



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]

#### [New seaweed deal taps into Indigenous ecological knowledge](#)

October 24 - Axios

[South Pacific, United States]

The Te Whānau-ā-Apanu, a tribe of the New Zealand First Nations, has signed and invested in a Trans-Pacific seaweed research and farming deal with Blu3, a climate technology company based out of California. The deal mainly includes research and commercial projects centered around the potential of seaweed as a source of blue carbon, food, bioenergy, construction and biopharmaceuticals.

#### [Tiny Antarctic creatures provide US\\$8.6 billion of carbon storage via their poo](#)

October 20 - Imperial College London

[The Antarctic, Europe, Global]

A new research report released by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) explains how the krill that live in the Antarctic seas can significantly help reduce global heating by keeping 23 megatonnes of carbon annually out of the atmosphere through their natural processes, making them “worth more to nature and people left in the ocean than removed.”

#### [Climate change exposes lack of US preparedness in defending Arctic Ocean interests, US senator says](#)

October 16 - CNN

[United States, Arctic]

During a CNN TV interview, Maine Senator Angus King warned that the U.S. has “been slow to pick up on” securing the Arctic region as other powers move in as a “new ocean” is in the process of appearing in the region due to climate change and a declining summertime extent of sea ice.

### [Rising Waters Again Force Evacuations and Spread Misery in Australia](#)

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

[South Pacific]

Following a year of record-breaking rainfall and floods, Australia's southern states of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania have all experienced flash flooding again in October; a risk which is expected to remain or increase in the coming weeks. Victoria is hit the hardest by the flooding with authorities anticipating "some of the largest evacuations" ever.

### [Meet the multimillion-dollar building deliberately built to drown](#)

October 12 - *The Washington Post* [Paywall]

[United States]

In Norfolk, Virginia, the non-profit organization Elizabeth River Project is building a US\$8.1 million headquarters in an area destined to be submerged in the upcoming decades in an effort to show people "how to work and play and live with this rising sea level."

### [50% of Earth's coral reefs face climate change threat by 2035](#)

October 11 - University of Hawai'i News

[Global]

According to new research done at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, if climate change continues unabated, its negative impacts on coral reefs "are actually worse than anticipated due to a broad combination of climate change-induced stressors" such as tropical storms, ocean acidification, sea surface temperature, land use and human population. Thus, among other conclusions, in 2035, 50% of the world's coral reefs will be unsuitable when multiple stressors are considered.

### [The Mediterranean Sea is so hot, it's forming carbonate crystals](#)

October 5 - Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre

[Europe]

Global warming is now causing some parts of the eastern Mediterranean Sea to form carbonate crystals in a process called stratification as the sea can no longer absorb carbon dioxide gas and instead releases it.

### [First African Emissions Reduction Platform to Begin Trading](#)

October 3 - *Bloomberg*

[Africa, Global]

Africa's first verifiable emissions reduction platform, known as CYNK, will begin trading in "Tamuwa biomass tokens" this quarter, with plans already underway to also add "regenerative agriculture" and "blue carbon" credits to the platform.

## [IMO and Commonwealth Secretariat join forces for sustainable maritime development](#)

September 29 - The Commonwealth

[Global]

On September 29, the International Maritime Organization and the Commonwealth Secretariat, an intergovernmental organization representing 56 member countries, signed a Memorandum of Understanding partnership to promote “sustainable maritime transport through joint activities.”

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

### [Indonesia exports could hit \\$300 bln by 2024, spurred by resource 'downstreaming'](#)

October 24 - Reuters [Paywall]

[Southeast Asia, Global]

Luhut Pandjaitan, Indonesia's Coordinating Minister of Maritime and Investment Affairs, said in an interview that Indonesia's exports could hit a record US\$280 billion in 2022 and could further rise above US\$300 billion by 2024 as the government continues its adjustments on export bans.

### [Port of Rotterdam Says War and Economy Reshaped Business in 2022](#)

October 21 - *The Maritime Executive*

[Europe, the Mediterranean]

The Port of Rotterdam Authority has released new evidence of the negative impact the war in Ukraine and the resulting sanctions on Russia have had on the shipping industry. While the total volumes have not drastically changed, “the energy landscape has changed dramatically” along with Russia-Rotterdam container traffic coming to a “standstill.”

### [Indian Register of Shipping expands footprint in South-East Asia with RO authorisation from Philippines maritime flag administration](#)

October 18 - *Hellenic Shipping News*

[South Asia, Southeast Asia]

The Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) and the Philippines maritime flag administration have signed a recognized organization agreement as part of the IRS' efforts to extend its efforts and presence around the world. An office has also been established in Manila, to be followed by a surveyor.

### [Taylor Maritime makes all cash offer for Grindrod Shipping](#)

October 12 - *Quoted Data*

[Europe, Southeast Asia, Global]

Taylor Maritime Investments has announced it has made a new offer for Grindrod Shipping Holdings Limited shares, valued in total at about US\$506 million. This offer followed a previous all cash offer made this past August by Taylor Maritime for all Grindrod Shipping shares it did not already own.

### [Container shipping set for 'short, sharp, hard landing'](#)

October 6 - *Seatrade Maritime News*

[Global]

After months of upticks in the container shipping sector leading to historic highs, experts in the field are now facing the declining demand in container ship markets; a decline which experts say was always expected to eventually come as the supply chain normalizes once again after the onset of the pandemic.

### [The fastest-growing port in Texas just got even safer](#)

October 4 - NOAA

[United States]

Port Freeport, the fastest-growing port in the state of Texas, USA, now features a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) system called Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS) that “improves safe and efficient marine navigation.” This is the 38th PORTS system deployed in the PORTS network.

### [Adani Ports, Vedanta group co-bidders for Puducherry's Karaikal port](#)

October 3 - *Business Standard*

[South Asia]

On September 30, two parties—the Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) and a Vedanta group entity—co-submitted financial bids to purchase the Karaikal Port; an all-weather deep water port located in India’s union territory of Puducherry that recently defaulted on loans.

### [Global shipping companies recognized for reducing speeds off California coast to protect blue whales and blue skies](#)

October 1 - *qCaptain*

[Global]

Eighteen shipping companies from around the world participated in the voluntary, seven-month-long “Protecting Blue Whales & Blue Skies” incentive program off the coast of Southern California last year. Companies primarily received awards based on the percent of distance their vessels traveled through speed reduction zones at 10 knots or less and with an average speed of 12 knots or less.

### [UK marks World Maritime Day with £60 million boost for clean shipping](#)

September 29 - Government of the United Kingdom

[United Kingdom, Global]

On September 29, the United Kingdom celebrated World Maritime Day by announcing £60 million in funding for a third round of the clean maritime demonstration competition, which is set to run from

April 2023 to March 2025. The announcement was made during the keynote address given by the United Kingdom's Transport Secretary at the Atlantic Future Forum in New York.

### [MoEI Launches “UAE Maritime Network” To Reinforce Maritime Investments](#)

September 29 - *Marine Insight*

[Middle East, Global]

The United Arab Emirates' Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure has launched the UAE Maritime Network initiative. Although there are nine key objectives, the initiative is ultimately aimed at promoting the UAE as a global maritime hub and prime place for maritime-related investments.

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

### [Scientists Call For The Ocean to Be Recognized as a Living Being With Inherent Rights](#)

October 18 - *Science Alert*

[Global]

In a recent editorial published in *PLOS Biology*, a group of researchers have argued for an official, legal framework to recognize the ocean as a living being with its own inherent rights. “International law needs to evolve to reflect the Ocean’s inherent rights to exist, flourish, and regenerate. Ocean health is human health,” they explain.

### [Israel and Lebanon reach agreement over gas reserves in the Mediterranean](#)

October 11 - PBS

[Mediterranean, Middle East]

After years of discussion, Israel's prime minister announced that Israel and Lebanon have reached a “historic agreement” over their shared maritime border, which could also result in natural gas exploration and a reduction of bilateral tensions. The U.S. took the role of mediator in the talks between the two nations who have formally been at war since Israel's establishment in 1948.

### [China, Russia Quietly Expanding Arctic Partnership, Says Panel](#)

October 11 - *USNI News*

[Arctic]

China's presence in partnership with Russia in the Arctic region has been steadily growing; evident through “extensive” partnerships in the use of multi-use ports and airfields and the sharing of scientific research, intelligence, and surveillance and reconnaissance data. Experts believe Beijing's focus remains on Taiwan and the South China Sea over the Arctic.

