



Australian Maritime Digest

ISSN 2201-7003

The Australian Maritime Digest is compiled by the Australian Association for Maritime Affairs
– www.aama.asn.au – and published monthly for the benefit of the Australian maritime community.



1 July 2014

No. 236

Contents

Editorial.....	3
Outcome of the Extraordinary General Meeting of the AAMA on 5 June 2014.....	3
Further contact on AAMA or Australian Maritime Digest matters.....	3
New e-mail address to submit papers for the Australian Journal of Maritime and Ocean Affairs (AJMOA).....	3
Corporate Supporters.....	4
Maritime Australia Limited.....	4
Australasian Hydrographic Society.....	4
Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).....	4
Australian Marine Environment Protection Association (AUSMEPA).....	4
Commonwealth Fisheries Association (CFA).....	4
GW Marine Consultants Pty Ltd.....	4
Australian Maritime College.....	4
Maritime Defence, Customs & Border Protection.....	5
ATSB seeks specialist services for MH370 search.....	5
Putting the Air Warfare Destroyer program back on track.....	5
Boosting Australia's maritime capabilities.....	5
Navy achieves White Ribbon workplace accreditation for demonstrating a culture of zero tolerance of men's violence against women.....	6
Update - Allegations of unacceptable behaviour in HMAS Ballarat.....	6
Commander Australian Fleet changeover.....	6
Hagel orders US aircraft carrier to Persian Gulf.....	6
Maritime security strengthened through new Pacific Patrol Boat Program.....	6
Update on MH370 Search.....	6
Ministerial Statement on Report on Abuse at HMAS Leeuwin.....	6
Indian naval commanders to discuss ways to strengthen ties with Indian Ocean region nations.....	6
Advisers appointed for Air Warfare Destroyer Program Reform Strategy.....	7
New vessel to help protect Australia's borders.....	7
Timor-Leste Secretary of State for Defence visit has maritime aspects.....	7
Australian company wins LHD sustainment contract.....	7
New high priority MH370 search area announced.....	7
Navy charges personnel for inappropriate behaviour.....	7
HMAS Arunta returns to sea as part of the Anti-Ship Missile Defence Upgrade Programme.....	7
Australian Defence Force to be tested by air, land and sea in Pacific Rim exercise.....	7
Evolved Seasparrow missile upgrade.....	7
HMAS Parramatta completes a visit to Noumea ahead of Operation SOLANIA.....	7
China Seas Developments – June.....	8
Operation Sovereign Borders updates – May/June.....	8
Shipping, Shipbuilding & Ports.....	8
Marine Order 91 (Marine pollution prevention — oil) 2014.....	8
Marine Order 93 (Marine pollution prevention — noxious liquid substances) 2014.....	8
International Marina Scholarship Winners.....	8
New regional structure for counter-piracy code implementation.....	8
Queensland Ports Strategy.....	8
Boosting Australia's maritime capabilities.....	9
Looming Seafarer Shortage Will Challenge Carrier Profitability.....	9
India looks to attract more shipping companies to its coastal trade.....	9
Darwin at the Centre of Northern Development.....	9
Maritime security strengthened through new Pacific Patrol Boat Program.....	9
NSW Government announces \$10 million upgrade to Port of Eden.....	9
World shipping P3 Network merger will not be implemented.....	9
Infrastructure Australia Gets the Free Rein It Needs.....	9
Crew member fatality on board, Toucan Arrow, Portland, Vic. on 7 October 2013.....	10
Protection of the Sea (Shipping Levy) Regulation 2014.....	10
New Nautical Institute President challenges members and branches.....	10
Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Storage Dam, Hay Point, Qld – EPBC Act referral.....	10
Shipping system needs radical rethink warn climate experts.....	10
IMB warning to small tankers to maintain strict anti-piracy measures in the South China Sea.....	10
WA Ports merger delay blamed on operational differences.....	10
Advisers appointed for Air Warfare Destroyer Program Reform Strategy.....	10
ACCC reduces regulation at Graincorp's Newcastle Port Terminal.....	10
Mandatory Code of Conduct for Grain Export Terminals (Bulk Wheat Exports) – Regulation Impact Statement for consultation.....	10
Albany Port Maintenance Dredging – EPBC Act referral.....	10
Australian Government welcomes UNESCO decision on the Great Barrier Reef.....	10
Cancellation of Declaration for Dudgeon Point, QLD, Coal Terminals Project.....	11
Competition policy and ports privatisation.....	11
Marine Order 42 (Cargo, stowage and securing) 2014.....	11
Productivity Commission Report on Tasmanian Shipping and Freight.....	11
Harmonised EU reporting procedures for vessels.....	11

Australian company wins LHD sustainment contract.....	11
ACCC issues draft decision to approve CBH long term port access arrangements in WA.....	11
Marine Order 505 (Certificates of competency — national law) Amendment 2014 (No. 1).....	11
Ship breaking – international implications.....	11
Container Weight Declaration guide.....	12
NQBP announces appointment of Steve Lewis as its new CEO.....	12
White Paper on the Reform of the Federation.....	12
Rescheduling agreement for Zim Shipping.....	12
Report on containers lost at sea.....	12
World Shipping Outlook – June.....	12
UN, US & EU Sanctions on Iranian shipping – June developments.....	12

Fisheries.....12

Members sought for the Northern Prawn Fishery Resource Assessment Group (NPRAG).....	12
National Aquaculture Statement launched.....	12
Tasmanian Giant Crab Fishery environmental assessment.....	12
Foreign factory-freezer trawler application.....	13
Western Australian Abalone Managed Fishery environmental assessment.....	13
US to create marine preserve in Pacific Ocean.....	13
Senate inquiry into the current requirements for labelling of seafood and seafood products.....	13
New AFMA commissioners announced.....	13
White Paper on the Reform of the Federation.....	13
South African experiment to track trawlers' footprint.....	13

Resource Exploration & Development13

Perth company secures Baltic Gas FEED contract award.....	13
White Paper on the Reform of the Federation.....	13
Victorian West Seahorse offshore oil project gains federal MPF support.....	14

Marine Science & Environment.....14

Marine Order 91 (Marine pollution prevention — oil) 2014.....	14
Marine Order 93 (Marine pollution prevention — noxious liquid substances) 2014.....	14
Increased frequency of extreme Indian Ocean Dipole events due to greenhouse warming.....	14
National Aquaculture Statement launched.....	14
Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Storage Dam, Hay Point, QLD – EPBC Act referral.....	14
Tasmanian Giant Crab Fishery environmental assessment.....	14
Improved health and increased funding for Great Barrier Reef.....	14
\$500,000 boost for dolphin research.....	14
US to create marine preserve in Pacific Ocean.....	14
Shipping system needs radical rethink warn climate experts.....	14
Albany Port Maintenance Dredging - EPBC Act referral.....	15
Australian Government welcomes UNESCO decision on the Great Barrier Reef.....	15
Western Australian Abalone Managed Fishery environmental assessment.....	15
Re-evaluating Antarctica's protected area system.....	15
Andrew Jackson awarded Antarctic medal for a lifetime of international policy work.....	15
Thank Ancient Ocean Currents We're Not In An Ice Age Right Now.....	15
Ship breaking – international implications.....	15
White Paper on the Reform of the Federation.....	15
South African experiment to track trawlers' footprint.....	15
Report on containers lost at sea.....	15

Letters to the Editor.....16

Customs - Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Research Project.....	16
--------------------------------------------------------------------	----

Conferences & seminars.....18

7-11 July 2014 - Australian Marine Sciences Association Conference – Canberra.....	18
29-30 July 2014 - Defence and Industry Conference - Adelaide	18
10-14 August 2014 - Intermediate Marina Management Course – Gold Coast, QLD.....	18
12-14 August 2014 - "Enhancing Maritime Resource Security: A Cross-sectoral Dialogue for the Gulf of Thailand" - Singapore.....	18
26-27 August 2014 - Dredging and Reclamation ANZ conference – Brisbane.....	18
17-18 September 2014 - 10th Ballast Water Management Summit – Singapore.....	18
22-26 September 2014 - Strategic Offshore Structure Engineering: Design, Construction, Installation, Inspection and Maintenance – Kuala Lumpur.....	18
24-25 September 2014 – NSW Transport Infrastructure Conference – Sydney.....	18
13-14 October 2014 – Intermanager AGM 2014 to run alongside ship management conference – Singapore.....	18
16-18 October 2014 - 3rd Annual World Congress of Ocean & Investment and Trade Fair-2014 – Dalian, China.....	18
22-23 October 2014 – Ship Recycling Summit – Singapore.....	18
29-30 October 2014 - 11th Ballast Water Management Summit – Hamburg.....	18
27-31 October 2014 – Euronaval – Paris Le Bourget, France.....	18
11-14 November 2014 – 23rd NSW Coastal Conference – Ulladulla NSW.....	18
19-20 November 2014 - ACI's 9th Vessel Efficiency & Fuel Management Summit – Singapore.....	19
19-20 November 2014 - OSV Singapore 2014.....	19
3-5 May 2015 – Marine15 recreational marine business and safety conference – Gold Coast.....	19
6-8 October 2015 - Pacific International Maritime Exposition and PACIFIC 2015 – Sydney Exhibition Centre, Glebe Island.....	19

