



ICAS MARITIME AFFAIRS HANDBILL

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Recent News in Global Maritime Affairs

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

[In Chile's far south, scientists record an island's quickly shifting ecology](#)

November 30 - *Mongabay*

[South America]

On Chile's Navarino Island, one of South America's southernmost islands, scientists are recording major and rapid shifts across the island's ecology from increased temperatures, including but not limited to wetlands drying up, ice floes disappearing and animal populations declining.

[Blue carbon project unveils hidden treasure in our sea](#)

November 22 - *Isle of Man Today*

[Atlantic Ocean]

In November, at the halfway point of a three-year project, two top marine officers explored the progress from the Isle of Man's Manx Blue Carbon Project and the project's goals through 2025. As 85% of the Isle of Man's territory lies beneath the waves, this project began in February 2022 to better understand the sea and restore lost marine life.

[Oil spill tops 1 million gallons, threatens Gulf of Mexico wildlife](#)

November 21 - *The Washington Post* [Paywall]

[Atlantic Ocean, North America, The Caribbean]

On November 16, a large oil spill was discovered near a 67-mile pipeline in the Gulf of Mexico off the Louisiana coast. The US Coast Guard estimates the spill to contain at least 1.1 million gallons of oil and is still investigating the source of the oil spill, which may have originated from a pipeline operated by the Main Pass Oil Gathering Co.

[Jamaica battles relentless plastic pollution in quest to restore mangroves](#)

November 21 - *Mongabay*

[The Caribbean]

New research notes how mangroves in Jamaica have declined by more than 33% since the 1970s and that one of the most significant ongoing challenges in restoration efforts is combating plastic waste.

[Pacific Confronting Growing Climate Change Impacts, Official US Assessment Finds](#)

November 14 - East-West Center

[Pacific Ocean, South Pacific]

The United States Government's Fifth National Climate Assessment revealed that climate change has threatened ecosystems in Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands and increased inequalities in relevant communities. The assessment recommended several adaptation and mitigation strategies that incorporate local and indigenous knowledge into solution planning.

[Indonesia president inaugurates \\$108 million floating solar plant](#)

November 9 - *Reuters*

[Southeast Asia]

On November 8, Indonesian president Joko Widodo inaugurated a floating solar plant in Indonesia's West Java province that can process up to 192 megawatts of power. This project is part of Indonesia's plan to switch away from coal by increasing renewable energy sources.

[Orcas sink another boat in Strait of Gibraltar off Morocco](#)

November 6 - *The Washington Post* [Paywall]

[Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic Ocean]

On October 31, a pod of killer orca whales swarmed a Polish-flagged yacht for 45 minutes in the Strait of Gibraltar, resulting in the sinking of the vessel just off the coast of Morocco. While no one was harmed, observers have noted this as another example of similar cases in the region.

[Iceland's Blue Lagoon on Alert for Magma Flows After Earthquakes](#)

November 3 - *Bloomberg* [Paywall]

[North Atlantic Ocean]

Blue Lagoon, a geothermal spa in Grindavik, Iceland, risked facing magma flows after the occurrence of several earthquakes near Reykjavik led to the formation of an underground magma intrusion. Authorities are closely monitoring the situation but said that there is no immediate risk of eruption.

[South China Sea brims with rare earth and renewable power promise](#)

November 3 - *Nikkei Asia*

[South China Sea]

Renewable energy and rare earth mining are becoming a growing industry in the South China Sea. This is especially true in regards to building offshore wind turbine farms as the increase in monsoons brings stronger winds and the relevant technology to build these turbine farms evolves.

[The latest unlikely place where you can now find microplastics](#)

November 2 - *The Washington Post* [Paywall]

[Japan]

Researchers from Waseda University have unexpectedly found microplastics in the clouds above Mount Fuji. Chemicals in microplastics are believed to have a negative impact on marine life as they interfere with reproduction, stress responses, immune response and development.

[Biggest Chinese Antarctic fleet sets off to build research station](#)

November 1 - *Reuters*

[The Antarctic, China]

On November 1, China dispatched a large fleet off to Antarctica—made up of two icebreaker research ships and a cargo ship—to continue building its fifth research station in the Antarctic region.

[2] Maritime Economy and Shipping [2]

[Fresh China questions for Cameron as video shows him praising port project](#)

November 24 - *The Guardian*

[Europe, South Asia, China]

David Cameron, the United Kingdom's former prime minister and newly-appointed foreign secretary, is facing a series of questions after promoting the Chinese development of a port in Sri Lanka. Cameron promoted the port development in a video two months ago in which he quoted from a Chinese-funded study, speaking to investors in Dubai.

[US sanctions maritime companies, vessels for shipping oil above Russian price cap](#)

November 16 - *Reuters*

[Black Sea, United States, Global]

On November 16, the U.S. Department of Treasury imposed sanctions on three United Arab Emirates-based companies and three of their vessels that have been shipping Russian oil above the US\$60 a barrel cap. The cap was imposed by the Group of Seven nations and Australia in 2022 to reduce Russia's revenues following its invasion of Ukraine.

[Ellesmere Port: Green shipping hub for vehicle plant opens](#)

November 15 - BBC

[Western Europe]

Earlier in November, the £10m Green Automotive Manufacturing Hub at Queen Elizabeth II Dock at Eastham, located south of Liverpool, has successfully opened. The shipping hub is a collaboration between Peel Ports, Suardiaz and Stellantis and is being touted as a “gamechanger in cutting supply chain emissions and road congestion in the UK.”

