



ICAS MARITIME AFFAIRS HANDBILL

November 29, 2022

Volume 1, Issue 10

Recent News in Global Maritime Affairs

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

[Giving 'Mother Nature a little bit of a boost' on the Great Barrier Reef](#)

November 22 - *The Washington Post* [Paywall]

[Australia, South Pacific]

Five tourism companies and marine scientists at the University of Technology Sydney have been collaborating on an underwater “coral gardening” nursery project in an attempt to give Australia’s famous Great Barrier Reef “a little bit of a boost.” About 30 gardens are currently being cultivated through this program, the results of which are transplanted to already damaged areas of the reef.

[The Red Sea’s Coral Reefs Defy the Climate-Change Odds](#)

November 19 - *The New York Times* [Paywall]

[Red Sea, Eastern Europe]

There is a coral reef located off the coast of Egypt in the Red Sea that has come to be regarded as an anomaly in its ability to stay relatively healthy amidst global warming. However, local marine biologists are concerned that the uptick in Egypt’s tourism industry, overdevelopment, pollution and occasional sewage system failures, among other factors, could soon destroy this reef regardless of its innate abilities.

[Climate change made deadly floods in West Africa 80 times more likely](#)

November 16 - *The Washington Post* [Paywall]

[Africa]

According to researchers from the World Weather Attribution group, human-related climate change makes excessive rainfall that can cause devastating floods 80 times more likely to happen, which is disproportionately affecting vulnerable zones such as West Africa. Scientists are calling for wealthier countries to counter extreme weather events and support poorer countries financially.

[Kerry: Formal climate talks between US and China have resumed at UN summit](#)

November 16 - CNN

[United States, China, Global]

U.S. Climate Envoy John Kerry confirmed that the U.S. and China restarted formal climate talks at the COP 27 summit; an important dialogue that has been suspended by China for months after Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan. Climate conversations was also one of the early agreements that were reached in the meeting between President Biden and President Xi during the G20 in Bali.

[Chinese Sailor Returns Home After Circumnavigating the Arctic](#)

November 15 - *Sixth Tone*

[China, Global, Arctic]

After 17 months since departing from Shanghai, a 54-year-old Chinese artist-turned-sailor named Zhai Mo has returned to Shanghai, completing what is being called the “first-ever non-stop circumnavigation of the Arctic Ocean.” The more than 28,000 nautical mile journey was traversed on a solar-powered yacht and conducted by a three-person crew.

[Amazon and Conservation International establish the International Blue Carbon Institute](#)

November 14 - Amazon Inc.

[Global, Southeast Asia]

In November, Amazon Inc. and Conservation International, with support from the Singapore Economic Development Board, established the International Blue Carbon Institute. The Institute will “serve as a knowledge hub” to support blue carbon projects in Southeast Asia and beyond and will support the restoration and protection of coastal blue carbon to mitigate climate change.

[Hexagon's R-evolution enables blue carbon credits for the world's largest seagrass ecosystem](#)

November 14 - *PR Newswire*

[Europe]

Hexagon AB, a global digital reality solutions technology company, has announced that their “sustainable innovation and green-tech investment subsidiary,” R-evolution, will supply “multi-dimensional intelligent mapping services” of the seabed in The Bahamas. Recently, The Bahamas have been striving to actively protect, restore and utilize its blue carbon ecosystems.

[Maritime sector given green boost with major COP27 pledge](#)

November 7 - UK Department for Transport

[Europe, Global]

Following this year's United Nations' COP27 conference in Egypt, the United Kingdom, United States, Norway and the Netherlands have pledged to work together to “roll out end-to-end decarbonised

shipping routes.” Additionally, the U.S. and the UK have agreed to launch a Green Shipping Corridor Task Force to drive this and other important, related projects.

[Russia, China block plans for Antarctic marine protections](#)

November 4 - AP

[Antarctic, Russia, China]

In Australia, representatives from 24 nations and the European Union just concluded a two-week meeting regarding the protection of Antarctica’s waters; though the outcome was less than most hoped for after Russia and China essentially vetoed movements to protect three wide stretches of ocean around Antarctica from most types of fishing. The group did agree to meet again in Chile next year to continue discussing proposals for new maritime protected areas in the vital region.

[Vulnerable Coral Moved to a 3D-Printed Reef in Hong Kong Is Thriving](#)

November 2 - Bloomberg [Paywall]

[China, South Asia, Global]

Starting two years ago, researchers at the University of Hong Kong began experimenting with the effectiveness of artificial reefs made of 3D-printed, hexagon-shaped terracotta tiles, planting such tiles in the nearby Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park for observation. Recent reports indicate that the artificial reefs are successfully growing and the marine life is adapting to the reefs.

