



Australian Maritime Digest

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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

Message from the AAMA Board

The Board has become increasingly concerned about the ability of the Association to continue to fulfil its roles, due to financial pressures. For too long we have operated with too small an income for what we have to do, and relied on disproportionate funding from too few sources. All AAMA Members will be aware of the current financial pressures, particularly on government agencies.

The AAMA seeks to raise awareness of, and demonstrate any links between, the full range of maritime issues that affect Australia, rather than confining its own activities to just a few. That means the Association should also be looking at a wide range of sources of funding and so the Board seeks the support and advice of all the AAMA's Members with regard to the Association's Members' journal, the *Australian Maritime Digest*.

What you can do:

- Let us know whether you can arrange a Corporate Supporter for the AAMA, with associated recognition in the Digest and on our website, for \$490 pa (or a larger donation, if possible).
- Have your organisation take out paid advertising in the Digest.
- Let us know the value of the Digest to your work, in the form of a testimonial, or tell us how much you think that a subscription to an equivalent publication would normally cost.
- Encourage colleagues and contacts to take out their own subscriptions to the Digest.

While the publication and distribution of the *Australian Journal of Maritime and Ocean Affairs* is secure due to the new arrangements with Taylor & Francis, the Board considers that it has only a couple of months before it must decide whether the AAMA itself and the *Australian Maritime Digest* can continue operating into 2014-15.

As an indication of how serious the Board considers the AAMA's situation to be, it recently decided that any new subscribers to the Digest between now and 30 June 2014 will not be charged, due to the administrative complexities. They will receive the e-mailed Digest to 30 June, but just pay their 2014-15 membership due on 1 July *if the Board is satisfied by then that the Association can continue to operate*.

Please contact news@aama.asn.au with your suggestions and ideas so that the AAMA Board can consider them before its next meeting on 20 March.

Richard Griffiths
for AAMA Board

[The above message from the AAMA Board was e-mailed to all *Digest* subscribers on 17 February, but is included here for the record and for the benefit of those readers who have their *Digest* forwarded to them via a third party.]

First fruits - reducing duplication of maritime environmental regulation

The making of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Legislation Amendment (Environment Measures) Regulation 2014* seems to be the first discernible measure to reduce the duplication of maritime environmental regulation. Offshore petroleum was probably the easiest place to start the work as it is under Commonwealth control, out of sight over the horizon, and involves dealing with just one industry, whereas, for example, a port development to support a mining project might involve the above plus: State and local governments and their planners; transport authorities, other industries (some of them competitors); port authorities (ditto); and lots of interested members of the public, to name but a few.

The associated but more general House of Reps [inquiry](#) into environmental 'green tape' is likely to take a while to achieve results, but even the longest journey starts with the first step so we should be pleased that this journey has, at last, started.

(If any reader has any technical comments on, or concerns about, the new offshore petroleum regulation, please e-mail your Letter to the Editor – news@aama.asn.au)

DISCLAIMER

Views expressed in the *Australian Maritime Digest*
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ABC Statement – Asylum seeker claims

The ABC [said](#) “This is an important story and the ABC makes no apologies for covering it. In the course of carrying out its work, the ABC’s own reporting has come under criticism. It is important to be clear about how we have gone about covering this story.” and later “The ABC reported that the video and the version of events given by the police [seemed to back up the claims of mistreatment made by asylum seekers](#). However, Scott and Torney now say "wording around the ABC's initial reporting needed to be more precise on that point".”

Indian Ocean naval forum to take in more members

The Hindu [reported](#) “The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), a regional forum of maritime forces formed at the insistence of the Indian Navy, will open up in phases to more members and accord observer status to some others once its charter of business is firmed up, probably at its meeting in Australia next month [March].”

Government announces intention to handover patrol vessels to Malaysia

“Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, the Hon Scott Morrison, [announced](#) today [6 Feb] the Australian Government has the intention to handover two retired Australian Customs and Border Protection *Bay Class* vessels to Malaysia by mid-2015 to assist in countering maritime people smuggling in the region. 'Australia and Malaysia have cooperated closely to combat people smuggling. Providing two *Bay Class* vessels to our valued partners is a practical operational strategy to stem this criminal trade,' Minister Morrison said.”

Landing Helicopter Dock Ship arrives in Melbourne

Australia's second and final Landing Helicopter Dock Ship arrived in Port Phillip Bay, Melbourne, today [7 Feb], completing its voyage from Ferrol, Spain. Minister for Defence David Johnston [said](#) the second LHD (to be known as HMAS *Adelaide* once commissioned) was transported from Spain to Australia by a Heavy Lift Ship, *Blue Marlin*.

Celebrating 100 years of Australian submarines

Celebrations to mark the centenary of Australian submarines were officially [launched](#) by Defence Minister Senator David Johnston in Darling Harbour. Senator Johnston said submarines and submariners had played a vital role in Australia's naval history since the arrival of our first two submarines AE1 and AE2 in 1914, just three months before the outbreak of WW1.

HMAS *Melbourne* seizes estimated \$AUS706 million of drugs in Middle East

Defence [announced](#) "HMAS *Melbourne* has seized and destroyed hundreds of kilograms of what is believed to be heroin with an estimated street value of \$706 million Australian dollars. A total of 353 kilograms of the substance were uncovered during a boarding operation on a suspected drug smuggling vessel off the coast of Tanzania on 5 February 2014."

50th anniversary of *Voyager* disaster commemorated

Defence [announced](#) "A commemorative ceremony was held today onboard HMAS *Choules* over the resting place of HMAS *Voyager* (II) to mark the 50th anniversary of Australia's worst peacetime military tragedy. Over 200 guests, including members of the HMAS *Voyager* Survivors Association, next of kin and survivors joined the Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, AO CSC RAN, and other naval personnel at the wreath laying service and cast 82 sprigs of rosemary overboard to represent the number of lives lost when the destroyer sunk [sic]." [Some might wish they would stop the use of numerals with ships' names; the date of the event should identify the particular version of the ship and everyone is really going to have to brush up on their Roman numerals if the RAN survives another couple of hundred years – Editor]

HMAS *Melbourne* seizes another major drug haul in Middle East

Defence [announced](#) "The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) frigate HMAS *Melbourne* has seized and destroyed over half a tonne of heroin with an estimated street value of \$AUS1.086 billion, in just 48 hours. On 7 February 2014, HMAS *Melbourne* made her second successful seizure of narcotics during a boarding operation on a suspected drug smuggling vessel off the coast of Tanzania. The boarding party located and seized 190 kilograms of heroin." [Presumably they mean HMAS *Melbourne* (III)? - Editor]

Thales signs support contract for the RN's Sonar 2050 anti-submarine sensor

Thales [announced](#) "Thales has signed a five-year contract with the UK's Ministry of Defence to provide support for the Sonar 2050 anti-submarine sensor used on the Royal Navy's Type 23 frigate fleet. Sonar 2050 is a medium-range bow sonar currently fitted to thirteen Type 23 frigates and is the Royal Navy's primary hull-mounted anti-submarine warfare sensor. It also provides the ship with passive detection capabilities at lower frequencies."

Minister recognises courage of Customs and Border Protection officers at sea

The Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, the Hon Scott Morrison, [presented](#) an award for bravery to Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) officers tonight at the Inaugural ACBPS CEO Awards held at Parliament House. Minister Morrison conferred the Minister's Commendation Award to the Crew of the Australian Customs Vessel Triton for their efforts during a Search and Rescue operation at sea on 12 July 2013.

