



ICAS MARITIME AFFAIRS HANDBILL

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Recent News in Global Maritime Affairs

[1] Ocean Governance and Maritime Cooperation [1]

[Quad group expands maritime security cooperation at Biden's farewell summit](#)

September 21 - Reuters

[United States, Indo-Pacific]

The leaders of the 'Quad' nations—Australia, India, Japan and the United States—met for a summit in Delaware on September 21, during which they expanded collective maritime security initiatives. These initiatives include conducting joint coast guard operations, sharing technologies with nations in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands, and expanding the existing Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness. The summit was not directed at another country, but did begin with a briefing on China by President Joe Biden.

[Inside the US push to steer Vietnam's subsea cable plans away from China](#)

September 17 - Reuters

[United States, Southeast Asia]

According to several sources involved, since January 2024, U.S. officials have been holding discussions with Vietnamese and foreign officials and business executives regarding Vietnam's subsea cables strategy. Vietnam, whose subsea cables system has faced repeated failures, is in talks with Chinese companies to build 10 new cables by 2030, which the U.S. is urging against.

[Tehran, Moscow discuss maritime cooperation in Caspian Sea during China visit](#)

September 15 - Tehran Times

[China, Russia, Middle East, Eurasia]

On September 12, Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari of Iran and Deputy Minister Alexander Fomin of Russia attended the Xiangshan Security Forum in Beijing. They focused on regional security

among Caspian-bordering countries, promoting stability without foreign interference, and enhancing cooperation in the North-South Corridor to boost trade and connectivity.

[India eyes place at high table of global maritime narrative](#)

September 15 - *The Week*

[India, Global]

On September 3, India announced that its Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways will be hosting 'Sagarmanthan: The Great Oceans Dialogue,' with about 100 countries expected to participate. The Dialogue will take place from November 18-19 in Mumbai, with a goal of creating strategies and solutions for a more sustainable and equitable future in the maritime arena.

[South China Sea: Philippines, Beijing hold 'frank' talks amid Sabina Shoal feud](#)

September 12 - *South China Morning Post*

[South China Sea, East Asia]

China and the Philippines held another round of talks to discuss their territorial disputes over the South China Sea under its bilateral consultation mechanism. The Philippines reaffirmed its position on Sabina Shoal, and both countries agreed to explore ways to reduce tensions. They also agreed to continue discussions on areas of cooperation, such as hotline mechanisms, coastguard cooperation, and marine scientific cooperation.

[House ratifies Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes bill](#)

September 9 - *Manila Standard*

[Southeast Asia]

On September 9, the Philippines' House of Representatives approved the bicameral conference committee report on the proposed Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes. The bill's role is described as safeguarding national security and international law while facilitating foreign passage in a way that preserves the Philippines' maritime integrity. The bill will now be transmitted to the President.

[Defined maritime boundaries would ensure Africa's peace and security - Minister](#)

September 7 - *Ghana Business News*

[Africa, Global]

Ghana's Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, speaking at the 2024 International Conference on Ocean Governance in Accra, emphasized the importance of defining maritime boundaries to ensure peace and security in Africa. He also stressed that cooperation among African nations is essential for the sustainable management of marine resources and for addressing security challenges in maritime zones.

[Việt Nam, Thailand ink MoU on maritime law enforcement cooperation](#)

August 30 - Viet Nam News

[Southeast Asia]

The Vietnam Coast Guard and Thailand's Maritime Enforcement Coordinating Centre signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in Hanoi to enhance maritime law enforcement cooperation. The MOU focuses on issues including smuggling, illegal fishing, and search and rescue operations. Officials emphasized that this partnership will foster mutual understanding and pave the way for more intensive collaboration in maritime security for regional peace and stability.

[2] Maritime Security and Defense [2]

[Russia and Ukraine face off over Kerch Strait](#)

September 23 - Al Jazeera

[Black Sea, Russia, Eurasia]

On September 23, Russia and Ukraine met for a legal fight at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague over the Kerch Strait, which connects mainland Russia and the Crimean Peninsula. Ukraine's representative Anton Kortenvych argued in the opening of hearings that "Russia wants to take the Sea of Azov and Kerch Strait for itself." Russian Gennady Kuzmin made the point that Ukraine's accusations are "baseless, fall outside of" Ukraine's jurisdiction.