EDITORIAL

Australian Association for Maritime Affairs

The objectives of the Australian Association for Maritime Affairs are to generate greater public awareness of maritime affairs, and to encourage well-informed decision making on maritime issues.

www.aama.asn.au

Outcome of the Extraordinary General Meeting of the AAMA on 5 June 2014

As presaged, the meeting approved the motion to close the Australian Association for Maritime Affairs from 30 June 2014, and donate the balance of any remaining funds to a like organisation, the Australian Marine Environment Protection Association (AUSMEPA). The meeting of the AAMA Board that followed immediately after the EGM also agreed:

- a. to assign any future copyright royalties flowing from past editions of the *Australian Maritime Digest* to AUSMEPA; and
- b. the sale of the *Australian Journal of Ocean and Maritime Affairs* (AJMOA) to Taylor and Francis on favourable terms that foster AJMOA's longer term future.

As readers should be aware, the AAMA had previously elected to partner with Taylor & Francis from 1 January 2014 for the publication of the *Australian Journal of Ocean and Maritime Affairs* (AJMOA). That partnership decision was made by the AAMA Board after a thorough review process and with one of the main goals being to enhance the quality and international profile of AJMOA.

The Board's experience in working with Taylor & Francis over the last six months gave the AAMA Board confidence that the sale, as well as the publication arrangements already in place for AJMOA, will ensure that it will carry forward the AAMA's objectives "to generate greater public awareness of maritime affairs, and to encourage well-informed decision making on maritime issues." The Board requests AAMA Members to support those objectives by continuing to subscribe to AJMOA.

This, however, is the final edition of the *Australian Maritime Digest*. Comments from several readers indicate that the *Digest* has performed a useful and unique function but, without a wider subscription base, it has not been self-sustaining without extensive sponsorship, and sponsorship of any media carries with it other challenges for which the AAMA is not structured to deal.

Further contact on AAMA or *Australian Maritime Digest* matters

With the closure of the AAMA website and domain name – www.aama.asn.au – soon after 30 June 2014, any correspondence relating to either AAMA or *Australian Maritime Digest* matters should be e-mailed to the *Digest* Editor – GriffithsRD@gmail.com

New e-mail address to submit papers for the *Australian Journal of Maritime and Ocean Affairs* (AJMOA)

As indicated, the current e-mail address for submitting papers for publication in AJMOA – admin@aama.asn.au – will become inoperative from 30 June 2014 when the domain name registration lapses. Effective immediately, papers for publication in AJMOA should be submitted directly to the AJMOA Editor, Prof. Marcus Haward, at M.G.Haward@utas.edu.au

Would readers please advise their colleagues of this change?

DISCLAIMER

Views expressed in the *Australian Maritime Digest*
do not necessarily reflect those of the
Australian Association for Maritime Affairs – www.aama.asn.au

CORPORATE SUPPORTERS



Maritime Australia Limited
PO Box 4095, Geelong, VIC 3220
Web site: www.pacific2013.com.au



Australasian Hydrographic Society
93 Ashworth Avenue, Belrose NSW 2085
Web site: www.ahs.asn.au



Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)
GPO Box 2181, Canberra ACT 2601
Web site: www.amsa.gov.au



Australian Marine Environment Protection Association (AUSMEPA)
PO Box 7122, Sippy Downs QLD 4557
Web site: www.ausmepa.org.au



Commonwealth Fisheries Association (CFA)
PO Box 9022, Deakin ACT 2600
Web site: www.comfish.com.au



GW Marine Consultants Pty Ltd
Unit 5, 13 Wheatley Street, Gosnells WA 6110
Web site: www.gwmarine.com.au



Australian Maritime College
Newnham Drive, Newnham TAS 7248
Web site: www.amc.edu.au

The Board of the Australian Association for Maritime Affairs thanks its corporate supporters.



2015
PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME EXPOSITION
6 - 8 OCTOBER 2015
SYDNEY EXHIBITION CENTRE @ GLEBE ISLAND, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
www.pacific2015.com.au

THE COMMERCIAL MARITIME AND NAVAL DEFENCE SHOWCASE FOR THE ASIA PACIFIC

MARITIME DEFENCE, CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION

ATSB seeks specialist services for MH370 search

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) [announced](#) “The ATSB today [4 June] released a request for tender to acquire the services of a specialist company capable of conducting a deep-water search under ATSB direction for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370. Engaged as a prime contractor, the company will provide the expertise, equipment and vessel(s) necessary to undertake an intensified underwater search for the missing Boeing 777 aircraft in the defined zone in the southern Indian Ocean.”

Putting the Air Warfare Destroyer program back on track

In a joint statement, the Minister for Defence, Senator Johnston, and the Minister for Finance, Senator Cormann, [announced](#) “Today [4 June] we are announcing the way forward for the \$8.5 billion Air Warfare Destroyer program, dealing with a range of unresolved structural and systemic issues that have remained unaddressed for too long.” and “The Reform Strategy will:

- Improve shipbuilding productivity at the Air Warfare Destroyer shipbuilder ASC and its subcontractors BAE Systems, Forgas and Navantia; □
- Include the urgent insertion of an experienced shipbuilding management team into ASC; and □
- After augmented shipbuilding capacity has been put in place, pursue the reallocation of blocks between shipyards to make the Air Warfare Destroyer program more sustainable.”

The Minister for Defence then [announced](#) that the Air Warfare Destroyer (AWD) Project will be placed on the Projects of Concern (PoC) list.

Boosting Australia’s maritime capabilities

The Minister for Defence, Senator Johnston, [announced](#) “In light of the urgent need to forestall a capability gap in this crucial area [replenishment vessels]; the current low productivity of shipbuilders involved in the AWD program; and value for money considerations, the Government has given First Pass approval for Defence to conduct a limited competitive tender process between Navantia of Spain and

Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering (DSME) of South Korea for the construction of two replacement replenishment vessels based on existing designs.” and “Navy is in urgent need of large support vessels that we assess are beyond the capacity of Australia to produce competitively at this stage. In this instance it would not serve anyone if we were to provide a challenge to industry that was beyond its capabilities.”

The Minister also announced “The Government has also agreed to bring forward preliminary design work to ensure Australia maintains the necessary capabilities to retain the option of building the future frigate in Australia. This work will focus on continued production of the current AWD hull, suitably adapted and utilising capabilities from the cutting-edge Australian companies CEA Technologies Australia and SAAB Combat Systems. Further decisions on the future frigate will be taken in the context of the 2015 Defence White Paper.” and “The Government has brought forward an open competition with Australian industry to construct more than 20 replacement Pacific Patrol Boats.”

Navy achieves White Ribbon workplace accreditation for demonstrating a culture of zero tolerance of men’s violence against women

Defence [announced](#) “The Royal Australian Navy has become the largest organisation to receive White Ribbon Workplace Accreditation for demonstrating a culture of zero tolerance of men’s violence against women. The CEO of White Ribbon Australia, Libby Davies, today [11 June] presented a certificate of accreditation to the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, AO, CSC, RAN. Navy has, for some time, been committed to the White Ribbon campaign — a male-led movement to end violence against women. Last year VADM Griggs committed Navy to a pilot program for organisations to become a White Ribbon Accredited Workplace.”

Update - Allegations of unacceptable behaviour in HMAS *Ballarat*

Defence [announced](#) “The Royal Australian Navy has initiated administrative action against eight members, as part of the ongoing process associated with the Administrative Inquiry into allegations of unacceptable behaviour in HMAS *Ballarat* first reported by Navy in November last year. Proposed actions range from termination from the Navy to formal warnings. The eight personnel now have an opportunity to submit a response to Notices to Show Cause in coming weeks.”

Commander Australian Fleet changeover

Defence [announced](#) “Royal Australian Navy personnel from Fleet Headquarters and ships based at Garden Island, farewelled outgoing Commander Australian Fleet, Rear Admiral Tim Barrett at a ceremony in Sydney today. Fleet Headquarters staff paid their respects as RADM Barrett’s flag was lowered and Rear Admiral Stuart Mayer’s flag was raised for the first time, at the change of command ceremony.”

