



Australian Maritime Digest

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Contents

| | |
|---|----------|
| Editorial..... | 4 |
| Next Edition of the Digest..... | 4 |
| Recognition of the AAMA's Corporate Supporters..... | 4 |
| Have your say – send a Letter to the Editor..... | 4 |
| Corporate Supporters..... | 5 |
| Sea Power Centre - Australia..... | 5 |
| Maritime Australia Limited..... | 5 |
| Australasian Hydrographic Society..... | 5 |
| Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)..... | 5 |
| Australian Marine Environment Protection Association (AUSMEPA)..... | 5 |
| Commonwealth Fisheries Association (CFA)..... | 5 |
| GW Marine Consultants Pty Ltd..... | 5 |
| Australian Maritime College..... | 6 |
| Maritime Defence, Customs & Border Protection..... | 6 |
| Navy Hydrographic Ships complete PNG Survey..... | 6 |
| HMAS Choules completes mission at Manus Island..... | 6 |
| Spanish Armada Ship, ESPS Cantabria farewelled..... | 6 |
| Australia and India advance strategic partnership..... | 6 |
| Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Joint Op-Ed..... | 6 |
| Exercise Bersama Lima 2013..... | 6 |
| Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) develops closer links with US Coast Guard..... | 6 |
| Asia's Submarine Race..... | 6 |
| Indian navy takes delivery of Russian carrier..... | 6 |
| Gift of two retired Australian Bay Class patrol boats to assist Sri Lanka..... | 7 |
| Senate Inquiry into Commonwealth procurement procedures..... | 7 |
| AUSMIN 2013 Joint Communiqué..... | 7 |
| Defence awards contract to support frigates..... | 7 |
| Australia strengthens border protection links with United States..... | 7 |
| Stealth Technology expert wins Minister's Science Award..... | 7 |
| NZ Southern Ocean patrol begins..... | 7 |
| Submarine escape and rescue exercise..... | 7 |
| HMAS Tobruk arrives to support recovery in the Philippines..... | 7 |
| Construction starts on facilities for Seahawk Romeo Helicopters at HMAS Albatross in Nowra..... | 8 |
| Contract signed to upgrade Collins Class Submarines..... | 8 |
| Canberra based company awarded radar development contract..... | 8 |
| Seven foreign fishing boats intercepted..... | 8 |
| New task force to target corruption within Customs and Border Protection..... | 8 |
| China Seas Developments – November..... | 8 |
| Operation Sovereign Borders updates – November..... | 9 |
| Shipping, Shipbuilding & Ports..... | 9 |
| Cabotage rules leave Australian shipping all at sea..... | 9 |
| Canada Detains Third Vessel Under Maritime Labour Convention..... | 9 |
| Indian ports to benefit from LNG boom..... | 9 |
| BHP Billiton scraps plans for new coal port at Abbot Point in Queensland..... | 9 |
| Serious injury of a crew member on board Mell Selarang Port of Townsville Qld, 20 August 2013..... | 10 |
| Sydney Ports Corporation Maritime Security Identification Card (MSIC) Service Centre to close..... | 10 |
| Unique French CO2 Reporting Requirements for Ships..... | 10 |
| Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create a one-stop shop for environmental approvals for NSW..... | 10 |
| Precautionary Safety Alert for some EPIRBs..... | 10 |
| ACCC addresses reform priorities to support competition at Australia's growing container ports..... | 10 |
| Guide to Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)..... | 10 |
| US Government plan to improve ports..... | 10 |
| Indian Coastal Shipping Project may bring down freight charges..... | 10 |
| Lady Denman Maritime Museum wins the 2013 IMAGinE Award..... | 10 |
| Tasmanian Ferry report..... | 10 |
| NSW Ports wins Prestigious Australian Financial Review Award..... | 11 |
| MOL Ships Will Transport Emergency Aid Supplies to The Philippines..... | 11 |
| Exhaust gas cleaning systems (EGCS) for a Very Large Gas Carrier (VLGC)..... | 11 |
| Central Pacific Shipping Commission issues licences to shipping companies..... | 11 |
| Drug potential from Great Barrier Reef sea sponges ready for commercial development..... | 11 |
| Productivity Commission inquiry into infrastructure costs and financing..... | 11 |
| Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Submarine Cable Protection) Bill 2013..... | 11 |
| Transfer of pilotage services to Gladstone Ports Corporation..... | 11 |
| COAG Review of model Workplace Health & Safety laws..... | 11 |
| Contracted shipping service to Shortland Islands to resume..... | 11 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Australian Shipowners Association appoints four new Directors to the Board | 12 |
| Indian Government should declare coastal shipping policy | 12 |
| Government to review the Australian Standards for Livestock Export | 12 |
| Port Hedland boasts again | 12 |
| Infrastructure Australia Amendment Bill 2013 | 12 |
| Import Processing Charges Amendment Bill 2013 | 12 |
| Draft ACCC decision on Viterra's wheat port undertaking | 12 |
| European Commission opens proceedings against container liner shipping companies | 12 |
| BHP Billiton to replace two shiploaders at Nelson Point in Port Hedland | 12 |
| Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment (Public Moorings and Infrastructure) Regulation 2013 | 12 |
| Indian shipping ministry to seek support for shipbuilders | 13 |
| Managing the Risk of Fatigue at Work | 13 |
| Roads and Services contract awarded for Webb Dock project at Port of Melbourne | 13 |
| Prime Minister's Australian Exporter of the Year award | 13 |
| Tasmanian Shipping and Freight Inquiry | 13 |
| Australia included as IMO Assembly elects new 40-Member Council | 13 |
| World Shipping Outlook – November | 13 |
| UN, US & EU Sanctions on Iranian shipping – November developments | 14 |

Fisheries..... 14

| | |
|---|----|
| New management arrangements for the Northern Prawn Fishery | 14 |
| Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Actual Live Weight Value of a Statutory Fishing Right Determination 2013-14 | 14 |
| Antarctic Fishery First to Require ID Numbers for All Fishing Vessels | 14 |
| Comments sought on fisheries Resource Assessment Group (RAG) policy | 14 |
| High Court decision on native title fishing rights | 14 |
| Australian Greens welcome NZ shark finning ban and call for Australian Government to take action | 14 |
| Tuna catch limits to be considered | 14 |
| Illegal fishing conviction | 14 |
| Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas | 14 |
| Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery - AFMA application | 15 |
| Aqua Marine Tasmania - Company application on ecological sustainability | 15 |
| Seven foreign fishing boats intercepted | 15 |
| US catch limit for Pacific sardines | 15 |
| European Commission intensifies the fight against illegal fishing | 15 |
| Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery Total Allowable Catch Determination 2013 | 15 |

Resource Exploration & Development 15

| | |
|---|----|
| Draft strategic assessment - Great Barrier Reef | 15 |
| Invitation for Public Comment sought - Murphy Australia Oil Pty Ltd – Exploration 25km from the Abrolhos Islands | 15 |
| Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create a one-stop shop for environmental approvals for NSW | 15 |
| Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Legislation Amendment (2013 Measures No. 2) Regulation 2013 | 15 |
| Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Amendment (Annual Titles Administration Levy) Regulation 2013 | 16 |
| Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Amendment Bill 2013 | 16 |
| Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment (Cash Bidding) Bill 2013 | 16 |
| APPEA Board elects new Chairman and Vice-Chairman | 16 |

