinion: [“Follow Up the Chips Act with the ‘Ships Act’”](#) [The National Review - August 29] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“Ghana has developed a maritime policy. Here is what it means”](#) [defenseWeb - August 19]
- Opinion: [“China’s suspension of climate talks with the US puts decarbonisation timeline, methane reduction targets and research at risk”](#) [South China Morning Post - August 12] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“The blue economy is a historic opportunity. Here's how we seize it”](#) [World Economic Forum - August 5]
- Opinion: [“The State Department must step up on Arctic diplomacy”](#) [The Hill - August 4]
- Opinion: [“RIMPAC packs a punch”](#) [International Institute for Strategic Studies - July 22]
- Analysis: [“The Rise \(and Fall?\) of the Polar Silk Road”](#) [The Diplomat - August 29]

- Analysis: [“As China's navy grows ever larger, so does the threat to Taiwan”](#) [The Japan Times - August 25]
- Analysis: [“The United States Is Deeply Invested in the South China Sea”](#) [Foreign Policy - August 14] [Paywall]
- Analysis: [“Wastewater causes a ‘manmade disaster’ for Karachi’s marine life”](#) [The Third Pole - August 12]
- Analysis: [“Will a freeze in US-China climate talks threaten global action?”](#) [Nature - August 11]
- Analysis: [“Is it Indo-China Sea or South China Sea?”](#) [Hindustan Times - August 6]
- Analysis: [“EXPLAINER: On China, US and climate, action, not talk is key”](#) [AP - August 6]
- Analysis: [“How the blue economy will shape the future of Canada’s oceans – and its coastal communities”](#) [The Conversation - August 1]
- Analysis: [“United Nations Lays Groundwork to Protect Two-Thirds of Ocean”](#) [PEW - July 27]

## Events on the Maritime Domain



- On July 26, the Center for Strategic & International Studies held their [Twelfth Annual South China Sea Conference](#), which was webcast live.
- On August 2 and 9, respectively, the Federal Communications Commission hosted the [Eleventh](#) and [Twelfth Meeting of IWG-1 Maritime, Aeronautical and Radar Services \(WAC23\)](#) through Zoom.
- On August 4, the US-Asia Institute held a special public briefing on the [Sri Lanka Crisis: Implications for the Indo-Pacific and US Interests in the Region](#). A full recording is available online.
- From August 16-17, the South China Morning Post and Cyberport held a hybrid [Asia Sustainability Conference](#) out of Hong Kong with the theme of turning the principles of sustainable activity into action.
- On August 17, the Institute of Marine Engineering Science & Technology held a branch webinar on [Our Approach to Wave Energy](#).
- On August 22, the Center for Strategic & International Studies held an online event on [The Military Dimensions of the Fourth Taiwan Strait Crisis](#).
- From August 22-23, the Wilson Center Polar Institute and University of Alaska Fairbanks held a hybrid event on [Alaska’s Minerals: A Strategic National Imperative](#) in Fairbanks, Alaska.
- On August 24, the East-West Center hosted a hybrid event on the [“New Indo-Pacific Economic Framework \(IPEF\): Should it include Taiwan?”](#) based out of Honolulu, Hawaii.
- From August 15-26, the United Nations General Assembly held the fifth session of the [Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction \(General Assembly resolution 72/249\)](#) in New York City pursuant to General Assembly decision 76/564.
- From August 27-29, the Government of Greenland and the Arctic Circle co-hosted the [2022 Arctic Circle Greenland Forum](#) in Nuuk, which focused on the topics of “Climate and Prosperity” and “Geopolitics and Progress.”

- From September 18-19, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and Sasakawa Peace Foundation will be holding their hybrid [Ocean Nations: The 2nd Annual Indo-Pacific Islands Dialogue](#) in New York, New York.
- From September 20-22, the International Maritime Lecturers Association will be holding the [28th International Maritime Lecturers Association Conference](#) in Odessa, Ukraine with the theme of “MET Maritime Heritage: Traditions and Perspectives.”
- From September 26-28, the International Seabed Authority will be holding a hybrid [Women in the Law of the Sea Conference](#) “aimed at highlighting the important contributions of women to the development and implementation of the law of the sea, the participation of women in the institutions created by UNCLOS and related regional and sub-regional organizations and the pathways to enhancing the potential for women to contribute to the law of the sea in the future.”
- From October 13-16, the Arctic Circle will be hosting the [2022 Arctic Circle Assembly](#) in person in Reykjavik, Iceland. [Registration](#) is open until October 11.
- On October 25, the U.S. Naval Institute and the U.S. Naval Academy will be co-hosting an in-person conference on [The Russia China Partnership: A Challenge to the World Order?](#) in Annapolis, MD. The keynote speakers and panelists will “look at Russia and China’s efforts to change the world order, including activities aimed at challenging the United States.”
- Throughout the year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) offers its publicly-accessible [NOAA Science Seminar Series](#), most of which are webinars that last about 1 hour. For example, on August 15, there was a webinar on “Ocean Biogeochemical Modeling and Ocean Color Data Assimilation in the Unified Forecast System” led by Dr. Xiao Liu of College Park. Among others, on September 20 there will be a webinar on “The Coastal Ice-Ocean Prediction Systems for the East and West Coasts of Canada – key components of Canada’s Oceans Protection Plan” led by Jean-Philippe Paquin of Environnement et Changement Climatique Canada. The full list of seminar topics is available online.