Australian and Pakistani warships work together to seize large quantity of cannabis resin

Defence [announced](#) "Royal Australian Navy Frigate HMAS *Melbourne* and Pakistani Naval Ship (PNS) *Alamgir* have worked together to seize and destroy almost 2-tonnes of suspected cannabis resin with an estimated Australian street value of approximately \$AUD 113 million. PNS *Alamgir* located the suspect dhow east of Masriah Island, Oman early on 12 February 2014."

Joint Review of Positioning of Vessels Engaged in Operation Sovereign Borders is completed

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) [said](#) "The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) and the Australian Defence Force (ADF) have completed a Joint Review into the actions of ADF and ACBPS, including Border Protection Command, in relation to Australian vessels which entered Indonesian waters."

WWII Darwin Bombing Shipwreck Protected

The Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, [announced](#) "On the 72nd anniversary of the bombing of Darwin, the Government has declared the World War Two United States Army Transport (USAT) vessel *Don Isidro*, as a protected historic shipwreck."

P-8A Poseidon Aircraft to boost Australia's maritime surveillance capabilities

The Minister for Defence, Senator Johnston, [announced](#) "The Government has approved the acquisition of eight P-8A Poseidon maritime surveillance aircraft. These state-of-the-art aircraft will dramatically boost Australia's ability to monitor its maritime approaches and patrol over 2.5 million square kilometres of our marine jurisdiction – an area equating to nearly 4 per cent of the world's oceans. The first aircraft will be delivered in 2017, with all eight aircraft fully operational by 2021. The Government has also approved an option for a further four aircraft subject to the outcomes of the Defence White Paper review."

HMAS *Childers* returns from Indian Ocean deployment

Defence [announced](#) “The Royal Australian Navy’s (RAN) HMAS *Childers* has arrived in Darwin after participating in Milan 2014, the biannual international naval event hosted by the Indian Navy in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from 5–9 February 2014.”

HMAS *Melbourne* leaves the Middle East after \$1 billion in drug seizures

Defence [announced](#) “The Royal Australian Navy frigate HMAS *Melbourne* has ended a highly successful deployment to the Middle East, handing over to HMAS *Darwin* responsibility for security operations for Operation SLIPPER.”

US DoD budget to lay-up 11 cruisers but keep all flattops

The US *Navy Times* [reported](#) “The Navy is advancing a plan to temporarily lay-up half of its cruisers, freeing crews to plus-up other hulls and dollars to build new ships and subs, according to a budget outlined Monday by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel. The plan would place 11 cruisers in a “reduced operating status” until they receive their modernization, which upgrades their combat systems and extends their service life.”

Review of the Air Warfare Destroyer Program

The Minister for Finance, Senator Cormann, and the Minister for Defence, Senator Johnston, [said](#) “In December 2013 the Government announced its intention to investigate issues within the Air Warfare Destroyer (AWD) Program through a review. The issues associated with this important program have been widely reported and are part of the legacy of unresolved issues which we have inherited from Labor. Today [25 Feb] the Government is pleased to announce that an independent review will be jointly conducted by former United States Secretary of Navy, Professor Don Winter, and former Transfield chief, Dr John White.” and “We expect that the outcomes of the review will be presented to Government for consideration around mid-year.”

Essington Lewis Trophy for the Major Company/DMO Project Team of the Year awarded

The Minister for Defence, Senator Johnston, [announced](#) “A team working to improve missile defence for the Australian Defence Force (ADF) has, for the second time, claimed the major title in the Australian Defence Magazine (ADM) Team of the Year Awards.” and “The Anti-Ship Missile Defence (ASMD) project office in conjunction with BAE Systems, Saab Systems and CEA Technologies won the Essington Lewis Trophy for the Major Company/DMO Project Team of the Year.”

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service – CEO statement about anti-corruption measures

The CEO of the ACBPS made a [statement](#) to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee on actions being undertaken to eliminate corruption within the Service.

2 Indian navy sailors missing after sub mishap

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) “Two Indian navy sailors were missing and seven others hospitalized Wednesday [26 Feb] after being overcome by smoke on board a diesel-powered submarine during a training exercise off Mumbai’s coast, an official said.” *Stars and Stripes* later [reported](#) “Rescuers found the bodies of two Indian navy officers inside a submarine Thursday after an accident occurred on the vessel during a training exercise at sea, an official said.”

Fire onboard Royal Australian Navy submarine HMAS *Waller*

Defence [announced](#) “This afternoon [27 Feb] HMAS *Waller*, one of the Royal Australian Navy’s submarines, experienced a fire while on the surface off the West Australian coast. Emergency response actions were taken to extinguish the fire. There were no casualties. As a precaution, four members of the ship’s crew who were involved in the response to the fire have been landed for observation.”

China Seas Developments – February

The *Taipei Times* (and other SE Asia media) [reported](#) “China is considering declaring a new air defense identification zone over the South China Sea, according to a Japanese [*Asahi Shimbun*] report yesterday, a move likely to fan tensions in an area riven by territorial disputes.”

The *China Post* [Taiwan] [reported](#) “The United States warned China on Friday [31 Jan] against any move to declare a new air defense zone over parts of the South China Sea including disputed islands.”

The *South China Morning Post* [reported](#) “China is unlikely to set up an air defence identification zone (ADIZ) in the South China Sea in the near future, mainland experts say.”

The US *Navy Times* [reported](#) “The chief of U.S. intelligence said Tuesday [4 Feb] China’s aggressive pursuit of territorial claims in the seas of East Asia is driven by a sense of historical destiny and is causing great concern among countries in the region.”

The *New York Times* [reported](#) “President Benigno S. Aquino III called on Tuesday [4 Feb] for nations around the world to do more to support the Philippines in resisting China’s assertive claims to the seas near his country, drawing a comparison to the West’s failure to support Czechoslovakia against Hitler’s demands for Czech land in 1938.”

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) “Chinese aircraft carriers won’t be able to compete with the combat power of the U.S. Navy any time soon, but experts say that won’t be obvious to many people when the great ships start to exercise, make port calls and respond to natural disasters in the Pacific.”

rappler.com [The Philippines] [reported](#) “The Philippine Navy announced it is recruiting at least 4,000 new members in the next 2 years. The recruitment is meant to address “personnel deficiency” in the Philippine Navy at a time when the country is engaged in volatile maritime disputes in the West Philippines Sea (South China Sea). The navy has a current strength of 20,000.”

The US *Navy Times* [reported](#) “Three San Diego-based ships are scheduled to shift homeport to Sasebo, Japan, in the next year as part of the Navy’s refocus on the Pacific.

The Brookings Institution [said](#) “For the first time, the United States government has come out publicly with an explicit statement that the so-called “nine-dash line,” which the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and Taiwan assert delineates their claims in the South China Sea, is contrary to international law.”

WantChinaTimes [Taiwan] [reported](#) “A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Saturday [8 Feb] that China’s maritime rights in the South China Sea are formed by history and protected by the international law.”

Platts [reported](#) “First production from Liwan, China’s first deepwater gas project in the South China Sea, is expected soon following weather-related delays over the last two months, operator Husky Energy said in its fourth-quarter earnings call Wednesday [12 Feb].”