Marine Science & Environment..... 16

| | |
|---|----|
| Pacific Ocean warming | 16 |
| Draft strategic assessment - Great Barrier Reef | 16 |
| International Community Fails to Protect Marine Life in Antarctic Waters | 16 |
| French CO2 Reporting Requirements for Ships | 16 |
| Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create a one-stop shop for environmental approvals for NSW | 16 |
| Ocean research in Canada failed by lack of national strategy and coordination | 16 |
| Kimberley marine park plan agreement | 17 |
| Guide to Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) | 17 |
| Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 | 17 |
| Ocean acidification impairs digestion in marine organisms | 17 |
| Ocean Acidification - the Other CO2 Problem – COP19 seminar | 17 |
| Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery - AFMA application | 17 |
| Aqua Marine Tasmania - Company application on ecological sustainability | 17 |
| Indian Ocean phenomenon helping to predict extreme weather | 17 |

Letters to the Editor..... 17

Conferences & seminars..... 18

| | |
|--|----|
| 4-5 December 2013 – Optimising Port Development – London | 18 |
| 23-24 January 2014 - 8th Indian Ocean Ports and Logistics – Mauritius | 18 |
| 29-30 January 2014 - 8th Vessel Efficiency and Fuel Management Summit – London | 18 |
| 29-30 January 2014 - 10th Next Generation Vessel Maintenance – London | 18 |
| 27-28 February 2014 - 6th Intermodal Asia 2014 Australia Exhibition and Conference – Melbourne | 18 |
| 5-6 March 2014 - 4th FPSO Vessel Conference – London | 18 |
| 19-20 March 2014 – Australian Logistics Council Forum 2014 – Royal Randwick Racecourse, Sydney | 18 |
| 20-22 March 2014 – Australian Maritime Museums Conference – Queenscliff, VIC | 18 |
| 26-27 March 2014 - 9th Maritime Communications & Technologies Summit – London | 18 |
| 7-11 April 2014 – XXII International Maritime Pilots' Association Congress – Panama | 18 |
| 7-11 June 2014 – World Aquaculture Conference – Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide | 18 |
| 7-11 July 2014 - Australian Marine Sciences Association Conference – Canberra | 18 |

2014 (date tba) - Defence and Industry Conference - Adelaide 18

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

Next Edition of the *Digest*

The previous print version of the *Digest* had traditionally taken a break over Christmas, with the 1 February edition containing both December *and* January news. That could increase the size of the new format *Digest* to around 40 pages *and* few subscribers are going to be interested in reading, in early February, what happened up to two months earlier.

Therefore this year, in yet another break from tradition, there will be a 1 January edition of the *Digest*. However, to allow AAMA office staff to take a break (and also to give you, Gentle Reader, some holiday reading to take with you as you set off with your i-Pad on your own holidays), the 1 January edition will in fact close off and be distributed on Friday 20 December. Any maritime news from the rest of December will be covered in the subsequent 1 February edition.

There will, of course, be no extra charge for this increase from 11 to 12 editions *per annum*. Enjoy your Christmas present from the AAMA!

Recognition of the AAMA's Corporate Supporters

With the transfer of the printing and marketing of the AAMA's *Australian Journal of Ocean and Maritime Affairs* (AJMOA) to Taylor & Francis from 1 January 2014, it has been decided that the AAMA should acknowledge, with gratitude, its corporate supporters in the *Digest*, in lieu of AJMOA, and in addition to our website where they have long been recognised. That has begun with this edition of the *Digest*.

Any other organisation which would like to discuss its corporate support for the AAMA should contact admin@aama.asn.au

Have your say – send a Letter to the Editor

If you and/or your colleagues have a view on any maritime topic, please send a short Letter to the Editor – news@aama.asn.au - and attach any detailed reasoning so we can assess whether we can publish your supporting material on the AAMA website, with a link from your Letter to the Editor.

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CORPORATE SUPPORTERS



Sea Power Centre - Australia
 Department of Defence, Canberra ACT 2600
 Web site: www.navy.gov.au/spc



Maritime Australia Limited
 PO Box 4095, Geelong, VIC 3220
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Commonwealth Fisheries Association (CFA)
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The Board of the Australian Association for Maritime Affairs thanks its corporate supporters.

MARITIME DEFENCE, CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION

Navy Hydrographic Ships complete PNG Survey

Defence [reported](#) “Two of the Royal Australian Navy’s Coastal Hydrographic Survey ships have recently returned to their homeport of Cairns, having completed a survey of Dawson Strait, Papua New Guinea. The two ships, *Mermaid* and *Paluma*, commenced vital survey work in August to assist mariners in the safe passage and navigation of the region.”

HMAS *Choules* completes mission at Manus Island

Defence [reported](#) “HMAS *Choules* has completed its mission at Manus Island and heads home today, 31 October 2013. Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO, CSC, RAN said HMAS *Choules* provided maritime support to Department of Immigration and Border Protection efforts to increase the capacity of the facilities on Manus Island.”

Spanish Armada Ship, ESPS *Cantabria* farewelled

Defence [reported](#) “After nine months operating as part of the Royal Australian Navy Fleet, Spanish Armada Ship, ESPS *Cantabria* was farewelled from her temporary homeport of Garden Island, Sydney.” [At the end of the month, at a reception in Goa for *Cantabria*, the *Economic Times* [India] [reported](#) that “Spain is offering to build ships and submarines for the Indian Navy in India with transfer of technology.”]

Australia and India advance strategic partnership

[Reporting](#) on her talks with Indian External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said, *inter alia*, “Following the successful visit by Indian Defence Minister Antony to Australia in June, we also had good discussions on how to strengthen our security and strategic cooperation, including reviewing progress towards conducting a bilateral maritime exercise in 2015.”

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Joint Op-Ed

This somewhat unusual [document](#) was released by the Foreign Ministers of Australia, India and Indonesia. It said, in part “The IORA has six agreed priority areas: maritime safety and security; trade and investment facilitation; fisheries management; disaster preparedness; academic, science and technology cooperation; and tourism and cultural exchange.”

Exercise Bersama Lima 2013

Defence [announced](#) “An air and maritime exercise involving Australia and its regional security partners commences today (7 November 2013) in Malaysia. Exercise Bersama Lima 2013, is a Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) activity involving Australia, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Malaysia and New Zealand.”

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) develops closer links with US Coast Guard

The ACBPS [announced](#) it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United States Coast Guard (USCG) to enhance cooperation between the two agencies.

Asia’s Submarine Race

The US Naval Institute published this useful [overview](#) of who is doing what with submarines in the Indo-Pacific region.

Indian navy takes delivery of Russian carrier

The *Global Post* [reported](#) “Russia handed over a \$2.3 billion aircraft carrier to India on Saturday [16 Nov] after years of delays, extending the South Asian country’s maritime reach in the Indian Ocean as it looks to counter China’s assertive presence in the region.”

Gift of two retired Australian Bay Class patrol boats to assist Sri Lanka

Prime Minister Abbott [announced](#) “Australia will gift [sic] two retired Australian Bay Class patrol boats to assist Sri Lanka’s efforts in combatting people smuggling operations. The patrol boats are agile and with a range, speed and boarding capability that mean they will be well-suited to enhancing the Sri Lankan Navy’s efforts to disrupt people smuggling ventures. Australia is providing training with the patrol boats, which will operate alongside the Sri Lankan Navy’s existing capability to intercept people smuggling efforts originating in Sri Lankan waters.”

Senate Inquiry into Commonwealth procurement procedures

The Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee has begun an [inquiry](#) into the current ratio of Australian goods and services versus imported goods and services utilised by the Commonwealth through procurement procedures. The Committee is to report by the first sitting day in March 2014.

