



Australian Maritime Digest

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– www.aama.asn.au – and published monthly for the benefit of the Australian maritime community.



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Contents

Editorial.....	3
Extraordinary General Meeting of the AAMA – 5 June 2014 - Reminder.....	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
Commission of Audit reports released.....	5
Successful search and rescue in Bougainville.....	5
MH370 Tripartite Meeting.....	5
NATO, Japan agree to cooperate more.....	5
A new force protecting Australia's borders.....	5
Next Pacific International Maritime Exposition and PACIFIC 2015 to be held on 6-8 October 2015.....	6
Forgacs to provide a Landing Craft to Tonga.....	6
Minister congratulates crew of HMAS Darwin on drug haul.....	6
Bathymetric survey to be carried out in the Southern Indian Ocean in the search for MH370.....	6
Exercise Bersama Shield 2014.....	6
HMAS Darwin intercepts another suspected drug smuggling vessel.....	6
Statement on Australian Customs and Border Protection Service integrity and professional standards.....	6
Skilling Australia's Defence Industry (SADI) grant applications.....	6
Public Accounts Committee Report 442 - Inquiry into the 2012-13 Defence Materiel Organisation Major Projects Report.....	6
MOL-owned LNG Carrier departs for Japan with first LNG cargo from PNG LNG Project.....	7
Number of US Navy ships to rise in Asia-Pacific.....	7
MH370 search: Missing Malaysia plane not where 'pings' heard, says Australia.....	7
72nd Anniversary of Sydney submarine attack and loss of HMAS Kuttabul.....	7
China Seas Developments – May.....	7
Operation Sovereign Borders updates – May.....	8
Shipping, Shipbuilding & Ports.....	8
Commission of Audit reports released.....	8
Ocean and Coastal Transportation in Canada.....	8
Vietnam changing its maritime laws.....	8
Port Hedland record monthly throughput in April.....	8
Winning bidder announced for Melbourne container port operator.....	8
AMSA consultation to streamline National System for Domestic Commercial Vessels and reduce red tape.....	8
Joint Baltic Sea collaboration between Ports of Stockholm and the Port of Tallinn.....	9
Tasmanian Freight Council calls for transparency on new shipping provider.....	9
Fall from the pilot ladder on the bulk carrier Atlantic Princess, Whyalla, South Australia on 3 July 2013.....	9
Findings of the Independent Review into the Port of Gladstone.....	9
Cost of Somali Piracy Has Halved To \$3bn.....	9
European Commissioner's speech - Removing the bottlenecks for sustainable investment in our seas.....	9
Deeper US Ports Backed by Congress as Panama Canal Expands.....	9
Mongolian sunken ship likely from Pyongyang.....	9
Maritime regulatory risks highlighted after incident in Sydney Harbour.....	9
Port Hedland facing \$100m a day strike threat.....	9
Coastal shipping is the way to go for India.....	10
Cutting Shipping Levy Will Save Industry \$9 Million a Year.....	10
New icebreaker to replace the Aurora Australis.....	10
Perth Freight Link: Improving Capacity to the Port of Fremantle.....	10
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Cost Recovery) Bill 2014.....	10
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Bilateral Agreement Implementation) Bill 2014.....	10
Senate Committee Inquiry into the above bills.....	10
Forgacs to provide a Landing Craft to Tonga.....	10
Draft Queensland bilateral agreement on environmental approvals released for public comment.....	10
Public comment called for on final stage for the One-Stop Shop in NSW for environmental approvals.....	10
Milestones in implementing the Government's One-Stop Shop environmental approval reform.....	11
What Happens to Shipping Containers Lost at Sea?.....	11
Amalgamation of southern WA ports a step closer.....	11
Update on threat to towage services at Port Hedland.....	11
Greek shipping fleet continues to expand.....	11
Indian inland shipping to get boost from "coastal baseline" relaxation.....	11
IMO's Committee on Maritime Safety 93rd Session.....	11
Marine Order 54 (Coastal pilotage) 2014.....	11

Marine Order 15 (Construction — fire protection, fire detection and fire extinction) 2014.....	11
Maritime union joins stand against privatisation of Gladstone and Townsville ports.....	12
New report makes shipping sustainability proposals.....	12
MOL-owned LNG Carrier departs for Japan with first LNG cargo from PNG LNG Project.....	12
China interested in setting up a trans-shipping partnership with Brazilian mining major Vale.....	12
Cost to shipping of emissions control areas' new limits.....	12
Melbourne port prices - new tariff schedule.....	12
World Shipping Outlook – May.....	12
UN, US & EU Sanctions on Iranian shipping – May developments.....	12

Fisheries.....13

Commission of Audit reports released.....	13
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Total Allowable Catch Determination 2014.....	13
Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery (Closures) Direction No. 1 2014.....	13
Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery (Closures) Direction No. 2 2014.....	13
Budget support for Australia's fisheries.....	13
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Amendment (Fishing Levy) Regulation 2014.....	13
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2014.....	13
Updated rules for fisheries Resource Assessment Groups (RAGs).....	13

Resource Exploration & Development13

Commission of Audit reports released.....	13
Ocean-bottom seismic improves resolution for offshore subsurface.....	13
Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment (Regulatory Powers and Other Measures) Bill 2014.....	13
Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Amendment Bill 2014.....	14
Migration Amendment (Offshore Resources Activity) Regulation 2014.....	14

Marine Science & Environment.....14

Commission of Audit reports released.....	14
Australian to lead Antarctic Environment Protection body.....	14
Strong progress recognised in draft UNESCO Great Barrier Reef decision.....	14
Findings of the Independent Review into the Port of Gladstone.....	14
European Commissioner's speech - Removing the bottlenecks for sustainable investment in our seas.....	14
Woods Hole's \$8M submersible lost to ocean depths off New Zealand.....	14
Pacific Ocean hot spot causing warming in the Arctic.....	15
Ocean Experiment Advances Wine Aging Process.....	15
Strong commitment to protecting the Great Barrier Reef.....	15
New icebreaker to replace the Aurora Australis.....	15
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Cost Recovery) Bill 2014.....	15
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Bilateral Agreement Implementation) Bill 2014.....	15
Senate Committee Inquiry into the above bills.....	15
Budget support for Australia's fisheries.....	15
Draft Queensland bilateral agreement on environmental approvals released for public comment.....	15
Public comment called for on final stage for the One-Stop Shop in NSW for environmental approvals.....	15
Milestones in implementing the Government's One-Stop Shop environmental approval reform.....	16
The effectiveness of coral reefs for coastal hazard risk reduction and adaptation.....	16
What Happens to Shipping Containers Lost at Sea?.....	16
Southern Ocean winds strongest in 1,000 years.....	16
3 Humpback Whale Subspecies Identified.....	16
New report makes shipping sustainability proposals.....	16
Abundance as important as rarity for biodiversity.....	16
Land management is the key to protecting the Great Barrier Reef.....	16
WA one step closer to a One-Stop Shop for environmental assessments.....	16
Cost to shipping of emissions control areas' new limits.....	16