Hagel orders US aircraft carrier to Persian Gulf

As if to demonstrate the flexibility of seapower, the US *Navy Times* [reported](#) “Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has ordered an aircraft carrier — the USS George H.W. Bush — to move from the northern Arabian Sea to the Persian Gulf as President Obama considers possible military options for Iraq. Hagel’s press secretary, Rear Adm. John Kirby, says the order will give the president added flexibility if military action is required to protect American lives, citizens and interests in Iraq.” while another article [reported](#) on an alternative response “U.S. air power options in Iraq are limited now, because the closest aircraft that could wage a bombing campaign against Islamist militants who have captured several of the nation’s largest cities are at least 800 miles away, a top defense official told USA Today Friday [13 June].”

Maritime security strengthened through new Pacific Patrol Boat Program

Defence [announced](#) “A new \$2 billion Pacific Patrol Boat (PPB) Program unveiled today [17 June] by Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Defence Minister David Johnston aims to significantly strengthen security in our region.” and “The Pacific Patrol Boat Program is an important pillar of the Australian Government’s commitment to working with our regional partners to enable cohesive security cooperation on maritime surveillance, including in fisheries protection and transnational crime,” Minister Bishop said. “Defence will replace the current fleet of patrol boats for all current PPB members with the addition of a new member, Timor-Leste (East Timor), which has been invited to join the program, evidence of Australia’s growing defence cooperation program with that country,” said Senator Johnston.”

Update on MH370 Search

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) [announced](#) “The Australian contracted survey vessel *Fugro Equator* has commenced operations in a defined search area, joining Chinese PLA-Navy ship *Zhu Kezhen* in undertaking survey activities. Under the direction of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB), the two vessels are conducting the bathymetric survey—or mapping of the sea floor—which is crucial to carrying out the deep water search for MH370 that is scheduled to commence in August.”

Ministerial Statement on Report on Abuse at HMAS *Leeuwin*

The Minister for Defence, Senator Johnston, made a [statement](#) to the Parliament on the [Report on Abuse at HMAS *Leeuwin*](#) by the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce (DART) saying, *inter alia*, “The Report is a record of allegations of widespread serious and institutionalised abuse experienced by more than 200 Junior Recruits, young men, no – I would say children – aged between 15 and 17 years old, who trained at HMAS *Leeuwin* from the 1960s to the early 1980s.”

Indian naval commanders to discuss ways to strengthen ties with Indian Ocean region nations

The Times of India [reported](#) “The naval top brass will congregate here [New Delhi] next week to discuss measures to further bolster military cooperation with countries in the Indian Ocean region (IOR) in the backdrop of China’s expanding strategic footprint in the region.”

Advisers appointed for Air Warfare Destroyer Program Reform Strategy

The Minister for Finance, Senator Cormann, and the Minister for Defence, Senator Johnston, [announced](#) “The Government has taken the next step to put the Air Warfare Destroyer Program back on track with the appointment of key expert advisers to assist with the implementation of the Reform Strategy. We have today [19 June] appointed Greenhill & Co Australia Pty Ltd as Commercial Adviser and Ashurst Australia as Legal Adviser. These appointments followed a competitive procurement process.”

New vessel to help protect Australia's borders

The Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Mr Morrison, [announced](#) he had attended the official naming ceremony of the Australian Customs and Border Protection Vessel (ACV) *Thaiyak* which will help secure Australia's borders.

Timor-Leste Secretary of State for Defence visit has maritime aspects

Defence [announced](#) “Maritime security and regional stability were key points of discussion when Minister for Defence David Johnston and the Timor-Leste Secretary of State for Defence, Dr Júlio Tomás Pinto met in Canberra.” and “He [Senator Johnston] also welcomed Timor-Leste’s efforts to build its maritime capability and its intent to contribute to maritime security, particularly through its involvement in multilateral fora such as the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium, and its participation in the observer program of maritime security activities including Exercise Kakadu.”

Australian company wins LHD sustainment contract

Minister for Defence Senator David Johnston [announced](#) an Australian company had been awarded a multi-million dollar contract to sustain Australia’s new Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) ships. Kellogg, Brown & Root Pty Ltd (KBR) has been awarded the key contract to provide Capability Support Coordinator (CSC) services for the LHDs over the next five years. [<http://www.kbr.com> an Australian company? - Editor]

New high priority MH370 search area announced

Deputy Prime Minister Mr Truss [announced](#) a new high priority underwater search area for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370. The new search area of up to 60,000 square kilometres is located in the Southern Indian Ocean and, like previous searches, is located along the seventh arc – a thin but long line that marks where the missing aircraft last communicated with a satellite.

Navy charges personnel for inappropriate behaviour

Defence [announced](#) “The Royal Australian Navy has charged four of its members following an investigation into allegations of inappropriate behaviour in 2011. The alleged incident was brought to the attention of the Chief of Navy after he had encouraged personnel to come forward and report any instances of inappropriate behaviour following reporting on incidents aboard HMAS *Ballarat*.”

HMAS *Arunta* returns to sea as part of the Anti-Ship Missile Defence Upgrade Programme

Defence [announced](#) “A significant milestone has been achieved in the Anti-Ship Missile Defence (ASMD) Upgrade Programme with HMAS *Arunta* setting sail for her sea acceptance trials this week.”

Australian Defence Force to be tested by air, land and sea in Pacific Rim exercise

Defence [announced](#) “The Australian Defence Force (ADF) is playing a key role in the world’s largest maritime exercise taking place in and around the islands of Hawaii. Hosted by the United States Pacific Fleet, Exercise Rim of the Pacific 2014 (RIMPAC 14) will see 23 nations, 48 ships, six submarines, more than 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel – with approximately 970 ADF members from all three Services – taking part.” [This press statement doesn't mention any RAN units that are involved; readers need to click [here](#) to see such minor details – Editor]

Meanwhile, *Stars and Stripes* [reported](#) “Pearl Harbor officials are warning residents in the area that their remotely operated garage door openers may be temporarily affected by increased radar activity from warships participating in the Rim of the Pacific exercise that begins Thursday [26 June].”

Evolved Seasparrow missile upgrade

The Minister for Defence, Senator David Johnston, [announced](#) “Australia has elected to continue its participation in the NATO Seasparrow Consortium Evolved Seasparrow Missile (ESSM) program that commenced in 1990.” and “... the First Pass Approval for the upgraded ‘Block 2’ version of the Evolved Seasparrow missile would lead to a significant boost in Australia’s ability to defend its fleet against the next generation of anti-ship missile threats by delivering a more sophisticated ship self-defence missile to the Navy. The Block 2 upgrade will primarily focus on developing improvements to the missile’s guidance system.”

HMAS *Parramatta* completes a visit to Noumea ahead of Operation SOLANIA

Defence [reported](#) “HMAS *Parramatta* has completed its visit to Noumea, New Caledonia, before commencing a patrol as part of Operation SOLANIA. The ANZAC Class Frigate left Noumea today [30 June] after spending three days strengthening relationships with the French Armed Forces New Caledonia (FANC) and promoting multilateral security cooperation.” and “Following the visit, *Parramatta* will commence an Operation SOLANIA patrol, continuing the Australian Defence Force’s enduring role in the South-West Pacific. Operation SOLANIA is a continuing maritime surveillance operation which supports Pacific island states in their enforcement of fisheries law within their Exclusive Economic Zones”

China Seas Developments – June

AsiaNews [Italy] [reported](#) “The escalation of tension in the South China Sea shows no sign of abating. Yesterday [31 May] 100 Chinese patrol boats, four ships and about 40 military vessels (at least in appearance) surrounded Vietnamese coastguard and fishing vessels near an oil rig that China has placed in Vietnamese territorial waters. In addition, some Chinese fighter jets violated Vietnamese airspace to defend the platform.”

WantChinaTimes [Taiwan] [reported](#) “The People's Liberation Army Navy is set to deploy at least one of its Type 903A comprehensive supply ships to the disputed South China Sea to strengthen its force projection capability in the area, reports China's nationalistic Global Times tabloid.”

The *Chosunilbo* [South Korea] [reported](#) “China and Vietnam, which are involved in a tense standoff in the South China Sea, are pleading their case to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.” [It will be interesting to see whether Mr Ban chooses to get involved in what would normally be either an International Court of Justice or a UN Security Council matter – Editor]

Defense News [USA] [reported](#) “China appears to be constructing an airstrip and sea port on Fiery Cross Reef in the South China Sea, according to regional media reports, in a move that looks like the next step in its efforts to claim the entirety of a water area roughly the size of India.”

Reuters [reported](#) “China has sent four more oil rigs into the South China Sea in a sign that Beijing is stepping up its exploration for oil and gas in the tense region, less than two months after it positioned a giant drilling platform in waters claimed by Vietnam.”

