



ICAS MARITIME AFFAIRS HANDBILL

December 31, 2024

Volume 3, Issue 12

Online ISSN 2837-3901
Print ISSN 2837-3871

Recent News in Global Maritime Affairs

[1] Ocean Governance and Maritime Cooperation [1]

[Maritime Law Has To Be Changed To Protect Undersea Infrastructure, Estonia Says](#)

December 27 - Reuters

[Baltic Sea, Europe, Russia]

Estonia's Minister of Justice said that international maritime law must be updated to outlaw damage to undersea infrastructure such as pipelines and subsea cables, and has announced plans to apply to the International Maritime Organization by February to update the law. The comment followed an incident earlier in the week where subsea cables connecting Estonia to Finland were again damaged. On December 26, Finnish authorities seized a ship carrying Russian oil in the Baltic Sea on suspicion of its involvement. One day later, Estonia's navy deployed a ship to protect a parallel subsea power line.

[Sweden Says China Denied Request For Prosecutors To Board Ship Linked To Severed Cables](#)

December 23 - The Guardian

[Baltic Sea, Europe, China]

After the Chinese-registered bulk carrier *Yi Peng 3* was put under suspicion of sabotaging data cables in the Baltic Sea in mid-November after sailing in the area, the Chinese government agreed to cooperate with European police, allowing authorities to board the ship in early-December as observers to a Chinese investigation. A week later, Swedish officials accused China of denying Swedish prosecutors access to the ship for a preliminary investigation. The *Yi Peng 3* then left the Kattegat strait in which it had been anchored for over a month for the "wellbeing of the crew."

[Iran, China Sign Cooperation MOU At Indian Ocean Forum](#)

December 19 - MEHR News Agency

[Indian Ocean, China, Middle East]

Iran and China, on the sidelines of the Indian Ocean Rim Development Cooperation Forum in Kunming, China, signed a memorandum of understanding for development cooperation. After emphasizing the importance of the blue economy at the forum, Iran's representative also held bilateral meetings with other Indo-Pacific deputy ministers to explore cooperation opportunities.

[Boakai Stresses Importance of Managing Region's Marine Resources](#)

December 16 - Daily Observer

[Africa]

From December 11-13, the 15th Ministerial Conference of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea took place in Monrovia, Liberia. During the conference, Liberian President Joseph Boakai urged for marine ecosystem protection and sustainable resource management, especially in the fishing industry.

[Japan-U.S.-Philippines Maritime Dialogue Convenes In Tokyo](#)

December 10 - Daily Tribune

[Japan, U.S., Philippines]

On December 10, Japan, the United States., and the Philippines convened an inaugural maritime dialogue in Tokyo, which focused on South China Sea disputes and promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific. The nations reaffirmed opposition to unilateral actions and agreed to expand trilateral maritime cooperation, with the Philippines set to host the next dialogue in 2025.

[Canada Seeks Stronger Us Ties In Arctic To Counter Russia, China](#)

December 6 - Bloomberg

[Arctic Ocean, North America]

Canada has announced that it will establish two new Arctic consulates, one in Alaska and the other in Greenland, as well as appoint a dedicated Arctic ambassador. These announcements are seen as key parts of Canada's expanding foreign policy strategy for the Arctic region, of which the United States has been named its "closest partner."

[Seychelles And India Continue To Expand Maritime Cooperation Through Hydrography](#)

December 2 - Seychelles News Agency

[Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean]

Following a series of high-level meetings on November 29, Seychelles and India reaffirmed their mutual commitment to strengthening cooperation in hydrography, highlighting its multifaceted importance in maritime safety efforts, economic development and environmental protection.

[Legal Frameworks Seen Vital In Climate Action, Ocean Protection](#)

November 29 - Philippine News Agency

[Global]

President Tomas Haukur Heidar of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, during a series of high-level university and government lectures during a historic visit to the Philippines, highlighted how important legal frameworks are in pushing climate action and ocean protection.

[India And France Strengthen Maritime Partnership](#)

November 28 - India Shipping News

[Indo-Pacific, Indian Ocean, Europe]

On November 27, representatives from India and France conducted a high-level meeting in New Delhi to discuss deepening bilateral cooperation in maritime security, sustainable ocean governance, and holistic collaborative opportunities in the Indo-Pacific region. During the meeting the two sides also underscored their shared vision to uphold international maritime law and foster multilateral cooperation.