Letters to the Editor.....18

Conferences & seminars.....18

7-11 June 2014 – World Aquaculture Conference – Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide.....	18
11-12 June 2014 - 12th ASEAN Ports & Shipping Conference – Jakarta, Indonesia.....	18
25-27 June 2014 - Advanced Structural Integrity Management for Offshore Installations including topside & FPSO – Singapore.....	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
13-14 October 2014 - Intermanager AGM 2014 to run alongside ship management conference – Singapore.....	19
16-18 October 2014 - 3rd Annual World Congress of Ocean & Investment and Trade Fair-2014 – Dalian, China.....	19
22-23 October 2014 – Ship Recycling Summit – Singapore.....	19
29-30 October 2014 - 11th Ballast Water Management Summit – Hamburg.....	19
27-31 October 2014 – Euronaval – Paris Le Bourget, France.....	19
11-14 November 2014 – 23rd 2014 NSW Coastal Conference – Ulladulla NSW.....	19
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

Extraordinary General Meeting of the AAMA – 5 June 2014 - Reminder

The Board of the Australian Association for Maritime Affairs (AAMA) gave notice on 1 May to all Members of the Association of an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held at:

17.30 on Thursday, 5 June 2014

at the offices of the
Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)
82 Northbourne Avenue
Braddon ACT 2612

to address a motion “*That this Extraordinary General Meeting of the Australian Association for Maritime Affairs agrees that the Association be wound up on 30 June 2014 and any remaining funds be donated to the Australian Marine Environment Protection Association.*”

AAMA Members who are able to attend should muster by the rear (Mort Street) entrance of the AMSA building by 17.30 to be admitted to the building. Interstate members who wish to participate may do so by telephone but need to advise admin@aama.asn.au by 2 June so that telephone reception facilities can be provided at the meeting.

Richard Griffiths
Board Member

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

With the likely winding up of the AAMA itself, 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

Papers submitted to admin@aama.asn.au will, of course, continue to be forwarded to Prof. Hayward by AAMA staff until that date.

Would readers please advise their colleagues of this change?

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CORPORATE SUPPORTERS



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Australasian Hydrographic Society
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Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)
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Australian Marine Environment Protection Association (AUSMEPA)
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Commonwealth Fisheries Association (CFA)
PO Box 9022, Deakin ACT 2600
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GW Marine Consultants Pty Ltd
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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.



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Commission of Audit reports released

The Commission of Audit [released](#) its [reports](#) on the scope for efficiency and productivity improvements across all areas of Commonwealth expenditure.

Successful search and rescue in Bougainville

Defence [reported](#) "A Royal Australian Air Force AP-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft has successfully located and helped rescue 15 people who were adrift at sea when their 'banana boat' lost power when travelling from Nissan Island to Buka Island in Bougainville."

MH370 Tripartite Meeting

The Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Truss, [announced](#) "Senior Ministers from Australia, Malaysia and China met today [5 May] to discuss the way forward for the new phase of the search for MH370. Australia's Deputy Prime Minister, the Honourable Warren Truss MP chaired the meeting with the Malaysian Minister of Defence and Acting Minister of Transport, Mr Hishamuddin Bin Tun Hussein and the Chinese Minister of Transport, Mr Yang Chuantang on the status of the search for MH370 and future plans for the search." [See also the [transcript](#) of the press conference – Editor]

NATO, Japan agree to cooperate more

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) "The U.S.-led NATO alliance and Japan, facing mounting security challenges in their respective neighborhoods, agreed Tuesday [6 May] to cooperate more." [Presumably this has implications beyond the China Seas disputes – Editor]

A new force protecting Australia's borders

In an [address](#) to the Lowy Institute, the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Mr Morrison, announced "sweeping new changes to how we protect and manage our borders, building on our success to date in stopping the boats." He said "That is why I am pleased to announce today that on July 1, 2015 we will establish the *Australian Border Force*, a single frontline operational border

agency, to enforce our customs and immigration laws and protect our border, as supported by the Commission of Audit. The *Australian Border Force* will be established as part of the Department of Immigration and Border Protection and bring together the people, capability and systems from across my portfolio that protect the border and facilitate the lawful passage of people and goods. The ABF will be led by a Commissioner, whose role will be enshrined in law and will report directly to me as Minister. The Commissioner will have the same standing as other heads of key national security related agencies, such as the Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police, the Chief of the Defence Force and the Director General of ASIO.” and “Our enforcement capability will be boosted, funding the establishment of a Strategic Border Command to monitor our border environment in real time. The Strategic Border Command will support effective decision-making, resource allocation and respond to border incidents as needed.”

See also the Minister's Budget [announcement](#) regarding new ships and facilities for the Australian Border Force.

Next Pacific International Maritime Exposition and PACIFIC 2015 to be held on 6-8 October 2015

Maritime Australia Limited (MAL) announced that the next [Pacific International Maritime Exposition](#) and the associated PACIFIC 2015, which had been scheduled for 2016, have now been brought forward to 6-8 October 2015. The venue will be the newly completed Sydney Exhibition Centre @ Glebe Island. MAL said “The change in dates from the traditional January-February timeslot is a result of the success of *PACIFIC 2013*, which was held in October 2013 to coincide with the Royal Australian Navy's Centenary celebrations and International Fleet Review on 4 October. In consultation with the Royal Australian Navy, the biennial Pacific International Maritime Exposition will in future coincide with Navy Week during the first week in October.”

Forgacs to provide a Landing Craft to Tonga

The Minister for Defence, Senator Johnston, [announced](#) “A contract worth almost \$5 million between the Defence Materiel Organisation and Newcastle-based shipbuilder Forgacs Engineering Pty Ltd, for the manufacture of a 30 metre Landing Craft Medium, to be gifted to the Kingdom of Tonga by the Australian Government has been welcomed by the Minister for Defence, Senator David Johnston.”

Minister congratulates crew of HMAS *Darwin* on drug haul

The Royal Australian Navy has intercepted a drug smuggling dhow off the coast of Somalia and seized 449 kilograms of heroin. Defence Minister David Johnston [congratulated](#) the crew of HMAS *Darwin* who performed the seizure, which had an estimated street value of \$132 million. [See also the Defence [statement](#).]

Bathymetric survey to be carried out in the Southern Indian Ocean in the search for MH370

The Star Online [Malaysia] [reported](#) “An extensive bathymetric survey of the areas provided by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau will be carried out in the Southern Indian Ocean in the new phase of the search for the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 plane. Acting Transport Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein (*pic*) said a team of hydrographic experts from Malaysia, China and Australia, met over the weekend and agreed that the survey was needed. “This survey will be conducted by the Chinese navy vessel *Zhu Kezhen*.”

Exercise Bersama Shield 2014

Defence [reported](#) “Military strength and diplomatic might will come together in Malaysia in the coming weeks during one of South East Asia's most significant regional exercises involving Australia and its regional security partners. Exercise Bersama Shield 2014 will see the Australian Defence Force join with the defence forces of New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore and the United Kingdom in a critical test of interoperability.” and “Royal Australian Navy vessels HMAS *Sheean* and HMAS *Sydney*, as well as two Royal Australian Air Force AP-3C Orions and a E-7A Wedgetail will participate in the exercise.”

