



# ICAS MARITIME AFFAIRS HANDBILL

August 27, 2024

Volume 3, Issue 8

Online ISSN 2837-3901  
Print ISSN 2837-3871

## Recent News in Global Maritime Affairs

### [1] Ocean Governance and Maritime Cooperation [1]

#### [Taiwan, Japan hold maritime talks in Taipei](#)

August 27 - *Taipei Times*  
[East Asia]

On August 26, Taiwan and Japan held their sixth Maritime Affairs Cooperation Dialogue in Taipei, Taiwan. This meeting focused on cooperation in several areas, including maritime security, conservation of the marine environment, “marine power development,” fisheries and marine science, and safety regarding nuclear energy. Prior maritime-related memorandum of understandings were also mentioned in the spirit of continuing support for already established maritime initiatives.

#### [Finland and Estonia Continue with Investigations into Balticconnector Pipeline Damage](#)

August 19 - *Pipeline Technology Journal*  
[Baltic Sea, Global]

On August 14, the prime ministers of Finland and Estonia announced that investigations into the rupture of the Balticconnector pipeline in the eastern part of the Baltic Sea last autumn are still ongoing. Two days prior, Chinese authorities reportedly acknowledged for the first time that it was a Chinese freighter that accidentally damaged the pipeline during a severe storm.

#### [Russia criticises German progress in Nord Stream sabotage inquiry](#)

August 19 - *The Guardian*  
[Europe]

Russia has officially complained to Germany about its investigation into the 2022 sabotage of the Nord Stream gas pipelines, accusing Germany of lacking efforts in finding the perpetrators. The

complaint follows Germany's issuing of an arrest warrant for a Ukrainian suspect and Russian concerns that the investigation may be closed prematurely without revealing those responsible. Germany stated that the investigation is still ongoing and that information will be shared.

### [India, Vietnam hold maritime security dialogue, discuss ways to enhance cooperation](#)

August 16 - *Deccan Herald*

[South Asia, Southeast Asia]

India and Vietnam recently held a Maritime Security Dialogue to discuss ways to enhance bilateral cooperation and strengthen collaboration to ensure security and stability in the region. Both sides emphasized the importance of maintaining a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

### [Jaishankar meets Maldives Defence Minister Maumoon, discusses joint initiatives for maritime security](#)

August 10 - *The Print*

[Pacific Ocean, South Asia]

During a three day visit to the country, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met with Maldives Defence Minister Mohamed Ghassan Maumoon to discuss defense and security cooperation and joint initiatives for maritime security between the two countries.

### [Ireland elected to international seabed regulator for first time](#)

August 6 - *Irish Legal News*

[Europe]

Ireland has been elected to the International Seabed Authority (ISA) for the first time, further increasing its role in managing marine resources and protecting the marine environment.

### [Nigerian Delegation Tours Moroccan Ports and Maritime Advancements](#)

August 3 - *Morocco World News*

[Africa]

A high-level delegation from Nigeria, led by Nigeria's Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, visited several ports and maritime-related centers in Morocco with their Moroccan counterparts to learn more about Morocco's maritime advancements and boost bilateral cooperation.

### [Brazil's Carvalho to lead seabed-mining authority following predecessor's controversial term](#)

August 3 - *Mongabay*

[South America, Global]

Brazil's Leticia Carvalho has been elected as the next secretary-general of the International Seabed Authority (ISA), defeating incumbent ISA Secretary-General Michael Lodge.

## [European NGOs call for more debate on deep-sea mining](#)

July 31 - *Euro News*

[Europe, Global]

European non-government organizations have intensified their calls for a more extensive debate on deep-sea mining, pressing the European Union to thoroughly assess the environmental risks prior to advancing any mining activities. They argue that the potential damage to marine ecosystems could be irreversible and also stress the importance of transparency.

## [2] Maritime Security and Defense [2]

### [Pentagon chief orders two aircraft carrier strike groups to remain in Middle East](#)

August 25 - *Alarabiya News*

[United States, Middle East]

On August 25, U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin ordered two aircraft carrier strike groups to remain deployed in the Middle East to support Israeli security. Prior to this announcement, the Abraham Lincoln carrier strike group—which arrived in the area three days prior—was expected to replace the Theodore Roosevelt carrier strike group that was already operating in the region.