[Symposium Calls For Safeguarding Universal And Sustainable Maritime Security](#)

November 26 - Global Times

[China, Global]

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, speaking in a keynote address at the 5th Symposium on Global Maritime Cooperation and Ocean Governance in Sanya, China, said that China is prepared to work with countries to properly handle maritime differences through negotiations and consultations with the end goal of maintaining long-term peace and stability at sea. Other global experts participating also emphasized the importance of peaceful negotiations throughout dialogue.

[2] Maritime Security and Defense [2]

[China Launches New Amphibious Assault Ship, Enhancing Naval Power](#)

December 27 - *Euro News*

[China, Pacific Ocean, Global]

On December 27, China launched its first Type 076 amphibious assault ship, *Sichuan*. The largest of its kind to date, the Type 076 includes advanced technologies—like an electromagnetic catapult and an “arrestor technology” system that allows fighter jets to land on its deck—and is designed to enhance the People’s Liberation Army Navy’s distant water combat capabilities.

[Myanmar Navy Unveils 135-Meter Frigate King Thalun And Commissions Anti-Submarine Ships On 77th Navy Day](#)

December 25 - *Asia News Network*

[Southeast Asia, Pacific Ocean]

The Myanmar Navy, on its 77th Navy Day, launched its newly constructed 135-meter frigate, *King Thalun*, which is the largest and most advanced warship ever built by the Myanmar Navy. Myanmar also commissioned two new 63-meter anti-submarine warfare ships into its navy.

[Cambodia To Grant Japan Visitation Rights To China-Linked Naval Base](#)

December 21 - *The Japan Times*

[Southeast Asia, East Asia]

On December 20, Cambodia’s former Prime Minister Hun Sen said that Japan would be granted visitation rights to Cambodia’s Ream Naval Base, a naval base that underwent an upgrade starting in 2022 with the support of Chinese funding.

[China Expanding Pacific Operations, Taiwan Invasion ‘Not Possible’ by 2027, Say DoD Officials](#)

December 19 - *USNI News*

[Info-Pacific, United States, China]

U.S. Assistant Secretary for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Ely Ratner, speaking at a think tank event in Washington, D.C., said that, despite its “rapid progress,” having China’s military forces prepared for a “short, sharp invasion” of Taiwan by 2027 “is not possible right now.”

[China Permits Philippine Ship To Deliver Supplies To Second Thomas Shoal Outpost](#)

December 17 - *South China Morning Post*

[South China Sea, Southeast Asia, China]

On December 12, "with the permission of the Chinese side," a Philippine civilian ship delivered supplies to the grounded warship at the disputed Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea.

[Taiwan Says China Has Launched Biggest Maritime Operation In Decades](#)

December 10 - *Voice of America*

[China, Taiwan]

China has deployed nearly 90 naval and coast guard vessels around Taiwan, marking its largest regional military operation in nearly 30 years, according to Taiwanese defense officials. The unannounced maneuvers aim to block regional allies like Japan and the Philippines from aiding Taiwan, as Beijing heightens pressure amid U.S. leadership transition.

[Maritime Threats High On Agenda As Chinese Navy Hosts Gulf Of Guinea Security Forum](#)

December 9 - *South China Morning Post*

[China, Gulf of Guinea]

China hosted a forum in Shanghai with 18 Gulf of Guinea nations to address maritime security issues like piracy and smuggling, signaling its intent to expand military cooperation in Africa. Analysts suggest Beijing's efforts, including potential naval bases, aim to secure trade routes and project power toward the Atlantic, raising geopolitical concerns.

[US To Provide Security Boats To Vietnam](#)

December 5 - *Marine Link*

[Southeast Asia, United States]

The U.S. Embassy in Hanoi announced that the U.S. will be providing a US\$12.5 million assistance package to Vietnam in order to enhance its maritime law enforcement capabilities and counter illegal fishing. The package includes the transfer of small boats and support for training facilities.

[Japan Grants Philippines \\$11 Mln In Security Aid To Bolster Defences](#)

December 5 - *Reuters*

[The Philippines, Japan]

Japan and the Philippines inked a US\$10.65 million security agreement to enhance maritime surveillance and domain awareness, reflecting their shared commitment to regional stability. The deal includes radar systems, boats, and air surveillance equipment as both nations counter China's actions in contested waters.

