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Recent News in Global Maritime Affairs

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

[Increasing Melting of West Antarctic Ice Shelves May Now Be Unavoidable](#)

October 29 - *The Maritime Executive*
[The Antarctic, Global]

New research argues that ice losses in vulnerable West Antarctic ice shelves are nearly inevitable this century due to warming waters, suggesting that the previous predictions on sea level rise may be too conservative. The research argues that rising ocean temperature, largely linked to carbon emissions, will cause widespread ice-shelf melting even in the vital regions for ice-sheet stability.

[Two 'pristine' deep-water reefs in Galápagos discovered](#)

October 28 - *The Washington Post* [Paywall]
[Pacific Ocean]

The Schmidt Ocean Institute announced that an international group of researchers have discovered two “pristine” coral reefs in the waters off the Galápagos Islands in the Eastern Pacific. The reefs, located about a quarter of a mile below the surface and within the boundaries of the Galápagos Marine Reserve, are suspected to be thousands of years old.

[Greenpeace ship to tour Philippines to amplify call for climate justice](#)

October 26 - *PhilStar Global*
[Global, Southeast Asia]

Greenpeace's *Rainbow Warrior* ship will return to the Philippines in November 2023 to draw attention to climate-impacted communities and demand accountability from major polluters. The Philippines is highly vulnerable to climate change, and this visit also notably coincides with the 10th anniversary of Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan).

[Japan and Denmark to tie up on floating offshore wind technology](#)

October 25 - *The Japan Times* [Paywall]

[Europe, East Asia, Global]

Japan and Denmark have signed a letter of intent to create a cooperative framework involving industry, regulation, and academia to advance research and development in floating, offshore wind power technology to combat climate change. Additionally, they may be planning to discuss taking the lead in creating global standards for the industry.

[Billions of crabs went missing around Alaska. Scientists now know what happened to them](#)

October 20 - CNN

[The Arctic, United States]

The snow crab harvest season in the U.S. state of Alaska was canceled for the second consecutive year in a row due to insufficient supply of snow crabs. A study conducted by scientists from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration suggests that warmer ocean temperatures in Alaska potentially caused the death of billions of snow crabs in recent years.

[Atlantic Hurricanes Are Getting Stronger, Faster, Study Finds](#)

October 20 - *The New York Times* [Paywall]

[Atlantic Ocean, Global]

A recent study reveals that Atlantic hurricanes are now twice as likely to rapidly intensify from weak storms into Category 3 or higher hurricanes within 24 hours. Among other concerns, rapid intensification complicates weather forecasting and can leave officials with insufficient time for evacuations, causing more serious damages to local communities.

[These houses are at risk of falling into the sea. The U.S. government bought them.](#)

October 16 - *The Washington Post* [Paywall]

[United States]

The U.S. National Park Service has bought two homes for over US\$700,000 with the intent to demolish them as these houses face imminent collapse into the Atlantic Ocean due to rising seas, intense storms and unceasing erosion.

[Coastal Carbon secures \\$1.6 million towards carbon credit assessment tool](#)

October 10 - *The Fish Site*

[Canada, Global]

Canadian startup company Coastal Carbon has received \$1.6 million in funding from Canada's Ocean Supercluster to advance the development of its "small, non-intrusive sensors" that "remotely measure seaweed biomass and quantify those data using artificial intelligence." These sensors could also be used to quantify blue carbon credits; a necessity for both seaweed farmers and the industry.

[Wall Street urged to back Indigenous peoples as protectors of forests and oceans](#)

October 5 - Reuters

[Global, United States, The Americas, South Pacific]

At Climate Week in New York in September, a group of government officials, business executives, nonprofit activists and Indigenous leaders began analyzing how to turn the Global Biodiversity Framework—a commitment made by 200 governments in Montreal in December 2022 “to conserve 30% of the world’s lands and oceans by 2030”—into reality. Several task forces were launched, each of which emphasize the trillions of dollars needed in capital flows towards biodiversity protection.

[2] Maritime Economy and Shipping [2]

[Dutch gov't, maritime sector pledge €60 million to turbocharge shipbuilding innovation](#)

October 30 - Offshore Energy

[Europe, Global]

On October 26, the Dutch government launched a joint €60 million investment venture with the maritime sector to drive innovative shipbuilding over the next two years. The extensive agenda includes ‘25 measures to address 25 bottlenecks, categorized into five lines of action’ holistically aimed at driving the clean energy transition and ‘ensuring economic and military security.’

[Signal: North Sea shipping traffic disrupted by sunken cargo vessel](#)

October 26 - Ship Technology

[North Atlantic, Europe]

On October 24, the UK-flagged inland bulker cargo ship the *Verity* collided with the Bahamian-flagged bulker ship the *Polesie* close to the German island of Heligoland. The collision resulted in the sinking of the *Verity* and at least one of its seven crew members dead, according to Germany’s Central Command for Maritime Emergencies.

[Australia decides against canceling Chinese company’s lease of strategically important port](#)

October 20 - Associated Press

[Australia, China, Global]

The government of Australia said it will not cancel a Chinese company’s lease on a commercial port in Darwin. The renewal was in question over concerns that the firm’s operations pose a security risk because of its additional use by U.S. troops during training exercises.

[Putin praises 'dear friend' Xi, pitches Russia's Northern Sea route](#)

October 18 - Reuters

[Russia, China, The Arctic]

While attending the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing, Russian President Vladimir Putin praised China’s Belt and Road Initiative and invited “interested states” beyond “partners” to “participate directly in its

development.” President Putin also said that year-round navigation along the entire Northern Sea Route, a route within Russia’s Arctic exclusive economic zone, will be possible “as soon as next year.”