### [Australia to take command of international taskforce protecting Red Sea shipping lanes](#)

August 22 - *ABC News*

[Middle East, Red Sea, Australia]

Unlike prior reporting had seemingly suggested, the Royal Australian Navy will assume command of Combined Task Force 153, one of the five international task forces that make up the U.S.-led Combined Maritime Forces initiative focused on protecting shipping lanes in the Red Sea.

### [German warships await orders on crossing Taiwan Strait](#)

August 19 - *Reuters*

[East Asia, Europe]

While currently deployed in the Indo-Pacific and visiting several ports, two German warships—the frigate *Baden-Wuerttemberg* and the replenishment ship *Frankfurt am Main*—are awaiting instruction from Berlin regarding a potential passage through the Taiwan Strait in September. This would mark the German navy's first passage through the Taiwan Strait since 2002.

### [Coast Guard confirms plans to buy polar icebreaker, station it in Juneau](#)

August 17 - *Alaska Beacon*

[United States, Arctic Ocean]

To fulfill the mission of increasing the U.S. presence in the polar regions, the US Coast Guard has purchased a new commercial icebreaker which it plans to station in Juneau, Alaska. While expected following a preliminary announcement earlier this year, the purchase confirmation occurred just after the *Healy* icebreaker experienced an electrical fire that halted its operations.

### [Russian military ship spotted by Coast Guard near Alaskan coast](#)

August 9 - *CBS News*

[Arctic Ocean, United States, Russia]

On August 9, the US Coast Guard cutter *Alex Haley* came across a Russian naval vessel near Alaska's Aleutian Islands. The vessel was sailing in international waters but within the U.S. exclusive economic zone, similar to other recent movements by foreign vessels in the region.

### [Philippines, Vietnam coast guards hold first joint drills](#)

August 9 - *DW*

[Southeast Asia, South China Sea]

The Philippine and Vietnamese coast guards successfully held their first joint drills off Manila, focusing on humanitarian exercises such as firefighting, search-and-rescue and medical response.

### [Turkey launches newly built anti-submarine warship for Ukraine](#)

August 2 - *Turkish Minute*

[Europe, Black Sea]

Turkey successfully launched a newly built anti-submarine warship for the Ukrainian Navy, the second warship Turkey built for Ukraine since February 2022. Ukraine's Defense Minister, along with several high-ranking officials and Ukraine's first lady, attended the launching ceremony.

### [India pledges \\$300m loan to boost Vietnam's maritime security](#)

August 2 - *Radio Free Asia*

[South Asia, Southeast Asia]

During a three-day state visit by Vietnam's Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh to India, hosted in New Delhi by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India made an offer to provide Vietnam with US\$300 million to strengthen its maritime security.

### [Aussie Collins-class subs get \\$2.2B AUD sustainment pledge](#)

August 1 - *Breaking Defense*

[South Pacific Ocean]

On July 27, the Australian government announced a pledge of AUD\$2.2 billion towards supporting the longevity of its Collin-class submarine while Australia awaits the delivery of the U.S.-built Virginia-class submarines that are set to be delivered sometime in the 2030s.

## [3] Maritime Economy and Shipping [3]

### [Port of Lobito Handles First Congolese Copper Shipment to the U.S.](#)

August 25 - *The Maritime Executive*

[Africa, Atlantic Ocean, United States]

Angola's Port of Lobito successfully sent off its first shipment of copper cathodes to the United States through its new mineral terminal in a sign of expanding development in the region. The Port of Lobito is directly connected to the Lobito Atlantic Railway—newly opened in January—that stretches 800 miles to the center of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's copper belt.

### [Developers of large construction projects in Peru call for change of government attitude](#)

August 24 - *BNAmericas*

[South America, China]

Cosco Shipping Ports Chancay Perú (CSPCP), to further support its US\$3.6 billion Chancay megaport, has identified at least eight large projects—such as railways, trains, highways and an industrial park—that it says is necessary to take full advantage of the potential for Chancay port. The first phase of Chancay port, currently 91% complete, is set to open in November 2024.

### [GSA addresses concerns over new Shippers' Authority Law](#)

August 23 - *GBC Ghana Online*

[Africa, Global]

After Ghana passed its new Ghana Shippers' Law at the end of July, the Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA) openly addressed concerns that were brought by the Ghana Union of Traders Association and the Ghana Institute of Freight Forwarders related to transparency and registrations.