The Philippine Star [reported](#) “Singapore's prime minister said Tuesday [24 June] international law should determine how territorial disputes in the South China Sea are resolved, rather than the notion that “might is right.”” [This was reported similarly by other media – Editor.]

Business Insider [Australia] quoted Reuters to [report](#) “China has unveiled a new official map of the country giving greater play to its claims on the South China Sea, state media said on Wednesday [25 June], making the disputed waters and its numerous islets and reefs more clearly seem like national territory.”

Operation Sovereign Borders updates – May/June

The Minister for Immigration and Border Protection released these updates: [30 May](#), [6 June](#), [13 June](#), [20 June](#) [Unsurprisingly, no formal update for 27 June had been released by c.o.b. on 30 June - Editor]

SHIPPING, SHIPBUILDING & PORTS

Marine Order 91 (Marine pollution prevention — oil) 2014

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) made this [Order](#), which gives effect to Annex I of MARPOL which deals with prevention of marine pollution by oil from ships. It prescribes matters for Part II (Prevention of pollution by oil) of the Pollution Prevention Act. It also provides for matters for Chapter 4 (Prevention of pollution) of the *Navigation Act*.

Marine Order 93 (Marine pollution prevention — noxious liquid substances) 2014

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) made this [Order](#), which addresses similar matters to the above and “replaces *Marine Order 93 (Marine pollution prevention — noxious liquid substances) 2006* following a review of the Order as part of AMSA’s ongoing review of instruments. The structure of the Order has been changed and current legislative drafting style applied. When the Order commences, schedule 39 of *Marine Order 4 (Transitional Modifications) 2013* will cease to have effect because that schedule modifies the previous issue of this Order.”

International Marina Scholarship Winners

The Global Marina Institute (GMI) [announced](#) the winners of two international scholarships to attend Advanced Marina Management (AMM) courses in Australia and the UK at the ICOMIA World Marinas conference in Turkey 2-4 June. Alistair Clarke, Marina Manager at Weymouth Marina, UK, will travel to Australia to participate in the Marina Industries Association (MIA) AMM course in Sydney 14 – 19 September. David Osmond, d'Albora Marinas PIER 35 and Victoria Harbour, will travel to the UK to participate in the AMM course 26 – 31 October on the South Coast of England.

New regional structure for counter-piracy code implementation

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) [announced](#) “Ministers from participating States in the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden (the Djibouti Code of Conduct) have recognized the need to develop a mechanism for the region to run its own counter-piracy agenda, following the successful implementation by IMO of numerous projects aimed at improving regional capacity to counter piracy by developing enhanced regional cooperation and coordination.”

Queensland Ports Strategy

The Queensland Government released its [Ports Strategy](#), saying “.... the Queensland Ports Strategy sets the direction for how future port developments will occur in Queensland. Through major reform to port planning, governance, environmental management and supply chain connections, Queensland will lead the way with an efficient port network that supports economic growth and effectively manages environmental objectives.” and “The Queensland Ports Strategy outlines 18 actions for the planning, development and management of Queensland’s port network. The key actions include:

- the establishment of five Priority Port Development Areas (PPDAs) at the long-established major ports of Abbot Point; Brisbane; Gladstone; Hay Point and Mackay; and Townsville

- the prohibition of dredging within and adjoining the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, for the development of new, or the expansion of existing port facilities outside PPDAs, for the next ten years
- introduction of a statutory guideline for port master planning
- introduction of the Ports Bill to Parliament.”

Boosting Australia’s maritime capabilities

The Minister for Defence, Senator Johnston, [announced](#) “In light of the urgent need to forestall a capability gap in this crucial area [replenishment vessels]; the current low productivity of shipbuilders involved in the AWD program; and value for money considerations, the Government has given First Pass approval for Defence to conduct a limited competitive tender process between Navantia of Spain and Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering (DSME) of South Korea for the construction of two replacement replenishment vessels based on existing designs.” and “Navy is in urgent need of large support vessels that we assess are beyond the capacity of Australia to produce competitively at this stage. In this instance it would not serve anyone if we were to provide a challenge to industry that was beyond its capabilities.”

The Minister also announced “The Government has also agreed to bring forward preliminary design work to ensure Australia maintains the necessary capabilities to retain the option of building the future frigate in Australia. This work will focus on continued production of the current AWD hull, suitably adapted and utilising capabilities from the cutting-edge Australian companies CEA Technologies Australia and SAAB Combat Systems. Further decisions on the future frigate will be taken in the context of the 2015 Defence White Paper.” and “The Government has brought forward an open competition with Australian industry to construct more than 20 replacement Pacific Patrol Boats.” [The transcript is [here](#).]

Looming Seafarer Shortage Will Challenge Carrier Profitability

Maritime Connector [reported](#) “The current shortage of officer corps seafarers is forecast to worsen and risks impacting carrier profitability, according to Drewry’s recently published Manning 2014 Annual Report.”

India looks to attract more shipping companies to its coastal trade

The *Arabian Supply Chain* [reported](#) “The Indian government is looking to boost the movement of cargo along its coastline by introducing new policy. According to the Business Standard, the Union government is planning to relax cabotage norms at major ports for empty containers, to allow foreign-flagged vessels carrying empty containers move on India’s coastline without restriction.”

Darwin at the Centre of Northern Development

The Minister for Regional Development and Infrastructure, Mr Truss, [said](#) “Darwin is shaping as Australia’s gateway to Asia—one of the fastest growing regions in the world, which will soon be home to half of the world’s middle-class by 2020. In terms of northern Australia’s development, Darwin is the linchpin,” and “This [Green Paper](#) reminds us that the northern Australia is vital to our national economy, with 55% (or \$121 billion) of Australia’s exports shipped from our northern ports.”

[Readers will, of course, be very aware that a Green Paper is a draft for an eventual White Paper, which should become the basis of policy discussions between the various parties (in this case State, Territory and Commonwealth Governments) which, in turn, become the basis of any agreed divisions of responsibilities, which then form the bases of budget funding bids which might, in due course, become the bases of funded projects and, eventually, see money spent. The reality, in this as in many policy areas, is that some sort of crisis – military, economic or weather-related – will probably intervene and require snap decisions long before there is any outcome from the ponderous formal policy processes initiated by this *Green Paper on Developing Northern Australia*. Really unkind readers might even think that this is all just a way of marking time to avoid spending money!– Editor]

Maritime security strengthened through new Pacific Patrol Boat Program

Defence [announced](#) “A new \$2 billion Pacific Patrol Boat (PPB) Program unveiled today by Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Defence Minister David Johnston aims to significantly strengthen security in our region.” “The Pacific Patrol Boat Program is an important pillar of the Australian Government’s commitment to working with our regional partners to enable cohesive security cooperation on maritime surveillance, including in fisheries protection and transnational crime,” Minister Bishop said. “Defence will replace the current fleet of patrol boats for all current PPB members with the addition of a new member, Timor-Leste (East Timor), which has been invited to join the program, evidence of Australia’s growing defence cooperation program with that country,” said Senator Johnston.”

NSW Government announces \$10 million upgrade to Port of Eden

NSW Treasurer and Member for Bega Andrew Constance and Minister for Roads and Freight Duncan Gay [announced](#) a \$10 million upgrade to the Port of Eden.

World shipping P3 Network merger will not be implemented

Maersk [announced](#) “Today [17 June], the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) announced that they have not approved the P3 Network (P3). P3 was a long-term operational vessel sharing agreement proposed by MSC, CMA CGM, and Maersk Line. The MOFCOM’s decision follows a review under China’s merger control rules. The P3 partners take note of and respect MOFCOM’s decision. Subsequently, the partners have agreed to stop the preparatory work on the P3 Network and the P3 Network as initially planned will not come into existence.”

Infrastructure Australia Gets the Free Rein It Needs

The Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Mr Truss, [announced](#) “Amendments to the Australian Government’s *Infrastructure Australia Amendment Bill 2013* (the Bill) have today [18 June] been introduced in the Senate.” and “The government has moved to clear up ambiguities in the Bill, which led to a misunderstanding of the government’s reforms to make Infrastructure Australia more independent.”

Crew member fatality on board, *Toucan Arrow*, Portland, Vic. on 7 October 2013

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) [released](#) its report on this incident. The ATSB found that the crew member did not comply with the ship's safe working procedures and did not ensure that the crane driver was advised and that the gantry crane's electrical power supply was isolated before he began working in the vicinity of the crane. The investigation also found that the audible and visual crane in motion warning devices were not fully operational and effective.

Protection of the Sea (Shipping Levy) Regulation 2014

The Governor-General made this [Regulation](#), which replaces the 1982 Regulations in order to decrease the quarterly levy from 14.25 cents to 11.25 cents per ton on all ships to which the Act applies, effective from 1 July 2014.