### [Hong Kong declines to seize a superyacht linked to a Russian oligarch under sanctions.](#)

October 11 - *The New York Times* [Paywall]

[East Asia, Eurasia, Global]

A superyacht which arrived near Hong Kong from Vladivostok, Russia, suspected to be owned by Russian oligarch and ally of President Vladimir Putin Alexei Mordashov, was under consideration to be seized by Hong Kong in an effort to help enforce sanctions against Russia over its invasion of Ukraine. Hong Kong's chief executive said it would enforce sanctions ordered by the UN Security Council but otherwise did not have the legal basis to carry out sanctions in this case.

### [Parliamentary resolution places nature at the core of good ocean governance, but omits impacts of domestic fisheries](#)

October 6 - World Wide Fund For Nature

[Europe]

The European Parliament has adopted a resolution on strengthening ocean governance and biodiversity, establishing an official position for how Member States and the EU as a whole should better safeguard the ocean and balance those responsibilities with those related to human activities.

### [The Australia-India-Indonesia trilateral finally takes off](#)

October 4 - Observer Research Foundation

[Indian Ocean, Indo-Pacific]

On the sidelines of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the first, long-awaited meeting of the Australia-India-Indonesia foreign ministers took place. Discussions were largely focused around the prospects of strengthening cooperation in the framework of the Indian Ocean Rim Association, the G20 and the blue economy.

### [Morocco-Mauritania: First operational plan to implement convention on maritime fisheries, aquaculture](#)

October 1 - *The North Africa Post*

[Africa]

On September 30, alongside the 1st session of the joint Moroccan-Mauritanian High Joint Commission on fisheries and aquaculture, the two countries signed the first operational plan for 2023-2024. The plan focuses on managing and cooperating on “scientific research, fisheries management, training, aquaculture, shipbuilding and infrastructure.”

### [Delayed relief shipments to Puerto Rico rekindle debate over a century-old shipping law](#)

September 30 - *Marketplace*

[Caribbean]

As Puerto Rico still struggles to recover from Hurricane Fiona, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security waived a century-old law known as the Jones Act so a Marshall Islands-flagged ship could dock in Puerto Rico and deliver a much-needed tanker of diesel fuel. Section 27 of the Jones Act says that goods moved from one port to another in the U.S. have to be done via a U.S. vessel.

### [China facing increased competition from US in Pacific as Washington hosts first island summit](#)

September 29 - *South China Morning Post* [Paywall]

[United States, China, South Pacific]

In the last week of September, the U.S. hosted the first U.S.-Pacific summit in Washington, D.C. involving 14 Pacific island governments to discuss issues like trade, security and climate change. Total investments in the partnership, which is in line with the U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy, are expected to reach over US\$860 million.

### [Amid rising seas, island nations push for legal protection](#)

September 30 - PBS

[Global, Pacific]

With sea levels continuing to rise, island nations like Samoa and Fiji in the South Pacific are determined to protect their national sovereignty and be “at the forefront of challenging international law to develop in a way which is equitable and just.”

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

### [Australia Boosts Pacific Aid as Efforts Ramp Up to Counter China](#)

October 21 - *The Wall Street Journal* [Paywall]

[South Pacific, Southeast Asia]

Australia has announced that, over the next four years, it will increase official security ties and development assistance to Pacific nations by about US\$565 million; a significant increase from the amount Prime Minister Anthony Albanese’s party promised during the recent election campaign.

### [U.S., S.Korean troops stage river-crossing drills as North Korea protests](#)

October 19 - *Reuters* [Paywall]

[East Asia, United States]

As part of a larger 12-day Hoguk 22 joint military exercise, U.S. and South Korean troops practiced building floating bridges and transporting materials across rivers. The drill, which took place just

south of Seoul, was condemned by North Korea for raising tensions, who also test-fired rockets and artillery in response.

### [US Navy ship docks in Palawan as 'KAMANDAG' Exercise concludes](#)

October 14 - *Manila Bulletin*

[United States, Southeast Asia]

As tensions between Beijing and Washington continue, the armed forces of the Philippines and the United States held the two-week joint naval exercise KAMANDAG. Named after an acronym in Filipino for “Cooperation of the warriors of the sea,” the exercise involved 3,760 troops with Republic of Korea Marine Corps and Japan Self-Defense Ground Corps observing.

### [After years of headaches, the US Navy's first stealth destroyer is operating farther from home than it's ever been](#)

October 13 - *Business Insider*

[United States, Pacific]

The USS *Zumwalt*, the US Navy's most advanced destroyer, is on a tour of the Pacific which included stops in Guam and Japan. The trip, which marks the longest distance the *Zumwalt* has ever been deployed, is part of the US Navy's “fleet integration process of introducing a class of ships into the operational environment.”

### ['If this is not provocation, what is it?': Taiwan says mainland China sends 4-6 warships every day](#)

October 11 - *South China Morning Post* [Paywall]

[China, East Asia]

Taiwan's defence minister Chiu Kuo-cheng said that the People's Liberation Army has deployed 4-6 warships to the waters close to Taiwan every day since August in addition to multiple warplane sorties. While such deployments are not irregular, even in peacetime, it is the first time Taipei has released its count of daily PLA warship deployments close to the island.

### [Japanese Warships Return Home Following First Phase of Indo-Pacific Deployment](#)

October 6 - *USNI News*

[East Asia, Pacific]

After being deployed for four months, the first of two surface units of the Japan Maritime Self Defence Force—consisting of the the helicopter carrier *Izumo* (DDH-183) and destroyer JS *Takanami* (DD-110)—returned to its home port in Yokosuka the first week of October.

### [New transport ship highlights Taiwan's improving defense industry](#)

October 3 - *The Japan Times* [Paywall]

[East Asia]

Taiwan's navy has successfully received delivery of its largest locally-built warship; an action that is regarded as a way to highlight Taiwan's self-reliance and strengthen the domestic defense industry. The warship, named the Yu Shan, is a 153-meter-long "amphibious multimission vessel" constructed by Taiwanese state-backed shipbuilder CSBC and will reportedly replace the Taiwanese navy's only in-service amphibious transportation dock.

### [Romanian Navy Needs Minehunters to Keep Black Sea Safe for Ships, Navy Chief Says](#)

October 3 - *USNI News*

[Europe, Black Sea]

At a public discussion, the chief of the Naval Forces of Romania said that they want more minehunters employed in the Black Sea to keep merchant ships safer. The mines concerned are ones that Ukrainian forces placed near its coastline after Russia invaded Ukraine in February and which have now shifted away into the Black Sea.

### [South Korea, U.S., Japan stage anti-submarine drills amid North Korea tension](#)

September 30 - *Reuters* [Paywall]

[South Korea, United States, Japan, East Asia]

For the first time in five years, the navies of the United States, Japan and South Korea staged trilateral anti-submarine exercises. The drills, held in international waters off the East coast of South Korea, also took place amid a recent uptick in tension over North Korean missile tests.

### [Coast Guard spots Chinese guided missile cruiser off Alaskan island](#)

September 27 - *NBC News*

[United States, China, Arctic]

While on a routine patrol in the Bering Sea, a U.S. Coast Guard cutter spotted a Chinese guided missile cruiser alongside two other Chinese naval ships and four Russian naval vessels, including a destroyer. The ships were spotted as part of a single formation.