[NATO Wants To Use Drone Boats For Maritime Security In The Baltic](#)

December 4 - *The Maritime Executive*

[The Baltic]

NATO has announced that it is considering deploying unmanned systems to monitor maritime threats in the Baltic, inspired by U.S. 5th Fleet's Task Force 59. The initiative aims to safeguard subsea infrastructure after the Nord Stream pipeline attack and several similar security incidents.

[Philippines' Marcos Says Presence Of Russian Submarine 'very Worrisome'](#)

December 2 - *The Japan Times*

[South China Sea, Southeast Asia, Russia]

On November 28, a Russian Kilo-class submarine was spotted 80 nautical miles off the western coast of the Philippines, within the boundaries of the Philippines' exclusive economic zone, which Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. called "very concerning." After establishing radio contact with a Philippine Navy frigate and before being escorted out, the submarine was identified and stated it was awaiting improved weather conditions before continuing to Vladivostok, Russia.

[3] Maritime Economy and Shipping [3]

[Egypt Successfully Tests New Channel Extension Of Suez Canal](#)

December 30 - *Smart Water Magazine*

[North Africa, Mediterranean Sea]

Egypt's Suez Canal Authority announced the successful trial operation of a newly constructed 10-kilometer extension at the southern end of the Suez Canal. The new construction is intended to avoid a repeat of the 2021 case in which the *Ever Given* container ship ran aground and blocked the entirety of the critical global shipping route for six days.

[Political Unrest Creates Shipping Crisis in Mozambique](#)

December 29 - *The Maritime Executive*

[South Africa]

Months of domestic political unrest and protests in Mozambique, which began after the election in October, has been confirmed to be severely impacting the state of Port of Maputo's shipping trade in South Africa. The government of Mozambique reported that it has lost US\$54 million due to disruptions while Maputo Port operator Grindrod confirming ongoing delays and cancellations.

[Panama's president calls Trump's Chinese canal claim 'nonsense'](#)

December 26 - BBC

[South America, United States]

In a social media post, U.S. President-elect Donald Trump said that the Panama Canal is charging “exorbitant prices and rates of passage” on U.S. naval and merchant ships and demanded that either the fees be lowered or Panama return the canal to the U.S.; a demand that Panamanian President José Raúl Mulino denied to even consider. Trump said in another post that there are Chinese soldiers stationed there, a claim that President Mulino called “nonsense,” clarifying that there is “not a single Chinese soldier in the canal.”

[The Great Cotonou Joins The Grimaldi Fleet And Inaugurates The China-West Africa Service](#)

December 25 - Port News

[Africa, Atlantic Ocean, China]

On December 20, the sixth and final of the G5-class ro-ro multipurpose vessels in the Grimaldi fleet, *Great Cotonou*, was delivered in Ulsan, South Korea. The 250-metre long vessels are capable of transporting 4,700 linear metres of rolling freight, 2,500 CEU and 2,000 TEU, accompanied by several cutting-edge technological and energy efficiency updates compared to its G4-class predecessor. Starting in January 2025, *Great Cotonou* will inaugurate a new Grimaldi Group route between China and Lagos, Nigeria.

[China Receives First Shipment Of Peruvian Products From The Port Of Chancay](#)

December 24 - Produce Report

[Pacific Ocean, South America, China]

On December 18, the first shipment of Peruvian fruit sailing the new Chancay-Shanghai direct shipping route successfully arrived on the COSCO Shipping vessel *Xin Shanghai*. Starting in December 2024, following a successful inauguration of the Port of Chancay in November, COSCO Shipping Group launched a weekly direct route with further expansions already underway.

[China Lifts Ban On Australian Rock Lobster, Marking An End To 'trade Impediments' Imposed On Canberra By Beijing](#)

December 20 - Hong Kong Free Press

[Pacific Ocean, Indo-Pacific]

On December 20, after months of diplomatic discussions, Australia announced that China has lifted a four-year de facto ban on imports of Australian live rock lobsters into China, marking the fall of the last major sanctions imposed by China in recent years. The lobster trade is worth US\$500,000 a year and, before the ban, an estimated 97.7% of Australia's rock lobster exports were sold to China.

[New Ocean And Air Freight Data Reveals Major Shifts in Global Trade Routes](#)

December 18 - *Supply & Demand Chain Executive*

[Global, Europe, Red Sea]

According to data from Fluent Cargo, major disruptions in the Red Sea from the threat of Houthi attacks against cargo vessels has resulted in one of the largest realignments of global shipping routes in recent years. The most affected was the Asia-Europe route, the maritime capacity of which dropped 33% from 2023 to 2024.