New Nautical Institute President challenges members and branches

In his inaugural [address](#) at the Institute's Annual General Meeting held in Sydney, Australia, Captain Robert McCabe pointed out change and continuous improvement at the Institute meant that the building blocks of NGO status at IMO, revised membership criteria and the new governance structure were in place for preparation of the Institute's Strategic Plan for 2016-2020.

Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Storage Dam, Hay Point, Qld – EPBC Act referral

The Department of the Environment [announced](#) an invitation for public comment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* for this proposal.

Shipping system needs radical rethink warn climate experts

Researchers at The University of Manchester [said](#) "Avoiding dangerous levels of climate change requires a radical rethink of the shipping system, according to a new report 'High Seas: High Stakes' released today by scientists at the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research based at The University of Manchester. If global shipping is to make its fair contribution to avoiding the 2°C of warming associated with dangerous climate change, CO₂ emissions need to be cut within the next decade and fall by at least 80% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels, say the authors."

IMB warning to small tankers to maintain strict anti-piracy measures in the South China Sea

The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) [said](#) "At least six known cases of coastal tankers being hijacked for their cargoes of diesel or gas oil have been reported since April this year, sparking fears of a new trend in pirate attacks in the area. Up until then, the majority of attacks in the region were vessels boarded for petty theft."

WA Ports merger delay blamed on operational differences

The ABC [reported](#) "[WA] Transport Minister Dean Nalder has blamed delays in amalgamating regional ports in WA's south on operational differences between local port authorities."

Advisers appointed for Air Warfare Destroyer Program Reform Strategy

The Minister for Finance, Senator Cormann, and the Minister for Defence, Senator Johnston, [announced](#) "The Government has taken the next step to put the Air Warfare Destroyer Program back on track with the appointment of key expert advisers to assist with the implementation of the Reform Strategy. We have today [19 June] appointed Greenhill & Co Australia Pty Ltd as Commercial Adviser and Ashurst Australia as Legal Adviser. These appointments followed a competitive procurement process."

ACCC reduces regulation at Graincorp's Newcastle Port Terminal

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission [said](#) it has accepted GrainCorp's application to vary its Port Terminal Services Access Undertaking at its Newcastle bulk grain facility. "The ACCC considers that a more competitive market for the export of bulk wheat is in the best interests of farmers. The variation will provide GrainCorp with greater flexibility to compete against the two bulk wheat export operations at the Port of Newcastle," ACCC Commissioner Cristina Cifuentes said.

Mandatory Code of Conduct for Grain Export Terminals (Bulk Wheat Exports) – Regulation Impact Statement for consultation

On 19 June, the Office of Best Practice Regulation [said](#) "On 3 June 2014, the Minister for Agriculture [released](#) for consultation an exposure draft [mandatory port access code of conduct for bulk wheat exports](#) and an associated Regulation Impact Statement (RIS). The RIS examines options for improving access to port terminals for bulk wheat exporters. One option is the introduction of a mandatory code of conduct for all port terminal service providers. The code is aimed at standardising access arrangements and improving the transparency of bulk wheat exports. If implemented by 30 September 2014, the code would replace the Wheat Export Marketing Act 2008." and "Submissions on the draft code and RIS close at 5pm on Friday 24 June 2014."

Albany Port Maintenance Dredging - EPBC Act referral

The Department of the Environment [announced](#) an invitation for public comment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* for this proposal.

Australian Government welcomes UNESCO decision on the Great Barrier Reef

The Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, [announced](#) "The UNESCO World Heritage Committee has recognised the significant work and progress being made by the Australian and Queensland governments in managing and protecting the Great Barrier Reef. UNESCO started the consideration of the reef's health under the previous Labor government in June 2011. Since that time they have now formally

recognised significant work and progress in reef protection. I am therefore pleased the Committee did not list the reef as a World Heritage site 'in danger' and acknowledged the significant work and progress."

Cancellation of Declaration for Dudgeon Point, QLD, Coal Terminals Project

North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation (NQBP) [announced](#) that it has made a request to the Queensland Coordinator-General to cancel the declaration of the Dudgeon Point Coal Terminals Project as a coordinated project, saying "Legislation requires the EIS to be submitted within two years of the publication of the Terms of Reference, which in the case of the Dudgeon Point Coal Terminals Project is by 21 June 2014 and this will not be achieved because of the pausing of the project."

Competition policy and ports privatisation

In a [speech](#) to CEDA, the Chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Mr Sims, said "Some governments are privatising ports without appropriate open access regimes, nor controls on pricing. We shouldn't be surprised when buyers pay a high price to acquire monopoly power, with the expectation that they will be able to recoup that expenditure by increasing prices. I will shortly be writing to all governments to point out that the trend towards selling monopoly or near monopoly assets with the primary aim of maximising proceeds, without due consideration of the competition implications, is effectively a tax on future generations."

Marine Order 42 (Cargo, stowage and securing) 2014

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) made this [Order](#), which gives effect to regulations 2 (Cargo information), 5 (Stowage and securing) and 5-2 (Blending of liquid bulk cargoes) of Chapter VI of SOLAS. The Explanatory Statement says "This new issue of Marine Order 42 updates the reference to the Code of Safe Practice for Ships Carrying Timber Deck Cargoes, 2011, which replaces the 1991 Code mentioned in the previous issue. The scope of the Order is extended to include cargo matters covered by Chapter VI of SOLAS. References to particular positions in AMSA are removed, and the Order has been rewritten in a clearer style."

Productivity Commission Report on Tasmanian Shipping and Freight

The Productivity Commission [released](#) its [report](#) into issues affecting the competitiveness of Tasmanian business as they relate to shipping, port, road, and rail infrastructure and services. The fundamental recommendation appears to be "Tasmania faces broader economic and social challenges and the Australian Government should put less emphasis on freight subsidy schemes in favour of reforms that have national and Tasmanian benefits (such as coastal shipping reform) and those that directly enhance the competitiveness and productivity of the Tasmanian economy."

Apparently ignoring much of the Commission's questioning of the effectiveness of the various freight subsidy schemes, which had anyway been removed from the inquiry's TOR, the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Mr Truss, [said](#) "Keeping prices affordable for shippers and passengers, reforming maritime regulation and strengthening the maritime industry will help to put Tasmania on a more level playing field compared with mainland operators."

The Australian Shipowners Association (ASA) [urged](#) the Abbott Government to be careful in its consideration of the Productivity Commission Report into Tasmanian shipping and freight.

Harmonised EU reporting procedures for vessels

The European Commission [announced](#) "The European Commission today [25 June] adopted the [report](#) on the functioning of the reporting formalities directive ([Directive 2010/65](#)). The Directive aims to ensure that by June 2015 vessels entering or departing EU ports will provide required information electronically via one single entry point – the National Single Window."

Australian company wins LHD sustainment contract

Minister for Defence Senator David Johnston [announced](#) an Australian company had been awarded a multi-million dollar contract to sustain Australia's new Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) ships. Kellogg, Brown & Root Pty Ltd (KBR) has been awarded the key contract to provide Capability Support Coordinator (CSC) services for the LHDs over the next five years. [<http://www.kbr.com> an Australian company? - Editor]

ACCC issues draft decision to approve CBH long term port access arrangements in WA

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission [said](#) it has issued a draft decision to accept Co-Operative Bulk Handling Limited's (CBH) proposed 2014 Port Terminal Services Access Undertaking, subject to drafting amendments. The undertaking would govern access by third party exporters to CBH's port terminal services for bulk wheat export at CBH's four port terminals in Western Australia.

Marine Order 505 (Certificates of competency — national law) Amendment 2014 (No. 1)

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) made this [Order](#). The Explanatory Statement says "Due to an oversight MO505 does not currently provide for periods of suspension of certificates of competency. This may have the effect that a certificate of competency cannot be suspended. It is important that the National Regulator has the power to suspend a certificate in circumstances where safety may be jeopardised. This amendment remedies this situation and also clarifies how long a suspension may be in force."

Ship breaking – international implications

In an event with international law, environmental and shipping implications, *The Maritime Executive* [reported](#) "Belgian authorities have released the Japanese owned car-carrier that has been sitting in detention at the port of Antwerp for nearly a month. After having been alerted by the NGO Shipbreaking Platform, a coalition of environmental, human rights and labor organizations, that the ship had been sold for scrapping in India, the Flemish Environment Ministry seized the end-of-life car carrier *Global Spirit*. The ship was allowed to leave the port of Antwerp for recycling in Turkey, a destination allowed under European waste law."

Container Weight Declaration guide

The Port of Fremantle [announced](#) “[A Guide to Container Weight Declarations](#) for the sea freight container supply chain has been produced by Fremantle Ports and the WA Port Operations Task Force. Incorrectly declared container weights in road freight transport are a serious issue which can lead to accidents, fatalities and road damage. [Not to mention ships breaking in two - Editor] The industry guide sets out suggested practices to meet the new obligations under new Chain of Responsibility legislation expected to be introduced soon in Western Australia.”