## Peer-Reviewed Research & Government Releases on Maritime Issues



- Government Release: Government of Australia - [“Strategic Fleet Taskforce launched”](#) [October 20]
- Government Release: U.S. Department of Transportation - [“Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \\$39 Million in Grants for America’s Marine Highways to Strengthen Supply Chains”](#) [October 6]
- Government Speech: Government of the United Kingdom - [“The importance of maritime security in an uncertain world”](#) [September 30]
- Government Release: The White House - [“FACT SHEET: Roadmap for a 21st-Century U.S.-Pacific Island Partnership”](#) [September 29]
- Government Remarks: The White House - [“Remarks by Vice President Harris Aboard the USS Howard Naval Ship in Yokosuka, Japan”](#) [September 28]
- Government Release: The White House - [Pacific Partnership Strategy of the United States](#) [September 2022]
- Government Release: The White House - [National Strategy for the Arctic Region](#) [October 2022]
- Podcast Episode: [“The past, present and future of an integrated Mediterranean”](#) [European Commission Maritime Forum - October 12]
- Scientific Report: [“Mangroves provide blue carbon ecological value at a low freshwater cost”](#) [Scientific Reports 12 - October 21]
- Opinion: [“Why Vietnam needs to pivot landward for its security”](#) [Australian Strategic Policy Institute - October 24]
- Opinion: [“5 ways the Israel-Lebanon maritime deal matters”](#) [CNN - October 12]
- Opinion: [“America’s Dependence on China Is a Crisis in the Making”](#) [The Heritage Foundation - October 4]
- Opinion: [“A U.S. ‘Ships Act’ Would Break China’s Control of the Seas”](#) [The New York Times - October 3] [Paywall]
- Analysis: [“They’re ‘World Champions’ of Banishing Water. Now, the Dutch Need to Keep It.”](#) [The New York Times - Published October 10, Updated October 18] [Paywall]
- Analysis: [“Activity at the Sinpo South Shipyard Part 1: The Secure Boat Basin”](#) [Center for Strategic and International Studies, Beyond Parallel - October 18]
- Analysis: [“Among the Sea Powers: Australia’s Maritime Strategy in the Indo-Pacific”](#) [Australian Institute of International Affairs - October 17]
- Analysis: [“Can China build a “community” for shared oceans?”](#) [The Interpreter - October 17]
- Analysis: [“China’s slow but steady moves in the Arctic”](#) [The China Project - October 12]
- Analysis: [“Lebanon and Israel’s Maritime Deal Suspends Them Between No War and No Peace”](#) [Carnegie Middle East Center - October 12]
- Analysis: [“Could this breakthrough by Chinese scientists put hypersonic weapons on PLA aircraft carriers?”](#) [South China Morning Post - October 11] [Paywall]
- Analysis: [“A Clear Look at China’s Deep-Sea Fishing”](#) [The New York Times - October 9] [Paywall]
- Analysis: [“Making the Indian Ocean into the “Western Ocean””](#) [Harvard International Review - October 9]

- Analysis: [“Shipping giants are still rolling in cash – but time is running out”](#) [Freight Waves - October 6]
- Analysis: [“Guest post: Why ocean depth is key for how warming will affect marine life”](#) [Carbon Brief -September 30]
- Analysis: [“Indian Ocean rivalry: China's naval maneuvers irk New Delhi”](#) [Nikkei Asia - September 27] [Paywall]
- Analysis: [“How China Targets the Global Fish Supply”](#) [The New York Times - September 26] [Paywall]

## Events on the Maritime Domain

- On October 4, the Wilson Center Polar Institute held a virtual discussion on [“Forty Years of Antarctic Marine Conservation: Policy Approaches in the Antarctic Treaty System.”](#) A recording is available online.
- From October 5-7, the International Seabed Authority, in partnership with the African Union and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) held the [fourth workshop](#) for the “promotion of the sustainable development of Africa’s deep-seabed resources in support of Africa’s blue economy strategy. The three-day workshop was held in Abuja, Nigeria and hosted by the government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. A press release and summary is available on the ISA website.
- On October 7, the Wilson Center held a virtual discussion on [“The Geopolitical Importance of Southeast Asia and the Pacific.”](#) A recording is available online.
- From October 9-12, the [“Maritime Cyprus 2022” Conference](#) was held in person in Limassol, with a main theme of “Shipping Response to the 3”C”s – Crises – Challenges – Competitiveness”. Hosted by the Shipping Deputy Ministry of the Republic of Cyprus, the conference brought together “more than 1000 participants, including shipowners, shipping executives, regulators and state officials from all over the world.” There are official, detailed press releases for each day of the conference available online.
- From October 10-13, the World Maritime University and International Maritime Organization held a joint international conference on [“Protecting the Ocean - Moving Forward at 50: London Convention & Stockholm Declaration”](#) in Sweden.
- On October 11, the Hudson Institute held a virtual conference titled [“The Dragon in the North: Assessing the Growing Chinese Threat to the Arctic Region.”](#) A recording is available online.
- On October 14, the Center for Strategic & International Studies held a virtual discussion with Vice-Admiral Karl Thomas of the USN on a [“SEVENTH Fleet Update.”](#) A recording is available online.
- On October 18, the Stimson Center held a live panel discussion on [“COP27: Closing the Climate Adaptation Investment Gap in Small Island States and Coastal Communities.”](#) A recording is available online.
- On October 19, the Atlantic Council held a [virtual discussion with US Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Mike Gilday](#) on how the Navy will build, maintain, train, and equip a dominant naval force as a part of Forward Defense’s Commanders Series. A recording is available online.
- On October 24, the Wilson Center Asia Program held a virtual discussion on [“Recalibrating U.S.-Japan Indo Pacific Strategies Towards ASEAN.”](#) A recording is available online.

- On October 25, the Wilson Center Polar Institute will be holding their first in a series of virtual discussions on [“Unpacking the 2022 US National Strategy for the Arctic Region.”](#)
- From November 3-4, the China-Southeast Asia Research Center on the South China Sea will be holding 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.
- From November 11-12, the World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology will be holding the [“International Conference on Maritime Transport \(ICMT 22\)”](#) in Venice, Italy.
- From November 21-22, the [“Nigeria International Maritime Summit \(NIMS\)”](#) will be held in Lagos, Nigeria with a focus on “igniting the blue economy.”
- 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

### Green Shipping

#### Issue Background

Maritime shipping is arguably the most important mode of global transportation. It was also the primary—or only—mode for hundreds of years. United Nations Secretary-General Guterres pointed out in [his recent speech](#) on September 29, World Maritime Day, that more than 80% of the world’s trade currently depends on shipping. Both the COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Sea Grain Initiative remind us of the vital role that shipping plays in all aspects of our society. Sea transportation is a booster for global communication and economic development. Unfortunately, it is also a major source of pollution. According to [the International Council on Clean Transportation](#), the shipping industry releases approximately one billion tons of greenhouse gas (GHG) every year, which contributes to 3% of global emissions. Meanwhile, ships also pollute the sea water by dumping wastewater and ballast water into the ocean. Toxic water and invasive species could [cause significant turmoil](#) to local marine environments. Even after a ship is scrapped, the oil and heavy metals leaked during the dismantling process can [cause serious damage](#) to the ecology of the local coastal area.

“Green shipping” is an idea in which people make as little pollution as possible during maritime transportation to protect the environment. Green shipping requires transporters to [control GHG emissions, ship more efficiently, and enhance related technologies](#). This concept can largely contribute to four of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 13 (climate change), SDG 14 (life below water), SDG 9 (industry innovation), and SDG 17 (importance of partnerships). There are already [many available measures](#) that allow shipping to be greener, such as

slowing down ship speed and reducing the number of empty containers on board, but they are not always effectively utilized due to specific transportation needs. So, efforts have been taken in some countries to enforce more sustainable and greener shipping.

Countries will have a more and more difficult time reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement unless they take more actions to promote green shipping. Not to mention that the current maritime industry creates a lot of other pollution besides carbon emissions. Countries and related organizations have accused the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for shipping, of failing to correctly recognize the urgency of solving environmental problems and offer effective measures. Thus, many governments, NGOs, and firms began to look for solutions to green shipping themselves.

### Recent Events

Although there are many doubts and criticisms of the work done thus far by the IMO, it has to be admitted that the IMO is also making unremitting efforts to advance green shipping. In support of the UN SDGs, in 2018 the IMO adopted an initial strategy for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from ships. In 2020, the organization ruled out the new regulation, also known as IMO 2020, significantly reduced the maximum allowable amount of sulfur content in ship fuel to improve air quality. The IMO is also making new progress steadily every year.

In celebration of World Maritime Day 2022,<sup>1</sup> the IMO chose “New technologies for greener shipping” as the theme of this year. Fundamentally, only technological innovations can facilitate green shipping to the greatest extent. The theme also reflects the idea that, through technological improvements, the IMO will “leave no one behind” in this process of supporting a green transition of the



maritime sector into a sustainable future. The IMO presented some “potential game-changing green technologies” to support this theme. For example, the IMO-supported Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre (MTCC) is starting to install Propeller Boss Cap Fins (PBCF) on ships to enhance propeller efficiency. Theoretically, it can help to reduce 9,000 tons of emissions per ship each year. They also plan to use more marine solar power systems on smaller ships to reduce at most 98% of pollutant emissions. The IMO also plans to develop new management technologies and systems—such as using AI for ship trim optimization—to minimize the damage done to ocean organisms. Allowing cargo ships sailing empty is actually a waste in disguise. And as mentioned previously, ballast water can seriously damage marine ecology systems if ships do not dump them scientifically. The problems such as ballast water and shipping efficiency are the causing factors of pollution that are often overlooked.