[Russian Strike on Merchant Ship Threatens Ukraine's Exports](#)

November 9 - *Bloomberg* [Paywall]

[Black Sea]

A Russian missile strike on the KMAX *Ruler* merchant ship inflicted what the United Nations called “the first civilian casualty of a mariner” since the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine war. The strike added more risk to commodity exports of Ukraine.

[US plans to build a \\$553 million terminal at Sri Lanka's Colombo port in rivalry with China](#)

November 9 - AP

[South Asia, United States, China]

The U.S. DFC has announced a US\$553 million project to build a deep-water shipping container terminal in Sri Lanka's Port of Colombo. As described by the project chief, the terminal will “expand its shipping capacity, creating greater prosperity for Sri Lanka—without adding to sovereign debt—while at the same strengthening the position of our allies across the region.”

[Marine product exports to China tank 90% on year after import ban](#)

November 8 - *The Japan Times* [Paywall]

[Japan, China]

In September 2023, Japan's marine product exports to China dropped by 90.8% compared to a year ago as the amount of China-bound marine product exports fell for the third consecutive month, as reported by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

[Two Gas Tankers U-Turn Just Miles From Dried-Up Panama Canal](#)

November 7 - *Bloomberg* [Paywall]

[Central America]

Ship-tracking data showed two giant gas tankers, the *Pyxis Pioneer* and the *Sunny Bright*, performing u-turns near the southern mouth of the Panama Canal, where low rainfall is snarling traffic on the vital waterway.

[NPA launches \\$1.1bn port rehabilitation plan for enhanced trade competitiveness](#)

November 7 - *Vanguard*

[Africa]

Mohammed Bello Koko, the Managing Director of Nigerian Port Authority, announced at a port management conference that Nigeria would be launching a US\$1.1 billion port rehabilitation project to overhaul and enhance existing ports in the country.

[3] Ocean Governance and Maritime Cooperation [3]

[Saudi ambassador to UK appointed IMO president](#)

November 28- *Arab News*

[Global, Europe]

At the opening of their 33rd General Assembly being held in London, United Kingdom, the member states of the International Maritime Organization unanimously appointed Prince Khalid bin Bandar Al-Saud as President of the IMO General Assembly.

[China Denies Australia's Claim That Warship Used Sonar Against Divers](#)

November 20 - *The Wall Street Journal* [Paywall]

[South Pacific, East Asia]

After Australia's acting Prime Minister Richard Marles accused the Chinese navy of injuring some of its divers with sonar pulses during an operation in international waters near Japan, calling the act "unsafe and unprofessional conduct," a spokesman for China's Defense Ministry said Australia's account was "completely inconsistent with the facts" and that China "didn't engage in any activities that might affect the Australian diving operations."

[Pacific Partnership 2023 Humanitarian Mission Expanding in the Western Pacific](#)

November 14 - *USNI News*

[Western Pacific Ocean]

Throughout November, the US Navy has been conducting its Pacific Partnership 2023 mission in the South China Sea which involves almost 1,500 personnel from Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and the United Kingdom. With this year marking its 18th iteration, this cooperative mission seeks to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities.

[Pacific island nations express concern over Fukushima water release](#)

November 11 - *The Japan Times* [Paywall]

[Japan, Pacific Ocean]

During last week's Pacific Islands Forum, leaders of the regional states expressed strong health-related concerns over the release of treated radioactive water from Japan's Fukushima No. 1

nuclear plant into the Pacific Ocean. Japan began its third release of treated water from Fukushima in early November and several surrounding countries still have active bans on Japanese seafood.

[Shell sues Greenpeace for \\$2.1 million after activists boarded oil vessel](#)

November 9 - Reuters

[Atlantic Ocean]

Environmental activist group Greenpeace is being sued by Shell for US\$2.1 million after their activist boarded the petroleum giant's oil production vessel in transit at sea to protest oil drilling earlier this year. The protesters boarded the vessel near the Canary Islands off the Atlantic coast of northern Africa and traveled on it as far as Norway.

[China stresses S.China Sea disputes should be resolved through consultation between parties directly concerned, rejecting bloc confrontation, zero-sum approach](#)

November 8 - Global Times

[China, Global]

Giving opening remarks at a two-day ocean governance forum in Sanya, China, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the world's oceans should be "a link for the promotion of exchanges and cooperation among countries" not for "creating obstacles."

[Senate to allot funds to build facilities in WPS](#)

November 8 - The Manila Times

[Southeast Asia]

According to one member, the Philippine Senate has unanimously decided to allocate funds from its 2024 national budget to build structures in the West Philippine Sea "meant not for aggression but for the welfare of our soldiers stationed there." "Unless you've been living under the rock, you cannot miss what's happening there," the Senator noted.

[Vietnamese boycott Snapchat over China's U-shaped line](#)

November 7 - VN Express

[South China Sea]

Vietnamese are boycotting U.S. social media app Snapchat for its use of China's U-shaped line, which is disputed and not recognized by Vietnam. The Vietnamese authorities are aware of the issue but could not get in touch with Snapchat since there is no point of contact based in Vietnam.

