



ICAS MARITIME AFFAIRS HANDBILL

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Recent News in Global Maritime Affairs

[1] Ocean Governance and Maritime Cooperation [1]

[India, Indonesia Call For Code Of Conduct In South China Sea](#)

January 26 - *The Print*

[South China Sea, Indo-Pacific]

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, during an in-person meeting in New Delhi, expressed support for a “full and effective” code of conduct in the South China Sea that is in accordance with the relative international laws. The two leaders also agreed to place an Indonesian liaison officer at India’s Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region.

[Historic Step Forward For Ocean Governance In The Caribbean](#)

January 24 - *Jamaica Observer*

[The Caribbean Sea]

After UNESCO signed on January 14, the Ocean Coordination Mechanism (OCM) for the Wider Caribbean became officially enacted with a total of 17 state and 9 intergovernmental organization signatories. Among other goals, the OCM aims to strengthen climate-resilient ocean-based economies and create coordination. Further signatories are expected to be added in 2025.

[IMO Opens New Regional Presence Office In Alexandria, Egypt](#)

January 22 - *Sri Lanka Guardian*

[Sri Lanka, Egypt, North Africa]

On January 22, the International Maritime Organization inaugurated a new Regional Presence Office in Alexandria, Egypt. The new office aims to strengthen partnerships, enhance capacity-building and expand technical assistance within the Middle East and North Africa region.

[Beijing And Manila Promise Further South China Sea Talks Despite Row Over 'Monster Ship'](#)

January 16 - *South China Morning Post*
[South China Sea, Southeast Asia, China]

Amidst increased tensions after the spotting of a Chinese “monster ship”—a 12,000-tonne coastguard vessel—near the contested Scarborough Shoal, China said both Beijing and Manila have “agreed to strengthen dialogue and contact on maritime issues and properly handle maritime disputes.”

[Japan, Philippines, US Vow To Deepen Cooperation In Face Of China's Behaviour](#)

January 13 - *The Straits Times*
[Indo-Pacific, United States, East Asia]

On January 13, Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and outgoing U.S. President Joe Biden met for a virtual meeting in which they “agreed to enhance and deepen economic, maritime and technology cooperation.”

[OEP Investigates Defra's Suspected Failure In Achieving Marine Good Environmental Status](#)

January 9 - *Smart Water Magazine*
[The United Kingdom, Atlantic Ocean]

The United Kingdom’s Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) officially launched an investigation into the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) over suspicions that it had failed to take necessary measures to protect marine waters.

[Longshoremen Reach Tentative Deal With Ports And Shippers, Averting Potential Strike](#)

January 8 - PBS
[United States]

The International Longshoremen's Association and the U.S. Maritime Alliance have reached a six-year agreement, averting a potential strike that could have disrupted major East and Gulf Coast ports and resulted in increased shipping rates. The agreement protects union jobs while advancing port modernization through new technologies.

[French Government's Plan To Rebuild Mayotte Does Not Go Far Enough, Says Le Pen](#)

January 8- RFI
[Indian Ocean, France]

Chief of the French National Rally political party Marine Le Pen criticized the French government’s supposed lack of aid following Cyclone Chido, which devastated the Indian Ocean archipelago of Mayotte. The critique over the crisis management approach was met with pushback with several leaders attributing the hardships to a lack of fight against illegal immigration.

[Free Zones, Marine Industries Councils Sign Cooperation MOU](#)

January 6 - *Tehran Times*

[Iran]

On January 6, Iran's Free Zones High Council and the High Council of Marine Industries signed a cooperation memorandum of understanding to develop the country's economy by way of shipping and maritime trade. The move echoes statements made in late December 2024 by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian that Iran is developing a strong maritime-oriented economy.

[Shanghai Maritime University Strengthens Cooperation With Maritime University In Poland](#)

January 3 - *China Daily*

[China, Europe]

Shanghai Maritime University and Gdynia Maritime University in Poland celebrated four decades of successful cooperation and renewed their 1984 cooperation agreement to further enhance exchanges in global maritime education on several fronts, including internships, teaching, textbooks and laboratory equipment.

[2] Maritime Security and Defense [2]

[Pakistan 'All Set' For 9th Aman Multinational Exercise: Navy](#)

January 27 - *Dawn*

[Middle East, Arabian Sea]

AMAN-2025, a multinational exercise hosted by Pakistan every other year in the Arabian Sea, is set to take place from February 7-11, this year accompanied by the AMAN Dialogue onshore. According to Pakistan's Navy, 60 countries will be represented and participating in the exercise, which will be divided into harbour and sea phases.

[Chinese Scientists Build World's First Deep Sea Radar That Detects High-Flying Aircraft](#)

January 26 - *South China Morning Post*

[Indo-Pacific, China]

As reported by scientists involved in the research, Chinese researchers have successfully developed a groundbreaking radar system that lays on the seabed 1,000 meters deep and simultaneously can detect and track a fixed-wing aircraft flying at an altitude of 5,000 meters.