HMAS *Darwin* intercepts another suspected drug smuggling vessel

Defence [reported](#) “HMAS *Darwin* has again intercepted a suspected drug smuggling vessel operating in international waters, seizing 786 kilograms of narcotics with an estimated street value of \$30 million. *Darwin*'s boarding parties boarded the suspicious dhow in the Arabian Sea and spent approximately 23 hours searching for and uncovering the drugs.”

Statement on Australian Customs and Border Protection Service integrity and professional standards

The CEO of the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS), Mr Pezzullo, made a [statement](#) to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee, updating his previous statement and updating the Committee on prosecution action against corrupt serving and former ACBPS officers, and other related activities, and commenting “Regrettably, in view of current and future operations which are known to me, these are NOT likely to be the last arrests and charges that we will see in relation to officers of the Service in the coming year.”

Skilling Australia's Defence Industry (SADI) grant applications

The Minister for Defence, Senator Johnston, [announced](#) the latest round of funding under the Skilling Australia's Defence Industry (SADI) initiative. The Minister said more than \$5 million in funding would be made available to industry in the 2014-15 financial year under round one of the SADI Program to boost the skills of workers in the defence industry sector. Applications for SADI 2014/15 Round One open Monday 26 May 2014. Applications close at 11.59pm (midnight) (AEST) Friday 20 June 2014. [For details, click [here](#).]

Public Accounts Committee Report 442 - Inquiry into the 2012-13 Defence Materiel Organisation Major Projects Report

The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA) tabled its [Report 442](#) into the Auditor-General's 2012-13 Defence Materiel Organisation Major Projects Report. The JCPAA made recommendations directed at:

- Improving the reporting of budget estimates and actual expenditure;

- Improving the line of sight between the Auditor-General's Major Projects Report (MPR), the Portfolio Budget Statements and Portfolio Budget Estimates Statements;
- Developing a more effective methodology for reporting sustainment activity and expenditure;
- Improving the reporting of slippage post Second Past Approval and acquisition type by approval date;
- Improving the assessment and reporting of statements relating to capability;
- Retaining the publication of project maturity scores until they are no longer required by the JCPAA; and
- Improving reporting on exited major projects.

MOL-owned LNG Carrier departs for Japan with first LNG cargo from PNG LNG Project

Mitsui O.S.K. Lines (MOL) [announced](#) that the LNG carrier *Spirit of Hela*, which is jointly owned by MOL and Itochu Corporation, has left Papua New Guinea carrying the first LNG cargo from the ExxonMobil-led PNG LNG Project. The PNG LNG Project is Papua New Guinea's first ever LNG project, and will provide long-term supply of gas to customers in Japan and other countries. The vessel loaded LNG at the Project's Marine Terminal, which is located near Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea. The first cargo will be delivered to Tokyo Electric Power Company. [And so the strategic maritime environment near Australia shifts yet again! - Editor]

Number of US Navy ships to rise in Asia-Pacific

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) "The [US] Navy will increase the number of ships deployed in the Asia-Pacific region over the next few years, the Chief of Naval Operations said Thursday [29 May]."

MH370 search: Missing Malaysia plane not where 'pings' heard, says Australia

LiveMint [India] [reported](#) "The search for a missing plane Malaysia Airlines MH370 suffered a further setback on Thursday [29 May] after Australia said wreckage from the aircraft was not on the seabed in the southern Indian Ocean area they had identified."

72nd Anniversary of Sydney submarine attack and loss of HMAS Kuttabul

The Assistant Minister for Defence, Mr Robert, [said](#) "Representatives from Japan, the United States, New Zealand, Britain and Australia attended a commemorative service at Garden Island, Sydney today to mark the 72nd anniversary of the sinking of HMAS *Kuttabul*."

China Seas Developments – May

WantChinaTimes [Taiwan] [reported](#) "A source from the US government said a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier could again be deployed to the Taiwan Strait if China establishes a second air defense identification zone (ADIZ), this time over the disputed South China Sea, to demonstrate the resolve of Washington to defend its security partner, our sister newspaper China Times reported on Apr. 29."

The South China Morning Post [Hong Kong] [reported](#) "China and Russia will stage a naval drill in the sensitive East China Sea at the end of this month, a move analysts say could be aimed at showing their displeasure over Washington's policies regarding the Diaoyu Islands and Ukraine."

ChannelNewsAsia [Singapore] [reported](#) "Japan is to stage amphibious landing drills in the East China Sea, coinciding with wargames Russia and China are holding near islands at the centre of a Tokyo-Beijing territorial row."

France24 [reported](#) "Vietnam on Monday [5 May] slammed China for "illegally" deploying a deep-water drilling rig into disputed waters of the South China Sea over the weekend."

The Nation [Pakistan] [reported](#) "Now the present government has been busy evolving a revolutionary plan to link hot water Pakistani ports to China and Central Asia through grand network of roads. In addition to that development of shipping industry in the country is also among the key sectors identified for development on highest international standards."

The US *Navy Times* [reported](#) "More than 5,000 U.S. and Filipino troops began two weeks of military exercises Monday [5 May] to prepare to jointly deal with any potential crisis in the Philippines, which is prone to natural disasters and has been locked in a dangerous territorial standoff with China."

The Star Online [Malaysia] [reported](#) "Vietnam said on Wednesday [7 May] a Chinese vessel intentionally rammed two of its ships in a part of the disputed South China Sea where Beijing has deployed a giant oil rig, sending tensions spiralling in the region."

The Diplomat [reported](#) "The Philippines Maritime Police apprehended a Chinese fishing boat in the South China Sea on Tuesday [6 May], an official from the police told media on Wednesday."

CNN [reported](#) "Tensions escalated in the South China Sea region this week after China, Vietnam and the Philippines were involved in a series of potentially explosive confrontations over disputed territory."

Mizzima News [Myanmar] [reported](#) "Surging maritime tensions dominated a meeting of Southeast Asian leaders on May 11 with Vietnam expected to call on its regional neighbours for support in its deepening territorial dispute with China." [The ASEAN meeting was being held, for the first time, in Myanmar – Editor]

The Hindu [reported](#) "China on Monday [12 May] said India "did not have to worry" about recent tensions in the South China Sea sparked by a stand-off between Chinese and Vietnamese vessels."

WantChinaTimes [Taiwan] [reported](#) "China is adopting very different approaches to disputes with Vietnam and the Philippines in the contested South China Sea, reports Duowei News, an outlet run by overseas Chinese."

Xinhua [reported](#) "An Australian expert told Xinhua Sunday [18 May] that China owns sovereignty over the location of its drilling operations that stoked Vietnam's opposition and anti-China violence. The rig that China is operating is 80 nautical miles from China's

Yongxing Island, which is indisputably an island under the regime of islands in the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and thus entitled to an Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) and continental shelf, said Sam Bateman, a senior fellow S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) of the Singapore-based Nanyang Technological University.”

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) “Two Chinese passenger ships were moored off a central Vietnamese port on Monday [19 May] preparing to evacuate Chinese workers following deadly rioting last week, officials said.”