[Morocco Boosts Trade Connectivity With New Maritime Route Linking Agadir to Dakar](#)

December 9 - *Morocco World News*

[Africa, Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic Ocean]

Utilizing existing infrastructure, Morocco has launched a new maritime route between Agadir and Dakar in order to strengthen ties with Sub-Saharan Africa, reduce transport times for perishable goods, and assist Moroccan truckers who face technical issues, border delays and high fuel costs.

[China's New Port Has Peru Targeting \\$30 Billion Farm Exports](#)

December 2 - *Bloomberg*

[Pacific Ocean, South America, China]

Following the successful opening of the first stage of the Chinese-operated Port of Chancay in Peru, Peru's Minister of Agriculture Angel Manero is targeting US\$30 billion in farm exports by 2040, most of it coming from fruit and growth in Asia. 2024 exports are an estimated US\$12 billion.

[Transport Ministry Forms Committee To Review Maritime Law, Port Acts](#)

November 28 - *The Edge Malaysia*

[Southeast Asia]

In preparation to develop a national shipping policy and maritime master plan, Malaysia's Ministry of Transport has created the Malaysia Maritime Law Revision Committee (MLRC) in order to review and update the Merchant Shipping Ordinance (MSO) 1952 and the respective Port Acts.

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

[Tissue-Cultured Seaweed Boosts Farm Productivity](#)

December 30 - *The Fish Site*

[South Pacific Ocean, Indo-Pacific]

Farming researchers at the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre in the Philippines have discovered that the rate of seaweed growth can be increased by up to 6.5 times through the use of applying tissue culture technology that better protects seaweed seedlings from disease and frailty.

[4 Million Dead: “Warm Blob” Disaster Causes Catastrophic Loss](#)

December 27 - *SciTechDaily*

[Atlantic Ocean, North America]

According to an updated study led by the University of Washington, the 2014-2016 marine heat wave known as “the blob” in the Northern Atlantic has led to the death of an estimated 50-75% of the population of common murre, a seabird that feeds off small ocean fish, between 2008-2022.

[DP World Raises \\$100 Million In Middle East’s First-Ever Blue Bond To Fund Sustainable Maritime Projects](#)

December 24 - *Marine Insight*

[Africa]

Dubai-based logistics company DP World successfully raised US\$100 million through the first-ever Blue Bond issued by a company in the Middle East and North Africa region. The five-year bond funding is aimed at supporting sustainable projects in marine transportation, port infrastructure, marine pollution control, and nature-positive initiatives in the maritime and water sectors.

[Freed activist Paul Watson vows to 'end whaling worldwide'](#)

December 21 - *France 24*

[Global, Southern Ocean, Europe]

Paul Watson, a 74-year-old Canadian-American animal rights activist, was released by Denmark after five months of detention in Greenland following an extradition demand from Japan. Watson returned to France and declared to a group of gathered supporters that they would “end whaling worldwide,” calling on Japan to “obey the law” on whaling in the Southern Ocean if they return.

[Arctic Tundra Has Long Helped Cool Earth. Now, It’s Fueling Warming.](#)

December 10 - *The New York Times*

[Arctic Ocean, Global]

Several signs of rapid change were depicted in the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Arctic Report Card 2024 including how, for the 11th year in a row, the Arctic was more abnormally warm than the world as a whole and the Northwest Passage sea route had the lowest amount of sea ice coverage on record.

[Research Set To Transform Our Understanding Of How The Ocean Breathes](#)

December 5 - National Oceanography Centre

[Global, Europe]

The University of Southampton and the National Oceanography Centre in the United Kingdom are jointly launching a £2.5 million project designed to re-evaluate the world’s understanding of how

the ocean stores heat and greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. The project will involve the deployment of floating sensors that will gather data on “small-scale mixing” movements.

[70% Of Ocean Microplastics Are The Type Found In Clothes, Textiles & Fishing Gear – And Europe Is A Hotspot](#)

December 4 - National Oceanography Centre

[Global, Europe]

Newly analyzed samples from the Atlantic Ocean, southern Indian and Pacific Oceans, the Southern Ocean, and in seas around Europe, collected by participants in The Ocean Race, identified that every sample gathered contained microplastics and the greatest concentration was found close to South Africa. The new samples were analyzed with modernized methods that can examine microplastics ten times smaller than traditional methods.