[Vietnam rapidly builds up South China Sea reef](#)

November 6 - *Radio Free Asia*

[South China Sea, Southeast Asia]

A new series of satellite images depicts how Vietnam has been building up the Barque Canada Reef in the South China Sea. The reef is part of the Spratly Islands and has been under development since the end of 2021. As of early November, the square footage of the reef was nearly 1 km (250 acres).

[China hits back after Canada accuses PLA jets of 'unsafe' South China Sea moves](#)

November 5 - *South China Morning Post* [Paywall]

[South China Sea, Canada]

On November 4, China described a Canadian aircraft's close encounter with People's Liberation Army (PLA) military jets in the South China Sea as "provocative". The comment came after Ottawa accused the PLA jet of unsafe behavior over international waters in the region on October 29.

[Migrants say 'Spain or death' as Senegalese navy tackles sea crossings](#)

November 4 - *Reuters*

[Africa, Europe]

After a nighttime chase, a Senegalese navy patrol ship intercepted a boat with 159 passengers aiming to migrate to Spain's Canary Islands. "You think you're going to stop us? We're going back! We will reach Spain, or we will die," one migrant was reported shouting, emphasizing the determination of such migrants regularly trying to cross from West Africa to Europe.

[Colombia Accelerates Plan to Recover Up to \\$20 Billion in Sunken Treasure](#)

November 3 - *Bloomberg* [Paywall]

[South America, Caribbean Sea]

Colombia is accelerating its effort to recover as much as US\$20 billion in gold, silver and gems from a three-century-old shipwreck found on the floor of the Caribbean Sea in 2015. Meanwhile, a U.S. exploration company Glocca Morra claims to have found the San Jose in 1981 and is suing Colombia for half the value.

[China and Southeast Asia nations vow to conclude a nonaggression pact faster as sea crises escalate](#)

November 2 - AP

[Southeast Asia]

In a meeting in Beijing, diplomats from China and Southeast Asian countries have renewed a vow to finalize a nonaggression pact for the South China Sea region within the next three years. The renewed pledge follows several maritime collisions and confrontations in the last few months.

[4] Maritime Security and Defense [4]

[India To Get Aircraft Carrier Worth \\$ 5 Billion To Counter Chinese Presence In Indian Ocean](#)

November 30 - *Marine Insight*

[South Asia, Indo-Pacific]

According to people familiar with the matter, India's Defense Acquisition Council is expected to approve the acquisition of its second exclusively indigenous aircraft carrier, to cost over 400 billion rupees. The intent of the new carrier would be to defend India's economic interests and counter any difficulties from regional adversaries, as described by a former vice admiral in India's navy.

[US Navy seizes attackers who held Israel-linked tanker. Missiles from rebel-controlled Yemen follow](#)

November 26 - *Associated Press*

[Middle East, United States]

Attackers—who Yemen's internationally recognized government identified as linked to the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels—temporarily seized the Liberian-flagged *Central Park* tanker in the Gulf of Aden before being apprehended by the US Navy. Then, two ballistic missiles fired from the Houthi-controlled Yemen landed near a U.S. warship aiding the *Central Park* in the Gulf of Aden.

[Australia-Philippines Launch Joint Naval Patrol in South China Sea](#)

November 24 - *The Diplomat*

[Southeast Asia, South Pacific, East Asia]

A few days after the U.S. and the Philippines jointly launched three-day air and maritime patrols near Taiwan, Australia and the Philippines began joint naval patrols in the South China Sea, marking the first time the two countries have held maritime cooperation activities.

[Aman Youyi-2023 joint exercise launches live drills](#)

November 23 - *China Military*

[China, Southeast Asia]

On November 22, China launched the Aman Youyi 2023 anti-terrorism joint exercise, involving both land and sea training. Troops from China, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam are participating in the live drills that “optimized the processes and mechanisms of joint anti-terrorism and military operations on maritime security...and demonstrated their confidence and determination to jointly safeguard regional peace and stability.”

[Maldives will have no foreign military presence - new president](#)

November 17 - Reuters

[South Pacific, Global]

Mohamed Muizzu, the newly elected President of the Maldives, announced that the Maldives would seek to ensure no foreign military presence on their soil through diplomatic means. Currently, India maintains a military presence in the Maldives, though both India and China appear to be seeking influence in the country via supportive investment initiatives.

[U.S. Marines forms coastal unit in Okinawa for island defense](#)

November 16 - *The Japan Times*

[East Asia, United States]

On November 15, the United States' 12th Marine Regiment based in Japan's Okinawa Prefecture was reorganized into the 12th Marine Littoral Regiment in an indication of bolstered defenses of remote islands in southwestern Japan. The US Marines currently have only one other littoral regiment, with the other being set up in Hawaii in March 2022.

[China and Pakistan hold naval drills after first Russia-Myanmar exercise](#)

November 13 - *Nikkei Asia*

[China, Central Asia, South Asia]

A few days after Russia and Myanmar held their first “naval exercise in modern history” in the Andaman Sea, the Chinese and Pakistani navies held a week-long joint naval drill in the Arabian Sea which included anti-submarine operations and air operations.

[China, U.S. Hold Talks on Maritime Security](#)

November 6 - *Caixin*

[United States, China]

On November 3, China and the United States held the first round of new consultations on maritime affairs in Beijing, co-hosted by U.S. State Department China Coordinator Mark Lambert and China's director-general of the foreign ministry's Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs. Both sides aim to use this meeting to “avoid misunderstanding and misjudgment,” said China's foreign ministry.