## Handbill Spotlight

### Maritime Shipping

#### Issue Background

Maritime shipping is the essential foundation of the global economy. [United Nations statistics](#) show that over 80% of the volume of international trade is through the sea. [OECD statistics](#) show that around 90% of the traded goods are carried over waterways. As the primary mode for transportation, maritime shipping in the 21st century is playing an irreplaceable role in terms of promoting economic growth, integration, and connectivity.

The core of this ever-vital global shipping mechanism is found in Asia. China is [reportedly](#) controlling 7 out of the 10 busiest container ports while Singapore and South Korea each have one of their own, meaning 9 of the 10 busiest container ports in the world are found in Asia.



## Recent Events

The coronavirus pandemic has deeply threatened the global shipping industry over the past three years, which posed a significant challenge to the U.S. and global supply chain security. With Asia at the core of global shipping, Asian countries were hit badly at the [beginning of the pandemic](#). Port operations were disrupted and the volumes of goods transported dropped dramatically as manufacturing industries suspended operation over the pandemic period. The resulting chain reaction caused a huge challenge to the U.S. when the pandemic spread to the U.S. in the second quarter of 2020. The outcome of such major disruptions, which are still felt more than two years later, only proved the essential nature of maritime shipping to the global economy.

Similar to other parts of the American supply chain, maritime shipping from Asia to the U.S. has been deeply impacted by the pandemic. Cargo shipments are [stuck at major ports](#) in California, New York, and New Jersey, where a shocking long queue of freights are floating on the ocean waiting for the next dock to become available.<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, many carriers are shipping [empty carriers back to Asia](#) due to the high cost of long waits in U.S. ports and the cost to reposition containers for inland U.S. exporters; especially agricultural exporters. Meanwhile, import prices rose due to the rising shipping fee caused by high late fees charged at ports. The issue has, therefore, evolved beyond a matter of supply chain resilience, but also a matter of trade and civil economy.



This great supply chain disruption rang the alarm in Washington as Congress worked together to address the issue by passing the bipartisan [Ocean Shipping Reform Act](#), which was [signed](#) by President Joe Biden on June 16, 2022. This new law aims to reduce costs for American consumers and ensure that agricultural exporters are less impacted by the supply chain disruption. More specifically, it will [empower the Federal Maritime Commission](#) to investigate ocean supply chain issues during the pandemic and to require carriers to provide detailed quarterly inventory.

## Keep In Mind

While it appears that actions so far have been focusing on addressing the challenges and problems emerged over the pandemic, the Biden administration's and the U.S. Congress'

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<sup>1</sup> Image: An aerial image of containers in the Port of Long Beach, California. (Source: Getty Images, Royalty-Free)



increasing concern over maritime shipping security could have significant implications for the U.S. pursuit for [supply chain resilience](#) in general. The push for securing maritime shipping could also have a great impact on the on-going U.S.-China trade and supply chain decoupling.

The maritime shipping crisis over the pandemic has again shown American dependence on the international shipping industry. While it may not be a bad thing during normal time, it could be seen as somewhat problematic by Washington given that China has a [dominant presence](#) in the international shipping industry. China is both the world's [largest shipbuilder](#) and container maker and Chinese state-owned China Ocean Shipping (Group) Company (COSCO) is ranked fourth among the world's 10 largest shipping companies. President Biden has already [criticized foreign shipping lines for stoking inflation](#) and suggested that the FMC should crack down on these companies. Moreover, it is reported that China is the primary destination for [empty containers](#) shipping back to Asia that reject American agricultural exports.

As the U.S. seeks more self-reliance in maritime shipping, its response to China's [heavily subsidized](#) shipping industry and Beijing's increasingly dominant role in maritime shipping could be an indicator of how far Washington is willing to go to pursue supply chain security.

*This issue's Spotlight was written by Yilun Zhang, ICAS Research Associate & Manager, Trade 'n Technology Program*

## ICAS Maritime Affairs Program: New and Upcoming

### — MAP Commentary —

#### Significant Changes in Russia's Arctic Affairs are on the Horizon

By Nong Hong  
August 25, 2022

“On July 31 2022, half a year after the Ukraine conflict, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree dictating a new Maritime Doctrine that outlines Russia's key strategic priorities in marine and maritime development, stressing Arctic waters. Compared with two previous similar documents released in 2015 and 2001, this new Marine Doctrine reflects the positions of a more assertive Russia in conflict with neighbors, reiterating Moscow's concern about the U.S. and NATO encroaching on Russia's access to resources and transportation routes....

...the geopolitical importance of the Arctic region is coming back into focus with Russia's full military escalation of Ukraine.”

[Read Online](#)

— MAP Commentary —

Taiwan Wargame Simulations Could Exacerbate U.S. Strategic Miscalculation

By Yilun Zhang

August 19, 2022

“...Incidentally, wargames simulating armed conflict between Beijing and Washington over the Taiwan Strait have also gained national attention in recent months. Despite their headline-catching findings, the two wargame projects—one held by Center for a New American Security (CNAS) and the other by Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)—can dangerously mislead American policymakers and public to misunderstand the risk and current state across the Taiwan Strait. Both the CNAS and the CSIS wargame projects relied on assumptions about strategy and military doctrine that are unwarranted, impractical, or outdated. Meanwhile, the methods used to conduct these wargames were likely more entertaining than they were accurate and constructive...