[Norway Kills First Round Of Arctic Deep-Sea Mining Permits Amid Opposition](#)

December 2 - *Mongabay*

[Arctic Ocean, Norwegian Sea]

Following months of pressure from an environmentalist political party and other activists, Norway’s Ministry of Energy has cancelled the first licensing round for deep-sea mining in the Arctic Ocean. The halted proposal, introduced in June 2024, included 386 license areas covering almost 106,000 square miles in the Norwegian Sea.

[MoE and China’s Ministry of Natural Resources sign agreement for clean, green, and sustainable environment under the Sustainable Oceans Cooperation Initiative](#)

December 2 - *Khmer Times*

[Indo-Pacific]

On December 2, Cambodia’s Ministry of Environment and China’s Ministry of Natural Resources signed a memorandum of understanding under the Sustainable Ocean Cooperation Initiative, agreeing to jointly work towards cleanliness, greenness, and sustainability in the oceans to fight climate change.

J-35A Stealth Fighter

Issue Background ¹

The J-35A is the People's Liberation Army Navy's (PLAN's) newest stealth fighter that has enhanced stealth capabilities and is holistically expected to further strengthen China's naval power. China's journey toward developing advanced stealth fighters has marked a significant leap in its military modernization efforts. Following the introduction of the [J-20](#) as the first fifth-generation stealth fighter for the People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF), the J-35A now marks a parallel evolution for the PLAN as the growing military power's second fifth-generation stealth fighter.

Following the introduction of the [J-15](#), China's first carrier-based fighter, the J-35A, whose most significant feature is its enhanced [stealth capabilities](#), is expected to further strengthen China's naval power as the PLAN moves quickly to extending its naval reach, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region, and equipping its second indigenous [Type 003 carrier](#), the Fujian, and future carriers models with a viable stealth platform for the next generation of combat scenarios.



Publicly available specifications from China's [state media](#) suggest the J-35A features twin engines, low observability, and enhanced operational versatility—capabilities that could make it a formidable competitor in its class.

Recent Events

The J-35A made its first public appearance at the [2024 Zhuhai Airshow](#) mid-November 2024. Official Chinese media [highlighted](#) the platform as a testament to the country's growing expertise in stealth technology and its commitment to self-reliance in military innovation. The airshow served as a platform for Beijing to demonstrate its progress in developing a viable carrier-based stealth fighter, particularly as the PLAN ramps up the operational readiness of its aircraft carriers fleets, particularly the Type-003 Fujian, PLAN's first [catapult-equipped](#) carrier.

On December 19, 2024, Pakistan is [reported](#) to procure 40 J-35A from its Chinese neighbor. Given the longstanding defense ties between Islamabad and Beijing, a potential deal would mark a significant milestone in China's arms export ambitions. Over the past decade, Pakistan has already worked closely with China to jointly develop the JF-17 Thunder fighter amid pressing challenges to

¹ Image: A J-35A stealth fighter aircraft flying at the 2024 Zhuhai Airshow on November 10, 2024. (Source/Credit: [中国新闻社](#), [Wikicommons CC3.0](#))

modernize its air force to cope with regional challenges. The decision to procure the J-35As could provide a much-needed edge in stealth capabilities that takes the Pakistani air capability to a newer level. The procurement, if proceeded, would undoubtedly recalibrate the military balance in the South Asian region, particularly in relation to Pakistan's rival, India.

Keep In Mind

The introduction of the J-35A carries significant implications for regional security. For the U.S., it underscores the growing challenge of countering China's expanding naval capabilities in the Indo-Pacific region. As a carrier-based stealth fighter, the J-35A enhances China's ability to project power across regional hotspots, including the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait. Its deployment alongside advanced carriers could complicate U.S. military planning and further tilt the regional balance of power.

Beyond military applications, the J-35A could also bolster China's position in the international arms market. Although China [trails far behind](#) the United States and a few other western countries in global arms sales, Beijing has steadily increased its exports, targeting markets in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East in recent years. A stealth fighter like the J-35A could appeal to countries seeking advanced technology without the political strings often attached to U.S. defense sales.

The J-35A's potential export to countries like Pakistan also raises concerns about its role in reshaping military partnerships. While its technical capabilities are not designed to match the U.S. An F-35 in terms of interoperability and networked warfare, the J-35A could still offer a cost-effective alternative for nations reluctant or unable to procure Western-made platforms. This could allow China to expand its influence in markets traditionally dominated by American and Russian aircraft.