[US airs concerns to China about 'dangerous and unlawful' South China Sea actions](#)

November 3 - Reuters

[South China Sea, United States, China]

During the first round of consultations on maritime affairs between China and the United States held on November 3 in Beijing, Washington underscored its concerns over China's actions in the South China Sea. Citing China's recent obstruction of a Philippine resupply mission and intercept of U.S. aircraft, the U.S. side called the Chinese actions “dangerous and unlawful.”

[US-Canada naval partnership asserts freedom of navigation in Taiwan Strait](#)

November 2 - *Naval Technology*

[East Asia, North America]

The U.S. Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS *Rafael Peralta* and Royal Canadian Navy Halifax-class frigate HMCS *Ottawa* undertook a routine transit of the Taiwan Strait “in display of unity and commitment to upholding international law.”

[Israel deploys missile boats in Red Sea as Houthis attack from Yemen](#)

November 1 - *Reuters*

[Middle East, Red Sea]

A day after the Iran-aligned Houthi movement launched missiles and drone attack on Israel, Tel Aviv deployed missile boats in the Red Sea and claimed that they had intercepted an “aerial threat” over the Red Sea. Israeli Saar-class corvettes have also been seen patrolling near Eilat port, which Israel sees as a new front in its conflict with Hamas.

Peer-Reviewed Research on Maritime Issues

- Government Speech: International Maritime Organization Secretary-General Kitack Lim - [“IMO Assembly, 33rd session, 27 November – 6 December 2023 - opening speech”](#) [November 27]
- Government Speech: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy - [“No one in recent decades has caused greater harm to free navigation than Russia – address by the President of Ukraine to the participants of the 33rd Assembly of the International Maritime Organization”](#) [November 27]
- Government Speech: Greek Minister of Maritime Affairs & Shipping Island Policy Christos Stylianides [“Speech at the Plenary Session of the 33rd Assembly of the International Maritime Organization \(IMO\)”](#) [November 27]
- Government Speech: Indian Department of Defense, Defense Minister Rajath Singh - [“India affirms commitment to freedom of navigation in international waters, says Rajnath Singh at ASEAN defence ministers’ meet”](#) [November 16]
- Government Speech: Foreign Ministry of the People’s Republic of China, H.E. Wang Yi - [“Working Together to Make Our Oceans a Peaceful, Tranquil, Clean and Beautiful Home with Fairness, Justice and Prosperity”](#) [November 8]
- Government Action: The White House, President of the United States - [“Message to the Congress – Notification to the Congress Consistent With Section 8 of the Fishermen’s Protective Act of 1967, as amended \(22 U.S.C. 197\)”](#) [November 3]
- Press Release: Council of the European Union - [“EU-New Zealand: Council gives final green light to free trade agreement”](#) [November 27]
- Press Release: Government of Nigeria - [“At IMO General Assembly, Oyetola restates FG’s commitment to reposition maritime sector”](#) [November 27]

- Press Release: European Commission Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries - [“Have your say: how can we better protect vulnerable marine ecosystems in the high seas?”](#) [November 27]
- Press Release: Singapore Ministry of Transport - [“Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Transport and Sustainability Dr Amy Khor to Attend 33rd Session of International Maritime Organization Assembly”](#) [November 26]
- Press Release: Ministry of Defense of the People's Republic of China - [“Aman Youyi-2023 joint exercise launches joint commanding drill”](#) [November 22]
- Press Release: U.S. Department of State - [“Joint Statement of the 2023 Caribbean-U.S. High Level Security Cooperation Dialogue”](#) [November 22]
- Press Release: Government of Ireland - [“Minister McConalogue sets out Ireland's priorities for 2024 fishing opportunities”](#) [November 22]
- Press Release: Government of Mexico - [“Mexico supports a moratorium on deep-sea mining in areas beyond national jurisdiction”](#) [November 21]
- Press Release: U.S. Department of the Treasury - [“Treasury Sanctions Additional Maritime Companies, Vessels Transporting Oil Sold Above the Coalition Price Cap”](#) [November 16]
- Press Release: European Commission - [“EU and Neighbourhood countries commit to enhanced fisheries management control in the Mediterranean and Black Sea”](#) [November 13]
- Press Release: U.S. Department of State - [“U.S. Support for the Philippines in the South China Sea”](#) [November 10]
- Press Release: U.S. Department of State - [“China Coordinator Mark B. Lambert's Meeting with the People's Republic of China \(PRC\) Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director-General for Boundary and Ocean Affairs Hong Liang”](#) [November 3]
- Press Release: U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration - [“Biden-Harris Administration Invests More Than \\$653 Million in Ports to Strengthen American Supply Chains”](#) [November 3]
- Interview: [“Interview With The Captain Of Philippine Frigate BRP Antonio Luna”](#) [Naval News - November 4]
- Research Release: The World Bank - [“Unlocking Blue Carbon Development: Investment Readiness Framework for Governments”](#) [November 2023]
- Podcast: Center for Maritime Strategy - [“Our Naval Neighbor to the North: A Conversation with the 38th Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy Vice Admiral Angus Topshee”](#) [Maritime Nation - November 14]
- Opinion: [“Japan's wastewater release could bring the region together”](#) [The Japan Times - November 27] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“Seafarers' Wages Act: Considerations for operators and harbour authorities”](#) [Safety4Sea - November 24]
- Opinion: [“The Era of Total U.S. Submarine Dominance Over China Is Ending”](#) [The Wall Street Journal - November 20] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“‘Like a 40-metre pizza’: the seaweed farms that could feed us all – at a cost”](#) [The Guardian - November 17]
- Opinion: [“Treasury Department's hunt for Russian oil sanction violators on the seas is intensifying”](#) [CNBC - November 16]
- Opinion; [“The promise and risks of deep-sea mining”](#) [Reuters - November 15]