AUSMIN 2013 Joint Communiqué

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms Bishop, released the [communiqué](#) of the recent AUS-US foreign and defence policy talks, focusing on : a joint Statement of Principles that provides a common vision for advancing the U.S. force posture initiatives in northern Australia; facilitating interoperability, industry collaboration, and innovation; a Memorandum of Understanding governing the arrangements for the relocation and joint operation of a unique, highly advanced U.S. space surveillance telescope to Western Australia; cyberspace threats; potential Australian contributions to ballistic missile defense in the Asia-Pacific region; disaster relief capacity in the region; defense cooperation with Indonesia, including on humanitarian and disaster relief operations; enhance trust and confidence through dialogue with China on strategic security issues; promotion of stability on the Korean Peninsula; promote the importance of peace and stability, respect for international law, unimpeded lawful commerce, and freedom of navigation in the East China Sea and the South China Sea; conclude a high-standard and comprehensive Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement in 2013; and cooperate more closely with ASEAN and other EAS members to develop the EAS security and political agenda and its institutional arrangements.

Defence awards contract to support frigates

Defence [announced](#) “Chief Executive Officer of the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO), Mr Warren King, today announced that a multi-million dollar contract had been signed with Thales Australia for in-service support on four Royal Australian Navy (RAN) ships. Mr King said the \$46 million contract provides support to the Adelaide Class Guided Missile Frigate’s (FFG) Combat Systems and offers increased job security to the 48 staff within Thales that have been engaged under the interim contract. “This contract will ensure the FFG Class Combat System, which is among the most capable in the world, is effectively sustained until the RAN transitions to the new Air Warfare Destroyers,” Mr King said.” [“until the RAN transitions to the new Air Warfare Destroyers” is probably the most significant phrase – Editor]

Australia strengthens border protection links with United States

The Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Mr Morrison, [said](#), following a visit to the USA by ACBPS's CEO, Mr Pezzullo, “The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) will strengthen its links with US counterparts” and “Mr Pezzullo also met with the Commandant of the US Coast Guard, Admiral Robert J Papp Jr, and signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop closer ties with the US Coast Guard across a range of areas of joint interest to both agencies in the maritime domain.” [See the ACBPS's earlier announcement above – Editor]

Stealth Technology expert wins Minister’s Science Award

Defence [announced](#) “A stealth technology expert, responsible for significantly enhancing the survivability of military vehicles and vessels, has won the 2013 Minister’s Award for Achievement in Defence Science. Assistant Minister for Defence, Stuart Robert MP, congratulated Dr Andrew Amiet from the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) for developing new solutions and techniques that have resulted in better stealth technology for Australia.”

NZ Southern Ocean patrol begins

The *Taranaki Daily News* [reported](#) “A New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) ship left for Antarctica today [25 Nov], launching a summer-long patrol of the Southern Ocean. The 85-metre offshore patrol vessel HMNZS *Otago* sailed from Dunedin to provide “a physical presence” in the Southern Ocean this summer, navy chief Rear Admiral Jack Steer said.”

Submarine escape and rescue exercise

Defence [announced](#) “An intensive three week submarine escape and rescue exercise has drawn to a close off the east coast of Australia. During Exercise BLACK CARILLON 2013, members of Navy’s Submarine Force simulated being evacuated from HMAS *Farncomb*, which was bottomed in 112 metres of water, in the James Fisher Rescue Service LR5 submersible.”

HMAS Tobruk arrives to support recovery in the Philippines

Defence [announced](#) “HMAS *Tobruk* has arrived to commence recovery support operations in the Ormoc region of Leyte Island to assist the Philippines government repair the damage caused by Typhoon Haiyan. HMAS *Tobruk*, which sailed from Townsville on 18 November with a Recovery Support Force onboard, arrived on 26 November and is disembarking Army personnel from Townsville’s 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment today by landing craft.”

Construction starts on facilities for Seahawk Romeo Helicopters at HMAS *Albatross* in Nowra

Defence [announced](#) “Construction of facilities for the new Seahawk Romeo Helicopters has commenced at HMAS Albatross in Nowra, NSW. The Hon Darren Chester MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, turned the first sod at a ceremony today to welcome the commencement of building works.”

Contract signed to upgrade Collins Class Submarines

Defence Minister Senator David Johnston [announced](#) the Defence Materiel Organisation has signed a multi-million dollar contract with ASC Pty Ltd to update the control management and monitoring system for the Royal Australian Navy’s Collins Class submarines. Senator Johnston said the Integrated Ship Control Management and Monitoring System is a highly automated computerised system, which enables the crew of a Collins submarine to control, monitor and manage the large number of diverse and complex systems on board the submarines.

Canberra based company awarded radar development contract

Minister for Defence Senator David Johnston [announced](#) the award of a Standing Offer contract to Canberra based company CEA Technologies, to develop high powered Phased Array Radar technology. Senator Johnston said the contract for the development of systems based on the CEAFAAR radar would support a number of future Defence acquisitions.

Seven foreign fishing boats intercepted

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Services [announced](#) “A joint agency operation targeting illegal foreign fishing in the Torres Strait has led to the apprehension of seven illegal foreign fishing boats from Papua New Guinea and the return of almost one tonne of live sea cucumbers to Warrior Reef.” and “The joint agency operation included the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS), Royal Australian Navy, and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA).”

New task force to target corruption within Customs and Border Protection

The Minister for Immigration and Border Protection the Hon. Scott Morrison [said](#) “A new internal task force will target 'hard to detect' corruption within the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS)” and “Task Force Pharos will complement integrity reforms already introduced within the service.”

China Seas Developments – November

If any reader has become confused about about which country claims what in the South China Sea, the BBC published a helpful [map](#) in late January 2013, which puts the issues in better perspective.

UPI [reported](#) “China disclosed this week that its nuclear submarines have started regular sea patrols, underlining Beijing's plans to build a powerful naval force to protect the strategic Indian Ocean shipping lanes that carry the oil and raw materials from the Persian Gulf and Africa that fuel China's expanding economy.”

UPI [reported](#) “Malaysia will work more closely with Vietnam to prevent naval misunderstandings on the high seas turning into military confrontation, state news agency Bernama reported. The two countries will explore setting up a "direct connection" communication link between Malaysian Maritime Region 1 Base in Kuantan, Pahang, and Vietnam's Southern Command.”

The Russian *RiaNovosti* [reported](#) on Russia-Japan defence talks “Both countries were, however, positive on the outcome of the talks – the first to be held between the two countries in the 2+2 format of each side’s foreign and defense minister – announcing heightened cooperation on a range of issues related to international security and bilateral relations, as well as plans to meet in the same format on a regular basis. Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera said the two sides had agreed to hold joint anti-terror and anti-piracy military exercises.”

The *Taipei Times* [reported](#) “The government will start revamping infrastructure on Itu Aba (Taiping Island, 太平島) in the South China Sea next year to protect the safety of Taiwanese fishermen in view of the rising sovereignty disputes over the Spratly Islands, (Nansha Islands, 南沙群島), the National Expressway Engineering Bureau said yesterday.” and “The bureau’s acting chief engineer, Chen I-piao (陳議標), said the project, approved by the Executive Yuan in July, would involve building a completely new pier for the island and reinforcing its runway, which was built by the Ministry of National Defense.”

The *Jakarta Post* [reported](#) “The Indonesian Navy said that the situation in the South China Sea, especially in Natuna regency, Riau Islands, is still secure especially considering that Indonesia is not a claimant in the sea dispute.”