InterAkson.com [Philippines] [reported](#) “The United States will come to the aid of the Philippines in the event of conflict with China over disputed waters in the South China Sea, the commander of the US Navy said on Thursday [13 Feb].” [Heavily qualified, in fact – Editor]

The Standard [Hong Kong] [reported](#) “US President Barack Obama will seek to ease questions over the staying power of his strategic shift to increasingly tense East Asia in April with stops in Japan, Malaysia, Philippines and South Korea. But he will skip China. The White House did not give exact dates, other than saying it would take place in late April, AFP reports.”

ecns.cn [reported](#) “Beijing on Friday [14 Feb] urged Washington to respect historical facts and not take sides on territorial disputes in the East China Sea and South China Sea, as US Secretary of State John Kerry met Chinese leaders. Foreign Minister Wang Yi told Kerry that Beijing is committed to peacefully settling the disputes through consultations.”

WantChinaTimes [reported](#) “Ronald O’Rourke, a specialist in naval affairs, has claimed in a report to the US Congress that China’s navy has better capability to carry out an anti-access or area-denial strategy than the Soviet Union during the Cold War, while the Pentagon has said the PLA Navy still has two major weaknesses to overcome, reports the Hong Kong-based *Ta Kung Pao*.”

The People’s Daily [reported](#) “The China’s navy has smoothly completed its first formal blue water training mission of 2014. During the training, the formation crossed a series of rarely-crossed straits. When interviewed by a reporter, Major General Yin Zhuo said that all naval forces pay close attention to the crossing of straits by their own or other navies, and China’s blue water training has been monitored by other countries.”

The Asahi Shimbun [reported](#) “China took part for the first time in the largest joint military training exercise in Southeast Asia, though its engagement was limited to humanitarian endeavors.”

The *Chicago Tribune* [reported](#) “The Philippines is to acquire a squadron of FA-50 fighters from South Korea in a deal worth \$422 million (18.9 billion pesos), a senior Philippine defense official said on Friday, boosting its capability as tension simmers in the South China Sea.”

The Diplomat [reported](#) “The establishment of another ADIZ over the South China Sea is necessary for China’s long-term national interest,” Senior Colonel Li Jie, a researcher at the PLA Navy’s Military Academy and frequent media commentator, said on Friday [21 Feb], [according to a report in Reuters](#).”

The *People’s Daily* [reported](#) “China is building a national think tank on South China Sea research to boost the country’s maritime power strategy and deal with looming maritime disputes. Established in October 2012, the Collaborative Innovation Center for South China Sea Studies, based at Nanjing University in Jiangsu province, is among the 14 national-level research projects prioritized and supported by the government since 2011. Hong Yinxing, chairman of the board for the center, said it was established to meet the country’s strategic demand to safeguard maritime rights and interests, develop resources and energy, and promote regional peace and development.”

The Peninsular [Qatar] [reported](#) “The Philippines’ military chief yesterday accused China’s coast guard of firing water cannon at Filipino fishermen for the first time to drive them away from a disputed sea shoal. General Emmanuel Bautista said Chinese vessels fired cannon on January 27 near Scarborough Shoal -- the subject of a bitter territorial row in the strategically important South China Sea.”

WantChinaTimes [Taiwan] [reported](#) “Four female coastguards have been posted to Taiping Island, the largest island of the Spratlys in the South China Sea, after Taiwan’s government raised the allowance for troops stationed at islands off mainland Taiwan to NT\$20,000 (US\$660).” [I am *not* making this stuff up! All sides seem to be trying to *exacerbate* the problems - Editor]

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) “The Philippines has said it will send its troops to a disputed shoal in the South China Sea if China uses force to drive away Filipinos fishing in waters there. General Emmanuel Bautista, head of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), issued this warning yesterday in response to reports that ships from China’s Coast Guard used water cannon to drive away Filipinos fishing in areas around Scarborough Shoal on January 27.”

Antara News Agency [Indonesia] [reported](#) “Indonesia hopes that China will be patient over the South China Sea issue to maintain stability, peace and mutual welfare in the region. “I am sure China’s principle is to maintain mutual harmony. While Indonesia, particularly the Indonesian Military, believes that China can be more patient in resolving the South China Sea issue,” the Commander of Indonesia Military General Moeldoko stated here [Beijing], on Wednesday [26 Feb].”

The China Post [Taiwan] [reported](#) “China on Wednesday [26 Feb] accused the Philippines of “deliberate provocations” over an incident in disputed waters in the South China Sea that drew a protest from Manila about what it called Chinese ships’ use of a water cannon on Filipino fishermen.”

Covering a recent conference, *Stars and Stripes* [reported](#) “It is a sign of the times that delegates here talked openly about the danger of war in the Pacific. That’s a big change from the tone of similar gatherings just a few years ago, when Chinese officials often tried to

reassure foreign experts that a rising China wasn't on a collision course with the U.S. or regional powers. Now, in the East and South China seas, the collision seems all too possible."

Operation Sovereign Borders updates – February

The Minister for Immigration and Border Protection released these updates: [7 Feb](#), [14 Feb](#), [21 Feb](#), [28 Feb](#)

SHIPPING, SHIPBUILDING & PORTS

Abbot Point Dredging – Greenpeace response

Greenpeace [said](#) "The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's approval for dumping of dredge spoil at Abbot Point is a blow for the Reef, but the campaign doesn't end here! Conditions on the approval mean dredging is unlikely to start until 2015, giving us time to pressure the true villains behind the dredging plans – like multinational coal company Adani Mining."

City of Adelaide arrives home

The Department of Agriculture [reported](#) "The world's oldest clipper ship, the City of Adelaide, finished its long journey home from Scotland today [31 Jan] with the help of Australian biosecurity officers."

New Safe Shipping and Rapid Response Contracts for Far North Queensland

The Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Warren Truss, [said](#) "Two new contracts entered into by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) will help ensure safe shipping around the Australian coast and a swift response to any maritime environmental emergency in Far North Queensland's sensitive sea areas." and "An open tender process that commenced in April and concluded today [5 Feb] attracted numerous responses of a very high standard. Both contracts have been awarded to Australian Maritime Systems Limited (AMS)." The associated AMSA statement can be read [here](#).

COAG Final Report on Regulatory Reform released

The COAG Reform Council's [final report](#) on measures "to implement a suite of competition and regulatory reforms to enhance national productivity and prosperity" was released. It covers maritime industry regulatory reform issues including the oil and gas industries, maritime safety, and ports infrastructure. With regard to maritime safety, the report says: "The national maritime safety regime started on 1 July 2013 in all jurisdictions. Queensland and Western Australia have not finalised their arrangements but are applying the national laws." With regard to ports infrastructure, it says "All governments other than Western Australia and the Northern Territory have completed this reform."

Coal producers granted interim authorisation for collective negotiations with Gladstone Ports

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) [says](#) it "has granted interim authorisation for the RG Tanna Coal Export Terminal Producers to collectively negotiate with Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC). The applicants wish to negotiate collectively with GPC in relation to the terms and conditions of new coal handling and port services agreements at Gladstone Port in Queensland."

LPG Shipping Surge Seen Extended Amid Signs of Panama Delay

Bloomberg [reported](#) "Delays to the \$5.25 billion expansion of the [Panama](#) Canal may extend a surge in rates for vessels hauling liquefied petroleum gas to Asia from the U.S., a shipping company and industry analysts said."