[2] Maritime Economy and Shipping [2]

[Ship with Russian goods banned from Spanish port](#)

November 26 - FleetMon

[Europe, Russia]

As revealed on November 25, the AZOV CONCORD cargo ship was banned from entering Spanish waters and its port of destination Cartagena after Spanish authorities learned she had sailed from Yeisk port in Russia, allegedly with goods of Russian origin. The ban is in accordance with sanctions imposed following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

[Nigeria Very Important To Global Economy – IMO Sec. Gen., Kitack Lim](#)

November 25 - NatureNews

[Africa, Global]

While giving remarks during a visit with Nigeria’s top maritime and transportation personnel, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization said “Nigeria is one of the most significant countries, not just for Africa but for the global economy,” continuing on to describe Nigeria’s characteristics and potential.

[Vessels must vacate Australian ports ahead of lockout](#)

November 16 - *Seatrade Maritime News*

[Australia, South Pacific]

Australia's Inchcape Shipping Services announced that all vessels requiring tug assistance would need to depart Australia's Port of Newcastle and Port Kembla ahead of a scheduled lockout of Svitzer's towage crews. As part of the lockout, Svitzer said it would not tow vessels in or out of the 17 Australian ports where it operates.

[PH-India sign deal to boost 'blue economy'](#)

November 14 - *The Manila Times*

[South Asia, Southeast Asia]

On November 11, India and the Philippines signed a memorandum of understanding intended to strengthen maritime cooperation. Embassy officials said that the initial focus of the partnership will focus on naval architecture and marine engineering, but that will likely be expanded to encompass marine biodiversity and sustainable resource management in the future.

[Exclusive: U.S. blocks more than 1,000 solar shipments over Chinese slave labor concerns](#)

November 11 - *Reuters* [Paywall]

[United States, China]

U.S. Customs and Border Protection has seized over 1,000 shipments of solar energy components originating in China's Xinjiang province since legislation in June banned imports from the region amid concerns over forced labor. Industry sources indicate seized products amount to up to a gigawatt of capacity worth of panels and polysilicon cells, primarily manufactured by the Longi, Trina and Jinko companies.

[Chinese maritime industry launches green shipping initiative](#)

November 7 - *Safety4Sea*

[China, Global]

Several Chinese marine industry companies have joined forces to launch a 'Sustainable Shipping Innovation and Development Initiative' (SSIDI). The SSIDI is initially focusing on encouraging sources of clean and alternative fuel, as well as working towards setting greener standards throughout the shipping industry's supply chains.

[China says U.S. has 'no right' to interfere in Hamburg port deal](#)

November 3 - *Reuters* [Paywall]

[China, United States, Europe]

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said that the U.S. has "no right to meddle and interfere" in a Chinese-German cooperative deal that could result in China getting a stake in

Hamburg port, Germany's largest port. Chinese shipping giant Cosco just received approval by the German cabinet for a 24.9% stake investment, though the initial bid last year was for 35% stake in one of the logistic firm HHLA's three terminals.

[South Africa Releases Plan to Launch National Shipping Company](#)

November 3 - *The Maritime Executive*

[Africa, Global]

South Africa has announced that it will start a national shipping line—the South African Shipping Company (SASCO)—to be launched as early as 2023. Like other countries who have made similar moves recently, South Africa aims to avoid supply chain vulnerabilities highlighted by the pandemic.

[Russia agrees to rejoin Ukraine grain export deal](#)

November 2 - *Al Jazeera*

[Russia, Europe, Black Sea]

After confirming “sufficient” guarantees from Ukraine’s government that a Black Sea maritime route would not be used for military operations, Russia’s defense ministry has confirmed that Russia would rejoin a UN-backed agreement to allow the export of grain from Ukraine along that corridor, with shipments to resume immediately.

[NYCEDC Announces Over \\$5 Million Federal Grant to Improve Water Freight Service and Bolster New York City’s Marine Highway](#)

October 28 - New York City Economic Development Corporation

[United States]

The U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration has granted a \$5.16 million federal grant to “upgrade and remove six harbor landings” throughout New York City. Six harbor landings are listed in the city’s now accepted proposal, which is expected to increase “freight capacity and emergency preparedness” in the New York City Harbor.

[3] Ocean Governance and Maritime Cooperation [3]

[WISTA, Maritime SheEO collaborate to drive leadership skills for women in maritime](#)

November 23 - *Safety4Sea*

[Global, South Asia]

WISTA International and Maritime SheEO have signed onto a formal partnership, “initiating the second Maritime SheEO Leadership Accelerator Programme,” with the dual goals of offering equal opportunities to those with diverse backgroundings and, therefore, most successfully handle the maritime industry’s many challenges.