<sup>1</sup> Image Source: Official banner for the IMO's World Maritime Day 2022, [International Maritime Organization](https://www.imo.org)

Meanwhile, unsatisfied with the IMO's slow decision-making, countries have started promoting green shipping in their own ways. During COP 26, 22 countries signed the Clydebank Declaration for green shipping corridors to promote green shipping gradually around the globe. Although the green shipping corridors only affect a minor amount of ships, it is still an effective way to reduce GHG emissions on some of the busiest ship routes in the world. It also allows officials and scientists to test the feasibility of green shipping technologies, such as clean fuel, before using them on a large scale. Although China did not join the Clydebank Declaration because it bypassed the IMO, China participated in building a green corridor between Shanghai and Los Angeles, the busiest ship route worldwide. There are many countries that issue their initial actions targeting green shipping challenges. For example, the Biden Administration has issued new initiatives to encourage the shipping industry to decarbonize. Private companies like ABB, Rolls-Royce, and Shell have also stepped up to enhance and advance green shipping; vital, given how expensive green shipping is.

### **Keep In Mind**

This year's World Maritime Day's theme symbolizes an international recognition of the necessity of developing constructive technologies to facilitate greener shipping. In fact, many governments and private enterprises have already started to work on achieving green shipping. On the one hand, this is a moment for all of humanity to work together for the common good. Even countries and organizations that are at odds on other issues can take this opportunity to collaborate on the same objective, making the best use of human ingenuity on green shipping. On the other hand, it needs to be recognized that some parties still have disagreements on how to achieve green shipping. Needless to say, people always have different ideas on how to realize a goal, especially since all countries are still exploring the most suitable methods for themselves. However, nations also have a wide range of capabilities, needs, expertise, etc. that do not always align. The international community needs to formulate a set of scientific standards as soon as possible to avoid the situation where "bad money drives out the good." In addition, it is more important to prevent some countries from using green shipping as an excuse to take advantage of others on maritime issues.

However, there are also questionable activities regarding green shipping that need to be monitored. Greenwashing is one of the concerns that scientists usually have. Fuels such as methanol are not as carbon neutral as they appear to be. Carbon was still generated in their production, though it was not released during combustion. Companies should be encouraged to test different methods, since we are still far from finding the best solution to achieve green shipping yet. Policymakers need to be extremely cautious when deciding which enterprises they should support or even subsidize, and make sure that businesses doing greenwashing do not take up valuable and limited government resources. In addition, the European Union plans to include maritime emissions into the emissions trading scheme (ETS), but many exporting countries questioned it because it will only make shipowners spend more time and fuel to transfer their goods in the "bunkering countries" before entering the EU. Such policies not only cannot curb emissions, but it will also encourage other countries to become bunkering ports for economic reasons.

*This issue's Spotlight was written by Zhangchen Wang, ICAS Blue Carbon & Climate Change Program Research Assistant Intern.*

## ICAS Maritime Affairs Program: New and Upcoming

### — ICAS MAP Report —

#### **China and the United States in the Arctic: Exploring the Divergence and Convergence of Interests**

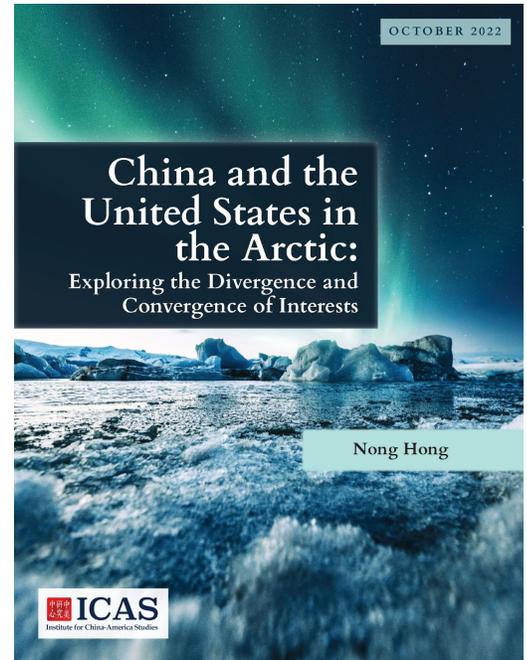
By Nong Hong  
October 20, 2022

#### **Executive Summary:**

“The Arctic Ocean has an area of about 6.01 million square miles and makes up about 4.3% of the Earth’s oceans. The melting of Arctic sea ice has led to increased human activities in the Arctic and has heightened interest in and concerns about the region’s future. The supremacy of the military presence and security interests of the two Cold War-era superpowers – the former Soviet Union and the United States – have now been replaced by the multiple political interests of the eight North Pole states, dominated mainly by the military and security interests and naval capacity of Russia, Canada, the United States, Norway, and Denmark. The exclusivity of Arctic governance has also been challenged by the activities of states from outside the region who are taking a special interest in many aspects of the Arctic that focus on scientific research, shipping, and resource development. China is one of these outside states with growing interest in the Arctic.

The emergence of the Arctic as a region of political and economic opportunity adds yet another dimension to U.S.-China relations. This report explores and compares the policy and influence of two states in the Arctic: The United States as a key Arctic littoral state and China as an Arctic stakeholder. Their respective policy and legislations, presence, and influence in this region, engagement with international and regional institutions will be unfolded in this report before yielding to a discussion on the divergence and convergence of interests between China and the United States in the Arctic. It can be concluded that there exist lots of divergence of interests between the two. Meanwhile, the Arctic is an arena where the U.S. and China, for the most part, enjoy converging interests, such as on issue areas that touch upon aspects of the law of the sea—be it conservation and climate change, marine scientific research, or construction of port and infrastructure facilities.

Given the current development in the Arctic region driven by the Ukraine conflict, the longstanding post-Cold War perception that the Arctic region would benefit from a disconnect from security concerns has lost its essence. Instead, the geopolitical importance of the Arctic region is coming back into focus with Russia’s full military escalation of Ukraine and the worrisome loss of the status quo in Arctic cooperation. The joint statement by seven states of the Arctic Council in March 2022 to



pause participation in all meetings of the Arctic Council indicates grave impediments to international cooperation in the Arctic.

China and the United States should aim to achieve cooperative activities, particularly on research, which could play a useful role in stabilizing the troubled state of their current ties. The Ukraine conflict, while severing partnerships between researchers inside and outside of Russia across many fields of science, has a particularly profound impact on climate science in the Arctic, in which China and the United States could work together. China has the potential to be a strong partner for the United States if it can match up its own interests in the Arctic with the United States' interests and, together, address questions that are important to both nations.”

Link to Report: <https://chinaus-icas.org/research/china-and-the-united-states-in-the-arctic/>

View & Share as a PDF:

<https://chinaus-icas.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/China-US-Arctic-Report-10.2022-Final.pdf>

## — ICAS MAP Commentary —

### **Why Russia's Arctic agenda should be of more concern than China's actions**

By Nong Hong

October 7, 2022

“With war stifling cooperation in the Arctic, including on critical climate change research, keeping region separate from global security concerns is a challenge. China, for its part, does not see itself as a competitor in the Arctic, but Russia's military build-up in the region is another, more worrying matter.

A recent report titled “China's Strategy and Activities in the Arctic”, by the US-based Rand Corporation and Swedish Defence Research Agency, examines the potential implications of Chinese investment and activity in the Arctic. It points out that while China's presence in the North American sections of the Arctic remains limited, the world should keep an eye on its relationship with Russia, which will create uncertainties in the region.

A careful observation of China-Russia relations in the Arctic alongside recent developments in the region arising from the Ukraine conflict can shed further light on the factors that are causing uncertainty in Arctic affairs...”

Read the Full Commentary:

<https://chinaus-icas.org/research/why-russias-arctic-agenda-should-be-of-more-concern-than-chinas-actions/>

This commentary was [originally](#) released on South China Morning Post on October 7, 2022.

– ICAS Commentary –

**U.S.-Pacific Island Country Summit: Geopolitics trumps development**

By Sourabh Gupta  
September 30, 2022

“It is unsurprising that a country which boasts nearly three times as many military bases as embassies and consulates would see the signing of an agreement by a state falling within its sphere of influence with a counterpart major power through the lens of geostrategic competition. To a hammer, everything looks after all like a nail.

And so it was when the Solomon Islands signed a security cooperation agreement with China earlier this spring to permit Chinese law enforcement forces to support the Solomon Islands’ national police force to protect Chinese investment projects on the islands, as well as facilitate rest and replenishment for Chinese naval vessels at port...”