[2 Ships Loaded With Missile Propellant Ingredient To Sail From China To Iran](#)

January 23 - *Marine Insight*

[China, Middle East, Global]

According to security officials in two Western countries, two Iranian cargo ships, *Golbon* and *Jairan*, are carrying more than 1,000 tonnes of sodium perchlorate, which is a key chemical used in

making ammonium perchlorate, the primary component for solid-fuel missile propellant, from China to Iran.

[US Coast Guard Publishes Final Rule Updating Cybersecurity Requirements For US-Flagged Vessels](#)

January 21 - *Baird Maritime*

[United States, Global]

The US Coast Guard has published a final rule in the Federal Register regarding updates for cybersecurity requirements for U.S.-flagged vessels, Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) facilities, and facilities subject to Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002. The updated rule, effective July 16, 2025, adds minimum cybersecurity requirements including designating a Cybersecurity Officer.

[Yemen's Houthis To Limit Attacks In Red Sea To Israeli-Linked Vessels](#)

January 20 - *Euro News*

[Red Sea, Middle East, Global]

The day after a ceasefire was declared in Gaza, the Yemen-based Houthi rebels—who have been targeting commercial ships sailing through or near the Red Sea for over a year in the name of supporting Palestine—stated that they will now only attack Israel-affiliated vessels in the Red Sea.

[Baltic Subsea Cable Damage Was Accidental, Not Sabotage - US And European Officials](#)

January 20 - *Data Center Dynamics*

[Baltic Sea, Eurasia]

European and U.S. intelligence officials concluded that the subsea cable damage incidents that have occurred in the Baltic Sea in recent months were most likely the result of maritime accidents and not Russian sabotage. The decision was made based on evidence gathered that showed anchors being dragged along the seabed by inexperienced crews on poorly maintained vessels.

[Iran's Revolutionary Guards Unveil New Underground Naval Base](#)

January 18 - *Iran International English*

[Persian Gulf, Middle East]

On January 18, Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) unveiled an underground naval missile base at a secret location in the Persian Gulf. The video footage of the base, released by IRGC-affiliated media and the state TV, showcases radar-evading vessels and long-range missile capabilities.

[Japan Agrees To Give Patrol Boats To Indonesia For Maritime Security](#)

January 11 - Kyodo News

[East Asia, Southeast Asia, Indo-Pacific]

Following a series of high-level talks enhancing bilateral cooperation between Japan and Indonesia and a talk between their top leaders, Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said that Japan has agreed to provide two high-speed patrol boats to Indonesia to expand maritime security cooperation amidst China's growing presence. Ishiba said that Japan aims to cooperate "as much as possible" in helping Indonesia improve its defense capabilities.

[Taiwan Demonstrates Sea Defenses Against Potential Chinese Attack As Tensions Rise With Beijing](#)

January 9 - AP News

[Pacific Ocean, China]

On January 9, Taiwan's navy conducted a simulated attack drill in waters near Taiwan's largest port of Kaohsiung, highlighting how its Kuang Hua VI fast attack missile boats and Tuo Chiang-class corvettes could be utilized to deter a potential invasion from the Chinese mainland. The day prior, Taiwan's government demanded that Beijing end its military activities in nearby waters which are disrupting international shipping and undermining regional stability.

[U.S. Central Command Launches First 2025 Strikes Against Houthis](#)

January 8 - USNI News

[Red Sea, United States]

On January 8, U.S. Central Command conducted its first strikes of the year against Houthi forces in Yemen, targeting two underground conventional weapon storage facilities. This action follows Houthi claims of an attack on the USS Harry S. Truman on January 6, which the Pentagon has denied.

[3] Maritime Economy and Shipping [3]

[Shipping Companies Continue To Divert From Suez Canal Despite Cautious Optimism](#)

January 27 - Egypt Today

[Mediterranean Sea, Global]

In spite of a pledge made from the Yemen-based Houthis to ease hostilities against vessels sailing in the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea, global shipping companies including Maersk, CMA CGM, and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company are not prepared to risk sailing through the region and Suez Canal yet. Since the conflict began in late 2023, Suez Canal revenues have dropped by 60-70%.

[French Mayor Calls For Cruise Ship Ban On French Riviera](#)

January 23 - *The Maritime Executive*

[Europe]

Mayor Christian Estrosi of Nice, France responded to the increasing complaints of overtourism and pollution in the popular French Riviera, proposing a ban starting in Summer 2025 to halt large cruise ships with “low-cost clientele’ who consume nothing” from anchoring in a particular bay.