The *Hindu* [reported](#) “A newly set up National Security Commission (NSC) under President Xi Jinping will allow China to mount a more unified and prompt response to both border issues and internal security threats, according to a new policy document released on Friday. [15 Nov]”

WantChinaTimes [Taiwan] [reported](#) “A satellite image provided by Google Maps may have unintentionally revealed the PLA Navy's second carrier base in Yulin, Hainan province, according to the Party-run Global Times. The satellite image has captured what appears to be a trestle and breakwater structure, indicating that Hainan is potentially set to become China's second carrier base after Qingdao in east China's Shandong province, said military experts.”

IBNLive [India] [reported](#) “Vietnam, on Monday [18 Nov], appreciated India's "constructive role" in the disputed South China Sea region notwithstanding China's objections to Indian involvement in that area.”

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) “A U.S. congressional advisory panel sounded a warning Wednesday over China’s military buildup, predicting it may be able to field the largest fleet of modern submarine and combatant ships in the West Pacific by 2020. The U.S.-China Economic

and Security Review Commission said China's military modernization is altering the balance of power in the Asia-Pacific, challenging decades of U.S. Pre-eminence."

The Times of India [reported](#) "India has been offered seven oil blocks for offshore exploration on the South China Sea by Vietnam, a move that could pit New Delhi's commercial interests against China's territorial interests in the sea."

The Global Post [reported](#) "[Taiwan] President Ma Ying-jeou on Friday [22 Nov] dismissed the notion that it would be in Taiwan's long-term interests to modify its territorial claims covering most of the South China Sea, which mirror those of mainland China, saying nothing of the sort has been considered."

The Telegraph [Calcutta] [reported](#) "Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has for the first time flagged concerns over instability around India following the US "pivot" — or redeployment of military assets — to the Asia-Pacific and territorial disputes over the South China Sea."

LiveMint [India] [reported](#) "China on Saturday [23 Nov] announced it was setting up an "air defence identification zone" over an area that includes islands controlled by Japan but claimed by China, in a move that could inflame the bitter territorial row." [*Focus Taiwan's report* includes a map.]

The US Navy Times [reported](#) "The Pentagon is fortifying bases in the Pacific and looking to revive World War II-era air bases as part of an effort to survive a Chinese missile attack that could wipe out critical installations on Okinawa and elsewhere, military records, interviews and congressional testimony show."

The Voice of America [reported](#) "China has sent its only aircraft carrier on a training mission in the South China Sea, where Beijing is engaged in tense territorial disputes with several of its neighbors."

EuroNews [reported](#) "Two US B52 bombers are at the centre of an escalating row over disputed islands in the South China Sea. The unarmed jets flew over the territory in defiance of a new air defence zone imposed by China."

WantChinaTimes [Taiwan] [reported](#) "China sent fighter jets and early warning aircraft on Friday [29 Nov] to patrol its newly established air defense identification zone after the US, Japan and South Korea defied Beijing's demands that it should be notified in advance of flights in a disputed part of the East China Sea, according to Associated Press and state-run China News Service."

Operation Sovereign Borders updates – November

The Minister for Immigration and Border Protection released these updates: [1 Nov](#), [8 Nov](#), [15 Nov](#), [22 Nov](#), [29 Nov](#)

On 9 Nov, the Minister [released](#) an update on the transfer of rescued passengers off Indonesian coast in which he said "The Indonesian Government has advised Australian officials overnight that they are reviewing the request put forward by Australia. While we welcome Indonesia's review of our request, in the best interests of the safety of the passengers and crew of the rescued vessel and the Australian vessel that has been rendering assistance, earlier this morning I requested Lieutenant General Campbell to transfer the persons rescued from the SAR incident to Christmas Island for rapid onward transfer to Manus Island or Nauru. They will not be resettled in Australia."

SHIPPING, SHIPBUILDING & PORTS

Cabotage rules leave Australian shipping all at sea

The Australian [reported](#) "A fleet of just 22 vessels does not a vibrant coastal shipping trade make. That, as of 2012, was the size of Australia's coastal shipping industry, a far cry from the 55 vessels plying the coast in 1995. The industry has come under greater strain following the move last year by the former Gillard Labor government to tighten the cabotage rules"

Canada Detains Third Vessel Under Maritime Labour Convention

InterManager [reported](#) "Panamanian-flagged bulk carrier *Kouyou* is the third vessel Canada has detained under the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 after officials at the Port of Quebec determined that crew were owed more than \$51,000 in backpay."

Indian ports to benefit from LNG boom

LiveMint [reported](#) "Virtually every port in India is looking to set up liquefied natural gas (LNG) receiving terminals to cash in on the country's efforts to reduce its dependence on traditional and costly fossil fuels and switch to the more efficient, cleaner and ecofriendly option. It is also an indication that locally produced gas—despite the grandiose plans announced by explorers—may not be enough to meet India's huge appetite for the fuel for use in power plants, fertilizer units, petrochemical plants, automobiles and households."

BHP Billiton scraps plans for new coal port at Abbot Point in Queensland

The Guardian [reported](#) "BHP Billiton has scrapped plans to build a major new coal port on the Queensland coast, as a new report warns that the state's haste to expand existing ports is misguided and could result in job losses." and "A report by the [Centre for Policy Development](#) has found there is an excess of port capacity along the Queensland coast, raising concerns that the push to expand ports at Abbot Point, Gladstone and Townsville could put the state "at risk of stranded assets in the long term".

In an e-mail on 5 Nov, BHP Billiton advised the *Digest* "Formal relinquishment of the right to develop T2 has now been agreed with North Queensland Bulk Ports and the Company has formally withdrawn from related regulatory applications. BHP Billiton Coal continues to progress with its growth projects under construction, including the new Caval Ridge Mine and the third expansion of the Hay Point Coal Terminal (HPX3). This expansion of the coal terminal ensures that sufficient capacity is available to meet our shipping needs."

Serious injury of a crew member on board *Mell Selarang* Port of Townsville Qld, 20 August 2013

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) [released](#) the results of this investigation. It found that “one of the ship’s seamen decided to grease the hatch landing pads around the open cargo hold when he slipped and fell, landing about 8.5 m below on the top of a container in the cargo hold.”

Sydney Ports Corporation Maritime Security Identification Card (MSIC) Service Centre to close

Sydney Ports Corporation [said](#) “Sydney Ports Corporation Maritime Security Identification Card (MSIC) Service Centre will cease as an authorised MSIC issuing body as of 29 November 2013.” and “Any individual requiring a new card or seeking to renew a card should contact Veritas Engineering Pty Ltd to begin their application at www.msic.net.au”

Unique French CO2 Reporting Requirements for Ships

The International Chamber of Shipping [says](#) it “has written to the French Government to raise concerns about a new requirement for foreign shipowners to provide information to their French customers about CO₂ emissions, using a detailed methodology that has not been discussed internationally.” It also said “The IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee is now in the process of developing global regulations for the mandatory monitoring and reporting of fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions by ships trading internationally.”

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create a one-stop shop for environmental approvals for NSW

The Prime Minister, Mr Abbott, [announced](#) “The Federal Government has signed the second Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create a one-stop shop for environmental approvals, this time with the NSW Government. Following the endorsement of the Queensland Government last month, the Federal Government is on track to sign-on all states and territories within 12 months and fast-track the eradication of red and green tape for environmental approvals.”

The Commonwealth Department of the Environment [said](#) that it is “seeking public comment on a draft assessment bilateral agreement with the State of New South Wales”

Precautionary Safety Alert for some EPIRBs

The SA Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure has [circulated](#) a Precautionary Safety Alert for Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) manufactured by Standard Communications Pty Ltd between 2005 and 2010. “Model numbers GME MT400, GME MT401, GME MT401FF, GME MT403/G and GME MT403FF/FG have been identified as being at risk, however all EPIRBs should be tested at regular intervals to ensure they are in working order.”