Finally, the J-35A represents a broader trend in stealth fighter development. As more nations, such as Italy, Japan and the UK's [next generation fighter project](#), South Korea-Indonesia joint [KF-X](#) project, and Turkey's [TF-X](#) project, enter the race for low-observability aircraft, the proliferation of this technology could lead to new challenges in arms control and military escalation. For China, the J-35A is both a symbol of progress and a reminder of the strategic complexities that come with advanced military capabilities.

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

Peer-Reviewed Research on Maritime Issues

Government Releases & Other Press Statements

- Government of Finland - [“Amendments to Act on Environmental Protection in Maritime Transport – prohibitions on discharges to enter into force gradually from next year”](#) [December 30]
- Ministry of Defense of Australia - [“Albanese Government accelerates Defence capability delivery as part of commitment to safer Australia”](#) [December 30]
- Suez Canal Authority - [“Adm. Rabiee: ‘Success of the trial operation of the Suez Canal duplication in the Small Bitter Lakes by transiting two vessels in the new waterway’”](#) [December 28]
- Government of India - [“‘Lothal to become Global Hub for Maritime Heritage with National Maritime Heritage Complex’: Sarbananda Sonowal”](#) [December 28]
- Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea - [“MOF, GS Retail Join Hands to Conserve Marine Protected Species”](#) [December 20]
- Office of U.S. Congressman John Garamendi - [“Garamendi, Kelly, Senators Young and Kelly, Introduce SHIPS for America Act to Revitalize US Shipbuilding and Commercial Maritime Industries”](#) [December 19]
- U.S. Congressional Research Service - [“Navy Large Unmanned Surface and Undersea Vehicles: Background and Issues for Congress”](#) [Updated December 19]
- The State Council Information Office of the People’s Republic of China - [“First vessel from Peru's Chancay Port reaches Shanghai”](#) [December 19]
- International Chamber of Shipping - [“New International Chamber of Shipping Secretary General announced”](#) [December 18]
- International Seabed Authority - [“ISA reaffirms its unwavering international cooperation and renewed multilateralism at the 5th Symposium on Global Maritime Cooperation and Ocean Governance”](#) [December 11]
- U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - [“Arctic Report Card 2024”](#) [December 10]
- World Shipping Council - [“Joint industry and trade statement on the EU Trade Customs Reform”](#) [December 9]
- Government of Canada - [“Remarks made by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mélanie Joly at the launch of the Arctic Foreign Policy”](#) [December 6]
- Government of Canada - [“Canada’s Arctic Foreign Policy”](#) [December 6]
- University of Wellington Australia - [“UOW ANCORS announces new Southeast Asia Maritime Institute in Malaysia”](#) [December 5]
- Ministry of Information of Cambodia - [“Cambodia, China Ink Clean, Green, and Sustainable Deal”](#) [December 3]
- National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) of Indonesia - [“Facing Global Challenges, BRIN and MNR China Establish Marine Science and Technology Cooperation”](#) [November 29]
- Foreign Minister Wang Yi of the People’s Republic of China - [“Coexisting in Harmony and Working Together to Bring Global Ocean Governance to a Higher Level”](#) [November 26]
- United Nations Secretary General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean Ambassador Peter Thomson - [“5th Symposium on Global Maritime Cooperation and Ocean Governance Keynote Speech”](#) [November 26]

Analyses & Opinions

- [“Ghana’s Pathway To Sustainable Ocean Knowledge: Empowering Blue Economy And Policy Reform”](#) [Joy Online - December 30]
- [“Why Ocean Acidification Is Called Climate Change's Evil Twin”](#) [Nation Kenya - December 29]