### [Viking Line cuts emissions 90% with BioLNG on Baltic Sea route](#)

August 16 - *GasWorld*

[Baltic Sea, North Atlantic Ocean]

From August 29 through September 4, Finnish cruise company Viking Line's *Viking Glory* and *Viking Grace* vessels will operate solely on liquefied biogas (LBG or BioLNG), establishing the Baltic

Sea's first green shipping corridor. According to Viking Line, the open use of biofuel also increased the number of booked trips by 500% out of support for the initiative.

### [Yang Ming Marine ship catches fire in container explosion in Ningbo](#)

August 10 - *Focus Taiwan*

[East Asia]

A Liberian-flagged, Taiwanese company-owned cargo vessel, YM Mobility, caught fire following an explosion within a container onboard that held hazardous materials. The vessel was docked at China's Ningbo port and was scheduled to sail to Jakarta, Indonesia.

### [Wallem Group and COSCO Enter Strategic Cooperation Agreement](#)

August 5 - *The Maritime Executive*

[Global, China]

Global partner Wallem Group and China-based COSCO's Shipping Seafarer Management Company have signed a strategic cooperation agreement to enhance bilateral cooperation on common goals such as reaching "green, low-carbon, and intelligent shipping" as well as to "further integrate resources and jointly enhance competitiveness in ship management."

### [Sturgeon Bay shipyard builds and delivers a record-breaking liquefied natural gas barge](#)

August 2 - *Green Bay Press Gazette*

[United States]

On July 31 in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding successfully delivered the largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) bunker barge ever constructed. The delivery of the 416-foot-long vessel, known as *Progress*, was built for and designed by Crowley, the United States' largest independent operator of tank vessels, and can carry 12,000 cubic meters of LNG.

### [WSC Presents Fund Plan to Support Green Fuels Ahead of IMO's MEPC Session](#)

July 31 - *The Maritime Executive*

[Global]

The World Shipping Council has adjusted its proposal to the International Maritime Organization that is dedicated to creating an equalized financial mechanism that also encourages the adoption of green fuels. The global shipping industry is also actively addressing other decarbonization issues.

## [4] Climate Change and Blue Carbon Economy [4]

### [Tepco aims to dismantle Fukushima water tanks from 2025](#)

August 26 - *The Japan Times*

[North Atlantic Ocean, East Asia]

Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings (Tepco) announced plans to begin dismantling the now-empty tanks that had stored treated wastewater from the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant. Over the past year, under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency and amidst environmental protests, Tepco released a total of 62,400 metric tons of treated water.

### [New Mangrove Methodology Featuring Remote-Sensing Expands Nature-based Solutions From Gold Standard](#)

August 26 - *Carbon Herald*

[Global]

Swiss sustainability group Gold Standard and German climate group FORLIANCE released their first methodology—the Sustainable Management of Mangroves Methodology—for mangrove projects that enables remote-sensing applications for measurement and impact quantification.

### [Mediterranean Sea reaches highest surface temperature ever recorded](#)

August 16 - *France24*

[Mediterranean Sea]

On August 15, the Mediterranean Sea broke its maximum sea surface temperature record with a daily median of 28.90C. The last record was last broken in July 2023 with a temperature of 28.71C, making 2024 the second year in a row that the Mediterranean will have been at its warmest.

### [Fijian coral reveals new 627-year record of Pacific Ocean climate](#)

August 16 - *Phys.org*

[South Pacific Ocean, Global]

By analyzing a 627-year coral record from Fiji, an international team of climate scientists have been able to identify unprecedented information about ocean temperatures and climate variability in the Pacific Ocean dating back to 1370, including how ocean temperature is currently at its highest point in the past 653 years.

### [Coastal erosion rapidly affecting Arctic Ocean's ability to absorb CO2 – Nature study](#)

August 14 - *The Print*  
[Arctic Ocean, Global]

According to a new study, coastal erosion along the Arctic Ocean is rapidly decreasing the Arctic Ocean's ability to absorb carbon dioxide, leaving it to release more carbon dioxide than it absorbs.