[Adani’s New Mega Port to Lure World’s Biggest Ships to India](#)

October 15 - *Bloomberg* [Paywall]

[South Asia, Global]

India has opened its new transshipment container port of Vizhinjam in Kerala, located near the southernmost tip of India. Largely made possible by Indian billionaire Gautam Adani, it is the first of its kind in the country as it is suitable for the world’s biggest container ships.

[Moscow cuts funding for icebreakers](#)

October 13 - *Arctic Today*

[The Arctic, Russia]

The Russian government is considering decreasing its budget for the construction of icebreaking vessels over the 2024-2026 period by 5,24 billion rubles. The proposed budget is currently under discussion at the State Duma.

[Russia attacks Ukraine’s Danube ports with drones](#)

October 12 - *Politico*

[Black Sea, Europe]

On the night of October 11, Russia attacked a Ukrainian port on the Danube River near the Romanian border, taking place two days after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with Romanian President Klaus Iohannis in Bucharest to discuss Ukrainian grain exports through Romania.

[China Is Gaining Long-Coveted Role in Arctic, as Russia Yields](#)

October 2 - *The Wall Street Journal* [Paywall]

[The Arctic, China, Russia]

Facing increasing pressures on resources due to the Ukrainian war, Russia has seemingly turned to China for help with developments within the Arctic Circle. Chinese energy companies are filling in some of the space left by their Western counterparts, causing a surge in shipments of crude through the Northern Sea Route in recent weeks.

[Live: China’s first geological exploration of 3,000 meters into deep sea is underway](#)

October 1 - *CGTN*

[South China Sea, Indo-Pacific]

CGTN released a live recording of China’s first 3,000 meter deep-sea geological exploration. This exploration was the first of its kind conducted by China through the use of self-developed equipment. The video consists mostly of interviews with the crew of the ship.

[3] Ocean Governance and Maritime Cooperation [3]

['Might is Right' has no place in maritime order: Rajnath's veiled dig at China](#)

October 30 - *The Hindu*

[Indian Ocean, Global]

India's Defense Minister Rajnath Singh addressed the Goa Maritime conclave on October 30, saying that the concept of 'might is right' should not be the maritime law of the Indo-Pacific. "A free, open and rule-based maritime order is a priority for all of us. 'Might is right' has no place in such a maritime order," Singh said, in what some view as an indirect verbal jab at Beijing.

[China willing to provide necessary information on Baltic Sea pipeline probe](#)

October 25 - *Reuters*

[North Atlantic, Baltic Sea]

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs told the press that China is willing to provide necessary information to assist Finland's police with investigating an incident that damaged gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea. Some authorities are looking into whether a Chinese container vessel might be involved.

[China unveils major steps to bolster Belt and Road Cooperation](#)

October 24 - *Helsinki Times*

[China, Global]

From October 17-18 in Beijing, China hosted its third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF), during which President Xi Jinping unveiled a comprehensive eight-point plan that emphasizes infrastructure expansion, green development, technological innovation, and global cooperation. One of the major focuses is the connective New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor.

[U.S. Lawmakers Point to Reports of Forced Labor in China's Seafood Industry](#)

October 24 - *The Wall Street Journal* [Paywall]

[China, United States]

In a public letter sent to the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, several U.S. lawmakers said the Biden administration should crack down on China's use of forced labor in seafood production, citing reports by an investigative journalism group.

[Djibouti Latest Nation to Reject Ethiopia's Red Sea Access Plea](#)

October 19 - *Bloomberg* [Paywall]

[Middle East, Africa, Global]

Djibouti has joined Eritrea and Somalia in rejecting an appeal from Ethiopia's prime minister to grant his country direct access to a port on the Red Sea, one of the world's busiest shipping routes.

[IAEA team gathers marine samples near Fukushima as treated radioactive water is released into sea](#)

October 19 - *Associated Press*

[East Asia, Japan, Global]

A team of marine radiology scientists from the International Atomic Energy Agency visited Fukushima, Japan to observe nearby fishing practices and take samples following the planned release of treated radioactive wastewater into the sea from the Fukushima Daiichi power plant.

[PCG: Foreign vessel that rammed PH boat off Bajo de Masinloc violated protocols](#)

October 5 - *CNN Philippines*

[South China Sea]

On October 2, a foreign vessel rammed a Filipino boat near Bajo de Masinloc in the West Philippine Sea and killed three fishermen. The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) released a public statement that the foreign vessel violated two international regulations: Regulation 33 under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and Rule 2 of the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.

['Blue Africa' Partnership Seeks to Curb Annual \\$10B Loss from Illegal Fishing](#)

October 4 - *USNI News*

[Africa, United States]

In an effort now known as 'Blue Africa', U.S. naval forces in Europe and Africa are working with West African nations to better understand and collectively police their exclusive economic zones against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, which is now the region's primary maritime challenge.

[Polar Code May Need Updating as Arctic Shipping Increases New Study Concludes](#)

September 26 - *High North News*

[The Arctic]

A new study concludes that The International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters—more often called the Polar Code—which took effect in 2017 'may contain gaps in its definition of hazardous conditions,' especially amidst the rise in regional shipping traffic, and could need updating.

[4] Maritime Security and Defense [4]

[China, Russia target US at security forum](#)

October 30 - *Radio Free Asia*

[China, Russia, United States]

From October 29-31, China's People's Liberation Army Academy of Military Sciences and the Chinese Institute of International Strategic Studies (CIISS) hosted its 10th annual Beijing Xiangshan security forum in the wake of Chinese defense minister Li Shangfu being removed from his post the week

before. In separate speeches, China's second highest military official, Col. Gen. Zhang Youxia, and Russia's Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu both gave "like-minded" speeches that pointed to the U.S. as "deliberately" provocative, confrontational and a barrier to "common security and lasting peace."