Read the Full Commentary:

<https://chinaus-icas.org/research/u-s-pacific-island-country-summit-geopolitics-trumps-development/>

*This commentary was originally [released](#) on CGTN on September 30, 2022.*

– ICAS BCCC Commentary –

**Protecting Blue Carbon From Extreme Weather’s Destruction and For Its Mitigation**

By Zhangchen Wang  
September 30, 2022

“The Summer of 2022, with frequent cases of extreme weather conditions around the globe, has finally come to an end as the temperature drops and the floods begin to recede across the world. With extensive reports and analyses covering the significant casualties and economic losses it has caused, extreme weather has proven its power again to everyone. Just like the damages it brought to global markets and societies, extreme conditions can be equally devastating to blue carbon ecosystems. Leaving droughts, storms, floods, and other natural disasters to ruin blue carbon sinks will only worsen climate problems and cause irreversible damage. Blue carbon plays an important role in improving climate challenges so it is essential to make sure the blue carbon sinks—like mangroves, sea grasses, krill, and salt marshes—survive extreme weather cases. Maybe in the near future, a more healthy and mature blue carbon ecosystem can even, in turn, contribute to further improving climatic conditions...”

Read the Full Commentary:

<https://chinaus-icas.org/research/protecting-blue-carbon-from-extreme-weather-destruction-and-for-its-mitigation/>

*This commentary was written as part of the BCCC Program Quarterly newsletter’s 2022 Q3 Theme of the Quarter: Global Extreme Weather*



# 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. Pobe - [“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 <sup>1</sup>

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.

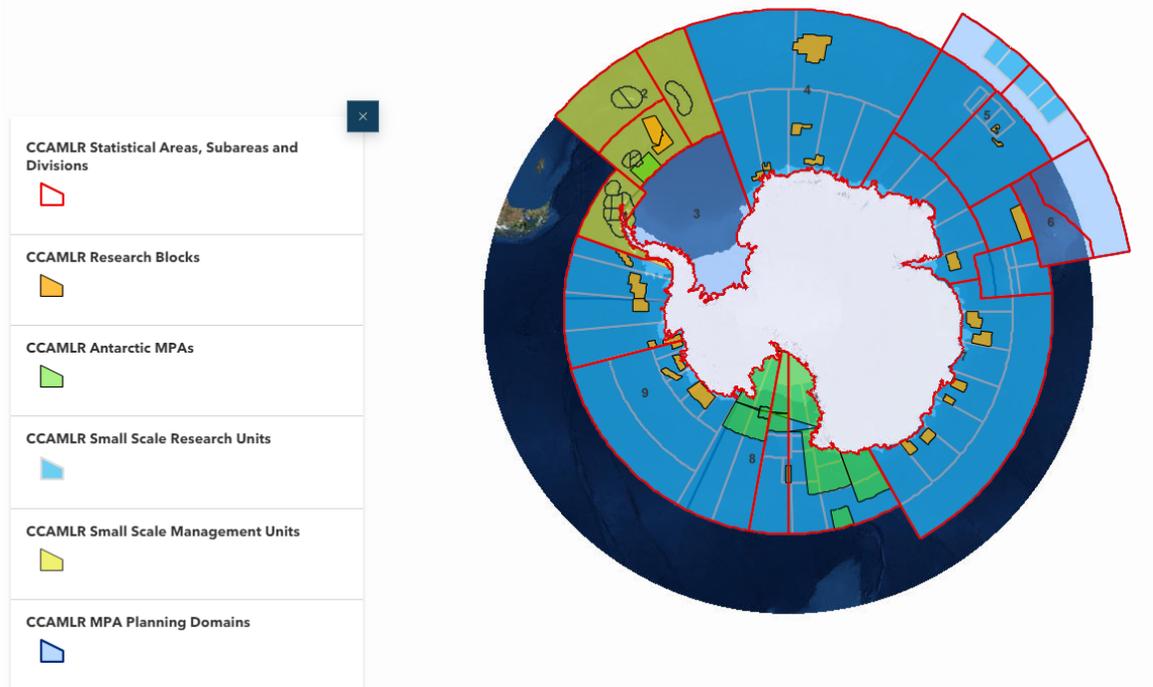
Today, the Antarctic Treaty has [29 consultative parties](#)—those that conduct “substantial research activity” in Antarctica and can thus participate in decision-making in ATCMs—and 26 non-consultative parties. Since 1994, discussions at the ATCM have led to a number of international agreements concerning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

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<sup>1</sup> 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>

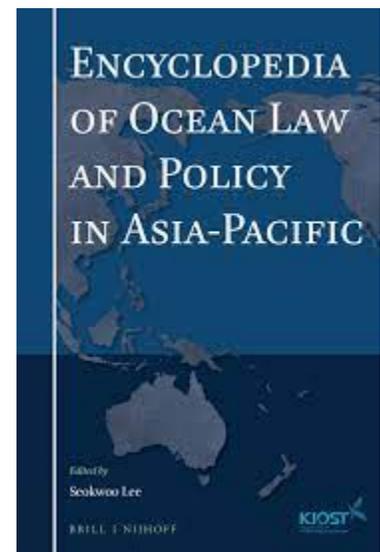
Watch the Panel Recordings:

<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

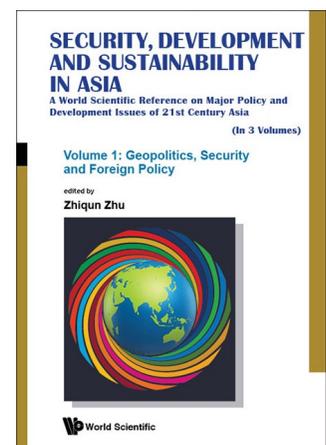
November 8, 2022

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>





# ICAS MARITIME AFFAIRS HANDBILL

December 27, 2022

Volume 1, Issue 11

## Recent News in Global Maritime Affairs

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

#### [Carbon Accumulates in Abnormally Enormous Quantities at the Bottom of Deep-sea Trenches](#)

December 25 - *Nature World News*  
[Europe, Global]

Researchers from the University of Southern Denmark's Danish Center for Hadal Research (HADAL) have spent multiple years creating and deploying "sophisticated underwater robots" to assist them in studying and measuring deep-sea trenches and the organic material that these trenches hold. Three of their recent studies have revealed that deep trenches accumulate "hard-to-decompose organic carbon, including so-called black carbon."

#### [Scientists freeze Great Barrier Reef coral in world-first trial](#)

December 20 - *Reuters* [Paywall]  
[South Pacific]

In December, scientists at the Australian Institute of Marine Sciences successfully completed a new trial for a "cryomesh" method of cryogenically freezing coral larvae that can both be manufactured cheaply and be more effective in preserving coral for later reintroduction into the wild.

#### [Hokkaido kelp farmers aim to boost storage of 'blue carbon' in seaweed beds](#)

December 19 - *The Japan Times* [Paywall]  
[East Asia]

Fisheries cooperatives, governments, and companies from a major kelp-producing region in Hokkaido, Japan, are pushing to increase the amount of carbon captured by blue carbon ecosystems. In addition to supplementing poor fishing harvests by selling blue carbon credits, raising seaweeds can also make fishing grounds richer and increase revenue from the fishery.

### [Global study reveals widespread salt marsh decline](#)

December 19 - *Mongabay*

[Global]

After NASA scientists analyzed satellite images from around the globe, they concluded that the world has lost 1,453 square kilometers (561 square miles) of salt marsh between 2000 and 2019, resulting in significant carbon emissions. Severe storms and human-induced restoration both make up for part of the loss.

### [Urchin farming company gets world first blue carbon credit for kelp](#)

December 15 - *SeafoodSource*

[Japan, Europe]

The Tokyo-based Japanese subsidiary of the aquaculture company Urchinomics, Uninomics K.K., successfully received the world's first voluntary blue carbon credit for kelp-bed restoration through the relocation of sea urchins. The credit was validated and certified by the state-appointed Japan Blue Economy Association who was tasked with establishing blue carbon credit standards.

### [Hyundai to present major ocean transformation plans at CES 2023](#)

December 6 - *SeaTechnology*

[Japan, Global]

Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI) Group, the “world’s largest shipbuilding and heavy industries” company, announced it will participate in the world’s largest consumer electronics exhibition where it will present the company’s four-pillar “vision on transforming the ocean for a sustainable future.”

### [Sale jumpstarts floating, offshore wind power in US waters](#)

December 5 - AP

[United States, Global]

On December 6, the first-ever U.S. auction of leases to “develop commercial-scale floating wind farms” about 25 miles off the U.S. West Coast was held. The online, live auction attracted many interested parties and companies from around the world.

### [New toolkit to aid in creation of marine sanctuaries](#)

December 2 - *SeaTechnology*

[United States]

The U.S. National Marine Sanctuary Foundation has released an online, interactive toolkit via an ESRI ArcGIS StoryMap that walks viewers through the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s sanctuary nomination process, with resources. The release is part of the “Save Spectacular” campaign that celebrates the 50th anniversary of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act.