ACCC addresses reform priorities to support competition at Australia’s growing container ports

In its [15th annual monitoring report](#), the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has [highlighted](#) that further economic reforms are required if future benefits of continuing industry reforms and increasing competition in the container stevedoring industry are to be realised. “The Australian stevedoring industry is healthier than ever before. Landmark reforms undertaken in 1998 have been instrumental in driving increased productivity on the Australian waterfront. The industry is now poised to benefit further; this time, competition from a third stevedore will spur the industry to become even more efficient,” ACCC Chairman Rod Sims said.”

Guide to Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)

The World Ocean Council (WOC) and The Nautical Institute (NI) have jointly produced a guide to assist maritime professionals to better understand and engage in [Marine Spatial Planning \(MSP\)](#). The guidance will also help MSP proponents understand shipping industry requirements in relation to management of ocean areas.

US Government plan to improve ports

The *Miami Herald* [reported](#) “President Barack Obama traveled to this waterfront city [New Orleans] Friday [8 Nov] to push a plan to spend more money on ports from Miami to Tacoma as a way to put Americans back to work.” and “Obama has proposed spending \$50 billion on improvements on roads and bridges, airports and ports as he looks to boost the U.S.’s infrastructure investment, which has dropped 50 percent since 1960 and lags behind other nations, including China.”

Indian Coastal Shipping Project may bring down freight charges

The *New Indian Express* [reported](#) “The Coastal Shipping Project which will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Oommen Chandy in Kollam [in Kerala] on Saturday [9 Nov] is expected to bring down freight charges, create job opportunities and reduce traffic congestion on roads, Ports Minister K Babu said on Friday. The aim is to transfer at least 20 per cent of freight traffic to coastal sea routes by 2020 in the first phase of the project, he said in a statement.”

Lady Denman Maritime Museum wins the 2013 IMAGinE Award

The [Museum](#) announced “The Lady Denman Maritime Museum has won the prestigious Museums and Galleries NSW, IMAGinE Awards for the category of ‘Collection Management: 1-2 Staff’. The IMAGinE Awards recognise excellence and the significant contribution to the local community from the 500 museums and galleries across NSW. They also acknowledge outstanding achievement from the over 8,000 individuals who work and volunteer within the sector.”

Tasmanian Ferry report

The *Handy Shipping Guide* [reported](#) “Two ‘ferry stories’ from down under this week, firstly state owned Tasmanian RoRo freight and passenger ferry group [TT Line](#), could be up for sale as part of a plan to encourage private investment in the Bass Strait, following

[recommendations](#) from freight infrastructure consultants Juturna.” [The other ferry story was about a propellor dropping off a Cook Strait ferry, the *Aratere* – Editor]

NSW Ports wins Prestigious *Australian Financial Review* Award

NSW Ports [said](#) “NSW Ports was proud to be nominated by several key players within the finance industry and out of 3 other finalist took out the M&A of the Year Award. NSW Ports would also like to recognize the key advisors UBS and Lazard as well as legal firms Herbert Smith Freehills and King Wood Mallesons who all took part in this deal acting for the NSW Ports Consortium.”

MOL Ships Will Transport Emergency Aid Supplies to The Philippines

Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. [announced](#) that the MOL Group will provide free transport of relief supplies by containerships to the central Philippines devastated by the recent typhoon. [Details of the conditions of the offer are included in the press release – Editor]

InterManager outlined additional international maritime industry responses [here](#).

The US *Navy Times* reported on initial USN and USMC responses [here](#).

The *LA Times* [reported](#) “Stung by criticism that it was playing politics with disaster, the Chinese government said it was contributing money and aid worth \$1.64 million to typhoon victims in the Philippines.”

Exhaust gas cleaning systems (EGCS) for a Very Large Gas Carrier (VLGC)

Clean Marine [Norway] [announced](#) “Clean Marine has been selected by Hyundai Heavy Industries in South Korea to supply exhaust gas cleaning systems (EGCS) for a Very Large Gas Carrier (VLGC) being built for Dorian LPG Ltd. The order will enable the new Dorian LPG vessel to comply with future legislation relating to sulphur emissions without switching to more expensive fuels.”

Central Pacific Shipping Commission issues licences to shipping companies

The *Solomon Star* [reported](#) “Irregular and unreliable shipping services in the Central Pacific region may be a thing of the past with the announcement that three shipping service providers had been selected to service the Central Pacific region, starting on 1 January 2014. After a week of deliberations, Pacific Direct Line International, Swire/China Navigation and Neptune Pacific Line/Pacific Forum Line were awarded Entry Assurance Certificates by the Central Pacific Shipping Commission (CPSC) at a short ceremony in Suva on Friday (8 November).”

Drug potential from Great Barrier Reef sea sponges ready for commercial development

The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) [announced](#) “Expressions of interest are being invited to develop a class of chemical compounds produced by three species of Australian sea sponges, including one species from the Great Barrier Reef, as new drugs to treat conditions such as cancer and bone disease. The compounds, called the chondropsins, were discovered through a collaboration between the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) and the US [National Cancer Institute](#) (NCI).”

Productivity Commission inquiry into infrastructure costs and financing

The Prime Minister, Mr Abbott, [announced](#) “The Government will commence a thorough examination of infrastructure costs and financing in Australia with a new Productivity Commission inquiry.” and “The Productivity Commission will hold public hearings and release a draft report for public comment before delivering a final report to the Government within the next six months, with a draft report to be released in March 2014.” [Productivity Commission inquiry details are [here](#) and the Issues Paper can be downloaded [here](#) – Editor]

Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Submarine Cable Protection) Bill 2013

The Minister for Communications, Mr Turnbull, introduced this [bill](#), which addresses: clarifying consistency between Schedule 3A and UNCLOS; enabling domestic submarine cables to be brought within the scope of the regime; providing a clearer consultation process on installation permit applications; further streamlining the installation permit process; and otherwise enhancing the operation of Schedule 3A of the Act.

Transfer of pilotage services to Gladstone Ports Corporation

Gladstone Ports Corporation has [welcomed](#) 48 new staff members with the transfer of pilotage services from Maritime Safety Queensland.

COAG Review of model Workplace Health & Safety laws

In the [communiqué](#) of a meeting of Safe Work Australia members, the statement was made “The Commonwealth circulated draft Terms of Reference for the 2014 Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Review of model WHS laws for discussion by Members. The Commonwealth will progress the draft Terms of Reference to the Select Council following comment from Members.”

Contracted shipping service to Shortland Islands to resume

The *Solomon Star* [reported](#) “The [Solomon Islands] Government’s contracted shipping service to Shortland is now going to continue. Earlier in September, the Ministry of Infrastructure advised that the service would be suspended following threats to the operator and the ship *MV Pacific Ace*.” and “The FAMOA Council of Chiefs has apologised to the Ministry and the operator on behalf of the individual who made the threat.”

Australian Shipowners Association appoints four new Directors to the Board

The Australian Shipowners Association (ASA) [announced](#) that its Board of Directors has appointed four new members and expanded the size of the Board from six to eight, and welcomed: Wayne Aitken, Managing Director of Farstad Shipping (Indian Pacific) Pty Ltd; Michael Easy, General Manager, Managing Director/CEO at Searoad Holdings Pty Ltd; Peter Little, Vice President, Fleet Operations at Carnival Australia; and Mark Malone, Managing Director of Svitzer Australasia. They join the existing Board Members: Noel G Hart (Chairman), David Parmeter, Managing Director of Teekay Shipping (Australia) Pty Ltd; Mr Robert Bird, Group Chief Operating Officer at ASP Ship Management Group and Mr Peter Mannion, General Manager – Coastal Operations at Rio Tinto Marine.