Xinhua [editorialised](#) “From disrupting a Chinese company’s oil drilling operations to violence against foreign investors that has left two Chinese nationals dead, Vietnam has gone too far in its unfounded nationalism. With about three thousand Chinese already evacuated from the country, it’s time for Vietnam to pause and reflect on its unreasonable hyping of so-called “territorial disputes” and thus instigation of anti-Chinese sentiment. Vietnam will feel the pinch for its extreme behavior soon. China’s foreign ministry has announced that China will suspend some of its plans for bilateral exchanges with Vietnam in response to the deadly violence.”

NDTV [India] [reported](#) “About 200 protesters, many of them Vietnamese, staged an anti-China protest in Hong Kong on Sunday [25 May] over a sovereignty dispute in the South China Sea, in the first instance of such Vietnam-linked demonstrations so close to China.”

BusinessWorld Online [The Philippines] [reported](#) “Taiwan is building a \$100-million port next to an airstrip on the lone island it occupies in the disputed South China Sea, a move that is drawing hardly any flak from the most assertive player in the bitterly contested waters – China.”

The Philippine Star [reported](#) “China plans to build a \$5-billion artificial island envisioned to be a “super aircraft carrier” in the Spratlys within the Philippines’ 200-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ). The online news site Qianzhan.com reported that the No. 9 Design and Research Institute of China State Shipbuilding Corp. has come up with a proposed design of the artificial island being reclaimed from the sea in the Chinese-occupied Fiery Cross Reef, south of Mabini Reef (South Johnson Reef).”

The *Chicago Tribune* [reported](#) “A giant Chinese oil rig has finished its first round of drilling in South China Sea waters also claimed by Vietnam and moved to another site in the area, the rig’s operator, China Oilfield Services Ltd (COSL), said on Tuesday [27 May].”

Bloomberg *BusinessWeek* [reported](#) “Vietnam and China traded barbs over the sinking of a Vietnamese fishing boat, their most serious bilateral standoff since 2007 as China asserts its claims in the disputed South China Sea.”

ChannelNewsAsia [Singapore] [reported](#) “President Barack Obama warned on Wednesday [28 May] that the United States was ready to respond to China’s “aggression” toward its neighbours at sea, but said Washington should lead by example by ratifying a key treaty.”

The Peoples’ Daily [reported](#) “The increasingly aggressive and dangerous acts of Vietnamese vessels against Chinese oil drilling in the South China Sea resulted in an unfortunate accident on Monday [26 May], which bode ill for the already tense situation.”

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) “Japanese officials and journalists got a close-up look Friday at two RQ-4 Global Hawk unmanned surveillance planes — the first of their kind to fly out of a U.S. base in the country.” and [possibly even more significantly] “They will fly missions out of the base until October, according to U.S. Forces Japan commander Lt. Gen. Sam Angelella.”

Operation Sovereign Borders updates – May

The Minister for Immigration and Border Protection released these updates: [2 May](#), [9 May](#), [16 May](#), [23 May](#)

SHIPPING, SHIPBUILDING & PORTS

Commission of Audit reports released

The Commission of Audit [released](#) its [reports](#) on the scope for efficiency and productivity improvements across all areas of Commonwealth expenditure.

Ocean and Coastal Transportation in Canada

DigitalJournal [Canada] [reported](#) an Industry Market Research Report is now available from IBISWorld. “According to IBISWorld Industry Analyst Maksim Soshkin, “While operators still continued to lose revenue, demand for industry services stabilized in the years following the recession.” Rapid economic growth in emerging markets and the growing need for natural resources allowed Canadian shipping companies to benefit from the country’s dry and liquid-bulk exports.”

Vietnam changing its maritime laws

SeaShipNews [reported](#) “Vietnam is changing its maritime laws, introducing a new decree that will make it more difficult to enter the shipping business. Decree 30 recently promulgated comes into effect on July 1 this year, replacing a seven-year old law.”

Port Hedland record monthly throughput in April

The Port Hedland Port Authority (PHPA) [reported](#) the port has delivered a record monthly throughput of 35.3 million tonnes (Mt) in April, an increase of 33% from the same month in 2013.

Winning bidder announced for Melbourne container port operator

The Port of Melbourne Corporation [said](#) “Minister for Ports David Hodgett announced today that Victorian International Container Terminal Limited is the successful contract bidder to operate Melbourne’s third international container terminal at Webb Dock.”

AMSA consultation to streamline National System for Domestic Commercial Vessels and reduce red tape

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority’s Domestic Vessel Division [says](#) it will begin a thorough consultation process with domestic vessel operators, starting in Hervey Bay on Friday [9 May]. AMSA will run a series of consultation sessions across Australia to improve

the system and streamline elements of it to make it easier and cheaper for the industry to comply with domestic vessel safety requirements.

Joint Baltic Sea collaboration between Ports of Stockholm and the Port of Tallinn

The Port of Tallinn [announced](#) “Ports of Stockholm and Port of Tallinn signed an important agreement to work together to improve the environment in the Baltic Sea. The two ports will jointly focus on the provision of future fuels, the management of ship-generated waste and the supply of electricity to vessels in port.” [This follows the LNG agreement last month between five other European ports, including Rotterdam – Editor]

Tasmanian Freight Council calls for transparency on new shipping provider

ABC Rural [reported](#) “The Tasmanian Government is offering \$11 million per year, for three years, to help get an international freight route up and running. But while the Freight Logistics Council welcomes the move, Chair Steve Henty says the process must be open and transparent and whatever the outcome, it must meet the needs of all Tasmanian exporters.”

Fall from the pilot ladder on the bulk carrier *Atlantic Princess*, Whyalla, South Australia on 3 July 2013

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) [released](#) its report on this incident, which found “while *Atlantic Princess*’s pilot ladder had been rigged in accordance with the relevant international requirements, no further risk assessment was carried out for the personnel transfer. The investigation also found that the company’s safety management system provided no guidance relating to actions that should be taken when less experienced personnel were to use a pilot ladder to board or disembark the ship.”

Findings of the Independent Review into the Port of Gladstone

The Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, [released](#) the [report](#) of the independent review into the leaking bund wall incidents at the Port of Gladstone. He said “I am advised these issues affecting the bund wall have been resolved and do not present an ongoing threat to the environment.” and “I am also advised that the Department has already begun to address a number of the findings, including a significant increase in compliance monitoring staff numbers, a risk based model developed in collaboration with the CSIRO to better manage compliance resources and a review of all compliance and enforcement standard operating procedures to be completed by 30 June 2014.”

Cost of Somali Piracy Has Halved To \$3bn

InterManager [reported](#) “Somali piracy cost the global economy \$3.2bn in 2013, down nearly 50% on-year, according to the fourth annual Oceans Beyond Piracy report. Greater use of private maritime security companies and the international naval deployment in the region have led to a dramatic reduction in the number of successful attacks — not one large vessel was seized in 2013.”