Accurate fact-based computer simulations, instead of outdated tabletop-style, dice-determining, and simplified showcase game of wars, should be incorporated into research on this serious topic.”

[Read Online](#)

*This commentary was originally [published](#) on U.S.-China Perception Monitor on August 19, 2022.*

— MAP Commentary —

Limits in the Seas No. 150 and the U.S.’s Misinterpretation of ‘Historic Rights’

By Sourabh Gupta

July 26, 2022

“In 2013, the Phillipines brought a case against China concerning maritime rights in the South China Sea. It did so under Annex VII of the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which establishes a special arbitral tribunal to resolve disputes concerning international agreements between member states. The tribunal issued its decision in *Philippines v. China* three years later, in July 2016—a landmark ruling that shot down China’s claim to “historic rights” over maritime areas of the South China Sea encompassed by the “nine-dash line.”

...And as for China, if it wishes its “historic rights” claims to enjoy a modicum of support in the international community, it should first spell out clearly that it seeks no more than a non exclusively exercisable traditional fishing right in the South China Sea. Commercial fisheries and oil and gas development rights beyond the geographic range of its EEZ simply cannot and will never make the cut as an UNCLOS-protected “historic right.””

[Read Online](#)

*This commentary was [originally published](#) on Lawfare Blog on July 26, 2022.*



# ICAS MARITIME AFFAIRS HANDBILL

September 27, 2022

Volume 1, Issue 8

## Recent News in Global Maritime Affairs

### [1] Climate Change and Blue Carbon Economy [1]

#### [UMAS: Cost of IMO 2050 Target Could Reach \\$1.4 Trillion](#)

September 23 - *The Maritime Executive*  
[Global]

According to a new report released by the University Maritime Advisory Services (UMAS), a UK maritime consultancy, to successfully meet the International Maritime Organization (IMO) 2050 decarbonization goal, the global shipping industry will require US\$1.4 trillion in capital expenditure.

#### [The Nature Conservancy Announces Its Third Global Debt Conversion in Barbados](#)

September 21 - *The Nature Conservancy*  
[Caribbean, Global]

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the “world’s leading conservation organization,” has announced a new financial deal which will unlock about US\$50 million to contribute to environmental and sustainable development activities in Barbados. This project is the most recent addition to the TNC’s “Blue Bonds for Ocean Conservation” global strategy.

#### [Mitsubishi Heavy readies launch of compact carbon capture units](#)

September 18 - *Nikkei Asia* [Paywall]  
[Japan]

In 2023, Japan’s Mitsubishi Heavy Industries is preparing to release a line of “compact carbon capture units” amidst a growing demand for carbon capture, utility, and storage (CCUS) technology, which is mostly used to trap carbon dioxide released by large factories so that it can be stored or repurposed.

### [In a First Study of Pakistan's Floods, Scientists See Climate Change at Work](#)

September 15 - *The New York Times* [Paywall]

[Middle East, South Asia]

Amidst a summer of abnormally high levels of heavy rain in Pakistan, rivers have become lakes and “villages have become islands” as residents could be waiting months for the flood waters to recede. A group of 26 climate scientists affiliated with World Weather Attribution have since connected the extreme floods to global warming caused by greenhouse-gas emissions.

### [Chair Grijalva, Committee Members Introduce Bill to Align Public Lands and Waters with Biden Climate Targets, Announce Hearing Next Week](#)

September 13 - U.S. House Natural Resources Committee

[United States]

On September 13, the U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee introduced the *Public Lands and Waters Climate Leadership Act*. This Act directs the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service to jointly manage U.S. public lands and oceans “in accordance with the Biden administration’s ambitious greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals.”

### [Rising seas could swallow millions of U.S. acres within decades](#)

September 8 - *The Washington Post* [Paywall]

[Global, United States]

New analytical research conducted by the U.S. nonprofit Climate Central shows that by 2050 rising seas will shift coastlines and consume as many as 4.4 million acres of land along the U.S. coast. The analysis also showed that changes could come gradually and then quickly.

### [Ministry unveils new-fangled strategies in blue economy at G20 event](#)

September 6 - *Antara News*

[Indonesia, Southeast Asia]

At the recent G20 event focused on ecological and economic considerations in the maritime realm, Indonesia’s Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) Ministry introduced three blue economy strategies and action plans. The first of these plans is to expand conservation areas, with a target of 30 percent of the total area of Indonesian waters.

### [Blue Carbon strategy to clean underwater](#)

September 6 - *PS News*

[Australia]

Australia’s Department of Planning and Environment has released the New South Wales Blue Carbon Strategy which plans to simultaneously restore coastal biodiversity of the “underwater forests” and reduce emissions. Australia’s coastline currently stores 5-11% of global blue carbon stocks.

### [BAMS report: Record-high greenhouse gases, sea levels in 2021](#)

August 31 - NOAA

[Global, United States]

According to NOAA's 32nd annual State of the Climate report, greenhouse gas concentrations, global sea levels and ocean heat content reached record highs in 2021. "[I]t shows that the climate crisis is not a future threat but something we must address today," noted NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad.