[Australian Economy Dodges Near Crisis After Major Industrial Action Averted](#)

November 18 - *The Epoch Times*

[Australia, South Pacific]

On November 17, Australia's Fair Work Commission ordered Svitzer, Australia's largest tugboat operator, to suspend its plan to lock out half of its workforce. The Commission ruled that such a plan would "cause severe damage to the economy and put the welfare of the population at risk." The suspension is set to last for six months, starting on November 18, 2022.

[US and Israel blame Iran after drone strikes oil tanker off Oman](#)

November 16 - *The Guardian*

[Middle East, United States]

After the *Pacific Zircon*, a Liberian-flagged oil tanker associated with an Israeli billionaire and operated by Singapore-based Eastern Pacific Shipping, was struck by a bomb-carrying drone off the coast of Oman, officials from both the U.S. and Israel credited the attack to Iran. The strike came after two Greek oil tankers, held by Iran since May after helping the U.S. in seizing oil, were freed along with their sailors.

[Kamala Harris to visit Philippine island near China dispute](#)

November 16 - *Nikkei Asia* [Paywall]

[South Asia, United States]

During a visit to the Philippines, U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris visited Palawan Island; an island located near the disputed Spratly Islands on the edge of the South China Sea. Parts of the Spratly Island chains are claimed by Brunei, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

[India Bats for Free Indo-Pacific at EAS Amid China's South China Sea Claims](#)

November 14 - *The Economic Times* [Paywall]

[South Asia, East Asia, South China Sea]

Speaking at the East Asia Summit (EAS), held from November 12-13 in Cambodia, India's Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar highlighted the importance of the EAS in "promoting a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific," which is considered as a message to fellow EAS participant China.

[ASEAN talks lay bare deep divisions on South China Sea, Ukraine](#)

November 13 - *Nikkei Asia* [Paywall]

[Southeast Asia, Global]

During this year's ASEAN Summit, held November 10-13 in Cambodia, leaders expressed that avoiding conflict in the region is vital. Among highlights, Philippine President Marcos called for a "code of conduct," China was noted as "urgently needed" in these discussions, and Chinese Premier

Li said "[w]e have full confidence, wisdom and capacity to take the key to the South China Sea issue firmly in our own hands."

Migrant ship docks in France as row with Italy escalates

November 11 - *Reuters* [Paywall]

[Europe, Mediterranean]

After being turned away by Italy due to reports of excessive taking in of migrants at its port this year, a ship carrying about 230 migrants rescued from the Mediterranean Sea successfully docked at a French port. This ship is owned and operated by the Ocean Viking non-government organization charity.

China, Vietnam vow closer ties, to 'manage' South China Sea dispute in joint focus on external challenges

November 2 - *South China Morning Post* [Paywall]

[China, Southeast Asia]

After Vietnam's Party chief Nguyen Phu Tong finished his three-day visit to China, Beijing and Hanoi have both agreed to mutually tackle external challenges. The two leaders also agreed to "properly manage differences and maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea." Both leaders bowed to "carry out maritime cooperation in low-sensitive areas" and plan to push ahead with negotiations for a code of conduct in the South China Sea.

PH, Georgia initiate maritime cooperation focusing on seafarers' certification

November 2 - *Manila Bulletin*

[Southeast Asia, Europe]

During the 2nd Philippines-Georgia Political Consultations on October 27, the governments of the Philippines and Georgia have recently highlighted joint military cooperation by working on seafarers' certification recognition. Currently, some sea-based Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) are facing risk of decertification from the European Maritime Safety Authority.

Iran's IRGC seizes vessel carrying 11 million litres of fuel

October 31 - *Al Jazeera*

[Middle East]

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has seized the crew and cargo of a foreign ship. A local official released a statement that confiscating the vessel is part of a larger effort to provide a "major blow" to organized fuel smuggling operations in Iranian waters. The value of the cargo on the seized vessel, including 11 million liters of smuggled fuel, amounts to about 2.2 trillion rials (US\$6.6 million).

[4] Maritime Security and Defense [4]

[China, Cambodia look to upgrade military ties along with expanded naval base](#)

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

[China, Southeast Asia]

On November 20, in a meeting with the Chinese Defense Minister General Wei Fenghe, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen reportedly expressed thanks to China's armed forces for assistance in strengthening its own armed forces, hoping for strengthened, joint military cooperation and peace in the South China Sea.

[U.S. kept quiet on warship transit of Taiwan Strait before Biden met Xi](#)

November 20 - *NikkeiAsia* [Paywall]

[United States, China, East Asia]

On November 5, US Navy destroyer USS *Benfold* sailed through the Taiwan Strait; though its transit was not immediately disclosed at the time as it usually is. The delay in the announcement was designed to “avoid provoking China” before the important summit and meeting between President Joe Biden and President Xi Jinping in Bali.