European Commissioner's speech - Removing the bottlenecks for sustainable investment in our seas

The European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries gave this [speech](#) which, among other matters, said “The first thing we need to do to get ready is work on marine data. Our aim here is to create a map of the European seabed by 2020.” and “A second challenge is that maritime research efforts between EU countries are often not linked up. And we need to make the bridge between the results of research on one hand and the potential investors on the other, for innovation to come out of the lab and onto the market.” and “And third, we need a first-class labor market. For underwater technology, for state-of-the-art wind turbines, for the use of algae in cosmetics, we need trained engineers, biologists, welders. So we extended the EU's Erasmus programme to allow transnational partnerships among education, training and youth institutions.” [More details were contained in a [media release](#) – Editor]

Deeper US Ports Backed by Congress as Panama Canal Expands

Bloomberg [reported](#) “U.S. House and Senate negotiators reached agreement on a bill that would authorize deepening several U.S. ports ahead of the expansion of the Panama Canal and the bigger ships that will use it. The legislation -- the first such measure in seven years -- will include provisions that would let ports pay the costs of deepening harbors up front and then seek reimbursement from the government once the project is authorized by lawmakers. That could help facilities such as Port Everglades in **South Florida** reduce construction time by years.”

Mongolian sunken ship likely from Pyongyang

The *Korea Joongang Daily* [reported](#) “The Mongolia-flagged vessel that sank earlier this [sic] month in waters off South Korea while sailing from the North to China was owned by a company in Hong Kong, Seoul officials said, raising suspicion that the ship could be part of the regime’s attempt to evade UN sanctions banning any illicit trade of weapons, luxury goods or other related material. On April 4, the Grand Fortune 1, a 4,300-ton cargo ship flying the Mongolia state flag, sank in international waters off the coast of Yeosu in the southwestern part of South Korea.”

Maritime regulatory risks highlighted after incident in Sydney Harbour

[Reporting](#) on an incident in Sydney Harbour involving an international private motor yacht, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) said “Flag States and port administrations should consider the risks associated with operating a vessel when determining regulatory compliance requirements, rather than making such determinations based on the vessel’s mode (commercial or private) of operation.”

Port Hedland facing \$100m a day strike threat

The *Sydney Morning Herald* [reported](#) “Strike action could cripple Port Hedland, one of Australia's most important export ports, within 30 days. Tugboat workers aligned to the Maritime Union of Australia took a major step toward industrial action on Monday [12 May].” [There was no comment at that stage from the Port Hedland Port Authority, presumably because the tugs are contracted to BHP Billiton – Editor]

Coastal shipping is the way to go for India

The Hindu's BusinessLine [reported](#) "China moves one billion tonnes of coal, steel, grains and fertilisers through about 12,000 specially built coastal vessels. India has just about 140 such vessels, carrying 150 million tonnes of commodities, and accounting for 7 per cent of overall cargo movement" [and Australia has 32 ships *in total*? - Editor]

Cutting Shipping Levy Will Save Industry \$9 Million a Year

In a Budget statement, the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Mr Truss, [announced](#) "The Abbott Government will reduce the rate of the Protection of the Sea levy. The decision will take effect from 1 July 2014 and will save ships visiting Australian ports around \$9 million a year. Removing the 2010 hike in the levy on ships entering ports will ease the cost of doing business in Australia and will put downward pressure on prices for consumers." [Given the general thrust of the Budget to reduce the deficit, this is a victory of sorts for the shipping industry – Editor]

New icebreaker to replace the *Aurora Australis*

The Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, said in a Budget [announcement](#) "In a significant long term commitment to Tasmania and Antarctica, the Government has approved the process to procure a new icebreaker to replace the ageing *Aurora Australis*. This new icebreaker will be based in Hobart. A new icebreaker based in Hobart is part of the commitment of the Abbott Government to boost jobs and growth in Tasmania." and "The Government has also delivered on its [sic] election commitment of \$24 million over three years from 2014-15 for a new Antarctic Gateway Partnership between the Australian Antarctic Division, the University of Tasmania and the CSIRO to provide for collaborative larger scale scientific research. This money will be used to get scientists onto the ice and the Southern Ocean." [This was re-announced, with more technical details, in a [statement](#) on 19 May - Editor]

Perth Freight Link: Improving Capacity to the Port of Fremantle

In a Budget statement, the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Mr Truss, [announced](#) "The Abbott Government is delivering on its Economic Action Strategy to build a stronger and more prosperous Australia by committing to the Perth Freight Link, a high standard freight connection to Fremantle Port."

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Cost Recovery) Bill 2014

The Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, introduced this [bill](#), which allows for cost recovery for environmental impact assessments under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (Cth) (EPBC Act). The Bill allows for Regulations to be made setting fees for activities under the EPBC Act, provide for fee exemptions, waivers and refunds. The Bill also allows for cost recovery for the assessment and approval of action management plans submitted after the Minister has granted an approval under the EPBC Act.

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The Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, introduced this [bill](#), which amends the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (the EPBC Act) to facilitate the efficient and effective implementation of the Australian Government's one stop shop reform for environmental approvals. Commonwealth accreditation of State and Territory government processes for environmental approval will reduce duplication and create a single, faster approval process for regulatory activities under the EPBC Act while maintaining high environmental standards.

Senate Committee Inquiry into the above bills

On 15 May 2014, the Senate [referred](#) the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Bilateral Agreement Implementation) Bill 2014 [Provisions] and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Cost Recovery) Bill 2014 [Provisions] to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee for inquiry and report. Submissions closing date is **30 May 2014**. The reporting date is **23 June 2014**.

Forgacs to provide a Landing Craft to Tonga

The Minister for Defence, Senator Johnston, [announced](#) "A contract worth almost \$5 million between the Defence Materiel Organisation and Newcastle-based shipbuilder Forgacs Engineering Pty Ltd, for the manufacture of a 30 metre Landing Craft Medium, to be gifted to the Kingdom of Tonga by the Australian Government has been welcomed by the Minister for Defence, Senator David Johnston."

Draft Queensland bilateral agreement on environmental approvals released for public comment

The Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, [announced](#) "The Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt and the Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection Andrew Powell today [14 May] released a draft Queensland bilateral agreement on environmental approvals for public comment. Minister Hunt said this is a major step forward for the One-Stop Shop on environmental approvals." and "The draft approval bilateral agreement with Queensland is open for public comment until Friday 13th June. For further information see www.environment.gov.au/epbc/one-stop-shop

Public comment called for on final stage for the One-Stop Shop in NSW for environmental approvals

The Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, [announced](#) "The Federal Environment Minister, Greg Hunt, and the NSW Minister for Planning, Pru Goward, today [14 May] released a New South Wales draft bilateral agreement on environmental approvals for public comment." and "The draft approval bilateral agreement with NSW is open for public comment until Friday 13th June." [Details are available [here](#) – Editor]

Milestones in implementing the Government's One-Stop Shop environmental approval reform

The Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, provided further details, [saying](#) “In line with the One-Stop Shop policy, the Government is amending the EPBC Act to allow the Minister to accredit state and territory processes for approving projects involving the water trigger. The Australian Government remains responsible for ensuring that the objectives of national environment law are met and environmental standards are maintained.”

What Happens to Shipping Containers Lost at Sea?

LiveScience [reported](#) on a study published by researchers from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI), which found “Although the effects of one container may seem small, the thousands of shipping containers lost on the seafloor each year could eventually become a significant source of pollution for deep-sea ecosystems.”