[Russia's Pacific Fleet, Chinese Navy Begin Interaction-2024 Drills in Sea of Japan](#)

September 21 - Sputnik International

[Global, Russia]

The Russian and Chinese navies launched the joint naval exercise "Beibu/Interaction-2024" in the Sea of Japan, with plans to practice mock enemy attacks from the air, water, and underwater with anti-aircraft and anti-submarine weapons. The Chinese ships and sailors are staying in Vladivostok, the Russian Pacific Fleet's main base, also taking place in cultural events.

[China-Philippines retreat, for now, from Sabina Shoal row](#)

September 19 - Asia Times

[South China Sea]

On September 19, according to public announcements by both the Philippines and China, the two countries withdrew their coastguards and affiliated vessels from the Sabina Shoal in the South China Sea after months of contest. Meanwhile, critics in the Philippines described recalling Philippine's coastal guards from Sabine Sholar as a "surrender."

[China condemns German navy's transit of Taiwan Strait](#)

September 14 - Reuters

[Pacific Ocean, East Asia, Europe]

On September 14, two German navy ships sailed through the Taiwan Strait. The People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theatre Command criticized Germany's "wrong" message of having two naval ships in Taiwan Strait, and warned that Troops in the Eastern Theatre will "resolutely counter all threats and provocations."

[Xiangshan security forum opens amid South China Sea tensions](#)

September 12 - Nikkei Asia

[China, Indo-Pacific, Global]

On September 12, China held the 10th Beijing Xiangshan Forum on defense and security, which invited multiple countries including the United States. The Pentagon sent Michael Chase, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for China, Taiwan and Mongolia, to the forum. Two days before the Xiangshan Forum, Adm. Sam Paparo, head of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, held a call with his counterpart, Wu Yanan, head of China's Southern Theater Command, to maintain communication.

[Japan's Largest Warship Headed to California for F-35B Testing](#)

September 10 - USNI News

[East Asia, Pacific Ocean]

According to the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force, Japan's largest warship, Izumo-class carrier JS *Kaga*, will sail to San Diego later this year for F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter developmental tests. The day before, U.S. Indo-Pacific Commander Adm. Samuel Paparo held the first meeting with People's Liberation Army Southern Theater Commander Gen. Wu Yanan since bilateral military communication became stagnant in 2022.

[Exercise Varuna 2024 concludes, expanding India-France naval cooperation in the Mediterranean](#)

September 7 - India News Network

[Mediterranean Sea, Southeast Asia]

From September 2-4, the 22nd edition of India's and France's bilateral naval Exercise Varuna was successfully conducted in the Mediterranean Sea. The exercise includes coordinated operations between air and naval assets, advanced anti-submarine warfare exercise, air defense drills, and live weapon firings.

[Australia Hiring Naval Repair Workers Ahead of More U.S. Submarine Visits](#)

September 2 - USNI News

[United States, South Pacific Ocean]

The Australian government announced its plan of employing 200 people over the next two years for the operation and maintenance of nuclear-powered submarines. Meanwhile, for the first time, the nuclear powered submarine USS *Hawaii* was maintained by foreign workers on foreign soil at Australia's Diamantina Pier.

[Vietnam, Philippines to sign defense cooperation agreement](#)

August 30 - Radio Free Asia

[Southeast Asia]

Vietnamese defense minister Phan Van Giang and his Philippine counterpart in Giberto Teodoro signed a letter of intent to facilitate cooperation on humanitarian assistance, disaster relief at sea, and military medical arrangements. Secretary Teodoro mentioned that the two countries might be able to sign a memorandum on defense cooperation at the end of year.

[3] Maritime Economy and Shipping [3]

[CMA CGM to Buy \\$1.2 Billion Stake in Brazil Port Operator Before Launching Takeover](#)

September 23 - *The Wall Street Journal*

[South America, Europe]

CMA CGM, a French shipping group, has agreed to purchase a 48% stake in Santos Brasil Participacoes, a Brazilian port terminal operator, with plans already set to buy remaining shares.