[National Maritime Security Strategy to be adopted by April next year](#)

November 17 - *defenceWeb*

[Africa]

In a recent presentation to the Joint Standing Committee on Defense, South Africa's Department of Transport announced that its revised draft of a South Africa National Maritime Security Strategy, created in conjunction with the South African National Defence Force, is near completion and is expected to be adopted by April 2023.

[Philippines eyes military deal with Japan amid South China Sea tensions](#)

November 14 - *The Straits Times*

[East Asia, Southeast Asia]

The Philippines has indicated that it would be open to a visiting forces agreement with its neighbor Japan, which would let Japanese troops conduct exercises and disaster response and humanitarian operations in Philippine waters. Up to this point, Japan's military has only been an observer in the South China Sea region.

[Suspected Chinese Rocket Debris Found in Philippine Waters](#)

November 10 - *The Diplomat* [Paywall]

[Southeast Asia, China]

After finding two cases of debris from what appears to be a rocket launch in Philippine waters, which officials in Manila suspect come from a Chinese Long March 5B rocket launched a week before from China's Hainan island, officials are pressing the ratification of two United Nations treaties that specifically allow parties to seek compensation for damage from space launches.

[Top US general vows military support for Taiwan, warns Beijing against conflict](#)

November 10 - *South China Morning Post* [Paywall]

[China, East Asia, United States]

While speaking live at an event in New York, U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley said the U.S. "would try to help" train and equip Taiwanese soldiers, as part of fulfilling commitments found in the Taiwan Relations Act, while also warning China's PLA of the difficulties of an amphibious attack on Taiwan.

[U.S., UK and Saudi Arabia Complete Naval Exercise in Arabian Gulf](#)

November 8 - *The Defense Post*

[Middle East, Europe, United States]

Naval forces from the US Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT), the British Royal Navy and Royal Saudi Navy's Eastern fleet successfully completed a weeklong, joint naval exercise in the Arabian Gulf. The training exercise, called Nautical Defender, was conducted to enhance military-to-military interoperability.

[Pentagon Adds 40 Armored Patrol Boats to Latest Ukraine Military Aid Package](#)

November 7 - *USNI News*

[United States, Europe]

In its second assistance package sent to the Ukraine military, this time totalling at about US\$400 million, the U.S. will send 40 armored riverine boats and 45 refurbished T-72B tanks. In June, the U.S. sent 18 riverine boats, with six patrol boats "already operating" in the Black Sea.

[Tokyo Protests Chinese Surveillance Ship Transit in Territorial Waters, Japan Prepares for Fleet Review](#)

November 4 - *USNI News*

[East Asia]

Japan has officially lodged a diplomatic protest over a Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy survey vessel entering Japanese territorial waters near islands south of Kyushu at the end of October. The

Chinese vessel, a Shupang-class survey ship, reportedly stayed in Japanese territorial waters for about three hours during a single night.

[Japan puts modern drone into operation to enhance maritime security](#)

October 26 - *Radio Free Asia*

[East Asia]

The Japanese Coast Guard has fully deployed a California-made unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) into its operations for “wide-area maritime surveillance over the Sea of Japan and the Pacific Ocean.” The drone, an MQ-9B SeaGuardian UAV, is considered a “highly sophisticated” drone and is designed to fly for up to 40 hours in all types of weather.

Peer-Reviewed Research on Maritime Issues

- Government Release: Congressional Research Service - [“China Naval Modernization: Implications for U.S. Navy Capabilities—Background and Issues for Congress”](#) [Updated November 10]
- Formal Remarks: UN Assistant Secretary-General Martha Ama A. Pobee - [“Remarks to the Security Council on the Situation of Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea in the Gulf of Guinea and its Underlying Causes”](#) [November 22]
- Press Release: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development - [“The UNCTAD Review of Maritime Transport 2022”](#) [November 24]
- Press Release: The White House - [“FACT SHEET: Vice President Harris Launches Initiatives to Support U.S.-Philippines Maritime Cooperation”](#) [November 21]
- Press Release: The White House - [“Statement by National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan on the Maritime Attack Against the MV Pacific”](#) [November 16]
- Press Release: Government of Canada - [“The Government of Canada receives the Office of the Auditor General’s report on the surveillance of Arctic waters”](#) [November 15]
- Press Release: NATO - [“Joint press conference by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Wopke Hoekstra, and the Minister of Defence of the Netherlands Kaja Ollongren”](#) [November 14]
- Press Release: U.S. Department of State - [“Launch of the Green Shipping Challenge at COP27”](#) [November 7]
- Analysis: [“Vice President Kamala Harris’ Visit Puts the Philippines in a Tight Spot With China”](#) [TIME - November 22] [Paywall]
- Analysis: [“Navigating the sea from space with innovative technologies”](#) [European Space Agency - November 18]
- Analysis: [“Building Shanghai International Shipping Center - practice and prospect”](#) [SeaTrade Maritime News - November 18]
- Analysis: [“Five countries, other than China, most dependent on the South China Sea”](#) [CNBC - November 17]