### [U. S. to Pay Millions to Move Tribes Threatened by Climate Change](#)

November 30 - *The New York Times* [Paywall]

[United States, The Arctic]

Three Native American tribes will be given US\$25 million each by the Biden administration to relocate key community buildings outside of regions currently facing urgent threats from climate change, such as flooding. Eight other tribes will be given US\$5 million each to plan for relocation.

### [U.N. Mission Joins Growing Calls to Label Great Barrier Reef 'In Danger'](#)

November 28 - *The New York Times* [Paywall]

[Australia, Global]

A U.N.-backed mission has joined global calls to urgently protect Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest coral reef ecosystem and a world heritage site, from the impacts of climate change.

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

### [Nigeria needs global maritime standards to exploit blue economy – NSML Boss](#)

December 25 - *The Sun Nigeria*

[Africa, Global]

While delivering a keynote address at a 2022 conference on the Association of Maritime Journalists of Nigeria, Abdul-Kadir Ahmed, the managing director of NLNG Ship Management Limited, said that the blue economy is not a local but an international industry with “a global set of standards that deal with safety, quality, efficiency and security.”

### [FMC Initiates Probe into Shipping Lines' Compliance with Anti-Retaliation Laws](#)

December 15 - *gCaptain*

[United States, Global]

The U.S. Federal Maritime Commission has officially launched a “probe” into the top 20 shipping lines calling on U.S. ports to “thoroughly investigate any allegation of illegal behavior [based on the newly-enacted Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2022] and prosecute aggressively when warranted.”

### [Cypriot VR company bringing change to shipping sector](#)

December 13 - *Hellenic Shipping News*

[Global]

Ascanio, a portfolio company, and Faneline Holding Group, a “global giant in the maritime and shipping industry,” have launched their joint mixed-reality venture known as “Ascanio Maritime.” Their goal is to deliver “industry and sector ground-breaking commercial solutions” using cutting-edge technologies.

## [Spectainer and Nexxiot Deliver Innovation Driving the Sustainability Race in Maritime Transportation](#)

December 13 - CISION

[Global]

Spectainer, the market leader for foldable COLLAPSECON containers, is partnering with Nexxiot to enhance the visibility and sustainability of the supply chain. With almost one-third of the millions of shipping containers carried around the world being empty in transit, COLLAPSECON “significantly reduces the cost and environmental impact of shipping” at multiple points of the supply chain.

## [Turkey oil tanker logjam snarls Russia oil sanctions](#)

December 9 - Reuters [Paywall]

[Mediterranean, Black Sea, Russia]

In the midst of global plans by G7 countries, the European Union and Australia to keep Russia from wartime oil revenues, new insurance rules employed by Turkish maritime authorities are leaving dozens of oil tankers stuck in a queue waiting to leave the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits.

## [US sanctions China-based firms over illegal fishing abuses](#)

December 9 - Al Jazeera

[United States, China]

The U.S. Department of Treasury has put sanctions on two Chinese companies, Pingtan Marine Enterprise and Dalian Ocean Fishing, over alleged illegal fishing practices.

## [Minister for Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi Invites Archipelagic Countries to Collaborate to Advance Maritime Economy](#)

December 6 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia

[Southeast Asia, Global]

On December 6, at the opening of the 4th Ministerial Meeting on Archipelagic and Island States Forum (AIS Forum) in Bali, Indonesia’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi emphasized that the AIS Forum “must become a platform for collaboration in overcoming global challenges” from economics to rising sea levels, marine debris, and over-exploitation.

## [‘Gloomy prospects’, ‘losing steam’ – UNCTAD summarises shipping’s outlook](#)

December 3 - Hellenic Shipping News

[Global]

UNCTAD’s 2022 Review of Maritime Transport depicts the upcoming “gloomy” future of global shipping, which it points to the war in Ukraine, China’s cooling economy, inflationary pressures, and the continuation of the pandemic and supply chain pressures, among other reasons, as explanation.

### [EU strikes deal to make ships pay for their carbon emissions](#)

December 2 - Reuters [Paywall]

[Europe, Global]

The European Union has officially added shipping to its carbon market, which requires emitters to buy permits when they emit carbon dioxide, in a move likely to encourage the shipping sector to invest in greener technologies.

### [Japanese Shipping Makes Progress on Ammonia-Fueled Ship Design](#)

December 1 - *The Maritime Executive*

[East Asia, Global]

Two of Japan's leading shipping companies are reporting progress in developing ammonia-fueled commercial ships; ones ultimately converted from currently-used liquefied natural gas vessels. The goal is reportedly to have a commercial alternative available "by the middle of this decade."

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

### [Thai warship that sank, killing 6, had too few life jackets, admiral says](#)

December 21 - CNN

[South Asia]

A Thai corvette warship, the HTMS *Sukhothai*, capsized in the Gulf of Thailand during severe weather, as is recorded on nearby video and imagery. 76 of the 105 people on board—30 more people on board than usual—have been rescued while 23 people are still missing at sea.

### [China Accused of Fresh Territorial Grab in South China Sea](#)

December 20 - *Bloomberg* [Paywall]

[South China Sea, China]

According to Western officials, China is building up several unoccupied land features in the South China Sea in a move that appears to claim up to 80% of the region's resource-rich waters in a region critical to global trade.

### [Fighting border crime, illegal activities and saving people in the Black Sea](#)

December 14 - Frontex

[Black Sea, Europe]

In cooperation with the European Fisheries Control Agency and the European Maritime Safety Agency, Frontex—the European Border and Coast Guard Agency—recently concluded a joint operation hosted by Bulgaria and Romania that was focused on enhancing border control operations in the Western Black Sea region.

### [Egypt cancels the illegal Turkish-Libyan memorandum demarcating maritime borders](#)

December 14 - *Greek City Times*

[Mediterranean, Africa]

Egypt has issued a Presidential Decree that unilaterally demarcates a shared maritime border with Libya based on the drawing of a straight line that supposedly cuts the recently-established Turkish-Libyan memorandum “in half.” Another recent delimitation of an exclusive economic zone between Greece and Egypt also reportedly cancels the Turkish-Libyan memorandum in practice.

### [Ireland will receive €142 million from the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund 2021-2027](#)

December 9 - European Commission Oceans and fisheries news

[Europe]

Like several of its fellow European Union states, Ireland has adopted the European Maritime, Fisheries and Agriculture Fund program for Ireland by the European Commission. This program is under the Partnership Agreement 2021-2027, which has a total financial allocation for Ireland is €258.4 million, of which the EU contribution accounts for €142.4 million.

### [UN Chief: Convention On The Law Of The Sea More Relevant Than Before](#)

December 9 - *Marine Insight*

[Global]

The UN General Assembly held a meeting commemorating the 40th anniversary of both the opening and adoption for the signature of the “landmark” UN Convention on the Law of the Sea during which UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres noted that the Convention is now more relevant than ever.

### [Saudi Arabia, UAE recognize seafarer certifications to encourage maritime relations](#)

December 6 - *Arab News*

[Middle East, Global]

At the International Maritime Organization’s headquarters in London, representatives from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates signed a Memorandum of Understanding for mutual recognition of “education, training, medical fitness and competency certificates of seafarers issued by maritime bodies and authorities.”

### [FMC to review over 175 shipper complaints against ocean carriers](#)

December 6 - *SupplyChainDive*

[United States]

The U.S. Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) is getting ready to investigate more than 175 shipping complaints that were filed against major ocean carriers under the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2022. Many of the complaints are related to “excess detention and demurrage fees.”

### [SK vows to continue offshore natural gas project in Australia despite legal setback](#)

December 5 - *The Korea Times*

[East Asia, Australia, Pacific Ocean]

After the Federal Court of Australia again ruled that the Indigenous people were not properly consulted regarding a natural gas field project despite such consultation being required by law, SK E&S announced that SK E&S will still make efforts to carry out its offshore development project.

### [Bautista: PH to collaborate on maritime efforts](#)

December 1 - *Manila Standard*

[Southeast Asia]

During the Pilipinas Conference 2022, Philippine Department of Transportation Secretary Jaime Bautista said that Manila is actively looking for opportunities to collaborate with other nations, noting that the Philippines “aims to be a major maritime nation that values the safety and protection of marine life and marine environment.”