Amalgamation of southern WA ports a step closer

The Esperance Express [reported](#) “The merger of the Esperance, Albany and Bunbury ports into the Southern Ports Authority has moved a step closer with the passing of the Ports Legislation Amendment Bill.”

Update on threat to towage services at Port Hedland

On 21 May, BHP Billiton issued a [statement](#) “BHP Billiton President Iron Ore, Jimmy Wilson, today expressed growing concern over possible industrial action by members of the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) at the Port of Port Hedland. Mr Wilson said any action by MUA members would have severe consequences for Australian exports and would damage the country’s international reputation, and its overall national interest.”

Greek shipping fleet continues to expand

CarbonPositive [reported](#) “In its latest annual review, the Union of Greek Shipowners (UGS), highlighted through the President's Mr. Theodore E. Veniamis' message, the ever so important role of the country's maritime industry's contribution to the economy, while also pointing out the growing numbers of the Hellenic-owned fleet, which has returned to the leading place in terms of its global share.”

Indian inland shipping to get boost from “coastal baseline” relaxation

The *Business Standard* [India] [reported](#) “Inland shipping will get a boost with the government relaxing the baseline for inland vessels which can now move deeper into the sea.” and “This will help inland waterways transport. Now inland vessels can venture into sea to offload cargo from large vessels directly and this in turn will bring huge operational cost saving for the trade,”

IMO’s Committee on Maritime Safety 93rd Session

InterManager [reported](#) the Committee held its 93rd Session (MSC 93) from Wednesday 14 through Friday 23 May 2014. 104 Member States attended the meeting. Subjects addressed included:

- amendments to SOLAS chapters II and XIII and a draft MSC resolution;
- amendments to the Fire Safety Systems (FSS) and Life-Saving Appliances (LSA) Codes;
- further work on “Guidelines for the Development of National Security Legislation”;
- goal based new ship construction standards [ie saying what needs to be achieved, rather than defining *how* to achieve it – Editor];
- responses to *Costa Concordia*;
- two new traffic separation schemes [one intended to avoid collisions with whales off Panama - Editor];
- *MOL Comfort* recommendations, including “Verification of the actual weight of container cargoes provided by the shipper be carried out”;
- Polar Code development;
- draft new SOLAS chapter XIV;
- International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes [IMSBC Code](#) implementation;
- draft MSC Circular on Guidance on entry into force of amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention;
- “Out of Specification” marine fuels; and
- “place of refuge” issues for ships in distress.

Marine Order 54 (Coastal pilotage) 2014

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority made this [Order](#), which “provides for licensing of pilotage providers and pilotage provider operations, provides for licensing of pilots and the performance of pilot duties, prescribes compulsory pilotage areas for Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the Navigation Act and for compulsory pilotage in those areas, and prescribes required information for applications for an exemption from the requirement to navigate with a pilot.”

Marine Order 15 (Construction — fire protection, fire detection and fire extinction) 2014

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority made this [Order](#), which “gives effect to Chapter II-2 of SOLAS and prescribes standards for fire protection, fire detection and fire extinction for vessels.”

Maritime union joins stand against privatisation of Gladstone and Townsville ports

The *Gladstone Observer* [reported](#) “The Maritime Union of Australia has signalled it will campaign against the privatisation of the ports of Gladstone and Townsville.”

New report makes shipping sustainability proposals

PhysOrg [reported](#) “a new report on sustainable shipping was presented to executives and other maritime stakeholders at European Maritime Day in Bremen. Among other contributors to the report, researchers from Chalmers and the University of Gothenburg propose several tangible measures to make EU shipping more sustainable.” and “Our report shows there are interesting technological solutions that can improve shipping environmental performance and reduce the sector's impact on climate – and that political measures and other incentives are required in order to put these changes into practice,”

MOL-owned LNG Carrier departs for Japan with first LNG cargo from PNG LNG Project

Mitsui O.S.K. Lines (MOL) [announced](#) that the LNG carrier *Spirit of Hela*, which is jointly owned by MOL and Itochu Corporation, has left Papua New Guinea carrying the first LNG cargo from the ExxonMobil-led PNG LNG Project. The PNG LNG Project is Papua New Guinea's first ever LNG project, and will provide long-term supply of gas to customers in Japan and other countries. The vessel loaded LNG at the Project's Marine Terminal, which is located near Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea. The first cargo will be delivered to Tokyo Electric Power Company.

China interested in setting up a trans-shipping partnership with Brazilian mining major Vale

The *Business Recorder* [Pakistan] [reported](#) “China is interested in setting up a partnership with Brazilian mining major Vale to move iron ore from its giant vessels on to smaller ones, as a ban on the big ships docking at Chinese ports continues, its ambassador to Brazil said on Monday [26 May].” [Sounds like a great way to reduce Vale's profits and/or its competitiveness – Editor]

Cost to shipping of emissions control areas' new limits

InterManager [reported](#) on a study which found “Switching to lower-sulphur burning fuel to comply with emissions control areas' new limits will boost transportation costs by \$29-\$49 per teu on transatlantic voyages, according to a report by Drewry Maritime Advisors. The cost increase, due to the introduction of marine gas oil and other factors, will run to about \$29 per teu for voyages between northern Europe and the US east coast. For voyages that extend to the US Gulf coast, the cost will be about \$20 more. Marine gas oil is running about \$300 higher per tonne than the price of heavy fuel oil.” [The cost increases for Australia's trade would, presumably, be at least as eye-watering – Editor]

Melbourne port prices - new tariff schedule

The Port of Melbourne Corporation (PoMC) [released](#) its 2014-15 Reference Tariff Schedule. Wharfage fees for loaded twenty-foot containers will increase by fifty cents and, reflecting a competitive environment and scrutiny of its own operational expenses in soft trading conditions, PoMC has limited overall price increases to less than 1%.

World Shipping Outlook – May

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

The Hindu's BusinessLine [reported](#) “[Indian] Shipping companies had to navigate a sedate freight market in the last three months after experiencing some spikes in the tanker and dry bulk rates during the December-January period.”

The Port of Los Angeles released its April 2014 containerized [cargo volumes](#). In April 2014, overall volumes increased 10.26 percent compared to April 2013. Total cargo for April was 706,036 Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs), the Port's busiest month since September 2013.

Reuters [reported](#) “Danish shipping and oil group A.P. Moller-Maersk reported first-quarter net profit above forecasts due to a doubling of profit at container shipping business Maersk Line and raised its outlook for the underlying result in 2014.”

Maersk itself [reported](#) “The Group delivered a satisfactory result for the first quarter. Net profit improved by 51% driven by all five business units except for Maersk Drilling, which delivered as expected in a quarter with two yard stays and intake of two new rigs. Maersk Oil continued production increase with Gryphon and El Merk returning to full production. APM Terminals increased volumes and Maersk Line was positively influenced by high utilisation and continued cost reductions. Also Services & Other Shipping delivered in line with expectations and overall, we can be satisfied with the progress made in Q1 towards our strategic ambitions,” says Group CEO Nils S. Andersen.”

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

Reuters [reported](#) “Global shipping lines are increasingly shying away from handling cargoes to Iran as restrictions on banking and insurance continue unabated, despite an interim agreement between Tehran and the West that called for limited sanctions relief.”