[China, US Release Dueling Videos With Accusations of Provocation](#)

October 26 - *Bloomberg* [Paywall]

[South China Sea, United States, China]

China's military released video footage that it says shows "provocative" actions by the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS *Ralph Johnson* "against a People's Liberation Army Navy task group under routine training in South China Sea" on August 19.

[Biden reasserts 'ironclad' defense commitment after West PH Sea collisions](#)

October 26 - *CNN Philippines*

[United States, South China Sea]

In a press conference on October 25, U.S. President Joe Biden said, "I want to be clear, I want to be very clear: The United States' defense commitment to the Philippines is ironclad." Earlier in October, Manila said a China Coast Guard vessel came within 3 feet of colliding with a Philippine Coast Guard ship, attempting to block it in the South China Sea about 200 km off the Philippine coast near the Second Thomas Shoal. China says it drove away a Philippine Navy vessel when it entered an area near the disputed Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea; a claim that Manila denied.

[China PLA stationed up to 6 warships in Middle East over past week amid rising tensions from Israel-Gaza war: reports](#)

October 19 - *South China Morning Post* [Paywall]

[China, Middle East]

In the span of one week, up to six Chinese warships have been operating in the Middle East as the 44th and 45th naval escort task forces conduct routine operations and several multi-day formal visits with regional countries including Kuwait and Oman.

[US Syria Base Attacked as Destroyer Stops Missiles From Yemen](#)

October 19 - *Bloomberg* [Paywall]

[Middle East, United States]

On October 18, the naval destroyer USS *Carney* in the Red Sea intercepted three cruise missiles and several drones fired toward Israel by Houthi rebels in Yemen. The U.S. Pentagon says it is seeing an increase in the number of drone attacks in Iraq and Syria as it works to deter expanding conflicts.

[Putin Sends Jets With Hypersonic Missiles to Patrol Black Sea](#)

October 18 - *Bloomberg* [Paywall]

[Black Sea, Russia, Europe]

Russian President Vladimir Putin says he has ordered fighter jets armed with hypersonic missiles to begin round-the-clock patrols over the Black Sea, thus promoting tensions with the U.S. in the area.

[China drives away Japanese vessels illegally entering territorial waters of Diaoyu Island](#)

October 17 - CGTN

[East Asia, China, Japan]

On October 16, the China Coast Guard reported driving away several Japanese vessels that had “illegally entered the territorial waters of China’s Diaoyu Island” and urged against illegal activities.

[Fearing China, South Korea targets firms building Taiwan navy submarines](#)

October 16 - *Reuters*

[East Asia]

In the midst of the launch of Taiwan’s first domestically built submarine the *Narwhal*, authorities from South Korea and Taiwan are working to address security and potential trade law violations.

[North Korea says US carrier's visit to South 'undisguised' provocation](#)

October 12 - *Reuters*

[East Asia, United States]

On October 13, North Korea denounced a US Navy visit by the USS *Ronald Reagan* aircraft carrier and its strike group to South Korea’s port of Busan the previous day; a provocation that Pyongyang said could bring “irrevocable, catastrophic circumstances.”

[Chinese and Saudi navies launch joint counterterrorism exercise against backdrop of Israel-Hamas war](#)

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

[China, Middle East, Global]

On October 9, China and Saudi Arabia launched the first iteration of Blue Sword-2023, a joint naval exercise focused on overseas maritime counterterrorism operations and “deepening” friendships.

[6 countries join PH in sea exercises](#)

October 10 - *The Manila Times* [Paywall]

[South China Sea, Indo-Pacific]

The United States, Japan, United Kingdom, France, Canada and Australia joined the Philippines in the Samasama (Together) 2023 maritime exercises “to demonstrate our resolve...and to enhance our interoperability.” This year’s exercise was held from October 8-13 off the coast of Manila.

[Three Filipino fishermen dead after boat 'rammed' in South China Sea](#)

October 4 - *The Japan Times* [Paywall]

[South China Sea, South Pacific]

On October 4, the Philippine coast guard reported an "accidental collision" between an oil tanker registered under the flag of the Marshall Islands and a Philippine fishing boat, resulting in the death of three Philippine fishermen.

Peer-Reviewed Research on Maritime Issues

- Government Release: Department of Defense of India - ["Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addresses Goa Maritime Conclave 2023; stresses on cooperation for security"](#) [October 30]
- Government Release: U.S. State of Alaska - ["Sen Murkowski Arctic Circle Speech: The New Arctic Vision of the United States"](#) [October 23 via *Arctic Today*]
- Government Release: Philippine News Agency - ["PBBM orders PCG to probe China's harassment in WPS"](#) [October 23]
- Government Release: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan - ["Recent Surge in Tensions in the South China Sea"](#) [October 23]
- Government Release: United States, The White House - ["Readout of National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's Call with National Security Advisor Eduardo M. Año of the Philippines"](#) [October 23]
- Government Release: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China - ["Foreign Ministry Spokesperson's Remarks on CCG Lawfully Blocking Philippine Attempt to Send Construction Materials to Its Illegally 'Grounded' Warship at Ren'ai Jiao"](#) [October 22]
- Government Release: U.S. Department of State - ["U.S. Support for our Philippine Allies in the Face of Repeated PRC Harassment in the South China Sea"](#) [October 22]
- Government Release: U.S. Department of Defense - ["U.S. Accuses China of Conducting 'Centralized, Concerted' Campaign of Harassment of Aircraft"](#) [October 17]
- Government Release: U.S. Department of Defense - ["Department of Defense Releases Declassified Images, Videos of Coercive and Risky PLA Operational Behavior"](#) [October 17]
- Government Release: Police of Finland - ["National Bureau of Investigation examines background of vessels sailing in the gas pipeline damage area"](#) [October 17]
- Government Release: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China - ["Foreign Ministry Spokesperson's Remarks on the Ren'ai Jiao Issue"](#) [October 9]
- Government Release: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China - ["Foreign Ministry Spokesperson's Remarks on Japan's Start of Second Round of Ocean Discharge of Fukushima Nuclear-contaminated Water"](#) [October 5]
- Government Release: U.S. Congressional Research Service - ["China Naval Modernization: Implications for U.S. Navy Capabilities—Background and Issues for Congress"](#) [Updated October 5]
- Government Release: U.S. Congressional Research Service - ["United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea \(UNCLOS\): Living Resources Provisions"](#) [October 4]