### [Bahamas to sell blue carbon credits](#)

August 30 - WPBF News

[Atlantic Ocean, West Indies]

Bahamas Prime Minister Philip Davis announced that his country plans on being "the first country in the world to trade blue carbon credits." The Bahamas is home to more than 1,600 square miles of maritime ecosystems that can become carbon sinks but they would require much protection.

## [2] Maritime Economy and Shipping [2]

### [Environmental technologies in focus on World Maritime Day 2022](#)

September 26 - Hellenic Shipping News

[Global]

This year's World Maritime Day, which will be celebrated on September 29, will focus on "New technologies for greener shipping." As described by IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim, it will provide a platform to "open up a larger conversation about...how technology can be harnessed for a more sustainable future" and "how digitalization and automation can support shipping."

### [China's shipbuilding progress threatens South Korea's long-held tech dominance in the industry](#)

September 23 - South China Morning Post [Paywall]

[China, South Korea, Global]

Since 2020 China has remained the leading country in container vessel production, outpacing South Korea. But South Korea still holds the technological edge in shipbuilding, making more advanced and expensive carriers, though some analysts say that China is catching up in this regard as well.

### [Chinese Cargo-Data Network Poses Growing Risks, U.S. Analysis Says](#)

September 20 - The Wall Street Journal [Paywall]

[China, United States, Global]

In a new report by the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, an advisory body to the U.S. Congress, Chinese cargo-data network Logink is labeled as a concerning party and warns against the U.S. "embracing China's unbridled participation in global logistics data exchange."

### [Iran counting on knowledge-based companies to develop maritime fleet](#)

September 18 - *Tehran Times*

[Middle East]

The Managing Director of the Iran Shipbuilding and Offshore Industries Complex (ISOICO) explained the competitive importance of Iran expanding its sea transport capabilities, also noting that domestic-based companies should not be ignored in Iran's plans to develop a maritime fleet.

### [Shanghai Reopening Ports, Resuming Flights as Typhoon Passes](#)

September 15 - *Bloomberg* [Paywall]

[China, East Asia]

Coastal ports in Shanghai, one of the busiest shipping hubs in the world, were temporarily closed as Typhoon Muifa skirted the northeastern coastline of China across three days. The typhoon was projected to be the largest to hit the Yangtze River Delta in a decade, prompting some evacuations.

### [Administration awards Gulf of Mexico drilling leases to oil giants](#)

September 14 - *The Washington Post* [Paywall]

[United States, Gulf of Mexico]

The Biden administration's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management granted 307 oil and gas leases amounting to \$190 million to companies wanting to explore for oil and gas in the Gulf of Mexico. Among other statements, Washington stressed the sale will "protect biologically sensitive resources."

### [Chinese shippers face abyss as freight rates plummet 60 per cent from 'unprecedented' highs at height of coronavirus pandemic](#)

September 9 - *South China Morning Post* [Paywall]

[China, Global]

Since January 2022, there has been a 60% decline in shipping freight rates; a decline that is expected to continue the rest of the year. Analysts have linked this decline to the Covid-19 pandemic, simultaneously explaining that the "high shipping rates arising from the disruption in supply and demand created by the pandemic will never come back."

### [Container shipping record \\$63.7bn Q2 profits, no collapse imminent says report](#)

September 5 - *Seatrade Maritime News*

[Global]

The estimated amount of earnings in global public-listed container lines in Q2 of 2022 is US\$63.7 billion; US\$5 billion higher than the preceding quarter and 123% higher than the recording in Q2 of 2021. This marks the seventh consecutive quarter of record earnings in an industry that for much of this century had struggled.



### [Climate change: shipping industry ‘must adopt new technologies, collaborate’ to reduce carbon footprint](#)

September 1 - *South China Morning Post* [Paywall]

[East Asia, Global]

Hing Chao, Chairman of the Hong Kong-based Wah Kwong Maritime Transport Holdings, says that, while shipping companies are increasingly using new technologies, today’s shipping industry is in need of a “radical transformation” if it is to successfully reduce its carbon footprint.

### [Shipping Routes Shift East as US Retailers Skirt West Coast Snarls](#)

September 1 - *Bloomberg* [Paywall]

[United States]

For about a decade, the percentage of market share from the U.S. West Coast ports has been steadily shifting towards East and Gulf Coast ports, with now about 44% of Asian imports entering the U.S. through East and Gulf Coast ports. While some of this shift has been accredited to the pandemic, many experts expect the shift to stay.

## [3] Ocean Governance and Maritime Cooperation [3]

### [Manila, Seoul tighten maritime ties](#)

September 24 - *The Manila Times*

[East Asia, Southeast Asia]

On September 21, the Philippines and South Korea held an inaugural dialogue between top diplomatic officials where they agreed to strengthen cooperation in the maritime sphere. Both countries vowed to jointly enforce international maritime law and to work together in enhancing marine environmental protections and responsibly growing the maritime economy.

### [U.S. Facilitates Small Boat Operations Training Course for Philippine Coast Guard](#)

September 22 - U.S. Indo-Pacific Command

[United States, Southeast Asia]

From September 5-16, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) instructors aided the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) in running its first Small Boat Operations instruction course. This technical assistance—in training areas like navigation, driving, risk management, towing, and man-overboard recovery—was organized to enhance the Philippines’ independent capabilities and shore up bilateral relations.