[China To Launch Its First Polar Expedition Cruise Line In 2025](#)

September 17 - *Marine Insight*

[The Arctic, China]

The China-based Guangdong Port and Shipping Group and the Guangdong Travel Holding Group announced the launch of 66 Degrees Expeditions, China's first polar expedition cruise line brand. The first polar cruise is set to sail in May 2025 with the *Poseidon*, a to-be-refitted ice-class vessel.

[Chinese Cargo Cranes at U.S. Ports Pose Espionage Risk, Probe Finds](#)

September 12 - *The Wall Street Journal*

[United States, China]

A yearlong congressional investigation by the U.S. House Homeland Security Committee and Select Committee on the CCP found that Chinese cargo cranes used at U.S. seaports came embedded with cellular modems that can "collect information, and bypass firewalls."

[Ukraine Accuses Russia of Missile Attack on Grain Ship in Black Sea](#)

September 12 - *The Maritime Executive*

[Black Sea, Eurasia]

A commercial cargo vessel carrying grain has reportedly been hit by a missile in the Black Sea, though local reports are conflicting as to whether the ship was near the mouth of the Danube near Romanian territorial waters. Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy released several pictures along with a call for a global reaction, but few details have been released.

[Russia sends elderly non-ice-class LNG carrier through Arctic](#)

September 11 - *TradeWinds*

[The Arctic, Russia]

On September 5, Russia sent the *Everest Energy*, a non-ice-class LNG carrier ship originally built in 2003, eastbound through the Vilkitsky Strait towards the Laptev Sea, a marginal sea of the Arctic Ocean. *Everest Energy*, capable of carrying 138,000 cbm of LNG, is sanctioned by the U.S.

[Iran, Spain to expand cooperation in maritime transport services](#)

September 6 - *Tehran Times*

[Middle East, Europe]

Spain's Advanced Training Course in Transport and Logistics and the Shipping Association of Iran have signed a memorandum of understanding to improve bilateral relations in shipping lines. The agreement's main goal is to mutually increase knowledge and technical skills in the maritime transport and logistics sector, including through digital simulation courses and joint training..

[India one of the first large economies to have prepared a detailed green transition action plan for ports: Minister](#)

September 4 - *The Hindu*

[Indian Ocean]

In a public address ahead of India's inaugural 'Sagarmanthan' dialogue in November, India's Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal called India "one of the first large economies to have prepared a detailed green transition action plan" for ports and inland vessels. India's Vadhvan port "mega project," Sonowal said, has already drawn "substantial global interest."

[Somalia Mandates Vessels To Fly National Flag Under New Maritime Regulations](#)

September 3 - *Marine Insight*

[Africa]

The government of Somalia introduced a new law requiring all maritime vessels entering or operating within Somali national waters to notify Somalia's maritime authorities, fly the Somali flag, and comply with the regulations of the Ministry of Ports and Marine Transport.

[Galactic Energy launches six satellites with third sea launch](#)

August 29 - *SpaceNews*

[China, Pacific Ocean]

On August 29, China's Galactic Energy company successfully launched its third Ceres-1 solid rocket into orbit from a mobile sea platform off the coast of Shandong Province, China. The launch, which brought six satellites into orbit, is another example of a successful sea launch.

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

[Lowest tide 'may never be seen again'](#)

BBC - September 20

[Europe]

The position of the Moon and Sun around the September equinox are causing low tides. Some in the United Kingdom are predicting that, as sea levels are now rising by 3-5.2 millimeters (0.1-0.2 inches) a year, it may be a decade before such exceptionally low tides are seen again.

[Norway limits wild salmon fishing as stocks hit new lows](#)

Phys.org - September 20

[North Atlantic Ocean]

The Norwegian Environment Agency announced new restrictions for 2025 on wild salmon fishing after incoming numbers reported current fish stocks hitting record lows in recent years.

[Antarctic krill can lock away similar levels of carbon as seagrass and mangroves, finds study](#)

September 17 - *Phys.org*

[The Antarctic]

New research shows that Antarctic krill, a specific species located in the Antarctic that have been subject to global warming and overfishing, are capable of storing similar amounts of carbon as mangroves, saltmarshes and seagrasses. This, the Europe-based researchers explain, means that Antarctic krill should receive similar levels of protection as 'blue carbon' ecosystems.