- Government Release: Republic of the Philippines Philippine News Agency - [“Australia concerned over ‘destabilizing behaviors’ vs. PH in WPS”](#) [September 27]
- Podcast: [“Japan’s policy towards grey-zone activities in the Indo-Pacific with Professor Kotani Tetsuo and Lynn Kuok”](#) [IISS Japan Memo - October 16]
- Podcast: [“James Borton and Rodger Baker: Science Diplomacy and The Ecological Implications of The South China Sea”](#) [Asia Unscripted - October 5]
- Opinion: [“Shipping Contributes Heavily to Climate Change. Are Green Ships the Solution?”](#) [The New York Times - October 30] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“Why the rusting wreck of a second world war ship is so important to China”](#) [The Guardian - October 30]
- Opinion: [“Views From Manila on China-Philippines Confrontations in South China Sea”](#) [China Global South Project - October 26] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“From kingfish to insects: insights from the €200 m ocean impact fund”](#) [The Fish Site - October 25]
- Opinion: [“Late US Submarine Delivery Shows Pitfalls for Partnership With Australia”](#) [Bloomberg - October 25] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“After collisions at sea, could Sino-Philippine tensions boil over?”](#) [The Japan Times - October 23] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“China is fighting the third Opium War with fish”](#) [CIMSEC - October 23]
- Opinion: [“Increased Arctic Shipping Brings Increased Risks”](#) [Arctic Today - October 21] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“China is set to dominate the deep sea and its wealth of rare metals”](#) [The Washington Post - October 19] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“How India and China compete in non-aligned South Asia and the Indian Ocean”](#) [Brookings - October 18]
- Opinion: [“Unmanned ships: A fleet to do what?”](#) [CIMSEC - October 17]
- Opinion: [“The Swedish Navy brings Capable Forces to NATO”](#) [Center for Maritime Strategy - October 17]
- Opinion: [“The Arctic Council: Still Our Best Tool for Circumpolar Cooperation”](#) [Wilson Center - October 16]
- Opinion: [“The Planet’s Big Blue Machine: Why the Ocean Engine Matters”](#) [Yale Environment 360 - October 12]
- Opinion: [“With UVA Discovery, We May Be One Good Solution Closer to Solving Climate Change”](#) [University of Virginia Today - October 6]
- Opinion: [“The war in Ukraine is threatening to wash across the Black Sea”](#) [The Economist - October 5] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“Transatlantic Security in Baltic: How Realistic is Poland’s Concept of protecting NATO’s Eastern Flank against Russian Aggression?”](#) [Center for Maritime Strategy - October 5]
- Opinion: [“A Step in the Right Direction: Advancing the Philippines’ Maritime Priorities”](#) [Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative - October 4]
- Opinion: [“Sea Control in the Black Sea Still up for Grabs”](#) [Center for Maritime Strategy - October 3]
- Opinion: [“Seychelles Op-Ed: The Ocean Offers Rich Solutions for Climate Change”](#) [High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy - October 2]

- Opinion: [“The United States and the Philippines have launched joint military exercises in the South China Sea. Should China be worried? \[美国菲律宾启动南海联合军演 中国要担心吗?\]”](#) [Radio Free Asia - October 2] [In Chinese]
- Opinion: [“How seeding the oceans with minerals could help slow climate change”](#) [The Japan Times - September 29]
- Opinion: [“To succeed against China, Washington and Its Allies must be in the South China Sea”](#) [Center for Maritime Strategy - September 28]
- Analysis: [“Where’s the Nearest Carrier?”](#) [The Jerusalem Strategic Tribune - October 2023]
- Analysis: [“The Nordic Roadmap: Plotting a course for the maritime energy transition”](#) [Hellenic Shipping News - October 30]
- Analysis: [“Greece’s valuable ‘blue forests’ reveal their secrets”](#) [Greek City Times - October 30]
- Analysis: [“China, a U.S. Ally and the Fight Over an Old Rusty Ship”](#) [The Wall Street Journal - October 25] [Paywall]
- Analysis: [“‘Nightmare’ Hurricanes Are Popping Up Out of Nowhere”](#) [Bloomberg - October 25] [Paywall]
- Analysis: [“Speak its name: Blockade”](#) [SeaLight - October 22]
- Analysis: [“Huge US Naval Force Off Israel Comes With Costs”](#) [Center for European Policy Analysis - October 20]
- Analysis: [“The Desert Pipeline That Ensures Israel Can Keep Importing Oil”](#) [Bloomberg - October 20] [Paywall]
- Analysis: [“Unmanned Vessels as Sensors in U.S. Naval Operations”](#) [Center for Maritime Strategy - October 19]
- Analysis: [“Ongoing Arms Transfer Activity at Najin Port”](#) [Center for Strategic & International Studies - October 17]
- Analysis: [“BRI at 10: China’s Maritime Silk Road”](#) [The China Project - October 16] [Paywall]
- Analysis: [“More Than Meets the Eye: Philippine Upgrades at EDCA Sites”](#) [Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative - October 12]
- Analysis: [“To Protect its Valuable Seagrass, Seychelles Leverages Partnerships”](#) [Pew Charitable Trusts - October 10]
- Analysis: [“Another Summer In The South China Sea: A Guided Tour Of The World’s Most Contested Waters”](#) [USNI News - October 6]
- Analysis: [“China’s green tech giants link supply chains to Southeast Asia”](#) [Nikkei Asia - October 4]
- Analysis: [“Choppy waters as Europe navigates China-US rivalry”](#) [Reuters - October 4]
- Analysis: [“In Shipping, a Push to Slash Emissions by Harnessing the Wind”](#) [The New York Times - October 3] [Paywall]
- Analysis: [“Can CO2 Capture and Nuclear Power Get Ships to Net Zero?”](#) [The Maritime Executive - October 2]
- Analysis: [“Nigeria’s new blue economy ministry could harness marine resources - moving the focus away from oil”](#) [The Conversation - October 2]
- Analysis: [“A fight against climate change is happening under water”](#) [University of Waterloo - September 29]
- Analysis: [“How a Tiny Crew Struck a Blow Against China With a Wooden Boat and a Knife”](#) [The Wall Street Journal - September 28] [Paywall]