NQBP announces appointment of Steve Lewis as its new CEO

North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation (NQBP) [announced](#) the appointment of Steve Lewis as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Queensland bulk port authority. Mr Lewis will take over from Brad Fish who has held the position of CEO for the past 13 years.

White Paper on the Reform of the Federation

The Prime Minister, Mr Abbott, [released](#) the Terms of Reference for the White Paper on the Reform of the Federation, saying “We need to reduce and, if possible, end duplication and make interacting with government simpler. We need to clarify roles and responsibilities for States and Territories so that they are, as far as possible, sovereign in their own sphere.

The Commonwealth will continue to take a leadership role on issues of genuine national and strategic importance, but there should be less Commonwealth intervention in areas where States have primary responsibility.”

[This will obviously have implications in the maritime sphere, for shipping, ports, fishing, resource development, marine science and the environment, but readers might wonder whether Mr Abbott has considered that, in a nation of only 22 million people, one way to “end duplication” and “clarify roles and responsibilities” might be to eliminate the State and Territory level of government altogether? The first few paragraphs of the TOR seem to suggest that logic was leading the drafters that way – Editor.]

Rescheduling agreement for Zim Shipping

Haaretz [Israel] [reported](#) “Israel Corporation shareholders on Friday [27 June] approved the largest debt rescheduling agreement in Israel’s history for the holding company’s Zim Integrated Shipping Services subsidiary.”

Report on containers lost at sea

In its annual survey [report](#), the World Shipping Council said “The survey of the years 2011, 2012 and 2013 estimates that there were approximately 733 containers lost at sea on average for each of these three years, not counting catastrophic events.”

World Shipping Outlook – June

As a reference point for many of the following reports on the world shipping outlook, here is the [Baltic Dry Index](#).

Shipping Herald [reported](#) “Panamax shipowners are reportedly idling their ships as a lack of cargoes puts further pressure on rates, market sources said Thursday [12 June].”

The Port of Los Angeles [reported](#) “In May 2014, overall volumes increased 8.2 percent compared to May 2013. Total cargo for May was 689,141 Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs). Container imports rose 7.75 percent, from 326,114 TEUs in May 2013 to 351,403 TEUs in May 2014. Exports rose 2.3 percent, from 154,904 TEUs in May 2013 to 158,473 TEUs in May 2014.”

UN, US & EU Sanctions on Iranian shipping – June developments

FARS Newsagency [Iran] [reported](#) “Deputy Head of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC) Mohammad Hassan Peyvandi informed that Iran is resolved to boost its share in supplying the international markets with quality petrochemicals, saying Iranian ports on the rims of the Sea of Oman will host a new petrochemical hub in the region.”

Trend [Azerbaijan] [reported](#) “Iran to launch shipping route from Lengeh Port to Doha” [This is a headline only; the article is behind *Trend's* pay-wall - Editor]

The Hindu's Businessline [reported](#) “India has decided to extend by six months the special permission granted to ships with Iranian insurance to call at the country’s ports, a government official said. This will enable New Delhi to get continued supply of oil from Iran, albeit reduced volume, despite the US sanctions against the West-Asian nation.”

FISHERIES

Members sought for the Northern Prawn Fishery Resource Assessment Group (NPRAG)

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) [said](#) it is seeking applications for member positions on the Northern Prawn Fishery Resource Assessment Group (NPRAG) for its next three year term (1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017)

National Aquaculture Statement launched

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Senator Colbeck, [launched](#) the [National Aquaculture Statement](#), saying “This statement is the first step in fulfilling the Coalition’s commitment to work with industry to develop a national aquaculture strategy,” and “The Department of Agriculture will examine the existing marine pest biosecurity arrangements, assess the cost effectiveness of preventing and eradicating marine pests and seek expert recommendations to improve the current monitoring framework.”

Tasmanian Giant Crab Fishery environmental assessment

The Department of the Environment [announced](#) “The current export approval for the Tasmanian Giant Crab Fishery is valid until 22 July 2014 and the fishery is now due for assessment for ongoing export accreditation. The Department of the Environment received an

application, *Application to the Department of Environment on the Tasmanian Giant Crab Fishery*, from the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment in June 2014.”

Foreign factory-freezer trawler application

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) posted a number of statements on its website regarding its 10 June approval of the application of Petuna-SeaLord Deepwater Fishing Pty Ltd to have the FV Meridian 1 declared an Australian boat to fish using midwater trawl method in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. Several of those posts seem to have been removed subsequently. As of the date of writing this item [13 June], the one remaining post could be read [here](#).

Western Australian Abalone Managed Fishery environmental assessment

The Department of the Environment [announced](#) “The current export approval for the Western Australian Abalone Managed Fishery is valid until 10 September 2014 and the fishery is now due for assessment for ongoing export accreditation. The Department of the Environment received an application, *Application to the Department of the Environment on the Western Australian Abalone Managed Fishery*, from the Western Australian Department of Fisheries in June 2014.”

US to create marine preserve in Pacific Ocean

The Boston Globe [reported](#) “As part of the conference [a two-day “Our Ocean” conference, attended by world leaders and others from more than 80 countries], President Obama announced executive actions Tuesday [17 June] that the administration is taking to try to protect the oceans. The most far-reaching will expand protection of the central Pacific Ocean, making nearly 782,000 square miles off-limits from fishing, energy exploration, and other activities.”

Senate inquiry into the current requirements for labelling of seafood and seafood products

On 23 June 2014 the Senate [referred](#) the current requirements for labelling of seafood and seafood products to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee for inquiry and report. Submissions should be received by 1 August 2014. The reporting date is 27 October 2014.

New AFMA commissioners announced

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) [provided](#) details of its new AFMA Commissioners, ie from 1 July 2014.

White Paper on the Reform of the Federation

The Prime Minister, Mr Abbott, [released](#) the Terms of Reference for the White Paper on the Reform of the Federation, saying “We need to reduce and, if possible, end duplication and make interacting with government simpler. We need to clarify roles and responsibilities for States and Territories so that they are, as far as possible, sovereign in their own sphere.

The Commonwealth will continue to take a leadership role on issues of genuine national and strategic importance, but there should be less Commonwealth intervention in areas where States have primary responsibility.”

[This will obviously have implications in the maritime sphere, for shipping, ports, fishing, resource development, marine science and the environment, but readers might wonder whether Mr Abbott has considered that, in a nation of only 22 million people, one way to “end duplication” and “clarify roles and responsibilities” might be to eliminate the State and Territory level of government altogether? The first few paragraphs of the TOR seem to suggest that logic was leading the drafters that way – Editor.]

South African experiment to track trawlers' footprint

SouthAfrica.com [reported](#) “A pioneering experiment being conducted in the Atlantic Ocean 100 nautical miles off the west coast of South Africa will tell marine researchers from the University of Cape Town (UCT) how long the seabed and its ecosystem takes to recover after hake trawling operations.”

RESOURCE EXPLORATION & DEVELOPMENT

Perth company secures Baltic Gas FEED contract award

Perth based Subsea Engineering Associates Pty Ltd (“SEA”) has secured a contract worth AUD \$1.3 million to deliver a major part of the Front End Engineering Design (“FEED”) for the Baltic Gas Project in the Polish sector of the Baltic Sea for Baltic Gas. The scope of work consists of front end engineering of subsea pipelines including shore approach, trenching, risers and tie-ins. The work will be executed from SEA’s Perth office with assistance of Polish subcontractors.

White Paper on the Reform of the Federation

The Prime Minister, Mr Abbott, [released](#) the Terms of Reference for the White Paper on the Reform of the Federation, saying “We need to reduce and, if possible, end duplication and make interacting with government simpler. We need to clarify roles and responsibilities for States and Territories so that they are, as far as possible, sovereign in their own sphere.

The Commonwealth will continue to take a leadership role on issues of genuine national and strategic importance, but there should be less Commonwealth intervention in areas where States have primary responsibility.”

[This will obviously have implications in the maritime sphere, for shipping, ports, fishing, resource development, marine science and the environment, but readers might wonder whether Mr Abbott has considered that, in a nation of only 22 million people, one way to “end duplication” and “clarify roles and responsibilities” might be to eliminate the State and Territory level of government altogether? The first few paragraphs of the TOR seem to suggest that logic was leading the drafters that way – Editor.]

Victorian West Seahorse offshore oil project gains federal MPF support

The Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Mr Truss, [announced](#) “THE WEST SEAHORSE project has been granted access to Federal Government Major Project Facilitation (MPF) services, recognising the project’s national strategic significance.” and “.... Carnarvon Hibiscus will now have access to MPF services to help advance the project.”