[China Shipbuilders Boost Capacity, Cementing Grip On Industry](#)

January 17 - *Nikkei Asia*

[China, Global]

In mid-January, the construction of a new factory building and dormitory began at Hengli Group’s shipyard in Dalian, China. The construction is part of a US\$1.25 billion (9.2 billion yuan) investment by Hengli Group to expand its capacity for ultralarge containerships by the end of this year.

[Gdańsk Becomes EU’s Fifth-Biggest Port](#)

January 15 - *Notes from Poland*

[Baltic Sea, Europe]

Poland’s port of Gdańsk, situated along the southern end of the Baltic Sea, officially became the European Union’s fifth-busiest port according to the amount of gross cargo weight. Further national data also identifies Poland as an increasingly valuable country in maritime logistics.

[Dozens More Sanctioned Tankers Drop Anchor As India Halts Trade With Ships On US List](#)

January 14 - *Trade Winds*

[India, United States, Pacific Ocean, Arctic Ocean]

After the U.S. sanctioned 183 vessels—primarily oil tankers—related trading with Russia, India halted further trade with the sanctioned vessels. Dozens of these vessels were spotted halting their routes and mooring off shore near ports, many being off the coasts of Russia and China.

[US Probe Finds China Unfairly Dominates Shipbuilding, Paving Way For Penalties, Sources Say](#)

January 13 - *Reuters*

[United States, China, Global]

A probe conducted by the U.S. Trade Representative, launched in April 2024 at the request of the United Steelworkers and four other U.S. unions, has come to a conclusion that China utilizes unfair policies and practices to dominate the global maritime, logistics and shipbuilding sectors.

[Shipping On Northern Sea Route Lags Far Behind Plans](#)

January 10 - *The Barents Observer*

[Arctic Ocean, Global]

According to nuclear power company Rosatom, shipping volumes for the Northern Sea Route in 2024 amounted to 37.9 million tons. This was an increase of 1.6 million tons compared to the previous year and a record-breaking number, but far below the goal of 80 million tons per year by 2024 set by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

[International Crude Exports Dip As Trade Routes Reshuffle Once Again](#)

January 7 - *Marine Link*

[Global]

Data shows that the volume of crude exports in 2024 decreased by 2% compared to the previous year. Simultaneously, several delivery routes were shuffled, with Middle East oil exports to Europe declining, more U.S. and South American oil going to Europe, and Russian oil being rerouted from Europe to India and China.

[Alternative-Fuelled Ship Orders Grow 50% In 2024](#)

January 2 - *Lloyd's Register*

[Global]

According to Lloyd's Register, 600 of the vessels ordered by shipowners in 2024 are capable of using alternative fuels, bringing the total orderbook of such vessels to 1,737 vessels. The number of active alternative-fuelled vessels also increased at a rate of 18%, up to 1,860 vessels, though these numbers will reportedly need to accelerate to meet the IMO's 2030 targets on emissions.

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

[Natural Climate Solutions: Enhancing The Role Of Seagrass Meadows](#)

January 26 - *Earth.com*

[Europe, Baltic Sea]

A group of state and non-state institutions have formed a new research project—*Zostera marina* as a Blue Carbon Sink in the Baltic Sea (ZOBLUC)—to analyze and enhance the potential of seagrass meadows as carbon sinks. Supported by the German Federal Environment Ministry, the project has a budget of about €6 million and emphasizes community participation in coastal restoration.

[Pioneering Research Vessel Anchors Climate Insights In Arabian Gulf](#)

January 23 - *Hydro International*

[Arabian Gulf, Middle East]

Scientists from Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) and Khalifa University are conducting the first comprehensive modern study of the sediment in the Arabian Gulf. The goal of the mission, being conducted off Abu Dhabi's coast, aims to explore the impacts of climate change on the area's unique marine ecosystems through the use of advanced technology and onboard laboratories.

[Not Even Sea Life Is Safe From The L.A. Fires](#)

January 22 - *The Washington Post*

[United States, Pacific Ocean]

Smoke and articles of ash from the ongoing Los Angeles wildfires have been spotted making their way at least 60 miles off the coast of Southern California into the Pacific Ocean. Observers and scientists, using comparisons like the forest fires of Australia in 2019 and 2020, are debating the environmental impact that the burning of often toxic man-made materials found in urban areas will have on sealife in the long-term.

[Trump Temporarily Halts Leasing And Permitting For Wind Energy Projects](#)

January 20 - *AP News*

[United States]

On his first day back in office, U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order placing a pause on all offshore wind lease sales in U.S. federal waters and the issuance of approvals, permits and loans for wind projects. The Department of the Interior is tasked with conducting an assessment focused on wind projects' impacts on the environment, economic costs of dealing with intermittent energy supplies, and the role of subsidies on the future viability of the wind industry.