Events on the Maritime Domain

- From September 27-28, 2023, the Wilson Center, the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the US Coast Guard, and Battelle held the first-ever conference on Antarctic policy in Washington, DC: [“The Rules-Based Order in Antarctica and Global Challenges.”](#)
- From September 27-29, 2023, SNAME and its partners held the [“SNAME Maritime Convention 2023”](#) in San Diego, California with a focus on “Utilizing New Technologies to Solve Complex Maritime Problems.”
- On October 2, 2023, the International Institute for Strategic Studies held a talk on [“Cooperative Maritime Security in the CENTCOM Area of Operations”](#) in-person in Bahrain.
- On October 2, 2023, Columbia Climate School held a [forum](#) to discuss “Murky and Pristine Blue Pacific Waters- Challenges of marine resource development: Sustainable Fishing, Nuclear Waste, Plastic, Deep Sea Mining and More.”
- On October 3, 2023, Brookings held a hybrid event on [“De-risking the economic relationship with China: Views from the Indo-Pacific.”](#)
- On October 4, 2023, Columbia Climate School held an event on [“Climate Change, Disasters, and the Dynamics of Armed Conflicts.”](#)
- On October 5, 2023, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation held a seminar on [“Like-Minded Allies? Indo-Pacific Partners’ Views on Possible Changes in the U.S. Relationship with Taiwan.”](#)
- On October 10, 2023, the Center for Strategic & International Studies held an event on [“Arctic Geopolitics: Svalbard and the European High North.”](#) A full recording is available.
- On October 17, 2023, the Center for Strategic & International Studies International Security Program and the U.S. Naval Institute held a Maritime Security Dialogue event featuring ADM Linda L. Fagan, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard to discuss [“The U.S. Coast Guard in an Era of Great Power Competition.”](#) A full recording is available.
- On October 17, 2023, the Center for Strategic & International Studies International Security Program held a virtual event with the [“UK’s First Sea Lord on the Royal Navy.”](#) A full recording is available.
- On October 27, 2023, The Nautical Institute held a seminar on [“Seafaring in the modern and ever-changing millennium”](#) at its Singapore Conference 2023.
- On October 27, 2023, the Atlantic Council’s Indo-Pacific Security Initiative held [“A conversation with Deputy Assistant Secretary Dawson on Indo-Pacific strategy.”](#) A full recording is available.
- On October 31, 2023, Center for Strategic & International Studies will hold a hybrid webcast on [“A Discussion with Norwegian Minister Terje Aasland”](#) on energy security.
- From November 1-2, 2023, Chatham House will be holding their hybrid [“Climate change 2023”](#) conference at Chatham House, focusing on “multi-stakeholder collaboration for increased ambition, action and impact.” Registration is still open.
- On November 2, 2023, North American Marine Environment Protection Association and its partners will hold its [Annual Conference and Awards Dinner on “Maritime’s Pathway to 2050.”](#)
- On November 3, 2023, Center for Strategic & International Studies International Security Program will hold a virtual event on [“Canada’s Role in Global Maritime Security.”](#)

- On November 8, 2023, the Wilson Center will hold an online event on [“A Half Decade of Indo-Pacific Strategies: Assessing US Outreach to Allies and Partners.”](#)
- From November 15-16, 2023, DefenceIQ and its partners will hold a forum combining the [“Warships & OPV Latin America Conference”](#) and the [“Caribbean Basin Maritime Security and Coastal Surveillance” \(CABSEC\)](#), both of which focus on addressing regional security challenges such as technological advancements and information sharing. Registration is still open.
- From November 17-19, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation Ocean Policy Research Institute and their partners will hold [“The International Eelgrass and Blue Carbon Workshop.”](#) Both in-person and online registration is still open.
- On November 20, 2023, Riviera will be holding their [International Bulk Shipping Conference](#) in London, United Kingdom, which will focus on “navigating new market dynamics, environmental requirements and improving operational efficiency.” Registration is still open.
- On November 28, 2023, The Nautical Institute and the Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) will hold a conference on [“Achieving Effective Simulation.”](#) Registration is still open.
- From November 29-30, 2023, Active Communications International and their partners will be holding their [17th Arctic Shipping Summit](#) in Montreal, Canada for the first time in three years. Registration is still open.
- On December 7, 2023, the Danish Embassy and the Danish-UK Association will be holding the [11th Annual UK Offshore Wind Seminar](#) in London, United Kingdom. Registration is still open.