MARINE SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Marine Order 91 (Marine pollution prevention — oil) 2014

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) made this [Order](#), which gives effect to Annex I of MARPOL which deals with prevention of marine pollution by oil from ships. It prescribes matters for Part II (Prevention of pollution by oil) of the Pollution Prevention Act. It also provides for matters for Chapter 4 (Prevention of pollution) of the *Navigation Act*.

Marine Order 93 (Marine pollution prevention — noxious liquid substances) 2014

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) made this [Order](#), which addresses similar matters to the above and “replaces *Marine Order 93 (Marine pollution prevention — noxious liquid substances) 2006* following a review of the Order as part of AMSA’s ongoing review of instruments. The structure of the Order has been changed and current legislative drafting style applied. When the Order commences, schedule 39 of *Marine Order 4 (Transitional Modifications) 2013* will cease to have effect because that schedule modifies the previous issue of this Order.”

Increased frequency of extreme Indian Ocean Dipole events due to greenhouse warming

The journal *Nature* published details of a study which [found](#) “... using an ensemble of climate models forced by a scenario of high greenhouse gas emissions (Representative Concentration Pathway 8.5), we project that the frequency of extreme pIOD events will increase by almost a factor of three, from one event every 17.3 years over the twentieth century to one event every 6.3 years over the twenty-first century.”

National Aquaculture Statement launched

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Senator Colbeck, [launched](#) the [National Aquaculture Statement](#), saying “This statement is the first step in fulfilling the Coalition’s commitment to work with industry to develop a national aquaculture strategy,” and “The Department of Agriculture will examine the existing marine pest biosecurity arrangements, assess the cost effectiveness of preventing and eradicating marine pests and seek expert recommendations to improve the current monitoring framework.”

Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Storage Dam, Hay Point, Qld – EPBC Act referral

The Department of the Environment [announced](#) an invitation for public comment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* for this proposal.

Tasmanian Giant Crab Fishery environmental assessment

The Department of the Environment [announced](#) “The current export approval for the Tasmanian Giant Crab Fishery is valid until 22 July 2014 and the fishery is now due for assessment for ongoing export accreditation. The Department of the Environment received an application, *Application to the Department of Environment on the Tasmanian Giant Crab Fishery*, from the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment in June 2014.”

Improved health and increased funding for Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef Report Card 2012 and 2013 was [released](#) by Federal Minister for the Environment Greg Hunt MP and Queensland Minister for the Environment and Heritage Protection Andrew Powell MP. They said it shows the efforts of farmers and graziers have made a real difference.

\$500,000 boost for dolphin research

The Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, [announced](#) “The Australian Government is delivering on a key election commitment to provide \$250,000 to both Sea World and Victoria’s Dolphin Research Institute for research into threats facing dolphins so that we can better manage these iconic species.” [Some cynical readers might feel that the money is more for buying favourable publicity than supporting dolphin research – Editor]

US to create marine preserve in Pacific Ocean

The Boston Globe [reported](#) “As part of the conference [a two-day “Our Ocean” conference, attended by world leaders and others from more than 80 countries], President Obama announced executive actions Tuesday [17 June] that the administration is taking to try to protect the oceans. The most far-reaching will expand protection of the central Pacific Ocean, making nearly 782,000 square miles off-limits from fishing, energy exploration, and other activities.”

Shipping system needs radical rethink warn climate experts

Researchers at The University of Manchester [said](#) “Avoiding dangerous levels of climate change requires a radical rethink of the shipping system, according to a new report ‘High Seas: High Stakes’ released today by scientists at the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research based at The University of Manchester. If global shipping is to make its fair contribution to avoiding the 2°C of warming associated with dangerous climate change, CO₂ emissions need to be cut within the next decade and fall by at least 80% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels, say the authors.”

Albany Port Maintenance Dredging - EPBC Act referral

The Department of the Environment [announced](#) an invitation for public comment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* for this proposal.

Australian Government welcomes UNESCO decision on the Great Barrier Reef

The Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, [announced](#) “The UNESCO World Heritage Committee has recognised the significant work and progress being made by the Australian and Queensland governments in managing and protecting the Great Barrier Reef. UNESCO started the consideration of the reef's health under the previous Labor government in June 2011. Since that time they have now formally recognised significant work and progress in reef protection. I am therefore pleased the Committee did not list the reef as a World Heritage site 'in danger' and acknowledged the significant work and progress.”

Western Australian Abalone Managed Fishery environmental assessment

The Department of the Environment [announced](#) “The current export approval for the Western Australian Abalone Managed Fishery is valid until 10 September 2014 and the fishery is now due for assessment for ongoing export accreditation. The Department of the Environment received an application, *Application to the Department of the Environment on the Western Australian Abalone Managed Fishery*, from the Western Australian Department of Fisheries in June 2014.”

Re-evaluating Antarctica's protected area system

The Australian Antarctic Division [announced](#) “Antarctica's suite of protected areas should be expanded to ensure it safeguards the continent's unique biodiversity, according to new Australian research. The research, published today [18 June] in *PLOS Biology*, found that only 1.5% of Antarctica's ice-free areas are formally designated as [Antarctic Specially Protected Areas](#) (ASPAs). It also found that the biodiversity protected by these ASPAs is at increased risk from introduced species, due to the proximity of human activity.”

Andrew Jackson awarded Antarctic medal for a lifetime of international policy work

The Australian Antarctic Division [announced](#) “An expert in Australian Antarctic policy has been awarded the 2014 Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition's (ANARE) Phillip Law Medal. Andrew Jackson received the award for his outstanding contribution to Antarctic affairs and the Antarctic community, particularly for his leadership and achievement in the field of international Antarctic Policy.”

Thank Ancient Ocean Currents We're Not In An Ice Age Right Now.

Science 2.0 [reported](#) “If your glass is half full, you recognize that in recent geological history, 90,000 of every 100,000 years have been ice ages, and it's been 12,000 years since the last one. In that light, global warming might be a good thing. But why 100,000 year cycles? It wasn't always the case. Ice-age cycles used to happen about every 41,000 years but then they became longer and more intense about 900,000 years ago. Researchers found that the deep ocean currents that move heat around the globe stalled or even stopped then, possibly due to expanding ice cover in the north.”

Ship breaking – international implications

In an event with international law, environmental and shipping implications, *The Maritime Executive* [reported](#) “Belgian authorities have released the Japanese owned car-carrier that has been sitting in detention at the port of Antwerp for nearly a month. After having been alerted by the NGO Shipbreaking Platform, a coalition of environmental, human rights and labor organizations, that the ship had been sold for scrapping in India, the Flemish Environment Ministry seized the end-of-life car carrier *Global Spirit*. The ship was allowed to leave the port of Antwerp for recycling in Turkey, a destination allowed under European waste law.”

White Paper on the Reform of the Federation

The Prime Minister, Mr Abbott, [released](#) the Terms of Reference for the White Paper on the Reform of the Federation, saying “We need to reduce and, if possible, end duplication and make interacting with government simpler. We need to clarify roles and responsibilities for States and Territories so that they are, as far as possible, sovereign in their own sphere.

The Commonwealth will continue to take a leadership role on issues of genuine national and strategic importance, but there should be less Commonwealth intervention in areas where States have primary responsibility.”

[This will obviously have implications in the maritime sphere, for shipping, ports, fishing, resource development, marine science and the environment, but readers might wonder whether Mr Abbott has considered that, in a nation of only 22 million people, one way to “end duplication” and “clarify roles and responsibilities” might be to eliminate the State and Territory level of government altogether? The first few paragraphs of the TOR seem to suggest that logic was leading the drafters that way – Editor.]

South African experiment to track trawlers' footprint

SouthAfrica.com [reported](#) “A pioneering experiment being conducted in the Atlantic Ocean 100 nautical miles off the west coast of South Africa will tell marine researchers from the University of Cape Town (UCT) how long the seabed and its ecosystem takes to recover after hake trawling operations.”

Report on containers lost at sea

In its annual survey [report](#), the World Shipping Council said “The survey of the years 2011, 2012 and 2013 estimates that there were approximately 733 containers lost at sea on average for each of these three years, not counting catastrophic events.”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Customs - Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Research Project

Dear Sir,

First, let me say that it is with regret that I hear about the closure of the Australian Association for Maritime Affairs (AAMA). I have been a member and supporter of AAMA since 2005, so it is really sad to see the closure of the Association.

I would like to thank you for all your efforts and for your significant personal contribution to AAMA, especially after taking the position of Chairman of AAMA. I also would like to express my compliments and those of my colleagues here at the Centre for Customs and Excise Studies (CCES), Charles Sturt University, to the AAMA Board and the Editorial Board of the Australian Journal of Maritime and Ocean Affairs (AJMOA) for their work and for the decision to keep AJMOA alive.