- Analysis: [“Who Will Win the Race to Generate Electricity From Ocean Tides?”](#) [The New York Times - November 14] [Paywall]
- Analysis: [“China’s Global Port Investments Give Rise to Security Worries”](#) [The Wall Street Journal - November 13] [Paywall]
- Analysis: [“Japan shows off defense diplomacy skills with international fleet review”](#) [The Japan Times - November 6]
- Analysis: [“COSCO’s Many Port Calls”](#) [The Wire China - November 6] [Paywall]
- Analysis: [“Preventing wars is as important as winning them: Lessons from past naval strategies”](#) [War on the Rocks - November 2]
- Analysis: [“The Israel-Lebanon maritime border agreement: Pros and cons”](#) [Jewish News Syndicate - November 1]
- Analysis: [“Cosco Shipping is making money despite global oceans of gloom”](#) [The China Project - October 31]
- Opinion: [“Toward regulatory reform on maritime affairs”](#) [Korea JoongAng Daily - November 13]
- Opinion: [“5 principles to secure the future of blue carbon”](#) [World Economic Forum - November 10]
- Opinion: [“Antarctic Treaty System shows resilience in the face of Ukraine war tensions”](#) [Wilson Center Polar Institute - November 10]
- Opinion: [“Shrunken Mississippi River Slows US Food Exports When World Needs Them Most”](#) [Bloomberg - November 9] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“The Ocean Edge: Climate change and geopolitics are setting up a scramble for the global oceans”](#) [The Wire China - November 6] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“Bring Back the Warfighting Flash Cards”](#) [Center for International Maritime Security - November 2]
- Opinion: [“What happens when the port that feeds the world goes silent?”](#) [CNN - November 1]

Events on the Maritime Domain



- On October 25, the Wilson Center Polar Institute held their first in a series of virtual discussions on [“Unpacking the 2022 US National Strategy for the Arctic Region.”](#)
- From November 3-4, the Observer Research Foundation in Kolkata, in collaboration with the Government of Japan, held the hybrid [“International Conference On Situating the Bay of Bengal in a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.”](#) A full event report is [available](#).
- On November 7, Brookings, in partnership with Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA, held a hybrid expert event discussing the [“Economic security in the Indo-Pacific: Implications for US-Japan relations.”](#) A full video recording is available.
- From November 11-12, the World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology held the [“International Conference on Maritime Transport \(ICMT 22\)”](#) in Venice, Italy.
- From November 21-22, the [“Nigeria International Maritime Summit \(NIMS\)”](#) was held in Lagos, Nigeria with a focus on “igniting the blue economy.”
- On November 29, the Wilson Center Polar Institute will hold a virtual event on [“Achieving Security in the Arctic: the Role of DHS and its Components.”](#)

- On November 30, the Wilson Center Polar Institute, in partnership with the Canadian Armed Forces and Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, will hold a virtual teleconference on [“Technological Innovation and Arctic Climate Security.”](#)
- On December 6, the Wilson Center, along with the Water, Peace and Security (WPS) Partnership, will hold their hybrid [Water @ Wilson Series Launch | Water, Peace, & Security: New Tools for a New Climate](#) at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, DC.
- From December 14-16, the United Nations and a multitude of partners will be holding a hybrid [“Global Workshop on Source-to-sea Management”](#) that “will gather experts and policymakers from the freshwater and ocean communities, as well as from transboundary basin organizations and marine organizations, with the aim to strengthen cooperation and to share good practices in policy-making and implementation of effective source-to-sea management.” Registration is open until December 2.