Indian coastal shipping players term government relief inadequate

The *Economic Times* [India] [reported](#) "Leading players in the loss-making coastal shipping sector have described as way too insufficient the government's recent measures including cash incentive of 50 paise per tonne per nautical mile up to 500 nautical miles on certain commodities and reduction in port charges for container ships."

Port Botany robot cranes reported damaged in storm

The Age [reported](#) "God appears to have intervened on the side of wharfies at Sydney's Port Botany after a major storm at sea damaged millions of dollars worth of robot container cranes that are supposed to take their jobs." but, it goes on to say, "Asciano said the full extent of the damage would not be known until the ship, which has arrived in Brisbane, was unloaded and the container carriers assessed over the next few weeks."

Mackay Marina Village & Shipyard awarded 'Fish Friendly' accreditation

The Marina Industries Association [announced](#) "North Queensland's Mackay Marina Village & Shipyard, winner of the 2013-2014 Marina of the Year award, has today been awarded 'Fish Friendly' accreditation – the first marina in Queensland to be certified with this status as part of the International Clean Marina program coordinated by the Marina Industries Association (MIA). The certification focuses on the development and promotion of marina fish habits [habitats?] and was first developed by the NSW Department of Primary Industries in collaboration with the MIA and the NSW Boating Industry Association."

Container Shipping Line Sues over Lost Vessel

The *Handy Shipping Guide* [reported](#) "Container shipping line Mitsui OSK Lines ([MOL](#)) has initiated legal proceedings against Mitsubishi Heavy Industry ([MHI](#)), seeking compensation for having to strengthen the hulls of six container carriers following the demise of

ill-fated *MOL Comfort*, which broke in half in rough seas and subsequently sank in June of last year as [reported here](#). The suit also covers the ship itself, which was worth approximately \$45 million.”

Possible ban on Filipino officers working on EU-flagged vessels

InterManager [reported](#) “Ship managers should put in place sensible contingency plans to guard against a worst-case scenario should Filipino officers potentially find themselves banned from working on EU-flagged vessels. This follows concerns raised by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) over the ability of the Philippine Maritime Administration to fully and effectively implement all provisions of the STCW Convention”

In a related development, InterManager later [reported](#) “Both the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines have this week [10-15 Feb] unanimously passed bills to establish the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) as the single agency to enforce international standards on the country’s seafarers.”

Productivity Commission National Access Regime Inquiry report released

The Productivity Commission released this [report](#), which recommends that “The National Access Regime should be retained.” but with restrictions. [This will affect port terminal and grain handling facilities, as well as road and rail access – Editor]

Ultrasonic Wind Sensor certified for hazardous environments

Gill Instruments [announced](#) “The Gill Instruments [WindObserver Intrinsically Safe ultrasonic anemometer](#) is now certified by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) for use in explosive atmospheres (Ex).” and “The WindObserverIS provides highly accurate measurements of wind speed and direction and can be installed in hazardous and explosive atmospheres found in marine, offshore and other environments where significant quantities of flammable liquids, vapour and combustible dusts could cause fire or explosion.”

Descartes' Japan Advanced Filing Rule Compliance Solution

Descartes Systems Group [announced](#) that “leading ocean carriers and non-vessel operating common carriers (NVOCCs) have selected Descartes' Japan Ocean Advanced Filing Rule (AFR) solution to help them comply with Japan's new advanced cargo security initiative, which takes effect March 10, 2014.” and “Japan's AFR mandate requires ocean carriers and NVOCCs to electronically submit data to Japan Customs on maritime container cargo intended for a port in Japan no later than 24 hours before departure of the vessel from the port of loading.”

Great Barrier Reef Legislation Amendment Bill 2014

The Greens introduced this [Bill](#) into the Senate, saying “The *Great Barrier Reef Legislation Amendment Bill 2014* implements in our national environment laws key recommendations that the World Heritage Committee has made to ensure the Great Barrier Reef does not get added to the “world heritage in danger” list. It also prohibits the approval after 31 December 2013 of any dumping of port dredge spoil within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.”

Invitation to comment on the Gladstone Bund Wall Review

The Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, [announced](#) “The independent review into the bund wall failure at the Port of Gladstone is now underway. Individuals and organisations are invited to make submissions for consideration under the Terms of Reference until 28 February 2014.”

EMSA reveals shipping managers with a poor port-state-control record

InterManager [reported](#) “Europe’s maritime safety agency has started to reveal the managers with a poor port-state-control record in its latest safety drive — and some of the bigger industry names have come to the fore. The European Commission (EC)’s name-and-shame policy to identify poor-performing safety managers has thrown up some big names and substantial fleets.”

Chemical tanker ‘Maritime Maisie’ brings ‘Ports of Refuge’ back into focus

Tanker Operator [reported](#) “The case of the 44,400 dwt chemical tanker ‘Maritime Maisie’ has brought the problem with ‘Ports of Refuge’ sharply back into focus. As a result, shipowners, salvors and insurers have called for the prompt and proper implementation of international measures to provide a place of refuge for stricken vessels. This call follows a series of incidents where casualty vessels have been delayed in accessing a safe harbour, the latest of which concerns the ‘Maritime Maisie’.”

Coastal shipping in Japan

An [article](#) in the *Japan Times* throws some light on Japanese policy towards coastal shipping. “To help ensure the smooth movement of goods, the government is now encouraging a “modal shift” to move a portion of the freight carried by trucks to coastal shipping. That would not only ease the pressure on the trucking industry, but would also help the country meet its goals for reduction of carbon-dioxide emissions, because coastal shipping is more energy efficient.”

AIMS partners with Shell and INPEX to help protect against oil spills

The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), Shell Development (Australia) and INPEX Operations Australia Pty Ltd (INPEX), subsidiary of INPEX CORPORATION, are delighted to [announce](#) a unique partnership to develop comprehensive environmental baselines to monitor the health of waters off North Western Australia.

The Sea of Europe: Routing the map for economic growth

In a [speech](#) at the EU Presidency Summit, Siim Kallas, Vice President of the European Commission, spoke about the revised policy for the Trans-European Transport Network, especially its concept of integrated transport corridors, saying “Our continent depends on ports that perform well. Europe not only needs to connect its ports better to road, rail and inland waterway systems, but also make sure that their capacity is used properly.” and “This is why we have identified [liquefied natural gas](#) as a cleaner - and potentially cheaper - fuel for shipping. LNG is now firmly on the agenda for the entire European shipping community.”

Esperance Port Access Corridor Project

Deputy Prime Minister and Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Minister Warren Truss and Western Australian Transport Minister Troy Buswell [announced](#) a major milestone had been reached in the Esperance Port Access Corridor Project. The new bridge linking Twilight Beach Road with The Esplanade has been opened to traffic, signalling a major improvement to safety and efficiency and the end of conflict between port, local road and rail traffic.

Singapore Shipping Association scholarships

The Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) announced three scholarships during the 2014/2015 academic year. The scholarships will come under the the MaritimeONE Scholarship Programme administered by the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) and will be offered to students attending the Singapore Management University (SMU) and Singapore Maritime Academy at the Singapore Polytechnic. Applications for MaritimeONE scholarships will be from 1 April to 31 May, 2014.

Class Direct app launched by Lloyd’s Register Marine

Lloyd’s Register Marine [announced](#) it has created an app for smartphones and tablets, enabling its clients to access ship and fleet data from anywhere in the world. “Users of the Class Direct app are able to book a survey with LR, monitor and check the status of their vessel’s surveys, browse the classification data LR holds for specific vessels and create a list of their ‘favourite’ vessels for quicker access.”