### [US to invest in new cooperation over Atlantic Ocean](#)

September 21 - *EuroNews*

[United States, Atlantic Ocean]

During the recent UN General Assembly in New York, representatives from the U.S. and about 10 other Atlantic Ocean nations gathered to discuss a new potential community built to partner “in



shared priorities for the environment and maritime security.” The U.S. Department of State released a Joint Statement on Atlantic Cooperation following the meeting.

### [Blinken to host 'Blue Pacific' event amid competition with China](#)

September 19 - *Reuters* [Paywall]

[United States, China, Indo-Pacific]

The White House announced that the U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken will host the Partners in the Blue Pacific (PBP) group with the intent of improving member coordination in the midst of competition from China. The group, formed in June 2022, currently includes the U.S., Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the UK, with India having an observer status.

### [Chinese troops drive away fishing vessels from disputed waters](#)

September 13 - *Radio Free Asia*

[South China Sea, China]

In a video recording shown on China’s state-run CCTV-7, Chinese soldiers warned away non-Chinese fishing boats from the vicinity of Mischief Reef in an effort to regulate regional fishing. CCTV also reported “soldiers and officers stay on guard night and day” to protect China’s sovereignty and sovereign rights in other disputed areas.

### [Xinhua Silk Road: 2022 Silk Road Maritime International Cooperation Forum kicks off in E.China's Xiamen](#)

September 9 - *PR Newswire*

[China, Global]

From September 8-9, the 2022 Silk Road Maritime International Cooperation Forum was held in Xiamen, China. This year’s forum focused on measures to support the new development dynamic and the “dual circulation” of domestic and international markets. Discussions focused on topics such as the integrated development of international logistics and cross-border e-commerce, and the development and application of port shipping big data.

### [Chinese scientists retrieve ancient ships from depths of South China Sea](#)

September 6 - *South China Morning Post* [Paywall]

[South China Sea, China]

Through the use of new survey technology, Chinese researchers from more than 10 research institutes discovered three ancient merchant ships in the South China Sea. The researchers said the new sonar technology, coupled by support from unmanned robots, allowed the team to delve three times as deep while increasing surveying efficiency.

### [Philippine Top Diplomat Says Open to Resume Oil Talks With China](#)

August 31 - Bloomberg [Paywall]

[Southeast Asia, China]

According to Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo, the Philippines is willing to initiate new talks with China regarding joint oil and gas exploration in the South China Sea. However, Manalo noted that the Philippines will not agree to anything not in accordance with the Philippine Constitution.

## [4] Maritime Security and Defense [4]

### [South Korea, US begin biggest joint naval drills in 5 years](#)

September 26 - *The Korea Times*

[United States, South Korea, East Asia]

From September 26-30, the US and South Korean militaries will be holding their biggest joint naval exercise since 2017 in the East Sea. The exercise, said to involve more than 20 vessels and an array of air force and army aircraft and weapons, is also starting a day after North Korea fired a short-range ballistic missile.

### [Chinese military tracks US, Canadian warships' transit through Taiwan Strait](#)

September 21 - *South China Morning Post* [Paywall]

[China, United States, Canada, East Asia]

On September 20, China's PLA air force and navy tracked the movements of US and Canadian warships as they transited through the Taiwan Strait. A spokesman for the Chinese military called the passage a "provocative move" and said their troops are on "high alert at all times."

### [US, UK join Pacific allies in Fijian military exercise](#)

September 21 - *Associated Press*

[United States, United Kingdom, South Pacific]

For 11 days, militaries from the United States, Britain, Australia and New Zealand held Exercise Cartwheel in Fiji reportedly as a response to China's growing influence in the region. A Beijing spokesperson said China has "no objection to normal defense cooperation" but noted that such cooperation "should not be directed at third parties."

### [China slams 'double standards' of Aukus nuclear subs deal, warns of impact on Korea, Iran efforts](#)

September 20 - *South China Morning Post* [Paywall]

[China, Australia, United Kingdom, United States]

After Australia acquired nuclear-power submarines under the AUKUS pact, China's permanent envoy to the United Nations in Vienna slammed the "blatant, irresponsible act of nuclear proliferation" and

claimed the presence of “double standards.” China is one of the countries that openly objects to AUKUS on the grounds that it violates the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

### [Japan, India hold maritime drills amid China concerns in Indo-Pacific](#)

September 13 - *Kyodo News*

[Japan, India, South Asia]

The Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force and Indian Navy successfully held week-long joint exercises in the waters South of India. The joint exercises followed “two-plus-two” security talks held in Tokyo on September 8 where both sides agreed to enhance bilateral defense cooperation and support “a free and open Indo-Pacific.”

### [Europe sends air power to Indo-Pacific after flexing naval muscle](#)

September 12 - *Nikkei Asia* [Paywall]

[South Pacific, Europe]

As part of the five-week Mission Pegase 2022 exercise by the French Air and Space Force, France and Singapore held a military exercise that involved a convoy traveling to the South Pacific island of New Caledonia. The goal was to show that France is “able to project air power to protect either [their] territory or to protect an ally's territory.”

### [Japan, US, Philippines to step up maritime security ties](#)

September 7 - *ABCNews*

[Japan, United States, Southeast Asia]

Raymond Greene, the U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission in Tokyo, criticized China’s “increasingly hostile maritime actions,” stating that “[n]o one nation should be able to dominate Indo-Pacific waters through coercion and outright intimidation.” The statement was made at a news conference held right before a meeting between officials from the U.S., Japan and the Philippines.