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

### [Russia and China hold joint naval drills](#)

December 22 - AP

[East Asia, East China Sea]

On December 20, four Russian and at least three Chinese warships practiced joint activities in the East China Sea, highlighting the increasingly close partnership between the two nations. The Russian Defence Ministry announced the drill ahead of time, later noting: “The main goal of the drills is to strengthen naval cooperation between the Russian Federation and the People’s Republic of China and to maintain peace and stability in the Asia Pacific region.”

### [US, Italy to Strengthen Naval Alliance](#)

December 21 - *The Defense Post*

[United States, Europe]

The US Navy and Italian Navy have agreed to expand their naval alliance through integrated training and operations among NATO territories, recently exhibiting this partnership in such joint drills.

### [Philippines, Indonesia to Heighten Border Security Cooperation](#)

December 16 - *The Defense Post*

[South Pacific]

The Philippine and Indonesian border committees will be increasing sea patrols next year, boosting maritime border security ties through four coordinated patrols annually, as part of the 12-point agenda previously proposed by the two nations in November 2022.

### [Australia vies with China for Pacific influence, signs new security deal](#)

December 14 - NPR

[Australia, Pacific Ocean]

Australia and the island nation of Vanuatu have signed a new security deal as China continues to appeal for influence in the Pacific region. The new deal, the full text of which is yet to be released, reportedly covers “humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, law enforcement, cyber security, defense, border security and maritime safety.”

### [\[The Philippines\] DND chief shows support to ‘AUKUS’ alliance](#)

December 14 - *Manila Bulletin*

[South Pacific]

During a courtesy visit of Australian Ambassador Hae Kyong Yu in Quezon City on December 12, the Philippines' Department of National Defense Officer in Charge Jose Faustino Jr. showed support to the trilateral "AUKUS" alliance while thanking Australia for backing a 2016 ruling favoring Philippines' territorial claims in the West Philippine Sea.

### [U.S. Gives Patrol Boat to Mozambique to Improve Maritime Security](#)

December 9 - *The Maritime Executive*

[United States, Africa]

As part of a larger effort in fighting terrorism and transnational organized crime in the Mozambique Channel, Washington donated a 33-foot, high-speed patrol boat to the Mozambican Navy to be used for “interdictions and maritime boarding operations” in the conflict-ridden Cabo Delgado province. Local officials will also participate in training offered by the U.S.-based SAFE Boat International.

### [Austal, General Dynamics Team Up for US Navy Nuclear Submarine Production](#)

December 8 - *The Defense Post*

[United States]

Two U.S. corporations—Austal USA and General Dynamics Electric Boat—have partnered on production work in Alabama to support the US Navy’s Virginia-class and future Columbia-class nuclear-powered submarine fleet. These partnerships follow millions of dollars in contracts signed this year with the US Navy to enhance and support submarine production and training.

### [Canada to send more warships to Taiwan Strait as China claims ‘sovereign rights’](#)

December 6 - *The Independent*

[North America, East Asia]

In an interview with *Financial Times*, Canada’s foreign minister Melanie Joly said that Canada is prepared to deploy more warships through the Taiwan Strait to push back against unilateral, threatening actions and “make sure that...it remains an international strait.”

## [Japanese, Korean Fighters Scrambled in Response to Joint Russia-China Bomber Patrol](#)

November 30 - USNI News

[East Asia]

Korea and Japan both scrambled fighters in the Sea of Japan region in response to the first joint Russia-China patrol in the area since May. The two Chinese H-6 bombers reportedly flew from the East China Sea through the Tsushima Strait into the Sea of Japan where they met with four Russian Tu-95MS bombers and two Russian Su-35 fighters before flying north.

## [China says US ship 'illegally intruded' in waters near Spratlys](#)

November 29 - Al Jazeera

[China, United States, South China Sea]

A spokesman for the Southern Theater Command of the People's Liberation Army said that the Chinese military drove away a US Navy ship that had "illegally intruded" into waters near the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea and had "seriously violated China's sovereignty and security."

## Peer-Reviewed Research on Maritime Issues

- Government Release: NOAA - [2022 Arctic Report Card](#) [December 2022]
- Government Release: GAO Report - ["Arctic Maritime Infrastructure: Government-wide and Coast Guard Strategies Lack a Means to Measure Progress"](#) [December 7]
- Press Release: U.S. Department of Defense - ["U.S. and Cabo Verde Sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Defense Cooperation"](#) [December 15]
- Press Release: European Union External Action - ["UNCLOS: Statement by High Representative Josep Borrell and Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius on the 40th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea"](#) [December 11]
- Press Release: U.S. Indo-Pacific Command - ["U.S. Department of Defense and Japan Ministry of Defense Joint Statement on Cooperation for Japan's Next Fighter Aircraft"](#) [December 9]
- Press Release: U.S. Department of the Treasury - ["Treasury Targets Serious Human Rights Abuse Aboard Distant Water Fishing Vessels Based in the People's Republic of China"](#) [December 9]
- Press Release: United Nations - ["General Assembly Lauds Success of Law of Sea Convention, But Deplores Sea-Level Rise, Lack of Support for Small Island Nations, Increased Maritime Risks"](#) [December 8]
- Press Release: U.S. Department of Defense - ["Joint Statement on Australia-U.S. Ministerial Consultations \(AUSMIN\) 2022"](#) [December 6]
- Press Release: U.S. Navy 7th Fleet - ["7th Fleet Cruiser Conducts Freedom of Navigation Operation in South China Sea"](#) [November 28]
- Interview: Natasha Brown, Head, Public Information Services, IMO - ["IMO: The Regulatory Framework for Maritime Data Sharing"](#) [*The Maritime Executive* - December 15]

- Opinion: [“Indonesia's 'blue carbon credits' are crucial for global climate mitigation. Here's how to help them flourish”](#) [Phys.org - December 22]
- Opinion: [“The ‘fourth propulsion revolution’ and preparing for a green maritime industry”](#) [Hellenic Shipping News - December 22]
- Opinion: [“Pacific islands see China-West tussle as chance for climate action”](#) [Nikkei Asia - December 21]
- Opinion: [“California is embracing the wrong strategy for carbon sequestration. Why not algae?”](#) [Cal Matters - December 14]
- Opinion: [“Japan's place in Canada's Indo-Pacific strategy”](#) [The Japan Times - December 7]
- Opinion: [“Australia, China and the judgment of the Solomons”](#) [Financial Times - December 5] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“Increased investment in maritime transport needed to prepare for future crises”](#) [Business World - November 30]
- Analysis: [“With focus on Nansei Islands, Japan prepares for potential Taiwan conflict”](#) [The Japan Times - December 20]
- Analysis: [“Hackers Have Found a New Incentive to Target Shipping”](#) [The Maritime Executive - December 19]
- Analytical Tracker: [“Tracking Biden's environmental actions”](#) [The Washington Post - last updated December 19]
- Analytical Graphic: [“Starving the Mekong”](#) [Reuters - December 15]
- Analysis: [“An Indo-Pacific security network is only now emerging”](#) [Observer Research Foundation - December 13]
- Analysis: [“PLA submarines uses adversary forces in South China Sea as practice partners”](#) [Global Times - December 11]
- Analysis: [“VARD presents a zero-carbon range of renewable energy-driven vessels”](#) [Naval Technology - December 2]
- Analysis: [“A plan to push back against China's fishing practices”](#) [War on the Rocks - December 2]
- Analysis: [“Flexible Underwater Drone”](#) [Sea Technology - December 2022]
- Analysis: [“Coastal Job: Underwater Cave Ecologist”](#) [Hakai Magazine - November 28]
- Analysis: [“Brazil's 'Blue Amazon', and the promise and perils of seabed mining”](#) [China Dialogue Ocean - November 22] [In Chinese]

## Events on the Maritime Domain

- On November 29, the Wilson Center Polar Institute held a virtual event on [“Achieving Security in the Arctic: the Role of DHS and its Components.”](#) A full recording is available.
- 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, held a virtual teleconference on [“Technological Innovation and Arctic Climate Security.”](#) A full recording is available.
- On December 6, the Wilson Center, along with the Water, Peace and Security (WPS) Partnership, held their hybrid [Water @ Wilson Series Launch | Water, Peace, & Security: New Tools for a New Climate](#) at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, DC. A full recording is available.