Sea Swift starts Gove Peninsula services

Sea Swift [announced](#) “Northern Australia marine transport provider Sea Swift has provided a much-needed boost to the Gove Peninsula community with the commencement of weekly freight services to Nhulunbuy. As of Monday 17 February, Sea Swift will arrive in Nhulunbuy every Monday morning, providing local freight to the community and local businesses, as well as larger organisations such as Woolworths.”

Fiji Government Shipping Services expanded

The *Fiji Times* [reported](#) “PRIME Minister Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama yesterday [19 Feb] commissioned government's \$4.83million landing craft MSL Sigavou.” and “In commissioning the 47 metres, 149-tonne landing craft, Commodore Bainimarama said the Government Shipping Services (GSS) was transformed.”

Further changes to the Antarctic shipping schedule

The Australian Antarctic Division [announced](#) “Heavy sea ice conditions near Mawson research station have resulted in further changes to the Australian Antarctic Division’s shipping schedule. Voyage 4, the current voyage, was due to resupply Mawson. However, as happened in 2011, the sea ice in the area is unseasonably thick. This has prevented the ship from entering the harbour at Mawson and doing the resupply.”

9% of all seafarers to be Indians

The [Indian] *Business Standard* [reported](#) “The [Ministry of Shipping](#) has said it has set itself a target to increase the strength of the Indian seafarers to 9 per cent of the global share, from the present 7 per cent.” and “Presently India has 135 maritime institutes offering pre-sea and post-sea training in various streams. The Indian Maritime University was set up in 2008 aimed at consolidating these efforts.”

Sydney White Bay environment monitoring results

Responding to public criticism, Sydney Ports [said](#) “The wharves of Glebe Island and White Bay have co-existed with the Balmain community for well over 100 years and this historic relationship is set to continue with the NSW Government's commitment to ongoing, 24/7 commercial shipping in this port precinct. As such, the precinct will continue to generate noise and, on occasion, odours associated with ship arrivals, stays at berth and departures. Sydney Ports takes very seriously issues raised by neighbouring residents stemming from its port operations at White Bay and Glebe Island. While noise and ship odours cannot be eliminated, we are working closely with the cruise lines, ships' masters and others operating in the ports precinct to minimise both the amount produced and its impact on our neighbours.”

NSW Ports Second Bulk Liquids Berth - Official Opening

NSW Ports [announced](#) “this morning [21 Feb] our second Bulk Liquids Berth in Port Botany was officially opened.” and “The BLB2 project comprised construction of a steel piled pier berth adjacent to the existing BLB1; associated infrastructure such as fire fighting equipment, onshore support facilities, loading arms as well as pipelines from existing user sites to the new berth.”

Marine Order 94 (Marine pollution prevention — packaged harmful substances) 2014

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) made this [Order](#), which “gives effect to Annex III of MARPOL (which deals with prevention of marine pollution by harmful substances carried by sea in packaged form), and prescribes matters for Part IIIA of the Pollution Prevention Act (which deals with the prevention of pollution by packaged harmful substances).”

GrainCorp Bulk Liquids Facility at Port Kembla

NSW Ports [announced](#) “GrainCorp Liquid Terminals has been granted approval to construct a new bulk liquids facility in Port Kembla’s Inner Harbour precinct.”

Marine Order 70 (Seafarer certification) 2014

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) made this [Order](#), which “sets out the general provisions that apply for a person to be a qualified master, officer or other seafarer under the Navigation Act. It gives effect to Australia’s obligations under the International Maritime Organization’s STCW Convention. The Order provides for the administrative arrangements required for AMSA to provide seafarer certification services.”

Marine Order 71 (Masters and deck officers) 2014

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) made this [Order](#), which “specifies standard of competence and other conditions to be satisfied by a person to be a qualified master or deck officer under the Navigation Act. It gives effect to Australia’s obligations under the International Maritime Organization’s STCW Convention.”

Marine Order 72 (Engineer officers) 2014

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) made this [Order](#), which “specifies standard of competence and other conditions to be satisfied by a person to be a qualified engineer officer under the Navigation Act. It gives effect to Australia’s obligations under the International Maritime Organization’s STCW Convention.”

Release of live animal export reports

The Department of Agriculture [said](#) it has released three compliance investigation reports that concern the welfare of Australian livestock exported to overseas markets. It also said “The department has also released two reports into mortality incidents. One report is an Elders International Australia cattle consignment by sea to Japan and the second is an Independent Livestock Services sheep consignment by air to Malaysia.”

Marine Order 73 (Ratings) 2014

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) made this [Order](#), which “specifies standards of competence and other conditions to be satisfied by a person to be a qualified rating under the Navigation Act. It gives effect to Australia’s obligations under the International Maritime Organization’s STCW Convention.”

Lend Lease’s withdrawal from the Abbot Point coal port

The Australian Greens [said](#) that “Lend Lease’s withdrawal from the Abbot Point coal port in the Great Barrier Reef is a win for the community and raises doubts over the project’s economic viability” and “Lend Lease is just the latest, with BHP and Rio Tinto also getting out recently. With the coal price dropping and China opting for renewable energy instead, coal ports and coal mines are becoming as toxic to investors as they are to the Reef itself.”

EPBC Act referral - APX-East sub-sea telecommunications & data cable system between east coast of Australia to west coast of USA - SubPartners Pty Ltd

The Department of Environment is inviting public comment on this [proposal](#), which was notified under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

EPBC Act referral - Cocos Keeling Islands Home Island Slipway Redevelopment - Patrick Stevedoring

The Department of Environment is inviting public comment on this [proposal](#), which was notified under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Hapag-Lloyd - Change of Terminal at Sydney

Hapag-Lloyd [announced](#) “We would like to inform you that effective April 1, 2014, the Sydney port call of the South East Asia Australia loop (SAL) will be changed from DP World to Sydney International Container Terminals (SICTL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hutchison Port Holdings. The SICTL is part of the recent expansion of the Port Botany facility to cater for the current and future growth in the New South Wales market and offers direct rail links to the Enfield facility, separate road access to the terminal and 4 berths along the 1300m quay.”

Guidance on security certification for seafarers agreed

The IMO [announced](#) “Guidance on training and certification requirements for ship security officers and seafarers with designated security duties has been agreed by IMO, to address practical difficulties seafarers have reportedly experienced in obtaining the necessary security certification under the 2010 Manila amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) and STCW Code.”

Rail, coastal shipping will help cut Indian logistics costs

The Hindu Business Line [reported](#) “The need to bring down the high logistics costs in India by diverting freight from road to rail and coastal shipping was highlighted at a conference on Multi-Modal Logistics organised by the CII here [Hyderabad] on Wednesday [26 Feb].”

Parliamentary Committee to examine streamlining environmental regulation

The House of Representatives Environment Committee [says](#) it will conduct an inquiry into streamlining environmental regulation, ‘green tape’, and one stop shops for environmental assessments and approvals after receiving a reference from the Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt. The Committee invites interested persons and organisations to make submissions addressing the terms of reference by Friday, 11 April 2014.