### [Philippines may allow U.S. military access during Taiwan crisis](#)

September 5 - *Nikkei Asia* [Paywall]

[Southeast Asia, United States]

The Philippine ambassador to the U.S. said that, in the event of a Taiwan crisis, American forces may be allowed to access military bases in the Philippines “if it is important for us, for our own security.”

### [Iran seizes 2 U.S. sea drones in second incident this week](#)

September 2 - NBC News

[Middle East, United States]

Iran seized and temporarily retained two U.S. sea-based drones found in the Red Sea. The drones were eventually released after the US Navy sent over two destroyers and one Sea Hawk helicopter. According to the U.S., the incidents all occurred in international waters.

### [China has been simulating attacks on U.S. Navy ships, Taiwan says](#)

September 1 - Reuters [Paywall]

[China, United States, Southeast Asia]

In a report to its parliament, Taiwan's defense ministry said that China's PLA Navy has been simulating attacks on US Navy ships and preparing for a potential attack on Taiwan with a special focus on containing the first island chain.

### [Solomon Islands Blocks All Naval Port Visits After U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Denied Entry](#)

August 30 - USNI News

[South Pacific, United States]

Ten days after denying a "routine" entry of a U.S. Coast Guard cutter over diplomatic clearance issues, Solomon Islands Prime Minister Sogavare announced a temporary halt of visits by all foreign naval vessels so that they can review its diplomatic clearance process.

## Peer-Reviewed Research on Maritime Issues

- Government Release: The White House - ["Joint Statement on Atlantic Cooperation"](#) [September 20]
- Government Release: The White House - ["FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Actions to Expand U.S. Offshore Wind Energy"](#) [September 15]
- Government Release: U.S. Department of State - ["U.S. Engagement in the Pacific Islands: 2022 Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders"](#) [September 13]
- Government Release: Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India - ["India-U.S.A 2+2 Inter-sessional Dialogue \(September 07, 2022\) and India-U.S.A Maritime Security Dialogue \(September 08, 2022\)"](#) [September 8]
- Report: [Russia in the Arctic: Gauging How Russia's Invasion of Ukraine Will Alter Regional Dynamics](#) [Center for a New American Security - September 15]
- Report: [Submarine Cables and Container Shipments: Two Immediate Risks to the US Economy if China Invades Taiwan](#) [Mercatus Center, George Mason University - August 29]
- Opinion: ["Asia-Pacific is key to disaster risk reduction targets"](#) [World Meteorological Institution - September 23]
- Opinion: ["Protecting the High Seas Will Unleash the Blue Economy"](#) [Brink News - September 23]

- Opinion: Interview - [“The United States Needs to Step Up Its Game Across the Indo-Pacific”](#) [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace - September 22]
- Opinion: [“What I Saw as the Country’s First National Climate Adviser”](#) [The New York Times - September 19] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“Uncertainty could hamper container and tanker outlooks— Poulsson”](#) [Seatrade Maritime News - September 19]
- Analysis: [“Turbulence in the Taiwan Strait: Tensions between the US, China and Taiwan escalate”](#) [The Straits Times - September 24]
- Analysis: [“Looking back on America’s summer of heat, floods and climate change: Welcome to the new abnormal”](#) [The Conversation - September 21]
- Analysis: [“Shaping the future of sea power in Africa”](#) [Businessday Nigeria - September 20] [Paywall]
- Analysis: [“Global ‘Stilling’: Is Climate Change Slowing Down the Wind?”](#) [YaleEnvironment360 - September 13]
- Analysis: [“What Role will Blue Carbon Play in China's Efforts to Reduce Emissions?”](#) [AZO Materials - August 31]

## Events on the Maritime Domain



- On September 7, the Center for a New American Security co-hosted a virtual event with The Prospect Foundation on [Taiwan, Cross-Strait Relations, and an Evolving World](#). A full recording is available online.
- On September 16, the Center for a New American Security hosted a virtual report launch event on [Russia in the Arctic](#). A full recording is available online.
- From September 18-19, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and Sasakawa Peace Foundation held their hybrid [Ocean Nations: The 2nd Annual Indo-Pacific Islands Dialogue](#) in New York, New York. A full recording is available online.
- From September 20-22, the International Maritime Lecturers Association held the [28th International Maritime Lecturers Association Conference](#) in Odessa, Ukraine with the theme of “MET Maritime Heritage: Traditions and Perspectives.”
- On September 21, the Atlantic Council Global Energy Center, the Embassy of Iceland, and Green by Iceland hosted the [“US-Iceland Clean Energy Summit”](#) at the House of Sweden in Washington, DC. A full recording is available online.
- On September 23, the Center for Strategic and International Studies held a conversation with Australian Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen titled [“Toward a clean and secure energy future in the Indo-Pacific.”](#) A full recording is available online.
- From September 26-28, the International Seabed Authority held a hybrid [Women in the Law of the Sea Conference](#) “aimed at highlighting the important contributions of women to the development and implementation of the law of the sea, the participation of women in the institutions created by UNCLOS and related regional and sub-regional organizations and the pathways to enhancing the potential for women to contribute to the law of the sea in the future.”
- From October 13-16, the Arctic Circle will be hosting the [2022 Arctic Circle Assembly](#) in person in Reykjavik, Iceland. [Registration](#) is open until October 11.