[Scientists Will Engineer the Ocean to Absorb More Carbon Dioxide](#)

September 12 - *The Scientific American*

[Pacific Ocean, Global]

A group of academics from a not-for-profit consortium have presented a program idea to examine how much carbon dioxide the process of iron fertilization can sequester in the deep sea and what additional impacts it may have on marine ecosystems. They hope to begin trials as soon as 2026.

[Study reveals crucial role of mixing Atlantic and Arctic waters in global ocean circulation](#)

September 10 - National Oceanography Centre

[Global, Atlantic Ocean, Arctic Ocean]

A group of global researchers have analyzed ocean model data from 1979-2021 to clarify how important the mixing of Atlantic and Arctic waters is to sustaining the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, which is a natural cycle vital for regulating the Earth's climate.

[Blue Forest receives license for world-leading mangrove restoration project](#)

September 6 - *Further Africa*

[Africa, Middle East]

Blue Forest, a Dubai-based blue carbon project development company, has successfully received a license to begin operating one of the world's largest mangrove restoration projects. The project, known as MozBlue, is located in Mozambique, covers an area of over 155,000 hectares, and plans to start in November 2024 by restoring more than 5,000 hectares of degraded coastline.

[Silver is being buried beneath the sea, and it's all because of climate change, study finds](#)

September 3 - *Live Science*

[South China Sea]

By analyzing samples in the South China Sea, a professor at the Hefei University of Technology in China believes to have found a possible link between an increase in the amount of silver found in marine sediment—potentially poisonous if also occurring on a global scale—and global warming.

[Researchers study carbon capture in Upper Newport Bay salt marshes](#)

August 28 - *Phys.org*

[United States]

Researchers from the University of Southern California in the United States are conducting a two-part project in the tidal salt marshes along a 42-mile-long stretch of the California coastline to examine how sea level rise may affect the marsh's microbial communities and, therefore, impact blue carbon capture and storage.

IUU Fishing

Issue Background ¹

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU fishing) is a broad term that generally refers to the fishing and fishing-related activities that violate or circumvent fisheries laws and regulations that are designed to prevent overfishing and the resulting dangerous ecological imbalances. Able to occur both intentionally and unintentionally, it also includes fishing occurring in unmanaged areas without oversight. IUU fishing most commonly occurs intentionally and for the sake of short-term economic gain in the [amount](#) of tens of billions of dollars. A relatively new term inspired by long-standing concerns, the issue is [considered](#) by [many](#), [including](#) the International Maritime Organization, to be “one of the greatest threats to marine ecosystems” and a major [inhibitor](#) to long-term ocean sustainability. It is also marked as a direct danger to human livelihoods, [national security](#) and [food insecurity](#), which further makes it a regular issue of interest to [governments](#) and the public alike.

The ecological concerns of IUU fishing primarily circulate around two factors: overfishing and damage to the marine environment such as coral reefs. The rapid reduction of fish stocks—the direct result of [overfishing](#)—causes ecological imbalances that [erode](#) the remaining sea life in a downward, widespread [spiraling](#) effect if not corrected. IUU fishing activities and fishers themselves also deteriorate the marine environment that they sail through via oil pollution, the breakage of coral reefs from uncared-for steering, and destructive fishing methods such as [blast fishing](#) which involves setting off explosives or the use of cyanide powder to stun fish for capture.

IUU fishing is particularly prevalent in the impoverished areas of the world that contain weaker management or enforcement systems, such as [Africa](#) and [South Asia](#). While several nations, namely the [People’s Republic of China](#), [Mexico](#), Russia, [India](#), Senegal and [Somalia](#) are among the commonly discussed as violators, many nations and actors have been [marked](#) as contributing to or not sufficiently countering the IUU fishing supply chain, be it at the point of capture, transfer at ports, or sale at market. [Reports](#) have long [estimated](#) that 20% of the global fishing market caught falls under the IUU fishing category, further identifying how widespread and seemingly uncontrollable such fishing practices are to tame.