Marine Order 503 (Certificates of survey — national law) Amendment 2014 (No. 1)

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) made this [Order](#), which “amends Marine Order 503 (Certificates of survey — national law) 2013 to account for the issue of Section 1 (Arrangement, accommodation and personal safety) of Part C (Design and construction) of the NSCV in November 2013 as a replacement from requirements of the USL Code that applied previously.”

Northern Australia White Paper

Prime Minister Abbott and Minister for Transport and Regional Development, Mr Truss, [announced](#) “The Premiers of Queensland and Western Australia and the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory have agreed to join a new Strategic Partnership to inform the development and implementation of Australia's first Northern Australia White Paper.” and “The White Paper will provide pathways to harness opportunities which capitalise on the region's strengths, including ways to advance trade, cultural and investment links with the Asia Pacific region, and to provide the best regulatory and economic environment for business. It will also identify the critical infrastructure needed to support the long-term growth of the region, ways to incentivise public and private planning and investment while tackling impediments to growth.”

World Shipping Outlook – February

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

Reuters [reported](#) “The shipping industry is poised to emerge from its longest downturn in three decades, buoyed by an end to years of overcapacity that have depressed freight rates since the end of a shipping boom in 2008.”

The Standard [Hong Kong] [reported](#) “The shipping industry hit the bottom in 2013 and a capacity oversupply remains a problem in the short run, says Xu Zhengjun, managing director of COSCO International (0517).”

The Port of Los Angeles reported “[January](#) overall volumes increased 2.5 percent compared to January 2013. The increase is due in part to shippers moving cargo in advance of the Chinese New Year, which this year fell on January 31.”

The Motley Fool [reported](#) “For 2014, many expect worldwide demand this year for the first time in seven years to outgrow supply. Increased shipments of coal, iron ore, and grains are all expected to rise at a faster clip than new ships will come on board after accounting for the scrapping of old ships.”

In its *Shipping Market Overview and Outlook Report: Dry Bulk Shipping*, BIMCO [reported](#) “For 2014, an improvement in the market balance is clearly achievable. For it to materialise, owners and operators need to apply slow steaming to at least the same extent as last year. Only by managing the supply side carefully will higher earnings follow in the wake.”

Reuters [reported](#) “Troubled German public-sector bank HSH Nordbank will likely need more state aid than previously thought due to deep losses in shipping lending and back taxes, the bank's supervisory board chairman said.”

Releasing its Annual Report, Maersk [said](#) “We have reason to be pleased with profit development in 2013. The Group reached USD 4,0bn in underlying earnings; an increase of USD 1bn from the previous year. Maersk Line strengthened profitability despite challenging shipping markets and both APM Terminals and Maersk Drilling had their best result to date.”

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

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) “Iran said Sunday [9 Feb] it plans to introduce a new generation of oil contracts by June that promise to be more attractive to foreign investors as it seeks to significantly boost production should international sanctions hobbling its vital energy industry be lifted.”

PressTV [Iran] [reported](#) “India has offered to establish direct shipping route to Iran's southeastern Chabahar Port in a bid to cut the costs of the transit of commodities between the two countries.”

FISHERIES

Ocean fertilization experiment loses in British Columbia court

The Globe and Mail [Canada] [reported](#) “The organization behind a controversial ocean-fertilization experiment off the coast of British Columbia could face up to 10 charges for environmental violations after losing a court bid that would have brought an end to the investigation. The Haida Salmon Restoration Corp. caused waves around the world in July, 2012, when it dumped more than 100 metric tonnes of iron into the ocean near Haida Gwaii, hoping it would increase salmon returns and produce profits from carbon capture.”

Fish biomass in the ocean is ten times higher than estimated

phys.org [reported](#) “With a stock estimated at 1,000 million tons so far, mesopelagic fish dominate the total biomass of fish in the ocean. However, a team of researchers with the participation of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) has found that their abundance could be at least 10 times higher. The results, published in *Nature Communications* journal, are based on the acoustic observations conducted during the circumnavigation of the Malaspina Expedition.”

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery Total Allowable Effort Determination 2014

Senator Colbeck, on behalf of the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority, made this [Determination](#), which “determines the total allowable effort for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery for the 2014 fishing season.”

AFMA to Market Test the Observer Program

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) has [decided](#) to market test the scientific observer program. The in-house Observer Program places observers (independent of the fishing industry) on fishing vessels to provide reliable and verified information on fishing catch, effort, and practices onboard fishing vessels operating in Commonwealth waters.

With ice melting, U.S. pushes for limits on fishing in Arctic Ocean

The *Los Angeles Times* [reported](#) “U.S. officials are heading to Greenland for a three-day meeting to persuade other Arctic nations to place a moratorium on high-seas fishing in the Arctic Ocean, where climate change is melting the permanent ice cap and allowing trawlers in for the first time in human history.”

Federal Court decision on Supertrawler

In a gloriously opaque [statement](#), the Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, said “I welcome the decision handed down by the Federal Court in the case brought by *Seafish Tasmania Pelagic Pty Ltd.*” and “I have spoken to the CEO of Seafish Tasmania who has indicated they have no plans or intention to bring back the Margiris. I thank him for that reassurance.” [Click [here](#) for the judgment.]

Technologies for Fisheries Monitoring and Surveillance

The Pew Environment Group [said](#) “Monitoring and surveillance of fisheries is a complex and challenging problem. Traditionally, ships and aircraft have been the mainstay of surveillance efforts, however, the use of satellites and other technologies by fisheries enforcement officials has increased in recent years.” and “No technology on its own is a complete solution to the problem. Each must be part of an overall system that includes trained personnel, infrastructure, and the backing of a strong legal regime.”

Greater protection for seabirds on the high seas

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) [said](#) “New seabird management measures have been adopted by the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) Commission to better protect seabirds from fishing activities in the high seas.”

Acidic ocean deadly for Vancouver Island scallop industry

CBCNews [British Columbia] [reported](#) “The deteriorating health of B.C.'s oceans is impacting not only the province's marine life, but also its economy. Millions of shellfish are dying off before they can be harvested at Island Scallops, near Parksville, B.C., due to **increased acidity levels** in the ocean.”

Parliamentary Committee to examine streamlining environmental regulation

The House of Representatives Environment Committee [says](#) it will conduct an inquiry into streamlining environmental regulation, ‘green tape’, and one stop shops for environmental assessments and approvals after receiving a reference from the Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt. The Committee invites interested persons and organisations to make submissions addressing the terms of reference by Friday, 11 April 2014.

RESOURCE EXPLORATION & DEVELOPMENT

Coal producers granted interim authorisation for collective negotiations with Gladstone Ports

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) [says](#) it “has granted interim authorisation for the RG Tanna Coal Export Terminal Producers to collectively negotiate with Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC). The applicants wish to negotiate collectively with GPC in relation to the terms and conditions of new coal handling and port services agreements at Gladstone Port in Queensland.”

COAG Final Report on Regulatory Reform released

The COAG Reform Council's [final report](#) on measures “to implement a suite of competition and regulatory reforms to enhance national productivity and prosperity” was released. It covers maritime industry regulatory reform issues including the oil and gas industries, maritime safety, and ports infrastructure. With regard to the oil and gas industries, the report says: “Governments have established a national system for regulating the oil and gas sector and have simplified the administration of the offshore petroleum industry.”

CGG Services (Australia) Pty Ltd proposal to conduct MC3D Seismic Survey in Commonwealth waters of the Bight Basin

The Department of the Environment is [calling](#) for public comment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* on this proposal.