[Southern Ocean Study Challenges Key Carbon Pump Theory](#)

January 9 - *National Oceanography Centre*

[Southern Ocean]

A new study led by the UK National Oceanography Centre is exploring how the microscopic plankton known as diatoms are playing a significant role in drawing carbon down deeper into the ocean's underexplored twilight zone. This effect is especially important in regards to the Southern Ocean, which is known to take up about one-third of organic carbon stored in the ocean.

[Los Angeles Fires And Winter Drought Likely Linked To Ocean Heat](#)

January 8 - *Bloomberg*

[United States, Pacific Ocean]

As deadly wildfires continue to rage in the U.S. State of California, researchers are speculating the link between the extreme firestorms and the warming ocean temperatures. Prolonged fall and winter dry spells, they say, are linked to the ever-increasing warming of the oceans, which can also cause the jet stream to veer off of its normal route and leave high-pressures.

[Past Climate Shifts Altered Southern Ocean Currents And Carbon Exchange: Study Warns It May Be Happening Again](#)

January 6 - *Phys.org*

[The Antarctic, Southern Ocean]

New research on the Antarctic Circumpolar Current—an ocean current that flows clockwise from west to east around Antarctica—led by researchers at Cardiff University claims that human-induced climate change has increased the amount of natural carbon released by the Southern Ocean into the atmosphere and is likely to continue if not addressed.

[Collective Effort Begins To Map Seagrasses In The Western Indian Ocean](#)

January 6 - *Pew Charitable Trusts*

[Indian Ocean, Africa]

The Large-Scale Seagrass Mapping and Management Initiative (LaSMMI), a new research collaborative, has begun mapping seagrass meadows in the Western Indian Ocean along the coastline of the African continent and of island nations like Madagascar and Seychelles. The Western Indian Ocean Initiative is led by the University of Oxford, the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) and several in-country research partners.

[Scottish Seaweed Startup Lands Significant Investment](#)

January 1 - *The Fish Site*

[Europe, Atlantic Ocean]

Kaly Group, a new seaweed farming start-up company based in Scotland, announced that it has successfully raised £300,000 to support its continued establishment of a “large-scale, profitable, and environmentally sustainable seaweed-based supply chain” amid an increasing awareness of the potential for seaweeds to provide environmentally-friendly alternatives in several fields.

Offshore Wind Power

Issue Background

Offshore wind power is a type of clean and renewable electrical energy that is captured and generated by the wind-driven rotation of wind turbines located offshore, which can then, through a series of electrical connections, be stably collected, transmitted and utilized. These turbines are collected into offshore wind farms that spread out across a wide expanse of open ocean so as to generate a collective and significant enough mass of offshore wind power. Because it takes advantage of more regularly-occurring and faster winds found offshore and does not create emissions, many parties around the world—especially those in [Europe](#)—regard offshore wind power as an attractive, cheap and scalable source of renewable energy with extensive potential.

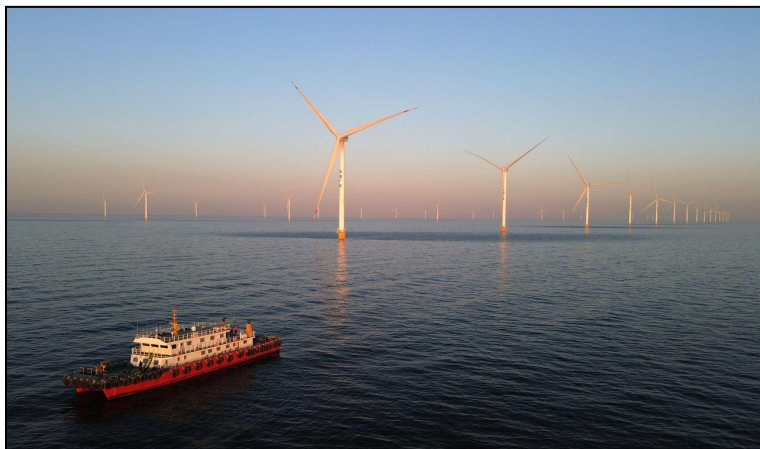
There are [three](#) basic [components](#) of a wind [turbine](#)—the rotor blades (which rotate and capture energy from the natural flow of the wind), the hub (which supports the blades), and the nacelle (which contains the magnets inside a coil of conductive wire that, when rotated, convert mechanical energy to electrical energy)—all of which are supported by a structural tower on top of a foundation that grounds the turbine to the seafloor. The captured wind energy from the rotating blades is then captured and transferred through inter-array cables in the foundation to an offshore substation, which stabilizes the generated power and prepares it for transmission to shore through export cables. In terms of size, offshore wind turbines are generally larger than their onshore counterparts at over 100 meters high, are noticeably [increasing](#) in size each year and are expected to [continue](#) increasing so as to reach heights where stronger winds are found.