Handbill Spotlight

Air Interception and Close Encounters

Issue Background

‘Interception’ is a technical aviation term that is usually used to describe the practice of a military flight to intercept another unidentified or unregistered aircraft in a restricted or prohibited airspace. The purpose of interception is for the military aircraft to first identify the intercepted aircraft, understand its intention, and then follow [standardized procedures](#) based on the understanding of the intercepted aircraft’s intention.

Contrary to common understanding, air interceptions are not rare. Fighter jets around the world dispatch—also known as “scramble”—to intercept another aircraft frequently when civilian aircraft mistakenly enter restricted or prohibited airspace due to communication or navigation malfunction. For instance, earlier this year, two F-16 fighter jets scrambled from Joint Base Andrews to intercept [a private jet](#) that mistakenly flew over Washington, D.C. airspace.

Air interception of military aircraft from another country and beyond domestic airspace is significantly more complicated and potentially alarming. Given the nature of military operations, the intention of a foreign military aircraft is usually unclear. While pilots could communicate with each other through the public channel, miscommunication or ‘no-response’ tends to happen. As modern military operations increasingly rely on airborne platforms for reconnaissance, communication, strike

and other capabilities, it is critical for any country's air force to make sure that they can detect, intercept, and properly deal with foreign military aircraft, even during peacetime.

Recent Events¹

On October 17, 2023, the U.S. Department of Defense, for the first time, [released over a hundred cases](#) of alleged “coercive and risky operational behavior by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) against U.S. aircraft.” More specifically, the release pointed at close encounters when PLA aircraft intercepted various U.S. aircraft in the Asia-Pacific. Before the release, the United States has already accused the Chinese military of “unprofessional maneuver” in many cases. In May 2023, the U.S. military [released footage](#) of a Chinese J-16 fighter jet carrying out a close maneuver near a U.S. RC-135 reconnaissance aircraft over the South China Sea. While the U.S. claims that its aircraft is operating in international airspace, given the highly sensitive and complex geographical situation in the South China Sea, information-gathering activities carried out by the US Air Force are likely to encounter more Chinese intercepts in the future.



Likewise, as many countries begin to increase their presence in the Asia-Pacific region, air movements over the waters around China, not only in the South China Sea but also in the East China Sea, are creating more cases of intercepts and close encounters. In mid-October 2023, the Chinese military of defense [reacted strongly](#) and criticized a Canadian military aircraft's activity near the disputed Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands. In the public [footage](#), it can be seen that a double-seated Chinese J-10 fighter aircraft flew close to the Canadian CP-140 surveillance aircraft, though the scene was relatively “stable” compared to the abovementioned close encounter between China and the U.S.

¹ A video newly released by the Department, recorded September 21, 2023, captures a PLA fighter jet conducting a coercive and risky intercept against a lawfully operating U.S. asset in the South China Sea, including by approaching a distance of just 50 feet from the U.S. plane. (Source/Credit: [Indo-Pacom Courtesy Photo](#), Public Domain)

Keep In Mind

Engagement in the air is oftentimes risky given its nature of high speed and height. As one military aircraft approaches the other without proper signaling and communication, under high stress, unexpected air collisions will happen. Both the U.S. and China are not strangers to such severe consequences. On April 1, 2001, a Chinese J-8II interceptor jet collided with the U.S. EP-3 intelligence aircraft, which resulted in the Chinese pilot Wang Wei missing in action and later declared dead. Badly damaged, the U.S. EP-3 made an unauthorized landing on Lingshui airfield in Hainan, China. This [“EP-3” incident](#), though being managed properly by the diplomats between the two countries, put both the U.S. and China close to the edge of an unwanted confrontation.

Given the increasing tensions between the U.S. and China and the increased air operations of the U.S. military in the South China Sea and East China Sea as the U.S. military [moves on to prepare](#) for a great power competition with China, an unexpected collision could potentially lead to more severe consequences than the “EP-3” incident. The [1987 Soviet-Norwegian](#) air collision between a Su-27 fighter jet and a P-3 Orion maritime patrol aircraft over the Barents Sea shall serve as a great lesson for the U.S. and China nowadays to prevent crisis when hostility between the two militaries is high.

This issue’s Spotlight was written by Yilun Zhang, ICAS Research Associate & Manager, Trade ‘n Technology Program.

ICAS Maritime Affairs Program: New and Upcoming

— ICAS 2023 Annual Conference Summary & Videos Released —

Stopping “Gray Rhinos”, Handling “Black Swans” and Removing “Tigers Blocking the Way”:
Assessing Challenges and Exploring Prospects for U.S.-China Relations in 2024

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

9:00am - 2:00pm EDT

Georgetown Marriott Hotel, Washington, D.C.

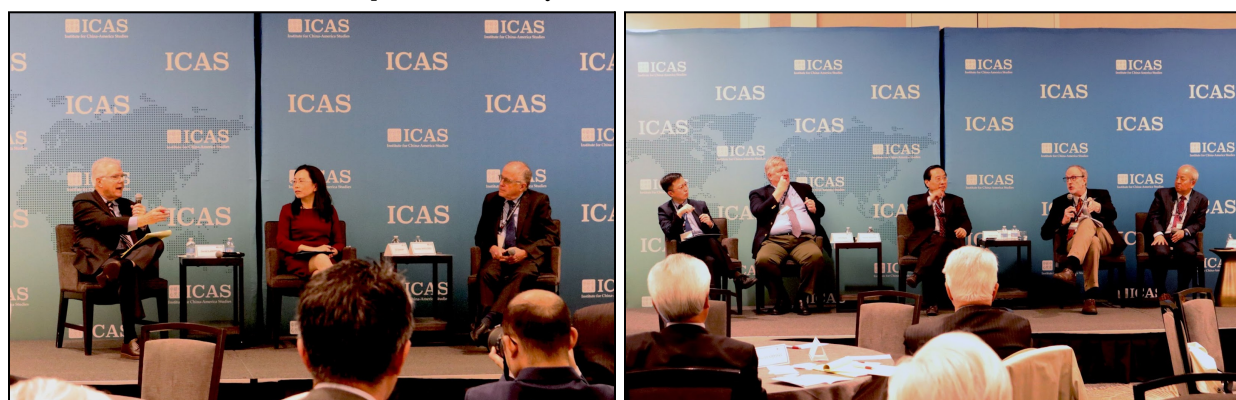
- [Watch All Conference Sessions on YouTube](#) -