- Opinion: [“More Combat Logistics Force Ships? Yes Please!”](#) [Center for Maritime Strategy - November 14]
- Opinion: [“Towards a greener future: how shipping needs to adapt and evolve”](#) [Seatrade Maritime News - November 14]
- Opinion: [“Bloc confrontation nothing but harm for South China Sea countries”](#) [China Military - November 13]
- Opinion: [“In Texas, Vietnamese American Shrimpers Must Forge a New Path Again”](#) [The New York Times - November 12] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“China’s disregard for small state agency hampers its foreign policy”](#) [East Asia Forum - November 12]
- Opinion: [“How a Decaying Warship Beached on a Tiny Shoal Provoked China’s Ire”](#) [The New York Times - November 11] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“A Chinese dispute with the Philippines is a test of America”](#) [The Economist - November 9] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“Surge and Swarm: How China’s Ships Control the South China Sea”](#) [The Wall Street Journal - November 9] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“Ukraine. Israel. Can America Support Two Wars and Still Handle China?”](#) [The New York Times - November 9] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“Russia and China are opening a new anti-western front in the Arctic”](#) [Financial Times - November 9] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“U.S. Navy Needs to Build Back its Sea Mine Capability”](#) [Defense Opinion - November 8]
- Opinion: [“‘It inspires people’: Experts call for larger role for ocean at climate talks”](#) [China Dialogue Ocean - November 8] [[In Chinese](#)]
- Opinion: [“The strategic impact of military drone proliferation on Indo-Pacific maritime security”](#) [CIMSEC - November 7]
- Opinion: [“Fisheries management: Artificial intelligence makes a difference”](#) [European Commission - November 7]
- Opinion: [“Pacific Islands Forum: what is it and why does it matter?”](#) [The Guardian - November 6]
- Opinion: [“China has acquired a global network of strategically vital ports”](#) [The Washington Post - November 6] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“Manufacturing woes could sink US sub fleet. Can 3D printing save it?”](#) [DefenseNews - November 6]
- Opinion: [“Shipping industry steers container production away from China”](#) [Financial Times - November 2] [Paywall]
- Opinion: [“Ukraine’s Strategy for winning the Battle of the Black Sea”](#) [Center for Maritime Strategy - November 2]
- Opinion: [“PLA sharpens nuclear and conventional capabilities but still has work to do, US says”](#) [International Institute for Strategic Studies - November 1]
- Analysis: [“Sanctions, Shipping, and Sabotage: China and Russia Enter the ‘Gray Zone’ in the Baltic Sea”](#) [Wilson Center Polar Institute - November 2023]
- Analysis: [“Ukraine has a new way to get its grain to the world despite Russia’s threat in the Black Sea”](#) [Associated Press - November 27]
- Analysis: [“Thailand wants to build a brand new shipping route. Why isn’t China buying?”](#) [South China Morning Post - November 27] [Paywall]

- Analysis: [“Rising tides: exploring the expanding horizons of bathymetric Lidar applications”](#) [Hydro International - November 24]
- Analysis: [“Dry Bulk in Africa Through the Eyes of an African Shipping Line”](#) [The Maritime Executive - November 19]
- Analysis: [“A Brief Summary of the Battle of the Black Sea”](#) [USNI News - November 16]
- Analysis: [“Vietnam ramps up Spratly Island dredging”](#) [Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative - November 15]
- Analysis: [“Uncharted waters: Navy navigating first-ever dismantling of nuclear-powered carrier”](#) [Breaking Defense - November 15]
- Analysis: [“Inside the Philippines’ Dangerous Mission in the South China Sea”](#) [Bloomberg - November 12] [Paywall]
- Analysis: [“How a Decaying Warship Beached on a Tiny Shoal Provoked China’s Ire”](#) [The New York Times - November 11] [Paywall]
- Analysis: [“India, China Fight for Influence Over Tiny Archipelago Nation”](#) [The Wall Street Journal - November 11] [Paywall]
- Analysis: [“Littoral Warfare Requirements for Future Black Sea Operations”](#) [Center for Maritime Strategy - November 9]
- Analysis: [“Lack of Attribution as Critical Infrastructure is Damaged Again in the Baltic Sea”](#) [Wilson Center - November 7]
- Analysis: [“With Two Wars Raging, China Tests America in Asia”](#) [Foreign Policy - November 7] [Paywall]
- Analysis: [“Tracking China’s Control of Overseas Ports”](#) [Council on Foreign Relations - November 6]
- Analysis: [“China Is ‘Schooling’ Ottawa By Intimidating Canadian Aircraft In South China Sea: Expert”](#) [International Business Times - November 5]
- Analysis: [““Zeitenwende” at Sea?: The German Navy’s Purchase of SeaRAMs and Bolstering Security in the Baltic Sea”](#) [Center for Maritime Strategy - October 31]