Ultrasonic Wind Sensor certified for hazardous environments

Gill Instruments [announced](#) “The Gill Instruments [WindObserver Intrinsically Safe ultrasonic anemometer](#) is now certified by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) for use in explosive atmospheres (Ex).” and “The WindObserverIS provides highly accurate measurements of wind speed and direction and can be installed in hazardous and explosive atmospheres found in marine, offshore and other environments where significant quantities of flammable liquids, vapour and combustible dusts could cause fire or explosion.”

AIMS partners with Shell and INPEX to help protect against oil spills

The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), Shell Development (Australia) and INPEX Operations Australia Pty Ltd (INPEX), subsidiary of INPEX CORPORATION, are delighted to [announce](#) a unique partnership to develop comprehensive environmental baselines to monitor the health of waters off North Western Australia.

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Legislation Amendment (Environment Measures) Regulation 2014

The Governor-General made this [regulation](#), which “amends the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009 and the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Regulations 2004 to facilitate streamlining of environmental approvals for offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas activities under the OPGGS Act and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, and implement the findings of a review of the Principal Regulations.”

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MARINE SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Abbot Point Dredging – Greenpeace response

Greenpeace [said](#) “The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority’s approval for dumping of dredge spoil at Abbot Point is a blow for the Reef, but the campaign doesn’t end here! Conditions on the approval mean dredging is unlikely to start until 2015, giving us time to pressure the true villains behind the dredging plans – like multinational coal company Adani Mining.”

New report shows significant progress in protecting the Great Barrier Reef

The Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, [said](#) “The Australian and Queensland Governments have today [2 Feb] released the [2014 State Party Report on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area](#) which highlights the significant progress being made to improve the management, health and protection of this amazing iconic area.”

Tagging of all sharks caught and released from WA drum lines

The Australian Greens [said](#) “it is unbelievable that sharks caught through the WA Government’s appalling drum line policy are not being tagged before their release.” and “It isn’t good enough for the Government to say that tagging of sharks caught under this policy will be phased in over time. Tagging is an important part of increasing our capacity to monitor sharks and learn more about their behaviour.”

Ocean fertilization experiment loses in British Columbia court

The *Globe and Mail* [Canada] [reported](#) “The organization behind a controversial ocean-fertilization experiment off the coast of British Columbia could face up to 10 charges for environmental violations after losing a court bid that would have brought an end to the investigation. The Haida Salmon Restoration Corp. caused waves around the world in July, 2012, when it dumped more than 100 metric tonnes of iron into the ocean near Haida Gwaii, hoping it would increase salmon returns and produce profits from carbon capture.”

US National Research Council seeks input to develop Ocean Sciences Program

The World Ocean Council [says](#) “The U.S. National Research Council (NRC) is conducting the survey of the NSF Ocean Sciences Program, which includes many programs of critical importance to industry, e.g. the International Ocean Drilling Program (IODP), and the Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI). The NRC is actively looking for input from the ocean stakeholders, especially the private sector.” and “The NRC is soliciting input is through a Virtual Town Hall: <http://nas-sites.org/dsos2015/>.”

Mackay Marina Village & Shipyard awarded ‘Fish Friendly’ accreditation

The Marina Industries Association [announced](#) “North Queensland’s Mackay Marina Village & Shipyard, winner of the 2013-2014 Marina of the Year award, has today been awarded ‘Fish Friendly’ accreditation – the first marina in Queensland to be certified with this

status as part of the International Clean Marina program coordinated by the Marina Industries Association (MIA). The certification focuses on the development and promotion of marina fish habits [habitats?] and was first developed by the NSW Department of Primary Industries in collaboration with the MIA and the NSW Boating Industry Association.”

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phys.org [reported](#) “With a stock estimated at 1,000 million tons so far, mesopelagic fish dominate the total biomass of fish in the ocean. However, a team of researchers with the participation of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) has found that their abundance could be at least 10 times higher. The results, published in *Nature Communications* journal, are based on the acoustic observations conducted during the circumnavigation of the Malaspina Expedition.”

If Ocean Heat Pump Switches On, Expect to Feel It

Bloomberg *Sustainability* [reported](#) “Scientists are chipping away at a question that has dominated public climate change discussions in the U.S. the last few years: Where's the heat? Despite unchecked carbon pollution, warming felt on the Earth's surface has slowed since 1998. Clues keep pointing to the Pacific Ocean, and a new paper in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS) predicts that the temperatures will rise again toward the end of this year.”

Pilbara marine health check - good and bad news

The CSIRO [reported](#) “The 300km swathe of coastline to be surveyed during the five year, A\$12 million Pilbara Marine Conservation Partnership includes two major marine parks and also areas under development for ports, and oil and gas extraction and processing. The partnership, a joint venture between CSIRO's Wealth from Oceans Flagship and The University of Western Australia, will be the first whole of ecosystem study for the region's unique marine environment.”

AIMS partners with Shell and INPEX to help protect against oil spills

The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), Shell Development (Australia) and INPEX Operations Australia Pty Ltd (INPEX), subsidiary of INPEX CORPORATION, said they “are delighted to [announce](#) a unique partnership to develop comprehensive environmental baselines to monitor the health of waters off North Western Australia.”

The Sea of Europe: Routing the map for economic growth

In a [speech](#) at the EU Presidency Summit, Siim Kallas, Vice President of the European Commission, spoke about the revised policy for the Trans-European Transport Network, especially its concept of integrated transport corridors, saying “Our continent depends on ports that perform well. Europe not only needs to connect its ports better to road, rail and inland waterway systems, but also make sure that their capacity is used properly.” and “This is why we have identified liquefied natural gas as a cleaner - and potentially cheaper - fuel for shipping. LNG is now firmly on the agenda for the entire European shipping community.”

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Legislation Amendment (Environment Measures) Regulation 2014

The Governor-General made this [regulation](#), which “amends the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009 and the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Regulations 2004 to facilitate streamlining of environmental approvals for offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas activities under the OPGGS Act and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, and implement the findings of a review of the Principal Regulations.”

Further changes to the Antarctic shipping schedule

The Australian Antarctic Division [announced](#) “Heavy sea ice conditions near Mawson research station have resulted in further changes to the Australian Antarctic Division's shipping schedule. Voyage 4, the current voyage, was due to resupply Mawson. However, as happened in 2011, the sea ice in the area is unseasonably thick. This has prevented the ship from entering the harbour at Mawson and doing the resupply.”

Unstable Atlantic deep ocean circulation under future climate conditions

Science Codex [reported](#) on research into some sudden (ie a few centuries) past changes in the northern North Atlantic that may have been caused by glacial melt, etc, and the effects of those changes. “A new study led by researchers from the Bjerknes Centre of Climate Research at the University of Bergen (UiB) and Uni Research in Norway, suggests that Atlantic deep water formation may be much more fragile than previously realised.”

With ice melting, U.S. pushes for limits on fishing in Arctic Ocean

The *Los Angeles Times* [reported](#) “U.S. officials are heading to Greenland for a three-day meeting to persuade other Arctic nations to place a moratorium on high-seas fishing in the Arctic Ocean, where climate change is melting the permanent ice cap and allowing trawlers in for the first time in human history.”