Handbill Spotlight

Antarctic Treaty System

Issue Background ¹

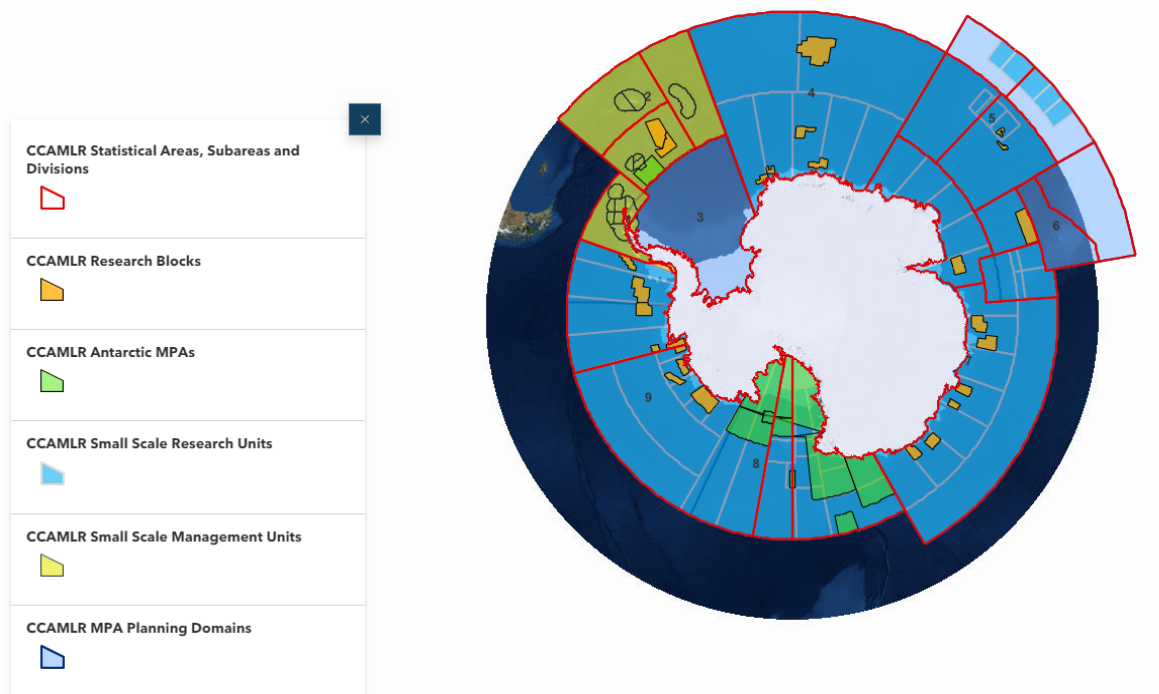
On December 1, 1959, the Antarctic Treaty was signed between the twelve countries that had been active in and around Antarctica: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Having entered into force in 1961, [the Antarctic Treaty stipulates](#) that Antarctica shall be used only for peaceful purposes, that freedom of scientific investigation and cooperation shall continue, and that territorial claims concerning the region are to be “frozen” while the Treaty is in force. In addition, parties to the Antarctic Treaty agreed to meet regularly—annually since 1994—for the [Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting \(ATCM\)](#) to exchange information, consult on matters pertaining to Antarctica, and recommend measures to their respective governments.

Today, the Antarctic Treaty has [29 consultative parties](#)—those that conduct “substantial research activity” in Antarctica and can thus participate in decision-making in ATCMs—and 26 non-consultative parties. Since 1994, discussions at the ATCM have led to a number of international agreements concerning the Antarctic region. These agreements, along with the Antarctic Treaty, are collectively referred to as the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS).

Most notably, the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR Convention), which entered into force in 1982, established the [Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources](#) (CCAMLR). The CCAMLR has since become a key international institution on the conservation of Antarctic marine life and ecosystems. Aiming to conserve marine living resources and promote rational use, the Commission has imposed and updated catch limits and other fishery regulations through an [ecosystem-based approach](#). Similarly, the Commission has also implemented a variety of other [conservation measures](#) such as the establishment of Marine

¹ Image Source: CCAMLR planning areas, research blocks, management units and marine protected areas in Antarctica (Source: [ICAS Antarctic Maritime Issue Tracker](#))

Protected Areas (MPAs) and compliance promotion through licensing, inspection and monitoring efforts. The Commission is also involved in the management of scientific research in the region and has [a broad range of partnerships](#) with other Antarctic Treaty System institutions, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, and other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental associations.



Recent Events

Despite temporary suspension of meetings in 2020 due to the outbreak of the pandemic, the Antarctic Treaty parties have held regular meetings in recent years. The [44th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting](#) was held from May 23 to June 2, 2022, where Consultative Parties adopted measures on topics such as air safety, heritage management, climate change and environment in Antarctica. More recently, CCAMLR ended its 41st meeting on November 4, 2022. Although the CCAMLR [continues to](#) impose and enforce a number of valuable measures in the Antarctic region, the last meeting has received mixed reviews. Some CCAMLR members and environment activists have criticized the Commission for failing to expand existing conservation actions. During the 41st meeting, CCAMLR recognized eight new [Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems \(VMEs\)](#) that are to be protected from bottom fishing, but negotiations continue to [remain stuck](#) on the establishment of new marine protected areas (MPAs) as well as the imposition of new fishery regulations for krill and toothfish. Because the Antarctic Treaty System has [a consensus-based decision-making mechanism](#), decisions “possessing normative and regulatory effects” cannot be adopted without the agreement of all 27 of its members. At its most recent meeting, two of CCAMLR members, Russia and China, [objected to](#) the current proposals to establish three MPAs in Antarctica, which, [according to some](#), originated in part from their interests in developing krill fisheries in the Antarctic region. The United States is [reportedly talking to China](#) to meet each other halfway, but has publicly blamed Russia for undermining the CCAMLR process.