The *Business Standard* [India] [reported](#) “The Jawaharlal Nehru (JNPT) and [Kandla port](#) trusts are in discussion with the government of Iran for operating a multi-purpose terminal at the port of [Chabahar](#) on the Gulf of Oman, near Iran's border with Pakistan.”

FISHERIES

Commission of Audit reports released

The Commission of Audit [released](#) its [reports](#) on the scope for efficiency and productivity improvements across all areas of Commonwealth expenditure.

Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Total Allowable Catch Determination 2014

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) made this [determination](#), which determines the total allowable catch for both quota species - Commercial Scallop and Doughboy scallop - in the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery for the 2014 fishing year.

Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery (Closures) Direction No. 1 2014

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) made this [determination](#), which prohibits targeting mackerel icefish in any area of the fishery outside of the Heard Island Plateau as defined in the Schedule to the Direction.

Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery (Closures) Direction No. 2 2014

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) made this [determination](#), which prohibits fishing in waters between 12 and 13 nautical miles of the Heard Island and McDonald Islands.

Budget support for Australia's fisheries

The Minister for Agriculture, Mr Joyce, and his Parliamentary Secretary, Senator Colbeck, [announced](#) "An additional \$9 million has been allocated in the Budget for a range of measures including support for recreational and commercial fishing bodies, support for these groups to meet maritime standards, and a review of invasive marine pests."

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Amendment (Fishing Levy) Regulation 2014

The Governor-General made this [regulation](#), which "amends the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Regulations 1991 to authorise the Department of Agriculture to transfer funds collected from industry for research, development and extension in the 2013-14 financial year to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC)."

Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2014

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) made this [amendment](#), which "reduces the notification period from 28 days to 7 days, therefore allowing greater flexibility for industry by allowing concession holders to commence fishing 7 days after the setting of the TAC [Total Allowable Catch – Editor]."

Updated rules for fisheries Resource Assessment Groups (RAGs)

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) [said](#) "Resource Assessment Groups (RAGs) are important sources of scientific and other expert advice to the AFMA Commission and to AFMA as a whole" and "The policies and procedures which guide how RAGs perform their role are contained in *Fisheries Administration Paper 12-Resource Assessment Groups-Roles, Responsibilities and relationships with AFMA Commission, AFMA Management and Management Advisory Committees (FAP 12)*. AFMA has recently revised [FAP 12](#), after consulting stakeholders on proposed changes and consideration by the AFMA Commission."

RESOURCE EXPLORATION & DEVELOPMENT

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Ocean-bottom seismic improves resolution for offshore subsurface

Oil and Gas Journal [reported](#) "Streamer technology is not new, however, it has gone through many advances within the last 30 years. In 1980, 120 channels were considered advanced for a typical streamer run when shooting offshore [seismic](#). "Today, we see 10,000 channels towed behind a single boat," said David Monk, director, geophysics and distinguished advisor, [Apache Corp](#). Speaking May 5 at a panel discussion at the [Offshore Technology Conference](#) in Houston, Monk said, "In some cases, a single boat can tow up to 50,000 channels." Within the next 10 years, the industry will use up to 1 million channels in a single run."

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment (Regulatory Powers and Other Measures) Bill 2014

The Minister for Industry, Mr Macfarlane, introduced this [Bill](#). The purpose of the Bill is to make technical amendments to the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment (Compliance Measures) Act 2013* (the Compliance Measures No. 1 Act), and to the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (the OPGGS Act) as it will be amended by that Act and by the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment (Compliance Measures No. 2) Act 2013* (the Compliance Measures No. 2 Act), to ensure the effective commencement of pending amendments to the OPGGS Act relating to regulatory powers and enforcement measures. The Bill also inserts a regulation-making power into the OPGGS Act to provide for remittal and refund of annual titles administration levy in certain circumstances, and makes other minor policy and technical amendments to the OPGGS Act.

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Amendment Bill 2014

The Minister for Industry, Mr Macfarlane, introduced this [Bill](#). The purpose of the Bill is to amend the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Act 2003* (the Regulatory Levies Act) to take account of amendments to the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009* (the Environment Regulations) which enable an applicant for certain titles to submit an environment plan to the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA). The Bill also amends the Regulatory Levies Act to ensure annual titles administration levy is imposed on each anniversary of the commencement of the term of the title, even if the title continues in force beyond the nominal term for that kind of title and even if the title does not remain in force for the full year.

Migration Amendment (Offshore Resources Activity) Regulation 2014

The Governor-General made this [Regulation](#), which amends the *Migration Regulations 1994* to support the commencement of the *Migration Amendment (Offshore Resources Activity) Act 2013* (ORA Act). The amendments in the ORA Act will regulate foreign workers participating in offshore resources activities by bringing these persons into the migration zone and thereby requiring them to hold a visa under the Act. The Explanatory Statement says “In particular, the Regulation amends the Principal Regulations to:

- prescribe the maritime crew visa, the Subclass 400 (Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity)) visa and the Subclass 457 (Temporary Work (Skilled)) visa as visas which allow the holder to participate in, or support, an offshore resources activity as defined in subsection 9A of the Act;
- prescribe the permanent visas, the maritime crew visa, the Subclass 400 (Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity)) visa and the Subclass 457 (Temporary Work (Skilled)) visa where the holder is taken to travel to and enter Australia under subsection 9A(3) of the Act as visas that authorise the holder to enter Australia through a method other than at a port or on a pre-cleared flight; and
- provide that, rather than the visa ceasing after a certain period outlined in the Principal Regulations, a maritime crew visa will not cease where the vessel that the maritime crew visa holder is on has been imported under the Customs Act 1901 but not entered on the Australian International Shipping Register, if the maritime crew visa holder is participating in, or supporting, an offshore resources activity in relation to an area.”

MARINE SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

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Australian to lead Antarctic Environment Protection body

The Australian Antarctic Division [reported](#) “Australian Antarctic Division Senior Policy Adviser, Ewan McIvor, was elected Chair of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) at the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) in Brazil this week, the second time an Australian has been at the helm in its 17 year history”

Strong progress recognised in draft UNESCO Great Barrier Reef decision

Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, [said](#) “The draft [decision](#) [Page 102] released today [1 May] by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre welcomes the progress Australia is making in managing and protecting the Great Barrier Reef. This is a positive outcome for Australia and we can be proud of our achievements in protecting the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.”

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Woods Hole's \$8M submersible lost to ocean depths off New Zealand

The *Cape Cod Times* [reported](#) “An \$8 million unmanned research submersible from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution went missing Saturday [10 May] afternoon off the coast of New Zealand, scientists said. A portion of the submarine Nereus is believed to have imploded under pressure as great as 16,000 pounds per square inch while it was exploring the Kermadec Trench northwest of New

Zealand, according to a statement released by WHOI. The autonomous vehicle was 6.2 miles below the surface of the ocean when it disappeared.” [“Has it set off to join the search for MH370?”, some might wonder – Editor]

Pacific Ocean hot spot causing warming in the Arctic

The *ABC Online* [reported](#) “An international team of scientists has discovered a hot spot in the Pacific Ocean is partly responsible for global warming in the Arctic. The area, east of Papua New Guinea, is an unusually warm part of the ocean and is causing atmospheric changes, researchers say.”