Sydney White Bay environment monitoring results

Responding to public criticism, Sydney Ports [said](#) “The wharves of Glebe Island and White Bay have co-existed with the Balmain community for well over 100 years and this historic relationship is set to continue with the NSW Government's commitment to ongoing, 24/7 commercial shipping in this port precinct. As such, the precinct will continue to generate noise and, on occasion, odours associated with ship arrivals, stays at berth and departures. Sydney Ports takes very seriously issues raised by neighbouring residents stemming from its port operations at White Bay and Glebe Island. While noise and ship odours cannot be eliminated, we are working closely with the

cruise lines, ships' masters and others operating in the ports precinct to minimise both the amount produced and its impact on our neighbours."

MoU between the Department of Agriculture and the Tangaroa Blue Foundation on marine debris

The Department of Agriculture [announced](#) "A new agreement signed this week [21 Feb] will ultimately benefit Australia's environment and agricultural industries through improved awareness of the biosecurity risks carried by our surrounding waters. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department of Agriculture and the Tangaroa Blue Foundation, an organisation focussed on the remedy of marine debris issues with over 25,000 volunteers around the country, formalises a long-standing partnership between the two organisations."

Greater protection for seabirds on the high seas

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) [said](#) "New seabird management measures have been adopted by the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) Commission to better protect seabirds from fishing activities in the high seas."

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority conflict of interest inquiry outcome

The Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, [announced](#) "In October last year I ordered an inquiry into allegations of potential conflicts of interest involving two board members of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Independent legal expert Robert Cornall has carried out the inquiry and provided me with the final reports. The report finds that allegations of conflict of interest are 'unfounded'. The report finds that the two board members have at no time breached their public duty in regard to their position with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority."

Greenpeace [expressed](#) its continuing concerns.

Torres Strait Gets Funding for Coastal Protection

The Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Mr Truss, [announced](#) "The Australian Government will invest a total of \$12 million to support improvements to vital seawall infrastructure in the Torres Strait. The joint Australian and Queensland Government project will see a total of \$26.2 million provided for the construction and repair of seawalls on six Torres Strait islands that experience regular tidal and storm surge flooding."

Lend Lease's withdrawal from the Abbot Point coal port

The Australian Greens [said](#) that "Lend Lease's withdrawal from the Abbot Point coal port in the Great Barrier Reef is a win for the community and raises doubts over the project's economic viability" and "Lend Lease is just the latest, with BHP and Rio Tinto also getting out recently. With the coal price dropping and China opting for renewable energy instead, coal ports and coal mines are becoming as toxic to investors as they are to the Reef itself."

Australian Research Council Funding Rules for schemes under the Discovery Program for the years 2014 and 2015

The Minister for Education, Mr Pyne, made this [Instrument](#), which "relates to schemes funded under the Discovery Program of the ARC's National Competitive Grants Program. The Discovery Program supports the growth of Australia's research and innovation capacity, which generates new knowledge resulting in the development of new technologies, products and ideas, the creation of jobs, economic growth and an enhanced quality of life in Australia." [The Minister actually signed off on 7 January; the delay in making them legally enforceable until 26 February is not explained – Editor]

EPBC Act referral - APX-East sub-sea telecommunications & data cable system between east coast of Australia to west coast of USA - SubPartners Pty Ltd

The Department of Environment is inviting public comment on this [proposal](#), which was notified under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

EPBC Act referral - Cocos Keeling Islands Home Island Slipway Redevelopment - Patrick Stevedoring

The Department of Environment is inviting public comment on this [proposal](#), which was notified under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Acidic ocean deadly for Vancouver Island scallop industry

CBCNews [British Columbia] [reported](#) "The deteriorating health of B.C.'s oceans is impacting not only the province's marine life, but also its economy. Millions of shellfish are dying off before they can be harvested at Island Scallops, near Parksville, B.C., due to **increased acidity levels** in the ocean."

Parliamentary Committee to examine streamlining environmental regulation

The House of Representatives Environment Committee [says](#) it will conduct an inquiry into streamlining environmental regulation, 'green tape', and one stop shops for environmental assessments and approvals after receiving a reference from the Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt. The Committee invites interested persons and organisations to make submissions addressing the terms of reference by Friday, 11 April 2014.

AMSA 2014 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

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CLOSE of Standard Registration prices.
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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

5-6 March 2014 - 4th FPSO Vessel Conference – London

The event will examine the streamlining of operations and how to optimise technologies to maximise return on investment in FPSO hotspots. The conference will take an in-depth look at the financial drivers behind FPSO (floating production, storage and offloading) projects. For more details, click [here](#)

10-13 March 2014 – Cruise Shipping Miami – Florida

“Cruise Shipping Miami is the total epicenter of the cruise industry, bringing together every facet of the business including cruise lines, suppliers, travel agents and partners.” For details, click [here](#).

11-12 March 2014 - 3rd Total Port Security Forum 2014 – Penang

This event will bring together ports and a range of key stakeholders from around the region to share snapshots of cutting edge work done, results achieved and also remaining challenges on the journey to improving port security, at the same time to explore how to keep updated with ISPS’s compliance obligations and regulatory requirements. (AAMA Members can receive a 10% discount on registration – contact admin@aama.asn.au to have your membership confirmed) For forum details, click [here](#).

19-20 March 2014 – Australian Logistics Council Forum 2014 – Royal Randwick Racecourse, Sydney

2014 needs to be a year of delivery by all governments to improve supply chain efficiency in Australia. The ALC Forum 2014 will focus on **delivery** on major infrastructure projects, **delivery** on long-term freight planning and **delivery** on reforms to reduce red tape and improve safety in the freight logistics industry. To receive details: click [here](#)

20-22 March 2014 – Australian Maritime Museums Conference – Queenscliff, VIC

The 2014 conference theme is Looking Outward. In this, we aim to discuss what we can learn when we think outside our traditions and look to other industries, other professions and other views of the world. For details, click [here](#)

26-27 March 2014 - 9th Maritime Communications & Technologies Summit – London

This “will focus on crew development and explore how they are adapting to new technologies. We will also investigate the changing needs of crew in their life on-board ship, including their access to internet and other communications systems.” For details, click [here](#)

7-11 April 2014 – XXII International Maritime Pilots' Association Congress – Panama

For details: click [here](#)

9-10 April 2014 - 6th Offshore Support Vessels Summit – Aberdeen, UK

The event will include case study examples of the European OSV ship owners, ship operators and oil and gas majors, which will enable you to get an objective overview of the current industry challenges, caused by the rapid increase in deep sea exploration and production activities, pressure in sourcing experience crew, the new standards of the OSV performance and legislation requirements and recent developments within the oil and gas sector. For details, click [here](#)

22-24 April 2014 - Strategic Offshore Asset Life Extension – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Life extension of offshore structures is increasingly being needed as many of the existing assets have exceeded or are approaching their design life. A robust Structural Integrity Management (SIM) is crucially important to help make a case to extend life of an asset. For details, e-mail Stella Wong - stella@yf-asia.com.

23-24 April 2014 - Structural Life Extension for Offshore Installation and Marine Vessels – Abu Dhabi, UAE

This seminar will cover the most important elements of offshore and marine vessel structural life extension programmes. For more details, click [here](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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](#).

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](#)

2-4 February 2016 – 2016 Pacific International Maritime Exposition – Sydney Exhibition Centre, Glebe Island

The commercial maritime and naval defence showcase for the Asia Pacific. For details, click [here](#)

**There is no charge for entries under
“CONFERENCES & SEMINARS”
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