### [Cloud brightening over oceans may stave off climate change, but with risk](#)

August 12 - *Mongabay*  
[Global]

Researchers are experimenting with marine cloud brightening—"the spraying of sea salt aerosols or other fine particles into clouds to artificially brighten them and increase the sun's reflectivity"—as a potential way to buy time amidst global warming. The research remains highly controversial, however, with some calling it a distraction from true solutions and others concerned about this strategy's impact on the global climate system if improperly applied.

### [Heat Raises Fears of 'Demise' for Great Barrier Reef Within a Generation](#)

August 7 - *The New York Times*  
[South Pacific Ocean]

A new scientific study raises fears of the 'demise' of the Great Barrier Reef within one generation following extreme temperatures in the Coral Sea reaching their highest point in at least 400 years.

### [A mixed response for proposed Cornwall seaweed farm](#)

August 5 - *The Fish Site*  
[United Kingdom]

A controversial seaweed farm that was proposed by the two companies Biome Algae and Camel Fish to be constructed in Port Quin Bay of Cornwall, United Kingdom is now receiving support that could help in its fruition as the holistic benefits of the projects are now being discussed.

### [New Study Shows Impressive CO2 Capture Capabilities Of Marine Animals](#)

August 1 - *Carbon Herald*  
[Global]

A new study conducted by global information hub Ocean Science & Technology shows that mesopelagic fish—animals found at ocean depths greater than 200m—have stronger capabilities in capturing and storing 'oceanic blue carbon' during their lifespan.



## The Nord Stream Pipelines

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

The Nord Stream pipelines, run by [Nord Stream AG](#), an international consortium of five major companies established in 2005, were built to transport natural gas directly from Russia to Europe. The pipelines include the original Nord Stream and its parallel Nord Stream 2. The original Nord Stream pipeline, operational since 2011, stretches 1,224 kilometers under the Baltic Sea from Vyborg, Russia, to Lubmin, Germany. Nord Stream 2 was completed in 2021 but faced delays in becoming operational due to geopolitical tensions. Together, these pipelines are designed to supply Europe with up to [110 billion cubic meters](#) of natural gas annually while bypassing traditional transit routes through Ukraine and Poland.

Before the [Russian invasion](#) of Ukraine in February 2022, the Nord Stream projects were already a topic of intense debate. Critics argued that the pipelines increased Europe's reliance on Russian energy, potentially giving Moscow undue [influence](#) over Europe, especially over Germany. The completion of Nord Stream 2, in particular, was seen by many as a strategic move to secure long-term energy supplies, despite the U.S. and Eastern European countries, particularly Ukraine, [expressing concerns](#) about the geopolitical risks involved.



In September 2022, six months after the start of the Russia invasion, the Nord Stream 1 pipeline was [sabotaged](#) in a series of underwater explosions. The blasts severely damaged the pipeline, leading to a complete halt in gas flow. The incident immediately triggered a flurry of accusations between Russia and Western nations, each blaming the other for the attack. Russia labeled the

<sup>1</sup> Image: A map of the Nord Stream pipelines with shipping traffic. (Credit: The European Space Agency, ESA Standard License)

sabotage as an act of [“international terrorism”](#) and [accused](#) the West of seeking to destabilize its energy exports further. Conversely, Western officials [initially suggested](#) that Russia might have sabotaged its own infrastructure to heighten the energy crisis in Europe or to create a pretext for further military or political actions.

Additionally, Nord Stream 2, not soon after its completion in 2021, faced immediate setbacks due to [Western sanctions](#) imposed in response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Germany, under intense international pressure and shifting political dynamics, [halted](#) the certification process for Nord Stream 2, effectively suspending the pipeline indefinitely.

## Recent Events

Nearly two years after the Nord Stream 1 sabotage incident, controversy and arguments around the incident was again renewed by newly released findings. On August 18, 2024, a [German investigation](#) released its most recent findings and stated that a [pro-Ukrainian group](#) used a rented yacht to transport explosives to the site, where they were subsequently placed on the pipeline. This narrative has sparked significant controversy, particularly between U.S. and German officials, as they navigate the delicate diplomatic implications of these findings. These revelations have also intensified disputes within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), with some member states, especially [Poland](#), questioning the handling and communication of investigation results.