Events on the Maritime Domain

- From November 1-2, 2023, Chatham House held 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 held its [Annual Conference and Awards Dinner on “Maritime’s Pathway to 2050.”](#)
- On November 3, 2023, Center for Strategic & International Studies International Security Program held a virtual event on [“Canada’s Role in Global Maritime Security.”](#)
- On November 8, 2023, the Wilson Center held an online event on [“A Half Decade of Indo-Pacific Strategies: Assessing US Outreach to Allies and Partners.”](#)
- From November 8-10, 2023, the Peace Paris Forum hosted its [“The One Planet - Polar Summit”](#) in Paris, France, the “first international Summit devoted to glaciers and poles aims to strengthen international cooperation to preserve the cryosphere and glacial and polar biodiversity.”

- On November 9, 2023, the East-West Center held a virtual seminar on [“PRC Competition in the Pacific.”](#)
- On November 13, 2023, the [“Joint IMO/ILO Conference on Work at Sea”](#) was held at the IMO Headquarters. Recordings and agendas are now available.
- From November 15-16, 2023, DefenceIQ and its partners held 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 held [“The International Eelgrass and Blue Carbon Workshop.”](#)
- On November 20, 2023, Riviera held their [International Bulk Shipping Conference](#) in London, United Kingdom, which will focus on “navigating new market dynamics, environmental requirements and improving operational efficiency.”
- On November 27, 2023, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation in Japan held a bilingual, hybrid [“The 196th Ocean Forum: Enhancing Food Security and Promoting Sustainable Fisheries in Africa-Forging Regional Cooperation and International Partnership: TICAD 30th Year Anniversary Event.”](#)
- From November 27-28, 2023, the [International Maritime Organization Assembly is holding its 33rd session](#) in London, United Kingdom, which was preceded by the IMO Council 130th session held November 21-24, 2023. “The Assembly is expected to adopt the Strategic Plan for the six-year period 2024 to 2029 and the Organization's budget and work programme for 2024 and 2025.”
- On November 28, 2023, The Nautical Institute and the Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) held a conference on [“Achieving Effective Simulation.”](#)
- On November 29, 2023, Wilson Center held an online event on [“The Regulation of Seabed Mining: A Conversation with Michael Lodge, Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority.”](#)
- 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.
- Throughout November, in preparation for the COP28 summit, the [Ocean Pavilion](#) has returned with “70+ events that will bring together leading ocean stewards and climate champions from around the world.” The full details of their related [“COP28 Dubai Ocean Declaration”](#) and list of full signatories are available online as well.
- From December 5-8, 2023, Marintec China will host their [Marintec China 2023](#) event, with a theme of “Rebuild Together,” at the Shanghai New International Expo Centre (SNIEC) in Shanghai, China.
- On December 7, 2023, the Hudson Institute will hold an in-person discussion titled [“Senator Mike Rounds on the B-21 Bomber and Its Deterrence Mission.”](#)
- 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.
- On December 8, 2023, Digital Ship Ltd. will host its [Maritime Cyber Resilience Forum 2023](#) in Hamburg, Germany.
- From December 13-15, 2023, Upstream Business Solutions will hold its [“India International Cargo Show 2023”](#) in Mumbai, India.
- From December 14-15, 2023, Riviera will host its [“Maritime Decarbonization Conference, Americas 2023”](#) in Houston, Texas.

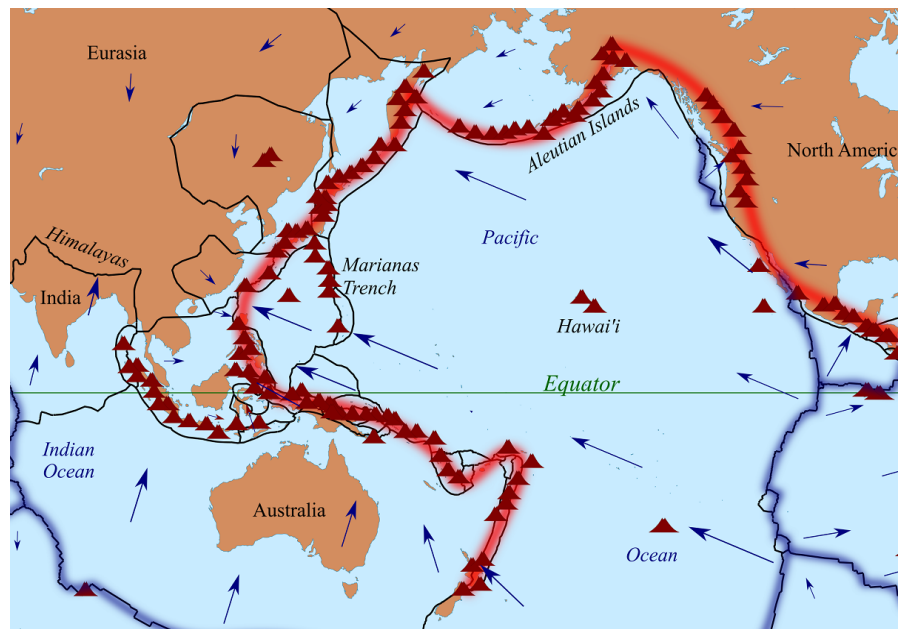
- From December 21-23, 2023, INASE will host “[The International Conference on Maritime and Naval Science and Engineering 2023](#)” in Bann, Switzerland.
- From March 11-13, 2024, The Economist Group will host [The 11th Annual World Ocean Summit & Expo in Lisbon, Portugal](#), which “convenes the widest cross-section of the ocean community from business and finance to government, national and international policy-makers, civil society, and academia. The summit is designed to instigate action to develop a sustainable ocean economy; to encourage new partnerships across industries, with NGOs, scientists, technology developers and investors.”
- From March 12-14, 2024, [Oceanology International](#) will host their 2024 Expo in London, Excel.