The world's first offshore wind farm was built in 1991—11 years after the world's first wind farm was installed in the United States—and was located less than 3 km off the coast of the Danish island of Lolland in the southern edges of the Baltic Sea. Known as [Vindeby](#), the [demonstration-scale](#) farm consisted of 11 turbines that produced 12 GWh/year and was decommissioned in 2017. According to [Ørsted](#), a wind farm is expected to have a life space of at least 25 years, so long as servicing and maintenance is provided, and is then either decommissioned, life-extended or repowered.

Between 1991 and December 31, 2023, [over](#) 319 operating projects with more than 13,000 operating wind turbines were brought into operation, when the total global installed capacity of offshore wind energy reached 68,258 MW. As of June 2024, the countries with the [top number](#) of operating offshore wind farms were China (129), the United Kingdom (39), Germany (30), Vietnam (26) and Denmark (16).

Alongside this boom in interest for offshore wind power, advocates have faced pushback on several fronts, most of which are still under [debate](#). Environmentalists have an [array](#) of concerns, from [death and displacement of birds and bats](#) also [forced](#) to [change migration routes](#) to the

[disturbances on marine life](#) due to both construction and vibrations or underwater noise produced by active turbines. The [fishing industry](#) is concerned over losing access to valuable or historic fishing grounds or specific [sea products](#). [Coastal homeowners](#) and [tourist communities](#) question the impact of wind farms on their coastal view or the value of their homes. Questions related to the role of [international maritime law](#) and border disputes have arisen. On a technical level, energy specialists are [analyzing](#) wind power's [reliability](#) in providing consistent levels of power or how it can handle sudden jumps in energy demands. So far, these valid concerns are more often inspiring innovation instead of derailing leases, such as developing [floating platforms](#).



Recent Events ¹

On his first day back in the Oval Office, January 20, 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump [signed](#) an executive order placing a pause on all offshore wind lease sales in U.S. federal waters and the issuance of approvals, permits and loans for wind projects. The Department of the Interior is now tasked with conducting “a comprehensive assessment and review of Federal wind leasing and permitting practices” and its impacts on the environment, economic costs of dealing with intermittent energy supplies, and the “effect of subsidies on the viability of the wind industry.”

These actions were anticipated by the industry and do not amount to a sudden dismantling of the U.S. offshore wind power industry. The nominee for Secretary of the Interior, Doug Burgum, [stated](#) during his confirmation hearing that he would be reviewing all offshore wind projects and that “if they make sense and they’re already in law, then they will continue.” There are also legal protections in place that the Trump administration will have to address to legally overturn permits, which could prove difficult to justify amidst President Trump’s “drill, baby, drill” slogan which advocates for fossil fuel extraction. Individual state governments like those in [Virginia](#), [Massachusetts](#), [California](#) and [Maine](#) also hold certain powers in the offshore wind industry, meaning that the order’s [impact](#) is “not very significant” in many cases. Still, the negative impact on the industry’s future in the U.S. is [evident](#) and [controversial](#). The actions will temporarily halt future progress such as Guam’s [call](#) made in early January for nominations regarding possible wind energy leasing off its coast.

Across the rest of the world, the push to innovate, perfect and capitalize on offshore wind power continues. In early January, the [European Commission](#) approved a €998 million joint acquisition

¹ Image Source: An aerial drone photo taken on January 7, 2025 shows an offshore wind farm in the waters of Laizhou City, east China's Shandong Province. Recently, data from the Shandong branch of State Grid shows that the installed capacity of wind and photovoltaic power in Shandong has exceeded 100 million kilowatts. (Photo by Xu Suhui/Xinhua via Getty Images)

specifically aimed at supporting offshore wind energy production. On January 10, [Brazilian](#) President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva signed into law a bill authorizing the development of offshore wind farms. On January 21, the [United Kingdom](#) announced new measures to “curb underwater noise and accelerate renewable energy” in an effort to remove environmental barriers to industry progress. [Poland](#) made major progress in January on expanding Baltic Power, its most advanced offshore wind farm project in its region of the Baltic Sea, now making it the [leading](#) country for offshore wind in the Baltic Sea. [Estonia](#) announced a new project with a French developer for its first floating wind tender in the Baltic Sea. [South Africa](#) has begun discussions on getting its first offshore wind farm within the next few years. The [Asia-Pacific](#) region at large has recently been noted as having untapped [potential](#) in this field, though some countries like [Japan](#) have noted concerns over profitability and labor shortages.

Keep In Mind

Offshore wind power is more controversial and complex than observers may first suspect. It is difficult to deny how attractive wind turbines sound, being that the wind used to generate this power is provided free of charge. But that free wind is uncontrollable in its consistency, making the power supply dependent on the whim of mother nature. To counter this legitimate concern, offshore wind suppliers should focus on first applying it to small-scale ventures and providing energy to non-essential services. A reframing of its capabilities and fresh fact-based explanation of its benefits could also be in order to assuage concerns of non-experts. There also may be new issues, such as the technical hiccup of safely [storing](#) excess energy, that need to be addressed.