Since formally being used for the first time in a [1997 CCAMLR report](#) on overfishing in the Antarctic, ‘IUU fishing’ has become regularly mentioned in legal legislation and multilateral agreements at the

¹ Image Source: Police board a fishing boat at a police coastal station in Thailand's southern province of Narathiwat on June 6, 2021, after nine Vietnamese fishermen were caught allegedly fishing in Thai waters. (Photo by MADAREE TOHLALA/AFP via [Getty Images](#))

[domestic](#), [regional](#) and [international](#) levels. The most significant international agreements related to IUU fishing, most of which are overseen by the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), include but are not limited to: the 1993 [FAO Compliance Agreement](#); the 2010 [Strategic Plan for Biodiversity's](#) Target 6; and the 2010 [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#) (CITES). Most notably, the 1999 session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries considered IUU fishing to be such a severe issue that it adopted the [International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing](#) (IPOA-IUU), a “comprehensive toolbox...to combat IUU fishing,” in 2001. In 2009, the FAO’s adoption of the [Agreement on Port State Measures](#) (PSMA) marked the first binding international agreement to specifically target IUU fishing.

Several older international agreements—such as the 1979 [Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals](#) (CMS) and its [Memorandum on Sharks](#), the 1982 [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea](#) (UNCLOS), the 1995 [United Nations Fish Stock Agreement](#) (UNFSA), and the 1995 [FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries](#)—emphasize concerns over and suggest actions to counter illegal fishing the related destruction of marine habitats, but do not mention IUU fishing by name, largely because the term had not yet been popularized. Many of these agreements are now [recognized](#) as being directly applicable to IUU fishing even if they have not yet included the term ‘IUU fishing’ in amended versions.

Recent Events

While IUU fishing—the illegal aspect in particular—has remained in the minds of governments and international organizations for decades, the Summer of 2024 has seen an uptick in the attention given to, reporting on, and counteractions against IUU fishing.

For example, one scientific investigation analyzing 230 global fisheries [concludes](#) that the assessment of some fish stocks have likely been “excessively positive” estimates. U.S. NOAA Fisheries [announced](#) on September 10 that, effective in 30 days, certain fishing vessels from 17 nations would be blocked from U.S. ports over IUU fishing concerns. Also in the U.S., a group of bipartisan House members [wrote](#) letters to eight federal agencies requesting information on their efforts to combat IUU fishing. Costa Rica just [finished](#) another year of its training program dedicated to IUU fishing, this year involving virtual reality technology.

Continued, renewed, and inaugural multinational cooperation has also taken place. In mid-September, diplomats said ‘The Quad’ members—Australia, Japan, the U.S., and India—plan to [initiate](#) joint patrols to monitor vessels specifically to counter illegal fishing in the Indo-Pacific. In August, a French navy jet [assisted](#) Senegal in surveillance for illegal fishing. Earlier in July, Ecuador’s navy [held](#) another round of counter-IUU exercises around the Galapagos Islands while ASEAN and the European Union held their fourth [workshop](#) focused on combating IUU fishing, which focused on implementing their new set of [guidelines](#) on information-sharing. The EU also just [renewed](#) their fisheries agreement with Guinea-Bissau, adding a new protocol on sustainability, and is [evaluating](#) the potential renewals of similar agreements with other African countries.

Most notably, Vietnam has been readying itself for a review by the European Commission so that it can have its ‘yellow card’ warning on its seafood, applied to Vietnam since 2017, [removed](#). On August 28,

following seven years of various domestic efforts to [combat](#) IUU fishing, Vietnam's Prime Minister led a review meeting in which he [gave clear orders](#) to continue to strictly adhere to legal fishing protocols, to keep authorities [accountable](#), and further strengthen vessel oversight procedures. After Vietnam submits an official anti-IUU report to the EU this month and the EC [conducts](#) its inspection in October, the EC will decide about the status of the 'yellow card.'

Keep In Mind

IUU fishing is one of the rare issues that, while obviously contentious in how it should be dealt with, impacts every nation and is capable of being a solid point of commonality to cooperate upon. While it does impact impoverished coastal nations the most, it also impacts any nation involved in the global fishing supply chain.