- [Read the Full Written Summary and Explore Conference Information](#) -



On October 17, the Institute for China-America Studies (ICAS) organized its 2023 Annual Conference. With COVID-19 thankfully more or less in the rear-view mirror, the conference was held in full,

in-person format for the first time in more than four years. Dr. Hong Nong, Executive Director of ICAS, opened the conference and Dr. Wu Shicun, Chairman of ICAS' Advisory Board, delivered the **introductory remarks**. In his heartfelt message, Dr. Wu spoke of the pressing need for both sides to present a forward-looking vision of ties so as to remove risks to the bilateral relationship and stabilize its long-term development. China and the United States are not fated to fall into a ‘Thucydides Trap’, and decision-makers on both sides must ensure that such a circumstance does not come to pass. Casting his own family’s experience as a typical example, Dr. Wu referred to the innumerable people-to-people ties that many Chinese share with the United States and the American people at large. Such relationships must never be decoupled, he noted, and future generations of Chinese and Americans must not pay the price of bad decisions that are taken today. Concluding, he hoped that the annual conference would throw up vibrant ideas and solutions to the many challenges being faced and articulate a new paradigm of ties that could rehabilitate and relaunch China-U.S. relations on a stable track for the next quarter century...



Dr. Wu’s introductory remarks was followed by the highlight of the conference—a **keynote dialogue** featuring Madam Xu Xueyuan, Deputy Chief of Mission & Minister at the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in the United States, and Professor David Lampton, Professor Emeritus of China Studies at the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University.



Following two experts panel discussions—one on “**Cooperation, Competition and Rivalry in U.S.-China Relations**” and the second on “**Taking Stock of Selective Decoupling in U.S.-China Economic Relations**”—the ICAS 2023 Annual Conference was rounded off by a **keynote luncheon** address by Ms. Amy Celico, Partner at the Albright Stonebridge Group and an ex-senior U.S. government official in both the foreign service and international trade capacities.

Watch All ICAS 2023 Annual Conference Sessions on YouTube:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLs4oA4vJ3iF5-3DVl-wOcD2i6crV7X-&si=QV3PU0u2r3h_moNG

Read the Full Written Summary and Explore Conference Information:

<https://chinaus-icas.org/events-2/annual-conferences/2023-annual-conference/>

Explore Key Quotes Released Live on Twitter (X) via #ICAS2023:

https://twitter.com/hashtag/ICAS2023?src=hashtag_click

— Upcoming Book Release —

US-China Global Maritime Relations

By Nong Hong (Routledge, 2024)

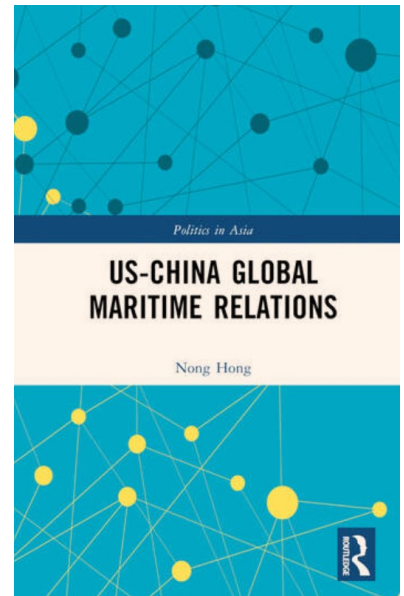
This book explores the U.S.-China maritime relationship, examining the development and implementation of the maritime strategies of both the United States and China.

Delving into the U.S.-China maritime relationship within the global context, the book investigates six key maritime regions: the South China Sea, the Northeast Asia waters (the East China Sea, the Yellow Sea), the Indian Ocean, the South Pacific Ocean, as well as the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Its observations form a comprehensive exploration of these regions and their significance in shaping the dynamics between the two nations, and this analysis reveals that an expanded view is necessary to discover and clearly display the role that these maritime regions currently—and could potentially—play in overarching U.S.-China relations.

Examining both the ongoing conflicts and opportunities for cooperation in the global maritime domain between the United States and China, this book will be a valuable resource to students and scholars of international relations, Chinese and U.S. politics, strategic studies, and maritime studies.

Learn More: <https://chinaus-icas.org/research/us-china-global-maritime-relations/>

Preorder: <https://www.routledge.com/US-China-Global-Maritime-Relations/Hong/p/book/9781032510897>



— Upcoming MAP Academic Engagement —

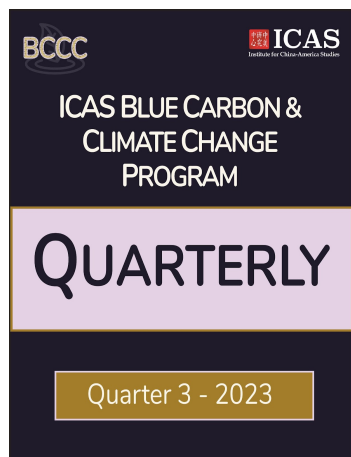
ICAS research fellows will participate in the upcoming Symposium on Global Maritime Cooperation and Ocean Governance 2023 taking place in Sanya, China from November 8-9, 2023.