The outright negative take on wind power over the last month could bring permanent harm to not only the offshore wind power industry but also to similar naturally-sourced power farms like solar power, though countries weigh these benefits and challenges differently. The European Union is clearly committed to harnessing offshore wind power, [calling](#) it a “a crucial element in decarbonizing Europe’s economy and in meeting its climate and energy targets.” The European Environment Agency openly recognizes how harmful these farms can be if not carefully installed and is already [working](#) to combine the farms with environmentally-boosting initiatives, such as setting up marine sanctuaries and artificial reefs. The International Energy Agency [predicted](#) in 2018 that wind would be the European Union’s largest source of electricity by 2027 and the sudden interruption of the fossil fuel supply chain following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 only [exacerbated](#) Europe’s call to not rely on fossil fuels, so this commitment can be expected to remain.

Notably, Europe is clearly not alone in this field. [China](#) has the largest number of wind farms and is continuing to invest in the field despite its infamous reliance on fossil fuels. [Vietnam](#) plans to expand its capacity for wind power to 28 GW by 2030. [India](#) has openly recognized how offshore wind power could be harnessed along its 7,600km stretch of coastline and has begun project development. [Brazil](#) is positioning itself to become a wind power industry leader in [Latin America](#). [Africa](#) and other parts of the [Global South](#) are also looking to capitalize on capturing free air flow, although they do have unique challenges that must first be addressed.

Regardless, between President Trump's executive order and [declaration](#) of a national emergency on energy and critical minerals for the United States, it can be expected that the U.S. federal government will not be putting forth heavy support for offshore wind power in the next four years. It appears, however, that the global industry is both capable of and eager to charge forward without the United States on offshore wind power.

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

- *Naval Technology* - [“Pakistan’s Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, discusses AMAN and lays out plans for modernised and indigenised warships.”](#) [January 27]
- Republic of Korea Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries - [“Enactment of the Enforcement Decree of the Act on Fostering and Supporting Port Technology Industry”](#) [January 24]
- Organization of Eastern Caribbean States - [“A Historic Step Forward for Ocean Governance in the Wider Caribbean”](#) [January 23]
- Maersk - [“Announcement of charges in relation to Red Sea / Gulf of Aden situation – excluding exports from Far East Asia”](#) [February 22]
- International Maritime Organization - [“Statement on the release of the Galaxy Leader crew”](#) [January 22]
- Government of Egypt - [“Suez Canal to fully operate as major shipping lines resume transits: SCA chairman”](#) [January 21]
- UK Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs - [“New measures to curb underwater noise and accelerate renewable energy”](#) [January 21]
- UK Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs - [“Marine environment: unexploded ordnance clearance Joint Position Statement”](#) [January 21]
- The White House - [“Temporary Withdrawal of All Areas on the Outer Continental Shelf from Offshore Wind Leasing and Review of the Federal Government’s Leasing and Permitting Practices for Wind Projects”](#) [January 20]
- U.S. Coast Guard: [“Final Rule: Cybersecurity in the Marine Transportation System”](#) [January 17]
- UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission - [“The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission signs MoU to establish the Ocean Coordination Mechanism for the Wider Caribbean Region”](#) [January 14]
- U.S. Department of the Treasury - [“Treasury Intensifies Sanctions Against Russia by Targeting Russia’s Oil Production and Exports”](#) [January 10]
- U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - [“Annual 2024 Global Climate Report”](#) [January 10]
- International Chamber of Shipping - [“47 Governments and global industry jointly propose text for GHG emissions pricing mechanism for international shipping”](#) [January 9]
- Republic of the Philippines - [“PH to Asia Pacific states: Develop maritime-centered cooperation”](#) [January 9]
- United Nations Development Programme - [“20th Anniversary of the Indian Ocean Tsunami: UNDP, Government of Japan and Ministry of Interior strengthen tsunami preparedness and response in local and national policies”](#) [January 9]

- UK Office for Environmental Protection - [“OEP launches investigation into a suspected failure by Defra to take the necessary measures to achieve Good Environmental Status \(GES\) of marine waters”](#) [January 8]
- Greenpeace - [“Greenpeace USA Welcomes Biden Administration’s Ocean Protections”](#) [January 7]
- U.S. Department of the Interior - [“President Biden Takes Action to Protect America’s Coastlines from Future Oil and Gas Leasing”](#) [January 6]
- Wildlife Conservation Society - [“WCS Applauds Protections Announced for US Oceans and Coastal Communities”](#) [January 6]
- Government of Poland Gdańsk Seaport Authority - [“The 50th anniversary of the Northern Port in Gdańsk: half a century of key changes and dynamic development”](#) [January 3]
- United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) - [“Small island nations: How oceans offer solutions to climate change”](#) [January 2]
- U.S. Government Accountability Office - [“MARITIME CARGO SECURITY: Additional Efforts Needed to Assess the Effectiveness of DHS’s Approach”](#) [January 2025]