A lack of reliable information is one barrier to finding solutions, but with technology expanding and tracking [methods](#) evolving, the true picture of IUU fishing—its pervasiveness, its ecological impact, its long-term repercussions—should be becoming clearer and, therefore, easier to discuss and counter. This information is also becoming more publicly available through sites such as the [IUU Fishing Risk Index](#) or the efforts of non-profit organizations like that of [The Outlaw Ocean Project](#), which are being seen and responded to by government officials.

Since the IPOA-IUU and PSMA were adopted under the FAO, 'addressing IUU fishing' has become a reliable area of cooperation for nations at bilateral, multilateral and regional levels. But it cannot be denied that decades of global discussion of IUU fishing has not prevented it from remaining a—if not becoming a more—severe issue today. It can make observers question how much of a priority it really is to governments when compared to economic growth, and to what extent agreements at any level—especially non-binding agreements—are simply political tools.

IUU fishing is not an issue that is capable of simply disappearing overnight, either; it is too complex and embedded into the fishing supply chain. As one [article](#) puts it, "[u]ntil there is a traceable chain of custody from the time a fish leaves the water to the time it hits the shelf, customers cannot have 100% confidence in the origin country of their fish." But real progress is possible, though it will require [accountability](#) measures and [enforcers](#). China, as the [largest](#) fish [producer](#) since 1989, will need to be part of the conversation. Having leaders exhibit open acceptance of the numerous mutual benefits of battling IUU fishing would not go to waste, either. The United Nations' [declaration](#) of June 5 as the International Day for the Fight Against IUU Fishing is a positive example of bringing the public into the conversation.

In spite of seemingly sluggish progress, attention on the issue has not waned and is unlikely to decline in the future. In fact, the world [may](#) be approaching a turning point. The sustained—if not [increased](#)—attention on IUU fishing, coupled with its natural positive tilt towards mutually beneficial cooperation and the world's recent obsession with healing the world, are all factors that lean towards the world truly being at the cusp of achieving positive, lasting, impactful action in countering IUU fishing. Tangible progress, not elimination of the issue, is the rational goal to strive for at this stage. A few more loud pushes by powerful, influential, impassioned players—something more concrete than a

speech or short social campaign—may soon be all that is needed for global solutions to come to fruition for the betterment of the world.

This issue's [Spotlight](#) was written by Jessica Martin, ICAS Research Associate & Chief Editor, ICAS Newsletters.

Peer-Reviewed Research on Maritime Issues

Government Releases & Other Press Statements

- U.S. Navy - [“Chief of Naval Operations Navigation Plan for America’s Warfighting Navy 2024”](#) [September 18]
- AAR - [“AAR and Defense Logistics Agency Land and Maritime sign Supply Chain Alliance, formalizing commitment to strengthening joint support of the warfighter”](#) [September 16]
- Prime Minister’s Office of the Government of India - [“English rendering of PM’s address at inauguration of Tuticorin International Container Terminal”](#) [September 16]
- Delegation of the European Union to the United Republic of Tanzania and the East African Community - [“European Union Reinforces Support for Tanzania’s Blue Economy Agenda”](#) [September 13]
- Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency - [“BLUE ECONOMY: NIGERIA SET TO HOST DEEP SEABED WORKSHOP”](#) [September 9]
- Shipping Association of Iran - [“Memorandum of Understanding Signed Between the Iranian Shipping Association and the Escola Europea – Intermodal Transport”](#) [September 5]
- Ministry for the Environment of New Zealand - [Coastal Wetland Blue Carbon Policy Research in Aotearoa](#) [September 4]
- Government of India - [“The Union Minister of Port Shipping and Waterways Shri Sarbananda Sonowal Launches Sagarmathan: The Great Oceans Dialogue at Key Curtain-Raiser Event”](#) [September 3]
- Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Ghana - [“Ghana’s Interior Minister Calls for Clear Maritime Boundaries for Peace and Security in Africa”](#) [September 3]
- Ministry of Defense of Singapore - [“The Republic of Singapore Navy and People’s Liberation Army \(Navy\) Officiate the Start of Bilateral Maritime Exercise”](#) [September 1]
- Ministry of Defense of Japan - [“Defense of Japan 2024”](#) [September 2024]
- Ministry of Defense of India - [“Indian Naval Ship Tabar Conducts Maritime Partnership Exercise with Spanish Navy Ship Atalaya”](#) [August 30]
- U.S. Agency for International Development - [“USAID’s Gaza Response: External Factors Impaired Distribution of Humanitarian Assistance Through the JLOTS Maritime Corridor”](#) [August 27]