Indian Government should declare coastal shipping policy

The Economic Times [India] [reported](#) “A [study](#) by Assocham [Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India] and Yes Bank has asked the [Indian] government to declare a coastal shipping policy in order to increase shipping around coastal area and enable hassle-free multimodal transport.”

Government to review the Australian Standards for Livestock Export

The Department of Agriculture [said](#) “The Australian Government is set to review the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock and the role and function of the Livestock Export Standards Advisory Group. In a separate process, the government will also review the livestock inspection processes for sheep prior to export at the port of Fremantle, Western Australia.”

Port Hedland boasts again

The Port Hedland Port Authority [said](#) “It has been a strong start to the 2013/14 financial year for the Port Hedland Port Authority (PHPA), with a number of new port records broken in the first five months. Last Sunday, 17 November 2013, saw six vessels sail on a single tide carrying a record combined total cargo of 1,083,210 tonnes, beating the previous record set on 25 October 2013 by 20,695 tonnes. November also saw the vessel *Wugang Haoyun* break the record for the largest vessel to sail out of the port, at a Dead Weight Tonnage (DWT) of 299,385.4 tonnes.”

Infrastructure Australia Amendment Bill 2013

The Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Mr Truss, introduced this [Bill](#) to strengthen the role of Infrastructure Australia, as an independent, transparent and expert advisory body through a change in its governance structure and through better clarification of its functions. The Bill will re-establish Infrastructure Australia as a separate entity under the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997, which will provide for an independent governing entity that is both legally and financially separate from the Commonwealth.

Import Processing Charges Amendment Bill 2013

The Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Mr Morrison, introduced this [Bill](#) to increase import processing charges for air, sea, and post consignments with a value of \$10,000 or more.

Draft ACCC decision on Viterra's wheat port undertaking

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission [said](#) it has issued a draft decision proposing to consent Viterra Operations Limited's (Viterra) application to extend and vary its 2011 Port Terminal Services Access Undertaking. Viterra's undertaking is due to expire on 30 September 2014, when a mandatory code of conduct is expected to be introduced to govern access to bulk wheat ports. Viterra's 2011 undertaking provides access for third party exporters to Viterra's port terminal services for bulk wheat export at six of its port terminals in South Australia.

European Commission opens proceedings against container liner shipping companies

The European Commission [said](#) it “has opened formal antitrust proceedings against several container liner shipping companies to investigate whether they engaged in concerted practices, in breach of EU antitrust rules. Container liner shipping is the transport of containers by ship at a fixed time schedule on a specific route between a range of ports at one end (e.g. Shanghai - Hong Kong - Singapore) and another range of ports at the other end (e.g., Rotterdam – Hamburg - Southampton). Opening of proceedings does not prejudice the outcome of the investigation.”

BHP Billiton to replace two shiploaders at Nelson Point in Port Hedland

BHP Billiton [announced](#) “BHP Billiton has approved US\$301 million in execution capital (BHP Billiton share) to replace two shiploaders at our Nelson Point port operations in Port Hedland. The two new shiploaders will increase the reliability of our inner harbour port facilities. Each shiploader has a loading capacity of 12,500 tonnes per hour. Existing shiploaders SL1 and SL2, which are more than 40 years old, currently load iron ore at a rate of approximately 10,000 tonnes per hour.”

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment (Public Moorings and Infrastructure) Regulation 2013

The Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, made this [regulation](#) which amends the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983 to prevent the removal of, misuse of and damage to public moorings and infrastructure, such as reef protection markers, buoys, signs and boundary marking ropes, in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park .

Indian shipping ministry to seek support for shipbuilders

LiveMint [reported](#) “The [Indian] shipping ministry is seeking Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's backing to offer subsidy on interest rates to local shipbuilders, giving them access to cheaper funds and help them compete with Chinese and South Korean rivals.”

Managing the Risk of Fatigue at Work

Safe Work Australia has released [Managing the Risk of Fatigue at Work](#) and [Fatigue Management – A Worker's Guide](#) to provide guidance for persons conducting a business or undertaking and other duty holders on how to manage fatigue in the workplace.

Roads and Services contract awarded for Webb Dock project at Port of Melbourne

VIC Premier Denis Naphthine and Minister for Ports David Hodgett [announced](#) the successful contractor for the extensive civil works package which will be undertaken within the 175 hectare Webb Dock Precinct at the Port of Melbourne. BMD Constructions will build new roads that directly connect the new terminals to Melbourne's M1 Freeway.

Prime Minister's Australian Exporter of the Year award.

Prime Minister Abbott [announced](#) “Victorian company RightShip is the winner of the Prime Minister's Australian Exporter of the Year award. RightShip provides the world's most comprehensive online marine and environmental risk management system and exports its ship vetting services to the global maritime industry.”

Tasmanian Shipping and Freight Inquiry

The Productivity Commission [announced](#) that the Australian Government has asked the Commission to undertake a public inquiry into Tasmania's shipping costs and the competitiveness of Tasmania's freight industry. The Commission is to provide a final report to the Government by 7 March 2014. The Commission is to undertake public consultations, invite public submissions, release a draft discussion report to the public and hold public hearings.

The inquiry will cover: shipping costs, competition and shipping industry competitive structures across Bass Strait; factors inhibiting the provision of international shipping services to Tasmania; the competitiveness of Tasmania's freight industry, economic infrastructure and possible reforms that would enhance competition, investment and productivity growth; and the merits and weaknesses of the current arrangements for supporting freight and passenger services between the mainland and Tasmania.”

Australia included as IMO Assembly elects new 40-Member Council

The IMO [announced](#) “The Assembly of the International Maritime Organization has elected the following States to be Members of its Council for the 2014-2015 biennium:

Category (a) 10 States with the largest interest in providing international shipping services:

China, Greece, Italy, Japan, Norway, Panama, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States.

Category (b) 10 States with the largest interest in international seaborne trade:

Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, India, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden.

Category (c) 20 States not elected under (a) or (b) above, which have special interests in maritime transport or navigation and whose election to the Council will ensure the representation of all major geographic areas of the world:

Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey.”

World Shipping Outlook – November

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

Reuters [reported](#) “The Bundesbank sees risks for German lenders ahead of a European Central Bank audit, citing banks' shipping exposures and commercial properties, according to magazine *Wirtschaftswoche*.”

Arabian Supply Chain [reported](#) “[Tomini Shipping](#) has revealed plans for further expansion following an order for nine new bulkers. Chairman Imtiaz Shaikh has told *Arabian Supply Chain* that the Dubai based company has set itself a target of at least 20 new vessels over the next few years.”

Reuters [reported](#) “Lloyds Banking Group ([LLOY.L](#)) has sold a \$500 million-plus portfolio of shipping loans to cut its exposure to the industry, sources familiar with the matter said on Wednesday. [13 Nov]”

Maersk released its Q3 results, [saying](#) “We are very satisfied with the operational result which is a consequence of strong performances in most businesses,” says Group CEO Nils S. Andersen.” and “APM Terminals delivers strong underlying profit and Maersk Drilling continues its solid operational performance. Maersk Oil's production has bottomed out and stabilised. Maersk Line continues industry leadership on profitability, however, Q4 has started with low freight rates which are expected to affect the fourth-quarter result.”