Analyses & Opinions

- [“How Ocean Temps Are Driving LA Firestorms”](#) [Hawaii Tribune Herald - January 27]
- [“Notes to the New Administration Week Kicks Off on CIMSEC”](#) [Center for International Maritime Security - January 27]
- [“Why African environmental ministers must reject deep-sea mining licenses”](#) [News Ghana - January 26]
- [“Why Shared Governance Could Save Our Oceans”](#) [The Maritime Executive - January 26]
- [“How the U.S. Gamed the Law of the Sea”](#) [The Atlantic - January 25]
- [“We Have Entered Era Of ‘Global Boiling’: Marine Wildlife, Ecosystems, And Economies Are Being Devastated – OpEd”](#) [Eurasia Review - January 25]
- [“L.A. fires are bringing ash 100 miles offshore. Here’s how scientists think it could impact oceans”](#) [San Francisco Chronicle - January 23]
- [“Maritime Chokepoints Wreck Havoc On Global Supply Chains”](#) [Forbes - January 23]
- [“Marine Ecosystem Survey Encounters a New Variable: Falling Ash from Los Angeles Fires”](#) [Scripps Institution of Oceanography - January 21]
- [“Japan Looks To Learn From The Past With Bid To Build Australian Warships”](#) [The Japan Times - January 20]
- [“Seaweed Can Absorb Carbon 35 Times Faster Than Rainforests: Here’s Why It Matters”](#) [The Better India - January 17]
- [“Sink Or Swim: Africa’s Crucial Maritime Milestones In 2025”](#) [Institute for Security Studies - January 16]
- [“Panama Wants To Preserve U.S. Alliance, But Trump Could Push It Closer To China”](#) [The New York Times - January 15]
- [“The Quad Should Help Indonesia Achieve Underwater Domain Awareness”](#) [Australian Strategic Policy Institute - January 14]
- [“Vietnam Wants U.S. Help At Sea And Chinese Help At Home”](#) [Foreign Policy - January 13]
- [“Trump Must Address Russia’s Sudan Naval Base Threat”](#) [Middle East Forum - January 13]
- [“How To Slay A Giant: Reviving the South China Sea Arbitration”](#) [Center for Strategic & International Studies - January 10]
- [“Distracted Nations Can Lose Sight Of Ocean Goals: Commentary”](#) [Arctic Today - January 8]
- [“India’s Expanding Footprint In Africa: Naval Diplomacy And Maritime Engagement – Analysis”](#) [Eurasia Review - January 8]
- [“The Next Australian Government Needs A Bolder Plan For The Navy”](#) [Australian Strategic Policy Institute - January 7]
- [“Navigating the Waters: Another JLA Strike on the Horizon?”](#) [Holland & Knight - January 6]

- [“The Houthis Are Undeterred”](#) [Foreign Policy - January 6]
- [“China’s Indian Ocean Region Strategy: Soft Power, Strong Gains”](#) [Firstpost. - January 4]
- [“Israel Must Confront Iran To Weaken The Houthis - Opinion”](#) [The Jerusalem Post - January 4]
- [“Is America Just Going to Abandon Its Towns Falling Into the Ocean?”](#) [The New York Times - January 4]
- [“How An Antacid For The Ocean Could Cool The Earth”](#) [The Washington Post - January 3]
- [“Why Would China Undermine Global Shipping?”](#) [The Wall Street Journal - January 3]
- [“Top Stories 2024: The Battle Between the Houthis and Commercial Shipping”](#) [USNI News - January 2]
- [“From Oil Rigs To Seaweed Farms: The Gulf Of Mexico’s Potential To Lead A Blue Revolution”](#) [misPeces - January 2]
- [“Can Africa use biodiversity credits to turn its rich carbon stores into hard cash?”](#) [Reuters - January 2]
- [“Why US Port Workers Are Threatening to Strike, Again”](#) [Bloomberg - January 1]