Analyses & Opinions

- [“At the World’s Largest Shipyard, U.S. Courts an Ally to Face Up to China”](#) [The Wall Street Journal - September 23]
- [“Explainer: Sabina Shoal, the newest flashpoint in the South China Sea”](#) [Radio Free Asia - September 23]
- [“Experts warn Philippines may ‘hijack’ UN for own agenda at planned summit”](#) [The Global Times - September 23]
- [“U.S. leans on shipbuilding prowess of allies to compete with China”](#) [The Japan Times - September 21]
- [“Guest Opinion: Manila’s tricks shake security around South China Sea”](#) [Xinhua - September 21]
- [“Understanding the potential of the Northern Sea Route”](#) [Observer Research Foundation - September 18]

- [“Exclusive: Inside the US push to steer Vietnam's subsea cable plans away from China”](#) [Reuters - September 17]
- [“Mapping the Decline of Eelgrass Along Maine's Coast”](#) [The New York Times - September 17]
- [“New Report: Busy Summer for Arctic Shipping on Russia's Northern Sea Route”](#) [High North News - September 17]
- [“China's Risky Power Play in the South China Sea”](#) [The New York Times - September 15]
- [“The Case for Regional Defense Cooperation to Safeguard Maritime Security”](#) [The Times of Israel - September 13]
- [“A sea of opportunities: Exploring cooperation between Turkey and the West in the Black Sea”](#) [Atlantic Council - September 13]
- [“Opinion: Chancay port will light the way for Peru's economy”](#) [Dialogue Earth - September 12]
- [“Which countries challenge China's claim to the Taiwan Strait?”](#) [Australian Strategic Policy Institute - September 12]
- [“Small islands are innovators for the ocean”](#) [The Global Environment Facility - September 11]
- [“Germany's decision to send warships through Taiwan Straits: All harm, no gain”](#) [Global Times - September 11]
- [“A New Paradigm for Shipbuilding in America”](#) [Center for Maritime Strategy - September 10]
- [“Cables under the sea: Pacific island countries need integrated electricity grids”](#) [Australian Strategic Policy Institute - September 10]
- [“The scary new map of the South China Sea”](#) [The Economist - September 10]
- [“How Indian Navy's Maritime Security Shapes India's Future, Everyday Lives – Analysis”](#) [Eurasia Review - September 9]
- [“As it completes five years, it's time to take the IPOI to the next level”](#) [Observer Research Foundation - September 9]
- [“Why Do Singapore and China Cooperate on Joint Maritime Exercises?”](#) [The Diplomat - September 6]
- [“Beware the Allure of Blockade: There Won't Be Any Silver Bullets in a War Against China”](#) [Center for Maritime Strategy - September 5]
- [“The Maritime Doctrine of Pakistan - Setting the Record Straight”](#) [Center for International Maritime Security - September 4]
- [“Advancing Blue Carbon in New Zealand's Coastal Wetlands”](#) [The Nature Conservancy - September 3]

Other Research

- Video: CBS News 60 Minutes - [“Conflict between China, Philippines could involve U.S. and lead to a clash of superpowers”](#) [September 15]
- Podcast: CIMSEC Sea Control - [“Maritime Competition in the Mediterranean with Dr. Sebastian Bruns & Dr. Jeremy Stöhs”](#) [September 21]
- Podcast: NPR Short Wave - [“Climate change is one reason for hotter oceans. But there are others”](#) [September 16]
- Podcast: Center for Maritime Strategy Maritime Nation - [“Tensions in the Red Sea: The Israel-Hamas Conflict a Year On”](#) [August 30]
- Scientific Journal: [“The ocean carbon sink enhances countries' inclusive wealth and reduces the cost of national climate policies”](#) *Communications Earth & Environment* 5 [September 17]
- Scientific Journal: [“Antarctic krill sequester similar amounts of carbon to key coastal blue carbon habitats”](#) *Nature Communications* 15 [September 8]
- Scientific Journal: *Scientific Reports* 14 - [“Blue carbon storage in a sub-Antarctic marine protected area”](#) [September 4]