I also would like to take this opportunity to update you and the readers of the Digest on the outcomes of the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Research Project undertaken by CCES. You will recall that last year I wrote a Letter to the Editor about this project, which was subsequently published in the August 2013 issue of the Digest.

The project was designed to develop an industry position for presentation to Government on the various forms of AEO schemes that are in place, under development, or being considered by Australian agencies, including recommendations on how they may be progressed within Australia in order to guard against any possible erosion of the industry's competitive position in the global marketplace. The research project was completed in April 2014. A copy of the Final Report is available at:

<http://newcustomscentre.files.wordpress.com/2014/05/review-of-ao-schemes-final-report.pdf>

Two significant events impacted on the research project during the period of the study. First, the release of the 'Blueprint for Reform 2013-2018' by the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) and subsequent announcements by the ACBPS executive signalled the proposed introduction of some form of 'Trusted Trader' (AEO-like) program in Australia. Second, a momentous Trade Facilitation Agreement, which includes specific reference to trade facilitation measures for 'Authorized Operators', was settled by the members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its Ninth Ministerial Conference in Bali in December 2013.

CCES would like to thank those who provided assistance in completing the project, including representatives of the Australian International Trade and Transport Industry Development Fund, the Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia Inc., the Export Council of Australia, the Australian Federation of International Forwarders, the Conference of Asia Pacific Express Carriers, Shipping Australia Limited, the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Customs Trade Advisory Group, the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the World Customs Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Maritime Organization, IBM Australia Limited, Shooters Wholesale Warehouse Pty Ltd, Inland Trading Co (Aust) Pty Ltd, Aspen Medical Pty Ltd, Sanger Australia Pty Ltd, and all others who assisted with this study including those who participated in the industry focus groups and surveys.

Sincerely,

Dr Mikhail Kashubsky
Senior Lecturer
Centre for Customs and Excise Studies
Charles Sturt University

AMSA2014 CONFERENCE

INVESTIGATING OUR MARINE NATION

- Marine Habitat Mapping • The Land - Sea Boundary
- Marine Management and Policy • Marine Global Change
- Marine Outreach and Communication • Remote sensing and bio-optics



Dates to Note (Closing time is 11:59pm AEST)

On Registration

1 September 2013

30 November 2013

21 January 2014

21 January 2014

14 March 2014

14 April 2014

21 April 2014

30 April 2014

9 June 2014

6 July 2014

7 - 10 July 2014

Abstract Submission, Registration & Conference Dates

Book your accommodation. Don't miss out!

Call for Symposia OPENS

Call for Symposia CLOSED

Abstract Submission OPENS

Registration for the Conference OPENS.

Abstract Submission CLOSES

Authors notified of acceptance of abstracts

CLOSE of Earlybird Registration prices

Presenter registration CLOSES

CLOSE of Standard Registration prices.
No refunds for cancellations after this date,
but a substitute person can be nominated.

Exhibition Stand setup from 2pm

Registration and Poster Hanging at
National Convention Centre from 2pm – 4pm

Welcome Function – War Memorial
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

AMSA2013 Conference Sessions and
Social Events

Iconic Function Venues

Australian War Memorial

(Welcome Function)

Old Parliament House

(Conference Dinner)

Conference Venue

National Convention Centre - Canberra



7-11 July 2014 - Australian Marine Sciences Association Conference – Canberra

The conference theme is *Investigating our Marine Nation* with sub-themes of: Marine Habitat Mapping, The Land - Sea Boundary, Marine Management and Policy, Marine Global Change, and Marine Outreach and Communication

29-30 July 2014 - Defence and Industry Conference - Adelaide

The conference will bring together Defence officials and representatives of Defence Industry from across the country and around the world. To maximise affordability of the conference, a trade show will not be held in conjunction with the D+I Conference in 2014. For press release, click [here](#)

10-14 August 2014 - Intermediate Marina Management Course – Gold Coast, QLD

This four-day course is accredited by the [Global Marina Institute \(GMI\)](#) and is designed to provide marina personnel in a leadership position with fast-track training in the critical issues of marinas. It is also an essential course in a career path leading to the globally recognised [Certified Marina Manager](#), [Certified Marina Operator](#) and [Certified Marina Professional](#) qualifications. For details, e-mail education@marinas.net.au

12-14 August 2014 - “Enhancing Maritime Resource Security: A Cross-sectoral Dialogue for the Gulf of Thailand” - Singapore

The World Ocean Council and the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) are convening a workshop to enhance understanding and cooperation between industry, the coast guards, and related marine resource agencies from Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Malaysia. For details, click [here](#).

26-27 August 2014 - Dredging and Reclamation ANZ conference – Brisbane

This year's [Dredging & Reclamation Conference](#) will showcase a range of best practice case studies from major ports and port authorities, local councils, resources companies and consulting engineers with the aim of providing you with the take away strategies to overcome the challenges you face.

17-18 September 2014 - 10th Ballast Water Management Summit – Singapore

The 2014 event will provide you with real case studies of how shipowners have gone through the process of selection and integration of ballast water systems. For details, click [here](#)

22-26 September 2014 - Strategic Offshore Structure Engineering: Design, Construction, Installation, Inspection and Maintenance – Kuala Lumpur

Covering: up-to-date methods for performing a structural lifecycle analysis; implement maintenance plans for topsides and jackets, using non-destructive testing. For details, e-mail stella@yf-asia.com

24-25 September 2014 – NSW Transport Infrastructure Conference – Sydney

The conference will cover: Opportunities and Challenges within NSW's Transport Infrastructure Development Plans; Update on How Major Transport Projects are Optimising Economic Growth; and Attracting Investment and Overcoming Barriers to Funding Transport Projects. For details, click [here](#)

13-14 October 2014 – Intermanager AGM 2014 to run alongside ship management conference – Singapore

The AGM will be held on Monday October 13 followed by an evening reception for all participants. Then on Tuesday October 14 members will have the chance to attend the International Ship Owning and Ship Management Summit for a discounted rate. For initial details, click [here](#)

16-18 October 2014 - 3rd Annual World Congress of Ocean & Investment and Trade Fair-2014 – Dalian, China

To be held in the Dalian International Conference Center with the theme of “Blue Economy, Smart Development” For details, click [here](#)

22-23 October 2014 – Ship Recycling Summit – Singapore

[ACI's Ship Recycling Summit](#) will allow the key stakeholders: shipowners, brokers, cash buyers, steel merchants and ship breaking yards to come together in an informal setting to discuss the challenges that they each face in meeting the Hong Kong convention requirements and the challenges brought about by new EU regulation.

29-30 October 2014 - 11th Ballast Water Management Summit – Hamburg

[ACI's 11th Ballast Water Management Summit](#) will focus on helping the shipping industry understand the state of play with the compulsory introduction of expensive and complex Ballast Water Management Systems on Vessels.

27-31 October 2014 – Euronaval – Paris Le Bourget, France

Euronaval claims to be the world's leading trade show for naval defence and maritime security and safety. For details, click [here](#).

11-14 November 2014 – 23rd NSW Coastal Conference – Ulladulla NSW

The conference will consider the wide range of benefits the coast offers in underpinning social, economic, cultural and environmental values for everyone including Aboriginal communities, coastal communities, tourists, businesses, oyster farmers etc. There will be particular focus on linking research to management and on community participation in managing a sustainable coastline. Call for abstracts is now open. For details, click [here](#)

19-20 November 2014 - ACI's 9th Vessel Efficiency & Fuel Management Summit – Singapore

The conference will examine the performance enhancing options available to ship owners and ship managers for efficiency maximisation and increased profitability. Special focus will be put on how to increase the fleet's fuel optimisation rate, providing proven techniques as showcased by real case studies. For details, click [here](#)

19-20 November 2014 - OSV Singapore 2014

Owners and operators of Offshore Support Vessels in South East Asia are facing many challenges. Some are region-specific and some are universal. The bulk of the agenda will focus on achieving operational excellence, with topics including regulatory compliance, risk management, crew management and implementing new technologies. For details, click [here](#)

3-5 May 2015 – Marine15 recreational marine business and safety conference – Gold Coast

The conference program will again be structured with the three streams of boating business, boating safety and marinas. Press [statement](#)

6-8 October 2015 - Pacific International Maritime Exposition and PACIFIC 2015 – Sydney Exhibition Centre, Glebe Island

The next Pacific International Maritime Exposition and PACIFIC 2015 have been brought forward from the previously scheduled date of February 2016 and will be held in Sydney, Australia, on 6-8 October 2015 to coincide with Navy Week. The venue will be the Sydney Exhibition Centre @ Glebe Island. For details, click [here](#).