The Port of Los Angeles released its October 2013 [cargo volumes](#). October overall volumes totaled 684,207 Twenty-Foot Equivalent (TEU) containers. Compared to October 2012, volumes dropped 4.76 percent.

CNBC [reported](#) “If you wonder about which way the economy is going, you may want to take a gander at a new barometer based on ocean shipping freight.”

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

For a good summary of sanctions activity prior to the 24 November nuclear talks outcomes, read this *Wall Street Journal* [article](#).

The *Chicago Tribune* sourced Reuters to [report](#) “Iran's nuclear deal with the West is not intended to let more of its oil into the market, the White House said, but an easing of the ban on European shipping insurance may help smooth crude exports to its big Asian customers.”

Reuters [reported](#) “Iran is quietly mobilising more ships to store and transport oil, aiming to keep its fields working and mitigate losses of several billion dollars a month from sanctions which remain in place for at least another six months, trade sources familiar with the matter say.”

Trend [Azerbaijan] [reported](#) “Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) will sue the European Union due to re-imposing the sanctions against the company, IRISL Managing Director Mohammad Hossein Dajmar said, Tasnim news portal reported on Nov. 29.”

FISHERIES

New management arrangements for the Northern Prawn Fishery

The Hon Michael Egan, Chair of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), [announced](#) that a sustainable and more profitable future for Australia's most valuable Commonwealth fishery, the Northern Prawn Fishery (NPF), will be assured through controls that limit fishing effort and maximise the supply to the Australian community. The new management arrangements will include a minimum catch rate for key species and mechanisms to adjust total annual effort levels to ensure the fishery remains sustainable and profitable.

Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Actual Live Weight Value of a Statutory Fishing Right Determination 2013-14

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) made this [determination](#), which determines the actual live weight value of a statutory fishing right for the 2013 and 2014 Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery fishing seasons. Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) are caught live and transferred from a tow cage into a farm where the fish are kept for an approximate 6 months grow out period. The transfer weighing is conducted at the time of transfer to determine the weight of fish transferred. This weight is used for quota decrementation purposes.

Antarctic Fishery First to Require ID Numbers for All Fishing Vessels

The Pew environmental group [reported](#) “The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, or CCAMLR, took a major step Nov. 1 in battling illegal fishing by agreeing to require unique identification numbers on all vessels fishing in commission waters.”

Comments sought on fisheries Resource Assessment Group (RAG) policy

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) [said](#) it is seeking comment on the revised draft [Fisheries Administration Paper number 12](#): Resource Assessment Groups – Roles, Responsibilities and Relationship with Management Advisory Committees (FAP 12). This paper is AFMA's key policy document for administering Resource Assessment Groups (RAGs) and outlines the roles, responsibilities and appointment processes.

High Court decision on native title fishing rights

In a decision - [Owen John Karpany & Anor v Peter John Dietman \[2013\] HCA 47](#) - the High Court unanimously held that the applicants' native title right had not been extinguished because the Fisheries Act regulated but was not inconsistent with the continued enjoyment of native title rights.

Australian Greens welcome NZ shark finning ban and call for Australian Government to take action

The Greens “[welcomed](#) the move by the NZ Government to end shark finning in their waters and called on the Australian Government to show a similar commitment to preventing cruel finning and carcass dumping practises in Australian waters.”

Tuna catch limits to be considered

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) [said](#) “The Tropical Tuna Management Advisory Committee met in Canberra on Thursday 10 October to discuss management of the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery and Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery. The Committee discussed the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery harvest strategy and total allowable commercial catch (TACC) limits for quota species for the 2014/15 fishing seasons.” and “Following the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission meeting in December 2013, the AFMA Commission will then consider the Committee's advice when determining the TACCs for Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery species.”

Illegal fishing conviction

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) [said](#) “Illegal catching and selling of tuna has proved costly for a skipper from the Commonwealth Tuna fishery who was recently convicted and fined nearly \$10,000 in the Coffs Harbour Magistrates Court.”

Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

The Pew environment group [commented](#) “Members of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas will this week consider measures ranging from a better tracking method for bluefin tuna caught in Atlantic waters to the first ever catch quota for

the world's fastest shark. The commission, which has 46 member countries as well as the European Union, began meeting today [18 Nov] in Cape Town to discuss catch quotas and other conservation measures for tuna and tuna-like species of fish in the Atlantic."

Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery - AFMA application

The Department of the Environment [said](#) "The current export approval for the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery is valid until 26 February 2014 and the fishery is now due for assessment for ongoing export accreditation. The Department of the Environment received an application from the Australian Fisheries Management Authority in November 2013. The application has been prepared to address the Australian Government's 'Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2nd Edition' and to provide updates on the implementation of conditions and recommendations made in the previous Australian Government assessment."

Aqua Marine Tasmania - Company application on ecological sustainability

The Department of the Environment [said](#) it has received an application, *Application for an approved Wildlife Trade Operation*, from Aqua Marine Tasmania in November 2013. The application has been prepared to address the Australian Government 'Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2nd edition'. The application will be used to assess the operation of the fishery for the purposes of Part 13A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Seven foreign fishing boats intercepted

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Services [announced](#) "A joint agency operation targeting illegal foreign fishing in the Torres Strait has led to the apprehension of seven illegal foreign fishing boats from Papua New Guinea and the return of almost one tonne of live sea cucumbers to Warrior Reef." and "The joint agency operation included the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS), Royal Australian Navy, and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)."

US catch limit for Pacific sardines

The Pew environment group [said](#) "[US] West Coast fishery managers acted with appropriate precaution earlier this month when they sharply reduced the catch limit for Pacific sardines. The move was in response to an alarming decline in the population of this keystone Pacific coast forage fish."

European Commission intensifies the fight against illegal fishing

The European Commission [announced](#) "Following a formal warning one year ago ([IP/12/1215](#)), the European Commission today [26 Nov] intensifies its fight against illegal fishing by identifying Belize, Cambodia and Guinea as non-cooperating third countries."

Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery Total Allowable Catch Determination 2013

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority made this [determination](#), which "determines the total allowable catch for the target species (Patagonian Toothfish [sic] and Mackerel Icefish) and catch limits for other species in the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery for the 2013/14 fishing year." [The typo in the ComLaw abstract probably does not invalidate the instrument - Editor]

RESOURCE EXPLORATION & DEVELOPMENT

Draft strategic assessment - Great Barrier Reef

The Department of the Environment [announced](#) "The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Queensland Government are currently seeking [public comment](#) on their draft strategic assessment and program reports for the Great Barrier Reef Region and adjacent Coastal Zone. The public comment period closes on 31 January 2014."

Invitation for Public Comment sought - Murphy Australia Oil Pty Ltd – Exploration 25km from the Abrolhos Islands

The Department of the Environment is [seeking](#) public comment on this application for exploration drilling in WA-481-P.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create a one-stop shop for environmental approvals for NSW

The Prime Minister, Mr Abbott, [announced](#) "The Federal Government has signed the second Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create a one-stop shop for environmental approvals, this time with the NSW Government. Following the endorsement of the Queensland Government last month, the Federal Government is on track to sign-on all states and territories within 12 months and fast-track the eradication of red and green tape for environmental approvals."

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Legislation Amendment (2013 Measures No. 2) Regulation 2013

The Administrator of the Commonwealth made this [regulation](#), to:

- streamline and simplify confidentiality and data submission requirements for some data acquired exclusively by a titleholder;
- enable matters relating to the giving of documents under the OPGGS Act and legislative instruments made under this Act, to be provided for in the Principal Regulations – including electronic service of documents; and
- adjust some existing and introduce new application fees collected by NOPTA

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Amendment (Annual Titles Administration Levy) Regulation 2013

The Administrator of the Commonwealth made this [regulation](#), which amends the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Regulations 2004* to adjust some currently charged annual titles administration levies and change the charging basis for the annual titles administration levy for an exploration permit and a special petroleum exploration permit.