Handbill Spotlight

Submarine Volcanoes

Issue Background ¹

Submarine volcanoes, also referred to as [volcanic seamounts](#), are volcanoes that are located below sea level. Submarine volcanoes are, on average, [located](#) 8,500 feet (2,600 meters) below sea level and [produce](#) around 75% of the annual global output of lava. Around 75% of all of Earth’s volcanoes are located along the “[Ring of Fire](#),” a path around most of the Pacific Ocean with high amounts of seismic activity due to the movement of plate tectonics. Despite this, the total amount of submarine volcanoes is currently unknown, as their characteristics and location make them [difficult](#) to locate and track.



When they do erupt, the result is oftentimes not explosive, as the water pressure from above [forces](#) the lava into passive flows. These passive lava flows often do not disturb the ocean surface, making detection difficult. However, these eruptions are not completely benign. One major risk factor of these eruptions is that they are virtually [unpredictable](#). Most of the time, scientists fail to detect imminent eruptions due to instrument uncertainty or data miscalculation. At present, only a [quarter](#)

¹ The locations and motions of tectonic plates as well as the Ring of Fire and volcanoes. (Source: Astroskiandhike via Wikimedia Commons, [CC BY-SA 4.0 DEED](#))

of the ocean floor has been mapped by sonar, though radar satellite technology is aiding in the [detection](#) of a large number of new submarine volcanoes.

In instances where the submarine volcanoes are located close to [human-populated shorelines](#), eruptions can become hazardous, placing local human populations at risk. The same risks may also apply to areas with high maritime traffic, placing boats, their cargo, and their crew at risk when near an erupting volcano. Many [submarine vessels](#) have also collided with submarine volcanoes, sometimes resulting in injury or death of crew members.

Additionally, what makes submarine volcanoes unique is that their eruptions have the potential to form volcanic islands, unlike terrestrial volcanoes. Islands can form from submarine volcanic eruptions because the passive lava flows sometimes build up the height of the submarine volcano, allowing it to reach the ocean surface. However, these volcanic islands are sometimes [temporary](#) due to erosion. Such temporary islands are known as [ephemeral islands](#).

Recent Events

Similar to low-scale seismic earthquakes, submarine volcanoes are erupting on a regular basis and oftentimes without much warning. On October 21, 2023, an unnamed volcano off the coast of Iwo Jima in Japan began erupting, eventually [forming](#) a new island of about 100 meters, or 328 feet, in diameter as of October 30, 2023, according to the Earthquake Research Institute at the University of Tokyo. Interestingly, the island of Iwo Jima itself is a [volcano](#). While Iwo Jima is not a submarine volcano, the recent submarine volcanic eruptions were on the flank of the ‘parent’ volcano of Iwo Jima. According to Setsuya Nakada, a professor with the Earthquake Research Institute at the University of Tokyo, as volcanoes erupt, “it’s hard to know when it will stop, but assuming the eruption continues, the [resulting] island could grow higher and bigger.” Later reports did state that, once the volcanic activity subsided in early November, the newly formed island does not appear to be durable, as the material composition of the lava was [“crumbly.”](#)

The Japan Meteorological Agency estimates there are around [111 active volcanoes](#) in Japan, including submarine varieties. In recent history, submarine volcanoes have erupted before in and around Japan. In 2013, an [eruption](#) occurred within the island chain of Nishinoshima—located south of Tokyo—in the Pacific Ocean. The result was an island that has lasted for around a decade so far. In 2021, the same submarine volcano as the one that erupted in October 2023 near Iwo Jima experienced a [major undersea eruption](#), further exemplifying the higher levels of activity in this particular region.

Notably, several terrestrial volcanoes were [erupting](#) at the same time as the submarine volcano in Japan, including the Klyuchevskaya Sopka volcano in Russia, Mount Etna in Italy, and Mount Mayon in the Philippines. According to experts at the Smithsonian Institution's Global Volcanism Program, the number of coinciding eruptions is normal.

Keep In Mind

People often become aware of submarine volcanoes through their eruptions and prepare against the high risks of volcanic eruptions by tracking said eruptions.. Thus, the current lack of knowledge on submarine volcanoes lends to a dangerous situation and is concerning.

Eruptions of submarine volcanoes can lead to loss of life, among other kinds of devastation. In January of 2022, a submarine volcanic eruption in the nation of Tonga resulted in [three deaths](#). In an incident that [rivaled](#) the Krakatoa Island eruption of 1883, a [sonic boom](#) produced by the eruptions was heard all the way in New Zealand, which lies 1,300 miles away. The eruption of lava into the ocean also resulted in a tsunami stretching up to [65 meters high](#) that struck the main island of Tonga. Resulting smaller waves were also recorded as [reaching](#) the shorelines of Japan, Australia, the U.S., and Chile.