Other Research

- Podcast: Center for Maritime Strategy Maritime Nation - [“Navigating the Black Sea: Naval Dimensions of the Ukraine War”](#) [January 14]
- Video: Wilson Center Polar Institute - [“Empty Nets: Big Changes in a Great American Fishery | Chapter 1: The Problem”](#) [January 13]
- Report: Center for Maritime Strategy - [A Maritime Nation by Necessity](#) [January 14]
- Report: Wilson Center - [Selling the 'Near-Arctic' State: China’s Information and Influence Operations in the Arctic](#) [August 12, 2024]
- Journal Article: [“Carbon burial in sediments below seaweed farms matches that of Blue Carbon habitats”](#) Nature Climate Change [January 17]
- Journal Article: [“Record High Temperatures in the Ocean in 2024”](#) Advances in Atmospheric Sciences [January 10]
- Journal Article: [“Natural and anthropogenic factors controlling organic carbon storage in riverine wetlands along South Korea’s four rivers”](#) Scientific Reports Vol. 15, No. 539 [January 2]

Events on the Maritime Domain

- From January 23-24, the International Maritime Organization and Norway's Chairship of the Arctic Council, in cooperation with the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group of the Arctic Council, organized the [2025 Polar Maritime Seminar](#) in London, United Kingdom.
- From January 26-28, Socio-Oceanography held its [2025 Workshop](#) at the National Oceanography Centre in the United Kingdom to bring together a mix of natural and social scientists to “exchange ideas, share knowledge, and develop collaborative projects that address the complex challenges facing our oceans.”
- On January 27, National Academies hosted its January 2025 Understanding Gulf Ocean Systems Grants Seminar Series which will feature a presentation on [“Introduction to Machine Learning for Oceanography.”](#)
- On January 29, Atlantic Council’s Transatlantic Security Initiative will host a conference on [“countering growing maritime threats”](#) in the global maritime order.

- From January 29-30, 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 3, the Environmental Law Institute will be hosting a virtual [“Fireside Chat on Waters of the United States.”](#)
- On February 5, Center for Strategic & International Studies will hold a hybrid event titled [“Resilient Allied Energy Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.”](#)
- On February 11, 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.
- On February 19, Sasakawa Peace Foundation will be co-hosting an in-person seminar on the Republic of Maldives on [“Sea Level Rise and Climate Change Adaptation.”](#)
- On February 26, Harvard University’s Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies will host a Critical Issues Confronting China Series featuring Admiral James Stavridis, USN (Ret.) titled [“Crisis Scenario: Imagining U.S.-China Relations and War in the Pacific.”](#)
- From March 12-13, Oceanographic and Economist Impact will be co-hosting the [12th Annual World Ocean Summit & Expo](#) in Tokyo, Japan. This event “aims to change the way business is done in the ocean by bringing together the widest cross-section of the ocean community” and will gather over 120 decision-makers.

ICAS Maritime Affairs Program: New and Upcoming

— ICAS 2024 Annual Report Release —

The ICAS 2024 Annual Report is now available!

Our team at Institute for China-America Studies is delighted to provide you with a concise overview of our achievements throughout 2024!

With this report, we are delighted to provide you with a comprehensive overview of our organizational growth and programmatic activities of the preceding year. We look forward to bringing you further understanding of this most vital U.S.-China relationship in 2025.

ICAS is committed to maintaining our ongoing engagement with the global community, dedicated to conducting timely and relevant analyses of the U.S.-China relationship. We are excited about the potential achievements that lie ahead and sincerely appreciate your continued support.



Explore & Share the ICAS 2024 Annual Report:

<https://chinaus-icas.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/ICAS-2024-Annual-Report-Final.pdf>

— MAP Expert Voices Initiative Interview —

Adam Lajeunesse on the Arctic: Canada

In the first of an Arctic-focused ICAS Expert Voices Initiative (EVI) interview series, Dr. Adam Lajeunesse (St. Francis Xavier University) sat down virtually with ICAS Executive Director & Senior Fellow Dr. Nong Hong to discuss Canada's pivotal role in shaping the Arctic region's future in light of significant regional developments over the last few years.

This insightful interview focused on several critical topics, including Canada's Arctic strategy, geopolitical shifts and external influences, Canada-U.S. Arctic relations, the functionality of Arctic governance, perspectives on Arctic security, and the rights of Indigenous peoples. Through this dialogue, ICAS aims to provide nuanced analysis and foster greater understanding of the pressing issues shaping the Arctic's governance and development.



Watch the Interview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfVBDOLrLJA>

Learn More & Explore the EVI Archive: <https://chinaus-icas.org/media/expert-voices-initiatives/>

— MAP Commentary —

Trump's Greenland gambit spotlights geopolitical tussle over the Arctic

By Nong Hong
January 13, 2025

In August 2019, then US president Donald Trump made headlines with his surprising proposal to buy Greenland from Denmark. While the idea was met with scepticism and humour, it also reignited a historical debate and shed light on Greenland's growing geopolitical significance.

As Trump prepares to re-enter the White House, his renewed interest in Greenland – and its implications for US foreign policy and Arctic governance – merits deeper examination. The idea is not new...



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This commentary was *originally* released by the South China Morning Post on January 13, 2025.