- [“Emerging Non-Traditional Security Threats in the Atlantic Ocean”](#) [*Pakistan Today* - December 29]
- [“Fear That China Rules The Waves Jolts U.S. To Pursue Maritime Revival”](#) [*The Wall Street Journal* - December 29]
- [“Type 076 Assault Ship: A Call For Objective Views On China’s Military Power Development”](#) [*Global Times* - December 29]
- [“Biden’s Missed Chance To Safeguard America’s Oceans”](#) [*The Hill* - December 28]
- [“Trump Wants U.S. Control of the Panama Canal. Here Are 3 Things to Know.”](#) [*The New York Times* - December 26]
- [“What’s In The Bill That Aims To Revitalize America’s Decaying Naval Industry”](#) [*The Warzone* - December 23]
- [“The Drowning South: Why Seas Are Surging”](#) [*The Washington Post* - December 20]
- [“China Makes Progress On Its Fifth Antarctic Research Station”](#) [Center for Strategic & International Studies - December 19]
- [“Serious About Building Maritime Capacity in the High Latitudes? Look South”](#) [Center for International Maritime Security - December 18]
- [“Peruvian port helps spur trade with China”](#) [*China Daily* - December 18]
- [“Explainer: Why Ocean Temperatures Are A Growing Concern”](#) [Dialogue Earth - December 18]
- [“Prioritising Maritime Domain Awareness In The Indian Ocean”](#) [Observer Research Foundation - December 18]
- [“What A Nato-Skeptic U.S. Means For Nato Maritime Security”](#) [Center for Maritime Security - December 17]
- [“In Some Port Towns, It’s Residents Vs. Cruises: ‘We’re Going To Eradicate Them’”](#) [*The Washington Post* - December 15]
- [“More Aircraft, More Ships, More Often: How The PLA Is Pressuring Taiwan’s Defences”](#) [*South China Morning Post* - December 14]
- [“Anti-Submarine Warfare: The U.S. Navy’s Strategic Imperative”](#) [Center for Maritime Security - December 13]
- [“In Recent Border Controversies, Thailand’s Government Has Been Missing In Action”](#) [*The Diplomat* - December 12]
- [“Red Sea Tensions: 4 Scholars Explain What’s At Stake For Global Trade And Security”](#) [*The Conversation* - December 11]
- [“Catastrophic Sea Level Rise Possible Within Our Lifetime? Yes, Here’s How”](#) [Australian Strategic Policy Institute - December 10]
- [“Good News: Norway Won’t Start Deep Sea Mining, Yet”](#) [Environment America - December 10]
- [“Why Is Canada Scrambling To Counter Russia, China In The Arctic?”](#) [*Al Jazeera* - December 9]
- [“A New Normal for the China Coast Guard at Kinmen and Matsu”](#) [Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative - December 6]
- [“Aukus Risks Are Piling Up. Australia Must Prepare To Build French Ssns Instead”](#) [Australian Strategic Policy Institute - December 5]
- [“What Is The Best Way To Resolve Maritime Dispute?”](#) [PR Newswire - December 4]
- [“The Baltic Sea’s Bad Actors”](#) [*Foreign Policy* - December 4]
- [“Importance Of Indian And Sri Lankan Navies Collaborating To Curb Drug Trafficking”](#) [ETV Bharat - December 3]
- [“China Tensions Prompt U.S. Navy Race to Reload Missiles at Sea”](#) [*The Wall Street Journal* - December 2]
- [“Is Hanoi Quietly Building Asean Alliances On A South China Sea Code Of Conduct?”](#) [*South China Morning Post* - November 29]
- [“Breaking the Naval Impasse on the U.S. Icebreaker Program”](#) [The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs - November 26]

Other Research

- Podcast: Center for Maritime Strategy - [“Maritime Nation: A Conversation With The Commander Of Fleet Forces Command”](#) [December 13]
- Magazine Article: U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* - [“Partnering Will Determine the First Days of Conflict in the Western Pacific”](#) [December 2024]
- Magazine Article: U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* - [“The U.S. Navy Must Preserve and Use the Lessons from Red Sea Combat”](#) [December 2024]
- Scientific Article: [“Drifting fish aggregating devices in the Indian ocean impacts, management, and policy implications”](#) - *npj Ocean Sustainability* Vol. 3, No. 60