Stay tuned for more information:

<https://chinaus-icas.org/event/symposium-on-global-maritime-cooperation-and-ocean-governance-2023/>

Register Virtually: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UFyW_TE8Q8upJWmV4OkNEA#/registration

– Blue Carbon & Climate Change Quarterly 2023 Q3 Released –



Released the first week of every new quarter, the BCCC Quarterly is a magazine-style newsletter that records the most important trends and developments regarding blue carbon and climate change policies and regulations in China, the U.S., and other regions, as well as international regimes such as the United Nations. It also includes two special sections – the ‘Theme of the Quarter’ and the ‘Blue Carbon Country Profile’ – that aim to bring a fresh element to each issue.

The Theme of the Quarter, examining The Rise of Carbon Crediting, was written by ICAS BCCC Research Assistant Intern Zhangchen Wang.

The Blue Carbon Country Profile, focusing on Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), was written by ICAS BCCC Research Assistant Intern Zhangchen Wang.

View the Full 2023 Q3 BCCC Quarterly:

<https://chinaus-icas.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/BCCC-Quarterly-2023-Q3.pdf>


BCCC Quarterly (Q3 2023) - 18

Blue Carbon Country Profile: Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs)

A. Potential of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) in Blue Carbon Affairs

The term “Pacific Island Countries and Territories” refers to a diverse group of 22 sovereign states and dependent territories situated in the Pacific Ocean, including: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna. The total land area of PICTs is approximately 550,000 km², with Papua New Guinea making up approximately 85%. Although the current number of blue carbon ecosystems is rather limited among those islands, blue carbon still plays an important role in ensuring and improving local life and safeguarding these islands from climate change: one of the PICTs’ greatest adversaries right now. As arguably one of the most underprivileged regions in the world that is highly susceptible to environmental degradation, a healthy blue carbon ecosystem will help these vulnerable islands with very limited resources to better cope with the dual threats of climate change and economic constraints.

- Amount of seagrass: 1446 km² (2021)
- Amount of mangroves: 3427 km² (2023)
- Key Institutions of Study on Blue Carbon: Solomon Islands Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology; Kiribati Ministry of Environment, Lands & Agricultural Development
- Key Regions of Interest: Viti Levu Bay (Fiji), Fagatoto Bay National Marine Sanctuary (American Samoa), Phoenix Islands Protected Area (Kiribati), Namdrik Atoll (Marshall Islands)



¹Image: A map of the PICTs. (Source: Graphic Guide—Oceania Maps, (2020), Map of Oceania—Pacific Islands www.geographicguide.com/australia-map.html)

BCCC Quarterly (Q3 2023) - 1

Theme of the Quarter: The Rise of Carbon Crediting


News on the Rise of Carbon Crediting
Carbon Credit Trade is Receiving Unprecedented Attention

The third quarter of 2023 has proven to be a groundbreaking period for carbon credit trading as it serves as a feasible solution for countries to fulfill their net zero emissions by the middle of the century. Despite the term “carbon credits” has been around for more than 25 years, during the past few months, many countries and regions have planned to start their first-ever carbon credit trading platform that is regulated by the government and endorsed by government credit. In July, Taiwan opened the Taiwan Carbon Solution Exchange with NT\$1.5 billion (US\$47.33 million) of capital in Kaohsiung as the nation aims to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. The exchange will start carbon credit trading businesses once Taiwan’s Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) works out the carbon pricing and trading rules that fulfill the regulations and policies stipulated by the Climate Change Response Act. At the beginning of September, Kenya published a new law that would allow them to start carbon credit trading. Similarly, Indonesia opened its first carbon exchange on September 26, aiming to offer companies and financial institutions a mechanism to offset their emissions while providing funding for carbon reduction projects. Currently, coal power plants are required to realize carbon neutrality through carbon trading in Indonesia. As one of the countries with the richest reserves of blue carbon and other carbon-sequestering natural resources in the world, the extra funds gained from carbon credit trading is expected to provide the local natural resource protection efforts with more resources and assistance to a great extent. In addition, nearby Japan is another country that has announced that it will soon start the country’s first carbon credit trading programs. The Tokyo Stock Exchange will start carbon credit trading on October 11 in an attempt to encourage companies and cities to curb emissions and achieve its goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. As the Tokyo Stock Exchange now offers carbon credit trading in Japan with a much more convenient and transparent system than it did in the past, the Japanese government hopes to encourage organizations and companies to support and even establish more energy-saving devices and manage forests.¹

A particular concept repeatedly mentioned in the above reports is how one of the most important functions of carbon credit trading is that it provides carbon reduction projects with extra funds to strengthen their power and influence on carbon offsetting and carbon neutrality. Indeed, carbon credit trading is already an unexpectedly large market with unprecedented, expanding potential. Occasionally, some financial institutions will evaluate the value of the carbon credit trading market. Recent valuations believe that the carbon credit trading market will maintain a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 20% in the near future. Although the growth rate is far from rapid, it is steady and predictable when properly conducted. In fact, the pioneers of carbon credit trading are already enjoying the fruits of this climate change mitigation methodology. According to an official announcement in August, the Zimbabwe government took 30% of carbon credit revenue as an environmental levy over the past decade. Even with



¹Image: Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen and guests holding “golden kettles” at the Opening Ceremony of the Taiwan Carbon Rights Exchange in Kaohsiung on August 7, 2023. (Source: Office of the President, Republic of China (Taiwan); Public Domain)



Learn More About the 2023 Quarter 3 Publication:

<https://chinaus-icas.org/bccc-quarterly/volume-2-issue-3/>

Explore the ICAS Blue Carbon & Climate Change Program:

<https://chinaus-icas.org/icas-blue-carbon-climate-change-program/>

View the Condensed, Chinese-Language Version:

<https://chinaus-icas.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/BCCC-Quarterly-Q3-2023-CHN.pdf>