In contrast, Russia has consistently accused Western nations of orchestrating the sabotage. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov recently [reiterated](#) this position, claiming that the United States had ordered the explosions as part of a broader strategy to weaken Russia's influence in Europe. Moscow has used this incident to further criticize the West, accusing European countries of being complicit in what it describes as an act of "international terrorism."

Other countries have also been involved in investigating the Nord Stream 1 sabotage. [Sweden](#), in particular, has conducted underwater surveys and forensic analyses to determine the cause and perpetrators of the explosions. [Denmark](#) has similarly been active in investigating the incident within its waters. Both countries have kept their findings largely under wraps, fueling speculation and frustration among the international community.

## Keep In Mind

The ongoing investigation into the sabotage of Nord Stream 1 continues to be a source of tension, particularly between Germany and Poland. The recent findings have not only strained relations within Europe but also highlighted the fragile nature of western alliances during the Ukraine conflict. Germany, heavily reliant on Russian gas through Nord Stream, finds itself in a delicate position, balancing its energy needs with the growing pressure to reduce dependence on Russian resources. Meanwhile, Poland, a vocal critic of Nord Stream 2, has used the incident to reinforce its stance against the pipelines, further complicating intra-European dynamics as the war rages on

into an uncertain future, as Ukrainian forces have made advances in some areas while losing ground in others in recent months.

As the war in Ukraine unfolds, scrutiny around the Nord Stream pipelines is expected to intensify. The differing conclusions and theories surrounding the Nord Stream 1 sabotage have created a vicious cycle of nations pointing fingers at one another. The situation remains unresolved, with the potential for further diplomatic fallout as more information comes to light. As the investigation continues, the Nord Stream 1 incident remains a significant flashpoint in the broader geopolitical tensions, underscoring the fragile state of relations between Russia and the West since the start of the 2022 Russia-Ukraine war.

This issue's [Spotlight](#) was written by Yilun Zhang, ICAS Research Associate & Manager, Maritime Issue Tracker Project.

## Peer-Reviewed Research on Maritime Issues

### Government Releases & Other Press Statements

- Government of Australia - [“53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders’ Meeting”](#) [August 26]
- U.S. Department of State - [“Houthi Attacks on the SOUNION Oil Tanker Threaten Becoming an Environmental Disaster”](#) [August 24]
- Ministry of Defence of Australia - [“Australia to command Red Sea task force”](#) [August 23]
- United Nations Environment Programme - [“A regional agreement aims to save a tropical paradise in trouble”](#) [August 19]
- Ministry of External Affairs of India - [“4th India-Vietnam Maritime Security Dialogue”](#) [August 16]
- Saudi Press Agency - [“Transport General Authority Holds an ESG Symposium”](#) [August 14]
- Government of New Zealand - [“NZ to cooperate on marine resources in Palau”](#) [August 14]
- U.S. Pacific Fleet - [“Multilateral Maritime Cooperative Activity Joint Statement”](#) [August 7]
- The White House - [“Memorandum on Presidential Determination on the Proposed Agreement Among the Government of the United States of America, the Government of Australia, and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Cooperation Related to Naval Nuclear Propulsion”](#) [August 5]
- International Seabed Authority - [“ISA Assembly elects Ms. Leticia Carvalho of Brazil as a new Secretary-General”](#) [August 2]
- Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways of India - [“India’s Port and Maritime Sector: Latest Government Updates and Plans”](#) [August 2]
- Ministry of Economy of Ukraine - [“Full restoration of navigation safety in the Black Sea is a common interest of Ukraine and Turkey: Yuliia Svyrydenko”](#) [August 1]
- International Chamber of Shipping - [“New hydrogen demand report unveils once in a generation opportunity”](#) [August 1]
- The State Council of the People’s Republic of China - [“Xi calls for modernizing China’s border, sea, air defense”](#) [August 1]
- Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Indonesia - [“Why do Indian Ocean architectures for maritime security fail?”](#) [July 31]

- World Shipping Council - [“WSC advances Green Balance Mechanism Proposal with New Submission to IMO”](#) [July 31]
- Government of Jamaica - [“Jamaica Reaffirms Commitment to ISA Principles”](#) [July 31]
- Ghana Shippers’ Authority - [“Parliament Passes Shippers’ Authority Bill into Law”](#) [July 30]