Also during [the 41st CCAMLR meeting](#), the Ukraine delegation urged the CCAMLR to express “an unequivocal condemnation of [the] Russian war of aggression against Ukraine” and “to call on the aggressor country to immediately stop its actions in Ukraine.” Both Russia and Ukraine are CCAMLR members as well as consultative parties of the Antarctic Treaty. Nevertheless, [commentators have noted](#) that despite “considerable time” spent on Ukraine’s statements and relevant procedural matters, the CCAMLR meeting has mostly followed its usual course before the eruption of the Ukraine crisis.

Keep In Mind

As a multilateral institution which aims solely at the peaceful use of Antarctica—the only continent beyond national jurisdiction—the Antarctic Treaty System has been a notable example of international cooperation and governance, featuring collaboration between nation-states, intergovernmental organizations, scientific bodies, and other non-governmental actors. Specifically, CCAMLR has been a pioneer in incorporating fishery management with an ecosystem-based, precautionary approach, with the objective of conservation and rational use. As international institutions continue to face challenges in the realm of climate change, global trade and the building of effective communication channels, the Antarctic Treaty System can function as a stabilizer and an anchor point for multilateral cooperation; especially on benign topics such as scientific cooperation, information sharing and the collective management of regions beyond national jurisdictions.

At the same time, recent developments have introduced new challenges to the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS). Since the establishment of the [Ross Sea region MPA](#) in 2016, there has been hardly any major multilateral deliverable in the region, let alone new frameworks and treaties. Furthermore, China’s increase in research activities in the Antarctic has been a matter of concern to [some commentators](#), and China’s decision to build [a fifth research station](#) in Antarctica has paralleled U.S. plans to [upgrade its own infrastructure](#) and [develop new ice breaking vessels](#) for deployment in the region. Although ATS parties have remained committed to scientific cooperation and peaceful use of Antarctica, the Antarctic Treaty System should take care to continually promote and ensure coordination and collaboration among all parties.

As an institution that has ensured the smooth multilateral governance of the Antarctic region for decades, the Antarctic Treaty System has the potential to promote multilateral cooperation in new areas, drawing from past experiences and a forum that remains largely unaffected by recent tensions. Echoing ongoing discussions on [marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction](#) (BBNJ), the Antarctic region is full of marine genetic resources. As [policymakers](#), [scientists](#) and [observers](#) show growing interests in the role of marine ecosystems in carbon sequestration and thus climate change mitigation (i.e. blue carbon), [Antarctic krills](#) are found to have great potential in storing carbon. As the Antarctic region is currently free from geopolitical tensions and beyond national jurisdiction, the Antarctic Treaty System is a highly valuable, often forgotten forum to initiate constructive discussions and cooperation on these topics—especially as policymakers and experts are still exploring the right balance between environmental protection and sustainable development.

This issue’s Spotlight was written by Amanda Jin, ICAS Research Assistant Intern.

ICAS Maritime Affairs Program: New and Upcoming

— MAP Academic Engagement —

Executive Director Nong Hong speaks at the 7th International Conference on the Law of the Sea

November 15-17, 2022
Seoul, Republic of Korea

From November 15-17, ICAS Executive Director Dr. Nong Hong participated in the Seventh International Conference on the Law of the Sea, with a theme of “Law of the Sea for the Next Generation: Effectiveness of UNCLOS Revisited.” While broadcasted online, a majority of the conference was held out of Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Dr. Hong presented in Panel 5: Voices of the Next Generation, speaking on the topic of “China’s Chance to Revisit the Role of UNCLOS in Ocean Governance and Dispute Settlement in the South China Sea.”

Learn More:

<https://chinaus-icas.org/event/executive-nong-hong-speaks-at-the-7th-international-conference-on-the-law-of-the-sea/>

Explore the Full Program: <https://www.icls.or.kr:40188/conference/program.php>

View All Conference Recordings (YouTube): <https://www.youtube.com/@lawofthesea1982>

— ICAS Co-Sponsored Event —



GMCOCG
2022年海洋合作与治理论坛
The Symposium on Global Maritime Cooperation and Ocean Governance 2022
中国·三亚 2022年11月3日-4日
3-4 November 2022 Sanya China



November 3-4, 2022 [CST]
Sanya, China & Hybrid

From November 3-4, the China-Southeast Asia Research Center on the South China Sea held its hybrid “Symposium on Global Maritime Cooperation and Ocean Governance 2022” out of Sanya,

China, featuring seven sessions and including several keynote speeches by representatives from regional governments, the United Nations, and the International Seabed Authority, among others.