Events on the Maritime Domain

- On August 29, Cloverly and Gresham Smith hosted a webinar titled [“Offsetting with Purpose: How Gresham Smith Built a Carbon Program that Delivered Immediate Impact.”](#)
- From September 5-6, Stellenbosch University and its global partners co-hosted an international maritime security conference titled [“The Gulf of Guinea and the Red Sea as a Learning Curve for African Decision-Makers in Capacity-Building”](#) in Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- From September 18-22, the three-day [Africa Aerospace & Defense 2024 Conference](#) was 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 hosted 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 hosted their [2nd WMO-IMO Symposium on Extreme Maritime Weather](#) in London, United Kingdom.
- On September 25, the Center for Strategic & International Studies will hold a webinar with Senator Mark Kelly and Congressman Mike Waltz on [“Rebuilding America’s Maritime Strength.”](#)
- On September 26, the Hudson Institute will host a n in-person event titled [“Preserving a Free and Open Indo-Pacific: A Conversation with Rep. Andy Kim \(D-NJ\).”](#)
- 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.
- On October 2, Wilson Center will host an online webinar titled [“UK and US Antarctic Collaboration: The Cutting Edge of Polar Science and Future Directions.”](#)
- On October 3, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation will be hosting an in-person interview with Ambassador Tariq Karim [“On the growing importance of the Bay of Bengal and the role of Bangladesh and Japan.”](#)
- On October 4, the University of Gothenburg will hold a group lecture titled [“The Ocean-Climate Nexus in International Law.”](#)
- 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 18-19, India’s Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and the Observer Research Foundation will co-host the first annual [Sagarmanthan: The Great Oceans Dialogue](#) in New Delhi, India.
- 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.”



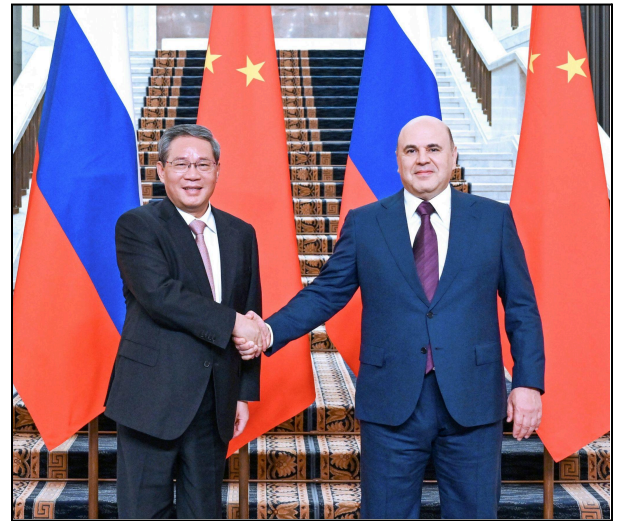
— MAP Commentary —

Opportunities, Challenges, and the Uncertain Future of Sino-Russian Cooperation in the Arctic

By Nong Hong
September 3, 2024

With Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin meeting on August 21 in Moscow and pledging deeper economic partnerships, it appears that China and Russia are making strides in their long-discussed cooperation in the Arctic. However, while the political will for collaboration in the Arctic is evident, this partnership presents both opportunities and challenges, making it difficult to be fully optimistic about its long-term success...

...The success of Sino-Russian cooperation in the Arctic will largely depend on how both countries navigate these complex challenges while balancing their national interests with the broader geopolitical dynamics of the Arctic region. While there is potential for significant economic and strategic benefits, the road ahead is fraught with risks and uncertainties that make long-term success far from assured. As they move forward, both China and Russia will need to carefully manage their relationship, address environmental and legal challenges, and consider the broader implications of their actions on the global stage.



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