## Analyses & Opinions

- [“China’s Port Power”](#) [The Wire China - August 25]
- [“In Beijing’s Quest for Control of the South China Sea, a New Flashpoint Emerges”](#) [The Wall Street Journal - August 25]
- [“Will German warships pass through the Taiwan Strait?”](#) [DW - August 24]
- [“The High Seas Treaty: Prospects and challenges”](#) [Observer Research Foundation - August 23]
- [“How China Could Blockade Taiwan”](#) [Center for Strategic & International Studies - August 22]
- [“Why protecting the ocean is a key priority for the EU”](#) [Open Access Government - August 21]
- [“Dissecting the new Shippers’ Authority Act; uncovering veiled intents and implications on the maritime business”](#) [GhanaWeb - August 20]
- [“Will the new U.S. defense strategy for the Arctic break the investment ice ceiling?”](#) [Arctic Today - August 20]
- [“Why there’s no quick fix in the South China Sea disputes, and war ‘cannot be ruled out’”](#) [South China Morning Post - August 19]
- [“Maritime Maneuvers: China’s hidden Quest for Oceanic Supremacy”](#) [Modern Diplomacy - August 17]
- [“China in the Indo-Pacific: Alfred Mahan and the Island Chains”](#) [Australian Institute of International Affairs - August 16]
- [“The Need for Speed”](#) [Center for Maritime Strategy - August 15]
- [“Eastern Pacific Fisheries Managers Have Prime Opportunity to Boost Sustainability”](#) [Pew Charitable Trusts - August 12]
- [“Will Australia Reject a Proposal to Drill Under a Coral Reef?”](#) [The Maritime Executive - August 11]
- [“Unlocking potential of China-Africa collaboration in blue economy”](#) [CGTN - August 9]
- [“Sanctions are not an obstacle: how Senator Zubarev’s ships dock in Norwegian ports, and his companies sell fish”](#) [The Barents Observer - August 8]
- [“China looks to its shipyards to beat US in any future war”](#) [Reuters - August 8]
- [“Election of New Secretary-General Opens ‘New Chapter’ for ISA”](#) [International Institute for Sustainable Development - August 7]
- [“Navigating Turbulence at Second Thomas Shoal”](#) [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace - August 7]
- [“The Maritimes are no longer an economic basket case. But the good times bring their own problems”](#) [The Globe and Mail - August 6]
- [“Ukraine Bought Two Warships From Turkey - But Can it Take Delivery?”](#) [The Maritime Executive - August 5]
- [“A Freight Election Just Reshaped the Next Steps for Deep Sea Mining”](#) [Bloomberg - August 2]
- [“Carbon Pricing Is Coming To Maritime Shipping”](#) [Clean Technica - August 2]
- [“China’s Massive Next-Generation Amphibious Assault Ship Takes Shape”](#) [Center for Strategic & International Studies - August 1]
- [“Australia’s Growing Defense and Security Role in the Indo-Pacific”](#) [Council on Foreign Relations - August 1]
- [“Unmanned Maritime Systems and Warships: Interpretations Under the Law of the Sea”](#) [Center for International Maritime Security - July 31]
- [“Multilateral cooperation needed to deter Beijing in South China Sea”](#) [Nikkei Asia - July 31]

## Other Research

- Podcast: *ChinaTalk* - [“Industrial Icebreaker Policy”](#) [August 13]
- Interview: [“Q&A: Vice Admiral Andrew J. Tjongson, Commander, Pacific Area and Commander, Defense Force West, U.S. Coast Guard”](#) *Sea Power Magazine* [August 13]
- Journal Article: [“A Study on the Governance Pathways of the Law of the Sea in Response to Climate Change”](#) *Frontiers in Marine Science* Vol. 11 [August 20]
- Journal Article: [“Reduced Arctic Ocean CO2 uptake due to coastal permafrost erosion”](#) *Nature Climate Change* [August 12]
- Journal Article: [“Blue Economy Financing Solutions for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sectors of Caribbean Island States”](#) *Fishes* Vol. 9, No. 8 [August 3]
- Journal Article: [“Black Sea, grain, and two humanitarian corridors: unblocking Ukrainian shipping amid the Russian invasion”](#) *Small Wars & Insurgencies* [August 1]