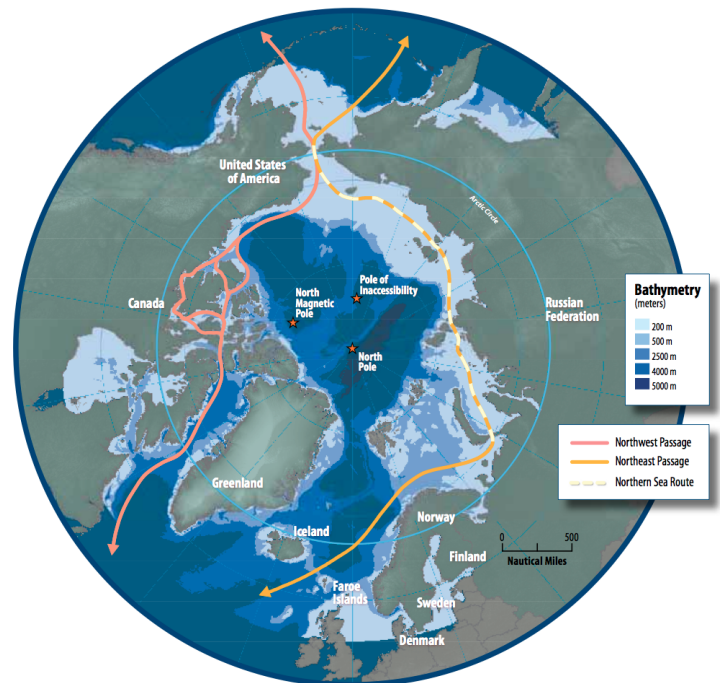
- On October 25, the U.S. Naval Institute and the U.S. Naval Academy will be co-hosting an in-person conference on [The Russia China Partnership: A Challenge to the World Order?](#) in Annapolis, MD. The keynote speakers and panelists will “look at Russia and China’s efforts to change the world order, including activities aimed at challenging the United States.”
- Throughout the year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) offers its publicly-accessible [NOAA Science Seminar Series](#), most of which are webinars that last about 1 hour. The full list of seminar topics is available online.

## Handbill Spotlight

### Northern Sea Route

#### Issue Background <sup>1</sup>

The Northern Sea Route (NSR, or *Severoput* in Russian) is a global shipping route [about](#) 2,200-2,900 miles long that lies entirely within Arctic waters. It is also part of the polar route that directly connects the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. Given the climate of its location, it spends most of the year frozen in ice and is typically only accessible for two months of the year. Historically, while it was [first](#) mapped in 1728 by Imperial Russia, it was not first successfully traversed in its entirety until the late 1870s by Arctic explorer Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld’s [Vega Expedition](#). There was no recorded successful passage [without the aid of an icebreaker](#) until August 2017 and, in 2018, it was [determined](#) by Maersk Line that the route was not yet commercially viable. It is still the most popular and accessible of the [maritime passages](#) that run through the Arctic region, with the other passages including the Transpolar Sea Route (which crosses near the North Pole), the Northwest Passage (which runs along Canada’s coastline), and the Northeast Passage (which runs along Russia’s coastline).



Since the Northeast Passage is bilaterally adjoined by and entirely encompasses the NSR, the Northeast Passage itself is also [sometimes](#) simply referred to as the Northern Sea Route. Being located entirely within Russia’s exclusive economic zone (EEZ), the Northern Sea Route is defined by Russia legislation as lying east of Novaya Zemlya and running along the Russian Arctic coast from the Kara Sea to the Bering Strait. The Arctic Council, the primary international governance organization

<sup>1</sup> Image Source: Map of the Arctic region showing the Northern Sea Route, in the context of the Northeast Passage and the Northwest Passage, Arctic Council 2009 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment ([Wikimedia Commons, CC0](#))



for the region, has also [identified](#) the Northern Sea Route as a unique section of the Northeast Passage that only extends up through to the entrance of the Bering Sea.

The Russian Federation is generally responsible for the governance over the NSR. Much of this coordination and governance is conducted through Russia's [Northern Sea Route Administration](#), founded in 2013, and the [Northern Sea Route Association](#), which Russia founded in 2001; the latter of which includes over 50 organizations both from Russia and foreign countries. Still, there are multiple regional and foreign parties who are active in or discuss the NSR; most notably local Arctic players, the Arctic Council, [China](#), China Ocean Shipping (Group) Company (COSCO Shipping), Maersk Line and, more recently, [India](#).

## Recent Events

Unsurprisingly, the Northern Sea Route has been gaining attention in recent years from global warming and expanding technology expanding access to the region. The most frequently cited [interest](#) in the NSR is its potential as part of the Northeast Passage to shorten the distance of travel from Rotterdam to Yokohama by more than one-third. This translates into accelerated travel time and subsequent decreases in fuel consumption, gas emissions, and overall costs. There are also fewer risks of falling prey to piracy compared to following the current route that passes through the Suez Canal. There are still researchers who argue that this assessment of the NSR's potential impact on global trade is an [overestimation](#) due to the many challenges from aspects such as regional governance and unexpected navigational issues from bathymetry and climate.