Events on the Maritime Domain

- From November 25-December 1, the [fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment \(INC-5\)](#) was held in the Republic of Korea.
- From November 28-29, the annual [International Maritime Human Factors Symposium](#) was jointly hosted at the International Maritime Organization headquarters in London to gather “academia, industry, and regulatory bodies to enhance maritime safety and operational efficiency.”
- On December 2, Wilson Center hosted a book discussion webinar titled [“The Contest for the Indian Ocean And the Making of a New World Order.”](#)
- On December 4, Hudson Institute held an online event with Alaska Senator Dan Sullivan to discuss [“Alaska’s Strategic Importance for the Indo-Pacific.”](#)
- On December 4, the University of Bergen and Arctic Frontiers held a panel discussion titled [“Science diplomacy and ocean governance for the green transition”](#) as part of the Arctic Frontiers Abroad event “License to Operate: Sustainable Ocean Development and the Green Transition.”
- On December 5, Center for Strategic & International Studies hosted a webinar on [“Examining PRC Activities in the Arctic.”](#)
- On December 11, the U.S. Naval Institute held its [Defense Forum Washington 2024](#), gathering military, congressional and civilian leaders to “address the challenges facing the Sea Services.”
- On December 17, Foreign Policy Research Institute held an in-person discussion titled [“Sharing Nuclear Secrets and the Future of AUKUS.”](#)
- On December 18, Center for Strategic & International Studies hosted a webinar on [“Security and Resilience: The Strategic Future of Subsea Cables.”](#)
- On December 19, Brookings held a hybrid conversation with National Economic Advisor Lael Brainard on [“How to strengthen America’s supply chains”](#) amidst past and upcoming global shifts.
- From January 29-30, 2025, the European Subsea Cables Association will be hosting a hybrid [“Subsea Cables Awareness Workshop”](#) designed for participants to “gain broad insight into subsea cables and project lifecycle.” Online registration is still open.
- On February 11, 2025, Asia Society will be hosting a public program titled [“Indo-Pacific Security and the QUAD: Updates & Analysis”](#) to explore the QUAD’s pivotal role in Indo-Pacific security.

ICAS Maritime Affairs Program: New and Upcoming

– ICAS 2024 Annual Conference –

Recordings & written summary for the ICAS 2024 Annual Conference are now available!

On December 12, the Institute for China-America Studies (ICAS) organized its 2024 Annual Conference, coinciding with the 10th anniversary of ICAS' founding, in full in-person format at the Georgetown Marriott Hotel in downtown Washington, D.C. Dr. Hong Nong, Executive Director of ICAS, opened the conference and Dr. Wu Shicun, Chairman of ICAS' Advisory Board, delivered the introductory remarks. In his heartfelt message, Dr. Wu spoke of the need for pragmatism as well as a recognition of shared responsibility in U.S.-China relations, given that both countries are indispensable to combating global challenges – be it the fight against climate change, stabilizing the global economy or addressing regional conflicts. Acknowledging that the re-election of Donald Trump had brought forth both uncertainty and familiarity, he noted that both countries had much to gain from working together – and even more to lose if they failed to do so. He expressed his hope that the U.S. and China will recognize that while competition was inevitable in their relationship, outright confrontation is not. And on this basis, they should explore pathways to manage their differences constructively...

Read the Full Summary, Full Speaker List & More:
chinaus-icas.org/events-2/annual-conferences/2024-annual-conference/



Panel and Session Titles: Keynote Address; Geopolitics & Security; Science & Technology; Luncheon Speech; Third Parties' Views on U.S.-China Relations; People-to-People Exchanges

Watch the Full Conference: www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLs4oA4vJ3iF4fywe96EaSkfagn2gN2Zap

— MAP Academic Engagement —

Dr. Nong Hong participates in the Symposium on Global Maritime Cooperation and Ocean Governance 2024

November 27, 2024

Sanya, China

Dr. Nong Hong, ICAS Executive Director gave a presentation in Session 6: “The future of the Poles and the Deep Sea” titled “Reflection on the 2024 Arctic Circle Assembly: Charting the Future of Arctic Governance.”



Learn More:

chinaus-icas.org/event/dr-nong-hong-participates-in-the-symposium-on-global-maritime-cooperation-and-ocean-governance-2024/

Watch the Event: www.youtube.com/watch?v=kA3tfjIDEU8&t=3s

— ICAS Internship Announcement —

The Institute for China-America Studies is seeking two research assistant interns for Spring 2025!



The Institute for China-America Studies is seeking two research assistant interns for Spring 2025! The internship will run from mid-January through mid-May. This is a part-time, 20 hour per week internship that will primarily be conducted in-person at the ICAS office in Washington, DC. Competitive candidates will have an interest in U.S.-China relations and are pursuing a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, though those pursuing a relevant master's degree will also be considered. We

are looking for team-oriented problem solvers who can think on their feet, be detail-oriented, and are eager to improve their professional skills.

View & Share the Position Details:

chinaus-icas.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Spring-2025-Research-Assistant-Internship-Ad.pdf

Apply Online by January 2, 2024: chinaus-icas.org/2025-spring-internship-application/

— ICAS Holiday Announcement —