The submarine volcano central to this 2022 explosion, the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano, was small and unknown [before](#) the eruption. Given the small amount of research dedicated to submarine volcanoes, such an explosion highlights the need for further investigation. While the likelihood that submarine volcanic eruptions can pose a severe risk to humans is small, some instances have proven to be catastrophic and far-reaching. According to experts at the University of Hawaii, there are currently [dozens](#) of submarine volcanoes around the world that could erupt like Hunga, potentially claiming thousands of lives and even reshaping coastlines.

There are scientists already paying attention to the importance of tracking submarine volcanoes. In April 2023, a new [seamount catalog](#) was published that used data collected from radar satellites. Yet, there is still more to be done. While the catalog [detected](#) more than 43,000 submarine volcanoes in the Earth's waters, only 16,000 have been charted in detail by sonar tools. Sonar research must be conducted on the topic of submarine volcanoes, detailing the size and locations of these submarine volcanoes. Perhaps this topic of research could be a joining point for cross-national cooperation, such as between the U.S. and Chinese navies who recently [re-established](#) regular lines of communication. Even in an era of increased tension over [submarine](#) activity, a joint scientific venture to study and map the submarine volcanoes that may pose a threat to not only submarine vessels but to humanity at large could become a collaborative partnership.

This issue's Spotlight was written by Jacqueline Cheng, Part-Time Research Assistant Intern

ICAS Maritime Affairs Program: New and Upcoming

— MAP Academic Engagement —

Symposium on Global Maritime Cooperation and Ocean Governance 2023

Grand Hyatt Sanya Haitang Bay Sanya, China (Hybrid)

Thursday, November 8, 2023 – Friday, November 9, 2023 (GMT+8, Beijing)



Dr. Nong Hong, ICAS Executive Director & Senior Researcher, and Mr. Yilun Zhang, ICAS Research Associate, participated in the Symposium on Global Maritime Cooperation and Ocean Governance (GMCOG) 2023 held in Sanya, China from November 8-9, 2023. Dr. Nong Hong moderated “Session 6: BBNJ Agreement and Global Ocean Governance” and presented in “Session 7: Global Climate Change and Polar Research.” Mr. Yilun Zhang presented in “Session 2: Mutual Confidence Building in the South China Sea from the Perspective of Global Security Initiative.”

Learn More:

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

Watch the Livestream: www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLs4oA4vJ3iF6eKeHL5RGq7-6957EHZsZ4

— MAP Academic Engagement —

2023 Symposium on International Maritime Dispute Settlement and International Law

Beijing, China

Monday, November 27, 2023 – Tuesday, November 28, 2023 (GMT+8, Beijing)

ICAS Executive Director Dr. Nong Hong participated in the 2023 Symposium on International Maritime Dispute Settlement and International Law held in Beijing, China from November 27-28, 2023.



2023年
“国际海洋争端解决
与国际法”研讨会

Symposium on International
Maritime Dispute Settlement
and International Law

Dr. Hong was a speaker participant in "Panel 1: International Maritime Dispute Settlement: Judicial Means" and spoke on the topic of "The Role of ITLOS in Addressing Traditional and Emerging Legal Issues in the Arctic."

— Past Event Summary —

5th China-U.S.-Canada Trilateral Relations Roundtable

Hosted by Institute for China-America Studies; Co-sponsored with National Institute for South China Sea Studies (NISCS), China Institute University of Alberta, and The Carter Center

Wednesday, October 18, 2023 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

On Wednesday, October 18, 2023, the 5th China-U.S.-Canada Trilateral Relations Roundtable was held at the Institute for China-America Studies' (ICAS) office in Washington, D.C. The 5th Trilateral Roundtable was conducted under Chatham House rules and consisted of two panels: Panel 1 on Politics & Security and Panel 2 on Trade & Climate, with a total of 13 expert participants gathered from across China, the United States and Canada. During each panel, every participant first contributed short opening remarks in response to a set of prepared questions relevant to the topic of their choice. After their initial remarks, each panel engaged in a moderated group discussion, joined by questions and comments from all gathered participants. The event began and was concluded with introductory and closing remarks, respectively, by senior officials from the institutions co-sponsoring the roundtable: the National Institute for South China Sea Studies, The Carter Center, and the China Institute, University of Alberta...

Read the Full Summary:

<https://chinaus-icas.org/event/5th-china-u-s-canada-trilateral-relations-roundtable/>

— Blog Post —

Event Summary: Unpacking China's Climate Action, Wilson Center

By Zhangchen Wang

November 14, 2023

On November 9, 2023, the Wilson Center held an event on the topic of "Unpacking China's Climate Action." As the title of the event suggests, the panelists walked through some of the progress or slippage China has made in climate action since the signature of the U.S.-China Joint Glasgow Declaration in 2021. Since the U.S.-China climate cooperation stalled for a long time due to rising political tensions, both countries have been independently accelerating their climate action. Thus, the panelists also compared some of China's progress with the developing trends of climate actions in the United States...

Read Online:

<https://chinaus-icas.org/research/event-summary-unpacking-china-climate-action-wilson-center>

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