Regardless of whether or not they will restructure global shipping, the changes happening in the region are irrefutable. Ice cover in this region has been reduced by 32% since the 1960s and shipping companies are increasingly more confident in using the route. In 2011, only four commercial ships used the NSR. The following year, 46 ships sailed the entire length of the NSR. [Jumping](#) to 2019 and 2020, 277 and 331 vessels, respectively, used the route; both record numbers of full transits for the NSR. And, despite an early freeze-up, 2021 was the Northern Sea Route's [busiest navigation season](#) yet, with most of the vessels being non-Russian. Current projections [show](#) that Arctic sea lanes may be ice-free in the summertime as soon as 2035 with ice cover in the Northwest Passage reaching one if its [lowest levels](#) in September 2022.

Consequently, concern for, political interest in, and commercial exploration of the region has rapidly grown in the last decade. Russia is the most active party in the NSR—which is understandable and expected given that the NSR runs along Russia's coastline—and recently announced an [estimated 1.8 trillion roubles \(US\\$30 billion\)](#) will be spent on a Northern Sea Route development project set to run through 2035. While Russia's [icebreakers](#) have been recorded as being particularly active, many observers are paying more attention to Russia's recent uptick in [military activity](#), [defensive naval drills](#), [submarine tests](#), [infrastructure repairs](#) and [renovations](#) along the route and in the Arctic as a whole. Roscosmos, Russia's premier space administration, has also been [brought](#) in to support and improve satellite navigation and other technological advancements.

Also, Russia's military expansion along the NSR has caught the [attention](#) of several regional and extra-regional parties. This expanding global interest in the NSR likely led Russia to formally create

the Council of the Northern Sea Route Shipping Participants, the [first meeting](#) of which was held at the 2022 Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) on September 6, 2022. This Council was [explained](#) as necessary to address “the need for coordination of actions in order to build effective work on the NSR to develop optimal mechanisms for managing Arctic shipping between consignors, shipping companies, the state, and infrastructure operators providing communication, data on the state of ice sheets, weather conditions.”

### Keep In Mind

While Russia is the main stakeholder in the Northern Sea Route, there are other parties and states—both located within and external to the Arctic Region—who have expressed their own interests and commitments to the NSR; usually as an important shipping route. And, while it seems like it is in its own separate bubble, the activity in and around the Northern Sea Route remains subject to global affairs and ongoing political interactions happening elsewhere in the world. For instance, it was recently [announced](#) that China’s COSCO shipping company, along with most other foreign parties, have [not](#) sailed on NSR this year; presumably over caution from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine earlier in 2022 and the related [sanctions](#).

Simultaneously, the potential for bilateral cooperation over the NSR periodically appears and will continue to exist. After all, China’s Polar Silk Road—the Arctic route of Beijing’s Belt and Road Initiative—directly involves the Northern Sea Route and Northeast Passage. As recently as September 2022 at the Eastern Economic Forum, leaders from both [China](#) and [India](#) expressed direct interest in cooperating with Russia over the Northern Sea Route. And commercial shipping groups from around the world would highly value the benefits of establishing formal cooperation over the NSR.

There are some analysts who are [skeptical](#) of China’s long-term intent to remain cooperative in the NSR, believing that an end-game of competition is more likely. And it is true that the U.S. military and its NATO allies have [increased](#) their own “aggressive” stances in the region; which is why other observers [predict](#) the [influx](#) of various powers to the region will bring a flashpoint. These are just some examples of the considerations and attentions being made over the NSR in the last few years.

The increased ice melt only brings more attention to the Arctic and the Northern Sea Route as the melting ice opens up new trade routes and extends the season of open access. And a [2022 study](#) by Brown University concludes that as the ice continues to melt, Russia’s hold on the Arctic at the NSR will loosen; which in and of itself could explain the tightening regulations and expanding military defense along the NSR. It is difficult to pinpoint when the Northern Sea Route will become more readily accessible or to what extent it truly will [change](#) global shipping or multinational relations. But it is clear that change is happening to the NSR—be it diplomatic, militant or climactic—and states like Russia, China, India and the U.S. are preparing in the meantime to ensure they come out the other end of it in control.

*This issue’s Spotlight was written by Jessica Martin, ICAS Research Associate & Chief Editor of the MAP Handbill*

## ICAS Maritime Affairs Program: New and Upcoming

### — ICAS Past Academic Engagement —



Executive Director Nong Hong speaks at the ISA Women in the Law of the Sea Conference  
September 26-28, 2022

*Hosted by International Seabed Authority in partnership with the Permanent Representation of  
Singapore to the United Nations*

On Tuesday, September 27, ICAS Executive Director Nong Hong spoke at the International Seabed Authority's Women in the Law of the Sea Conference 2022. Her presentation focused on "Ocean governance in the South China Sea: with a focus on law, policy and management on marine environment protection" and is part of Session V: Protection of the marine environment.

[Learn More & Explore the Full Agenda](#)

### — Upcoming ICAS Event —

Information regarding a virtual ICAS Blue Carbon & Climate Change Program event to be held on October 12, to include discussion between global experts regarding the upcoming COP27 meeting, will be announced soon!

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### — Upcoming BCCC Quarterly Release —

Stay tuned for the upcoming release of the newly designed ICAS Blue Carbon & Climate Change Program Quarterly journal newsletter, to be released at the conclusion of 2022 Quarter 3! The new design features major news summaries, collections of scientific research and reports, information on related events, ICAS commentary, and a special Theme of the Quarter, among other additions!

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