## Events on the Maritime Domain

- On July 31, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace hosted an online event titled [“Rising Seas Triggered Climate Lawsuits: What Now?”](#)
- On August 7, Center for Strategic & International Studies hosted a hybrid conversation titled [“Preserving the Free Flow of Commerce in the Red Sea and Beyond: An Update from FIFTH Fleet Commander VADM George Wikoff, USN.”](#)
- From August 12-14, Maritime Security West hosted its [11th annual conference](#) in San Diego, California, gathering global maritime security personnel from both the private and public sectors to take part in roundtable discussions, sessions, and keynote addresses on a wide array of current maritime issues.
- From August 21-22, the Government of Fiji, supported by the Government of the United Kingdom, hosted [Fiji’s Maritime Security Committee](#) in Suva to discuss safety and security at Fiji’s borders.
- From August 23-25, UNESCO and the Hainan Provincial government jointly held the [2nd Hainan Free Trade Port International Science and Technology Innovation Cooperation Forum \(ISTICE\) & Deep-Sea Science and Technology Innovation Conference \(DSSTIC\) 2024](#) in Sanya City, Hainan Province, China with the theme of “Gathering Wisdom in the Deep Sea, Sharing the Blue Ocean.”
- On August 29, Cloverly and Gresham Smith will host a webinar titled [“Offsetting with Purpose: How Gresham Smith Built a Carbon Program that Delivered Immediate Impact.”](#)
- From September 18-22, the three-day [Africa Aerospace & Defense 2024 Conference](#) will be held in Tshwane, South Africa. Day three of the conference, dedicated to “Maritime Security,” will feature several keynote addresses, panels, and discussions on current events in maritime security.
- On September 19, Center for Strategic & International Studies will host an online webcast titled [“America’s Warfighting Navy with Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Franchetti.”](#)
- From September 23-26, the World Meteorological Organization and International Maritime Organization will host their [2nd WMO-IMO Symposium on Extreme Maritime Weather](#) in London, United Kingdom.
- From September 26-27, Ridge China will host their 13th annual [Green Shiptech China Congress](#) gathering experts and decision makers for in-depth discussion on global and domestic shipping issues.

- From November 6-7, Active Communications International will host its [18th Arctic Shipping Summit](#) in Montreal, Canada to gather regional stakeholders and experts to address a variety of shipping issues.
- From November 28-29, the annual [International Maritime Human Factors Symposium](#) will be jointly hosted at the International Maritime Organization headquarters in London to gather “academia, industry, and regulatory bodies to enhance maritime safety and operational efficiency.”

## ICAS Maritime Affairs Program: New and Upcoming

### – MAP Commentary –

#### Media Manipulation and Strategic Tension: The Philippines' Role in the South China Sea Dispute

By Nong Hong  
August 22, 2024

The South China Sea has long been a flashpoint for geopolitical tension, with multiple nations vying for control over this critical maritime region. In recent years, some of the most contentious interactions in the South China Sea have involved China and the Philippines, two nations whose conflicting claims have fueled numerous confrontations over the years, particularly since 2021, when they became embroiled in a standoff over the Second Thomas Shoal, triggered by the Philippines' [resumption of resupply missions](#) in the disputed area. Recently, these clashes have [escalated, sparking international concern and media scrutiny...](#)

Continue Reading:

[chinaus-icas.org/research/media-manipulation-and-strategic-tension-the-philippines-role-in-the-south-china-sea-dispute/](https://chinaus-icas.org/research/media-manipulation-and-strategic-tension-the-philippines-role-in-the-south-china-sea-dispute/)



### – MAP Academic Engagement –

#### Dr. Nong Hong participates in Bai Xian Asia Institute's BXAI Summer Program 2024

On August 13, 2024, ICAS Executive Director and Senior Fellow Dr. Nong Hong spoke in an expert panel during Bai Xian Asia Institute's BXAI Summer Program 2024, held in Shanghai in partnership with Shanghai Jiao Tong University. This year's program covers the holistic theme of “Digital Transformation in Asia.”

Dr. Hong shared her research on maritime security with the BXAI fellows, highlighting what she believes are the most pressing issues in the maritime domain in East Asia.



Learn More: <https://www.bxai.org/bxsp2024/>