Inaugurated in November 2020, the Symposium on Global Maritime Cooperation and Ocean Governance (SGMCOG) aims to offer a unique platform for thought-provoking dialogues among the thinkers of various backgrounds from all over the world and promote academic research and exchange on maritime cooperation and ocean governance.

Dr. Nong Hong was a speaker in “Session 5: Ocean Governance and Practices in Polar Regions,” which was moderated by Professor Gordon Houlden, Director Emeritus, China Institute, University of Alberta, Canada.

Learn More:

<http://www.csarc.org.cn/the-symposium-on-global-maritime-cooperation-and-ocean-governance-2022/>

Explore the Agenda & Speaker List:

<https://chinaus-icas.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/SGMCOG-2022-Agenda-102722.pdf>

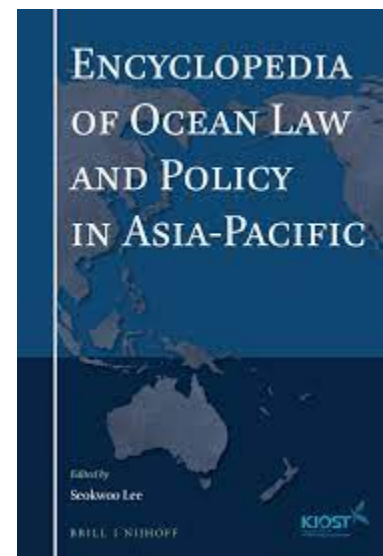
Watch the Panel Recordings:

<https://chinaus-icas.org/event/the-symposium-on-global-maritime-cooperation-and-ocean-governance-2022/>

— ICAS Book Chapter —

Encyclopedia of Ocean Law and Policy in Asia-Pacific: China
By Nong Hong, Yilun Zhang, Jessica Martin, Matt Geraci, Amanda Jin and
Asiana Cooper
November 11, 2022

This timely encyclopedia addresses the underrepresented scholarly state practice of the Asia-Pacific region in negotiating and implementing the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) – a continuing cornerstone of focus for regional and non-regional states alike. Further highlights for each represented state include ocean treaty accessions, domestic implementation, maritime zones, maritime disputes, exploring and exploiting living and non-living resources, marine environment protection, marine scientific research, dispute settlement, and contributions to the development of the law of the sea. The law of the sea is brought to life in the domestic laws, policies and institutions of states discussed.



This book provides essential reading for academics, policy makers and practitioners seeking a better understanding of the law of the sea's domestic implementation, successes and remaining challenges in the Asia-Pacific.

CHAPTER DESCRIPTION - Northeast Asia: China

Country Snapshot

State Report Overview

- 1 Law of the Sea in Historical Context and Interests in the Law of the Sea
- 2 Ocean Governance
- 3 Accession to Various Treaties Affecting Law of the Sea
- 4 Incorporation of Law of the Sea Rights and Obligations in Domestic Law
- 5 Maritime Claims and State Legislation on Maritime Zones
- 6 Maritime Disputes and Overlapping Claims
- 7 Exploring and Exploiting Living and Non-Living Resources
- 8 Marine Environmental Protection
- 9 Marine Scientific Research
- 10 Settlement of Maritime Disputes
- 11 Contribution to the Development of the Law of the Sea
- 12 Maritime Enforcement: China's Coast Guard

Learn More:

<https://chinaus-icas.org/research/encyclopedia-of-ocean-law-and-policy-in-asia-pacific-china/>

View the Full Volume: <https://brill.com/edcollbook/title/61590>

— ICAS Book Chapter —

“Destined to Disappoint: The Quad as Part of the United States’
Indo-Pacific Strategy”

In *Security, Development and Sustainability in Asia: A World Scientific
Reference on Major Policy and Development Issues of 21st Century Asia (In 3
Volumes) - Volume 1: Geopolitics, Security and Foreign Policy*

By Sourabh Gupta

November 8, 2022

This volume is part of a reference set. Volume 1 unpacks and examines geopolitics and foreign policy strategies of key Asian states in response to major security challenges associated with the growing U.S.-China rivalry.

Learn More:

<https://chinaus-icas.org/research/destined-to-disappoint-the-quad-as-part-of-the-united-states-indo-pacific-strategy/>

View the Full Volume: <https://www.worldscientific.com/worldscibooks/10.1142/12807#t=aboutBook>