- On December 7, the Wilson Center’s Polar Institute and Canada Institute held a virtual discussion on [“Overcoming Remoteness: Arctic Innovation in Transportation, Energy and Connectivity.”](#) A full recording is available.
- On December 7, the Stimson Center held a virtual event on [“Linking Renewable Energy and River Conservation: Delivering on Vietnam’s Climate Commitments”](#) as part of their Mekong Basin Connect Project. A full recording is available.
- From December 14-16, the United Nations and a multitude of partners held a hybrid [“Global Workshop on Source-to-sea Management”](#) that they said “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.”
- From June 5-8, 2023, the IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society and Marine Technology Society will be hosting the [“OCEANS 2023 Limerick - Blue Ocean Planet Earth”](#) in person in Limerick, Ireland; an event for “global maritime professionals to learn, innovate, and lead in the protection and utilization of the world’s largest natural resource – our Oceans.” Registration opens February 20, 2023.

## Handbill Spotlight

### Taiwan Strait

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

The Taiwan Strait, at a mere 100 nautical miles wide, situated between China’s mainland and the island of Taiwan, has increasingly become a significant roadblock for any potential progress in the U.S.-China relations. While the issue of Taiwan has a [complex historical background](#), the matters that concern the U.S.-China bilateral relations began in 1949. Following the victory of the Chinese Communist Party in the civil war and the founding of the People’s Republic of China (PRC), the U.S.-backed Kuomintang (KMT) Republic of China government relocated to Taiwan. Both the [People’s Republic of China](#) and the [Republic of China \(ROC\)](#) officially claim both mainland China and Taiwan as part of their respective territories, which makes the island a *de facto* breakaway province of China today.



<sup>1</sup> Image Source: Map of the Taiwan Strait ([CIA, public domain](#))

As a legacy of the Chinese civil war, the strait of Taiwan has historically been a source of crises between Beijing, Taipei, and Washington. In 1957, the First Taiwan Strait Crisis saw a year-long armed conflict between the two sides of the strait. The armed conflict extended into an artillery blockade of the strait in 1958; also known as the Second Taiwan Strait Crisis. Less frequent bombardment continued until 1979 when the U.S. and PRC officially reestablished their diplomatic relations.

In 1972, the U.S. and PRC [jointly released](#) the Shanghai Communiqué, which is the first of a series of three communiqués—formal statements mutually agreed upon by two nations—that laid the foundation of the rapprochement between Beijing and Washington. In the [Shanghai Communiqué](#), the U.S. first declared its “one China” policy, which has since guided its approach to China and Taiwan. The U.S. declared that “all Chinese on either side of the Taiwan Strait maintain there is but one China and that Taiwan is a part of China. The United States Government does not challenge that position. It reaffirms its interest in a peaceful settlement of the Taiwan question by the Chinese themselves.”

In addition to the three joint communiqués, the U.S. Congress passed the [Taiwan Relations Act](#) in 1979, which reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to assist Taiwan with the capacity to “resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or social or economic system, of the people of Taiwan.” Furthermore, the U.S. unilaterally clarified its position in its [1986 joint communiqué](#) with the PRC with the [Six Assurances](#). The “one-China” policy, the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, and the Six Assurances are the items that [continue to guide](#) Washington’s China and Taiwan policies—and thus, that of the Taiwan Strait—today.

## Recent Events

Under the Trump administration and the Biden administration, the tensions have continued to rise in the Taiwan Strait as a combination of changes in China mainland, Taiwan, and the U.S. that shift the balance of power and political landscape in the region. China’s power continues to grow and Beijing is becoming [increasingly assertive](#) on territorial issues. The pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) replaced the KMT to be the leading party in Taiwan. Unlike her predecessor Ma Ying-jeou, Taiwan’s current leader Tsai Ing-wen takes [a harder line](#) towards mainland China. Lastly, the U.S. has shifted into a more competitive position *vis-à-vis* China as it now sees Beijing as the [pacing challenger](#) that “harbors the intention and, increasingly, the capacity to reshape the international order.” The U.S. Navy, together with other U.S. allies, has conducted more frequent transit of the Taiwan Strait under the Trump and Biden administration.

Outgoing Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi’s [visit to Taiwan](#) in August 2022 sparked a new peak of tensions between China and the U.S. over the Taiwan Strait. The high rank lawmaker’s visit, despite [repeated Chinese warnings](#) beforehand, triggered an escalated response from Beijing. Beijing launched [ballistic missiles](#) over Taipei for the first time in a series of military drills. While the Biden administration insisted that the California legislator has her rights to visit the self-governing island, it did contend that it was “[not a good idea](#).” U.S.-China relations are at a new historical low as China criticizes the U.S. for [undermining peace and stability](#) across the Taiwan Strait.

The Biden administration also released mixed signals with regard to Taiwan in 2022. While Secretary of Defense [Lloyd Austin](#), Secretary of State [Antony Blinken](#), and National Security Advisor [Jake Sullivan](#) all repeatedly clarified that the U.S. has not changed its “one China” policy and its policies on Taiwan, President Joe Biden has repeatedly publicly stated that [U.S. forces will defend Taiwan](#) in the event of a Chinese invasion. Unsurprisingly, the mixed signals and the president’s remarks sparked strong criticism from Beijing.

### **Keep in Mind**

While the U.S. continues to conduct [routine transits](#) of the Taiwan Strait to show its commitment to uphold freedom of navigation in international waters, these routine transits puts the stability of the strait in danger as they coincide with [increased and normalized](#) Chinese military operations around the self-governed island since the Pelosi visit. These uncoordinated military operations in the narrow strait will become a huge challenge for both Beijing and Washington during a period when the two countries lack effective and consistent military-to-military communication channels. The strait is seeing more uncertainty in the forthcoming years.

And regarding the strained political relations, they do not appear to be softened in the near future. Prior to the midterm election, the incoming Republican Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy has previously stated that he [will visit Taiwan](#) if he becomes House speaker. As the Republican party regained control of the U.S. House, the possibility of another U.S. Speaker of the House—technically the third in line for the U.S. presidency—visiting Taiwan within a year, puts more tension on the U.S.-China relationship. Should McCarthy visit Taiwan in 2023, the U.S.-China relationship will face another severe challenge and the Taiwan Strait could see another crisis on the horizon.

Taiwan’s 2024 Presidential Election could also have a significant impact on not only cross-strait relations but also the U.S.-China bilateral relationship. While the KMT enjoyed a huge [victory](#) in Taiwan’s recent local elections, the next leader of the self-governing is still uncertain. The next leader of Taiwan will face huge challenges balancing the tensions between Beijing and Washington, as well as the mounting tensions over the Taiwan Strait.

Last in the main equation is China. China’s growing military capabilities and its desire to reunify Taiwan is not a secret to the West. That said, Beijing continues to stress its hope to [resolve the issue of Taiwan](#) through peaceful measures while never renouncing the use of force. Concerns of a [potential deadline](#) for resolving the issue of Taiwan by force have been raised in the West over the past year. Minister Jing Quan from the Embassy of China in the United States rejected such speculations at [ICAS’ 2022 Annual Conference](#) while restating China’s official position on the issue of Taiwan. On the other hand, at another think tank event U.S. Undersecretary of Defense Colin Kahl said it is [unlikely that China has a hard deadline by 2027](#), but contended that China has its [2027 centenary objectives](#) to become more competitive against the U.S. in the Indo-Pacific region.

*This issue’s Spotlight was written by Yilun Zhang, ICAS Research Associate.*

## ICAS Maritime Affairs Program: New and Upcoming

### – MAP Academic Engagement –

Executive Nong Hong speaks at the 7th International Conference  
on the Law of the Sea  
November 15-17, 2022 (Seoul, KST)

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.” 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 about the event and the other speakers:

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

Watch the event recordings: <https://www.youtube.com/@lawofthesea1982>

### – Letter from the ICAS MAP Team –

To our readers,

The Maritime Affairs Program (MAP) Team at ICAS would like to thank all of our readers for your support in 2022! With the development of the MAP Handbill newsletter, various academic engagements, the release of several interactive maritime issue brief trackers, and the formal creation of the Program as a distinct entity, 2022 was very exciting for the ICAS Maritime Affairs Program.

In 2023, we look forward to continuing our current work and developing new projects as we strive to inform and stimulate open, fact-based, intellectual discussion on an array of topics in the maritime realm. We know that maritime affairs continue to be a vital point of interaction in not only U.S.-China relations but in global bilateral and multilateral relations around the world, bringing both difficult complexities and opportunities for engagement.

Regards,  
The ICAS MAP Team

The Institute for China-America Studies (ICAS) is an independent think tank in Washington D.C. ICAS focuses on the evolving dynamics in the U.S.-China relationship to promote greater collaboration and mutual understanding through sincere exchanges of fresh ideas, objective policy-oriented research, and fair assessments of this critical bilateral relationship.

We aim to provide a window into the worldviews of both the United States and China, and thereby serve as a vehicle to promote greater understanding between these two countries and societies.

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