Ocean Experiment Advances Wine Aging Process

In an article of profound importance to *Australian Maritime Digest* readers, the *Fort Mill Times* [South Carolina] [reported](#) “For the last 18 months, Mira Winery has been experimenting with a new process for aging wine that holds the potential to revolutionize the way the industry thinks about aging. To date, the experiment has been conducted in two phases, both 60 feet beneath the Charleston Harbor, where data is collected and then the wine is analyzed against the same wine aged on land.”

Strong commitment to protecting the Great Barrier Reef

The Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, said in a Budget [announcement](#) “The Abbott Government is protecting the Great Barrier Reef by delivering our election commitment to implement a Reef 2050 Plan. The Reef 2050 Plan includes a Long Term Sustainability Plan and the establishment of a new \$40 million Reef Trust to deliver important new projects to help protect this natural wonder of the world.” [What he didn't seem to say was the GBRMPA funding would be cut – Editor]

New icebreaker to replace the *Aurora Australis*

The Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, said in a Budget [announcement](#) “In a significant long term commitment to Tasmania and Antarctica, the Government has approved the process to procure a new icebreaker to replace the ageing *Aurora Australis*. This new icebreaker will be based in Hobart. A new icebreaker based in Hobart is part of the commitment of the Abbott Government to boost jobs and growth in Tasmania.” and “The Government has also delivered on its [sic] election commitment of \$24 million over three years from 2014-15 for a new Antarctic Gateway Partnership between the Australian Antarctic Division, the University of Tasmania and the CSIRO to provide for collaborative larger scale scientific research. This money will be used to get scientists onto the ice and the Southern Ocean.” [This was re-announced, with more technical details, in a [statement](#) on 19 May - Editor]

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The effectiveness of coral reefs for coastal hazard risk reduction and adaptation

An [article](#) in *Nature Communications* says "...coral reefs provide substantial protection against natural hazards by reducing wave energy by an average of 97%. Reef crests alone dissipate most of this energy (86%). There are 100 million or more people who may receive risk reduction benefits from reefs or bear hazard mitigation and adaptation costs if reefs are degraded."

What Happens to Shipping Containers Lost at Sea?

LiveScience [reported](#) on a study published by researchers from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI), which found "Although the effects of one container may seem small, the thousands of shipping containers lost on the seafloor each year could eventually become a significant source of pollution for deep-sea ecosystems."

Southern Ocean winds strongest in 1,000 years

The Business Recorder [Pakistan] quoted *Agence France-Presse* and [reported](#) "Winds in the wild Southern Ocean are blowing at their strongest in a millennia as climate change shifts weather patterns, leaving Antarctica colder and Australia facing more droughts, a study showed on May 12. Rising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere were strengthening the winds, already dubbed the "Roaring Forties" for their ferocity, and pushing them further south towards Antarctica, researchers from the Australian National University (ANU) said."

3 Humpback Whale Subspecies Identified

LiveScience [reported](#) "Humpback whale populations across the world may actually be separate subspecies, a new genetic study reveals. Though the expert swimmers make [the longest migrations](#) of any mammal, the subpopulations in the North Pacific, North Atlantic and the Southern Hemisphere oceans stick to separate routes."

New report makes shipping sustainability proposals

PhysOrg [reported](#) "a new report on sustainable shipping was presented to executives and other maritime stakeholders at European Maritime Day in Bremen. Among other contributors to the report, researchers from Chalmers and the University of Gothenburg propose several tangible measures to make EU shipping more sustainable." and "Our report shows there are interesting technological solutions that can improve shipping environmental performance and reduce the sector's impact on climate – and that political measures and other incentives are required in order to put these changes into practice,"

Abundance as important as rarity for biodiversity

The Australian Institute of Marine Science [said](#) it and a team of international researchers have published a study in the US *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)* that dismisses the 'Neutral Theory of Biodiversity'. The study is important as it shows that the really abundant species of plants and animals often offer the most ecosystem services, such as providing habitats for fishes, or keeping reefs clear of seaweed.

Land management is the key to protecting the Great Barrier Reef

The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) [said](#) "Scientists have published research this week in the international journal, *Marine Pollution Bulletin* that reinforces the need for improved land management practices in order to prevent unnecessary sediment runoff that is affecting the health of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR)." and "'The study shows that large river flood events have a large impact on water quality, reaching very far off the coast and lasting several months," said AIMS Research Program Leader, Dr Schaffelke."

WA one step closer to a One-Stop Shop for environmental assessments

The Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, [announced](#) "The Commonwealth and Western Australian Governments are today one step closer to streamlining environmental assessments with the release of a draft bilateral agreement to establish a One-Stop Shop." and "The draft assessment bilateral agreement is open for public comment until Friday 27 June 2014."

Cost to shipping of emissions control areas' new limits

InterManager [reported](#) on a study which found "Switching to lower-sulphur burning fuel to comply with emissions control areas' new limits will boost transportation costs by \$29-\$49 per teu on transatlantic voyages, according to a report by Drewry Maritime Advisors. The cost increase, due to the introduction of marine gas oil and other factors, will run to about \$29 per teu for voyages between northern Europe and the US east coast. For voyages that extend to the US Gulf coast, the cost will be about \$20 more. Marine gas oil is running about \$300 higher per tonne than the price of heavy fuel oil." [The cost increases for Australia's trade would, presumably, be at least as eye-watering - Editor]

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

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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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If you have comment to make on an article in a previous *Digest*, or if you wish to comment on a maritime issue that you think *should* be addressed, please e-mail news@aama.asn.au with “Letter to the Editor” in the subject field. Please keep your “letter” to 100-150 words and include hyperlinks to any supporting documentation.

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(ISSN 2201-7003)

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Contact the Editor, Richard Griffiths: news@aama.asn.au

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

7-11 June 2014 – World Aquaculture Conference – Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide

Australia is hosting World Aquaculture for the first time since 1999. This annual event will incorporate the biennial Australasian Aquaculture conference and trade show. Call for papers by 1 November 2013. For details, click [here](#)

11-12 June 2014 - 12th ASEAN Ports & Shipping Conference – Jakarta, Indonesia

There will be a two days Conference featuring **35** world-class senior executive speakers who will analyse latest global transport and logistics challenges and opportunities attended by a gathering of **500** senior executive harbour masters, harbour engineers, port engineers, maintenance supervisors and procurement decision makers together with leading shipping lines, shippers, cargo owners, importers / exporters, freight forwarders, logistics companies, ports, terminal operating companies, port equipment and services suppliers. For details, click [here](#)

25-27 June 2014 - Advanced Structural Integrity Management for Offshore Installations including topside & FPSO – Singapore

“It aims at providing practicing engineers with effective guidelines on how anomalies affect structural strength of the offshore facilities, how to assess the anomalies and fitness-for-purpose, how to apply fundamentals to practical structures and solve the actual problems in your offshore field.” For details, e-mail stella@yf-asia.com.

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](#)

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 2014 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](#).

**There is no charge for entries under
“CONFERENCES & SEMINARS”
Email details to news@aama.asn.au**

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