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Amendment Bill 2013

The Minister for Resources, Mr Macfarlane, introduced this [Bill](#), the purpose of which is to amend the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Act 2003* to provide for the annual titles administration levy to be collected by the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator in relation to cash bid petroleum exploration permits in the offshore regulatory regime.

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment (Cash Bidding) Bill 2013

The Minister for Resources, Mr Macfarlane, introduced this [Bill](#), the purpose of which is to amend the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* to provide an optimised model for allocating cash bid exploration permits in the offshore petroleum regulatory regime.

APPEA Board elects new Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The Board of the Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association (APPEA) [said](#) it was pleased to announce the election of Rob Cole as Chairman and Warren Ford as Vice Chairman following APPEA's Annual General Meeting on Thursday 28 November.

MARINE SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Pacific Ocean warming

USA Today [reported](#) "In a study out today [1 Nov AEST] in the journal *Science*, researchers say that the middle depths of a part of the Pacific Ocean have warmed 15 times faster in the past 60 years than they did during the previous 10,000 years."

Draft strategic assessment - Great Barrier Reef

The Department of the Environment [announced](#) "The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Queensland Government are currently seeking [public comment](#) on their draft strategic assessment and program reports for the Great Barrier Reef Region and adjacent Coastal Zone. The public comment period closes on 31 January 2014."

In his media [statement](#), the Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, said "The GBRMPA Strategic Assessment addresses a number challenges facing the reef that must be addressed to improve overall water quality. Most significantly, this includes measures to reduce sediment, nitrogen and nutrient flows, which also boosts the population of the damaging Crown of Thorns Starfish."

International Community Fails to Protect Marine Life in Antarctic Waters

The Pew environmental group [reported](#) "A meeting of 24 countries and the European Union has failed to designate vitally needed marine reserves in Antarctica's Ross Sea, one of the world's most significant, fragile, and beautiful ocean environments. This was a third attempt since 2012 by the [Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources](#), or CCAMLR, to protect large areas in the Southern Ocean. The proposals will be reconsidered at CCAMLR's 2014 annual meeting here next October."

French CO2 Reporting Requirements for Ships

The International Chamber of Shipping [says](#) it "has written to the French Government to raise concerns about a new requirement for foreign shipowners to provide information to their French customers about CO₂ emissions, using a detailed methodology that has not been discussed internationally." It also said "The IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee is now in the process of developing global regulations for the mandatory monitoring and reporting of fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions by ships trading internationally." [If that unique French requirement remains or, worse, becomes more widespread without an international standard, it could disrupt world shipping – Editor]

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create a one-stop shop for environmental approvals for NSW

The Prime Minister, Mr Abbott, [announced](#) "The Federal Government has signed the second Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create a one-stop shop for environmental approvals, this time with the NSW Government. Following the endorsement of the Queensland Government last month, the Federal Government is on track to sign-on all states and territories within 12 months and fast-track the eradication of red and green tape for environmental approvals."

The Commonwealth Department of the Environment [said](#) that it is "seeking public comment on a draft assessment bilateral agreement with the State of New South Wales"

Ocean research in Canada failed by lack of national strategy and coordination

In an article of possible relevance to Australia, *The Vancouver Sun* [reported](#) "Canada's failure to adopt a "comprehensive national strategy or vision" for ocean science is confounding efforts to plan for the future and make efficient use of funding for ocean research, a new national report released Wednesday [6 Nov] concludes. The [report](#) by the Council of Canadian Academies cites a lack of collaboration on ocean research, noting that in Canada, unlike the U.S., Germany, and the United Kingdom, "there is no effective national-level

mechanism to coordinate the allocation of resources and facilitate the sharing of infrastructure and knowledge” at all levels of ocean research.”

Kimberley marine park plan agreement

WA Department of Parks and Wildlife [announced](#) “Humpback whale calving grounds will be protected and Aboriginal employment opportunities increased as part of the Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park Joint Management Agreement, signed today with traditional owners in Derby. The agreement, between the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) and the Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation, is the first such agreement for any marine park in Western Australia.”

Guide to Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)

The World Ocean Council (WOC) and The Nautical Institute (NI) have jointly produced a guide to assist maritime professionals to better understand and engage in [Marine Spatial Planning \(MSP\)](#). The guidance will also help MSP proponents understand shipping industry requirements in relation to management of ocean areas.

Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2013

The Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, introduced this [bill](#) which amends:

- (a) the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (the EPBC Act) to address the implications arising from the Federal Court's decision in *Tarkine National Coalition Incorporated v Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities* [2013] FCA 694 (the Tarkine case); and
- (b) the EPBC Act to provide additional protection for turtles and dugong which are listed threatened, migratory or marine species (“listed” turtles and dugong) by increasing the financial penalties for various offence and civil penalty provisions; and
- (c) the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (Cth) (the GBRMP Act) by providing additional protection for protected species under the GBRMP Act, if those species are in the Genus *Dugong* (dugong); or the Family *Cheloniidae* (marine turtles); or are the species *Dermochelys coriacea* (leatherback turtles).

Ocean acidification impairs digestion in marine organisms

Eureka! Science News [reported](#) “Ocean acidification impairs digestion in marine organisms, according to a new study published in the journal *Nature Climate Change*. Researchers from Sweden and Germany have studied the larval stage of green sea urchins *Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis*. The results show that the animals have problems digesting food in acidified water.”

Ocean Acidification - the Other CO2 Problem – COP19 seminar

As part of the 19th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP19) in Warsaw, the IOC-UNESCO in partnership with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) organised a [seminar](#) to address the challenges associated with ocean acidification, including the need for greater international observation and coordination.

Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery - AFMA application

The Department of the Environment [said](#) “The current export approval for the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery is valid until 26 February 2014 and the fishery is now due for assessment for ongoing export accreditation. The Department of the Environment received an application from the Australian Fisheries Management Authority in November 2013. The application has been prepared to address the Australian Government’s ‘Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2nd Edition’ and to provide updates on the implementation of conditions and recommendations made in the previous Australian Government assessment.”

Aqua Marine Tasmania - Company application on ecological sustainability

The Department of the Environment [said](#) it has received an application, *Application for an approved Wildlife Trade Operation*, from Aqua Marine Tasmania in November 2013. The application has been prepared to address the Australian Government 'Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2nd edition'. The application will be used to assess the operation of the fishery for the purposes of Part 13A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Indian Ocean phenomenon helping to predict extreme weather

The CSIRO [reported](#) “A phenomenon in the Indian Ocean that affects events in southeast Australia is helping to predict extreme weather up to six months in advance. The phenomenon, the Indian Ocean Dipole, is the difference in sea-surface temperatures between the western and eastern part of the Indian Ocean, and until recently has been one of the most influential but the least understood natural forces affecting Australia’s climate.”

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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CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

4-5 December 2013 – Optimising Port Development – London

The conference will address the key challenges faced by modern ports and terminals in order to present an efficient and attractive option to the shipping lines. For details, click [here](#)

23-24 January 2014 – 8th Indian Ocean Ports and Logistics – Mauritius

The largest annual Container Ports, Shipping and Transport Logistics Exhibition and Conference trade event serving the islands of the Indian Ocean. For details, click [here](#)

29-30 January 2014 – 8th Vessel Efficiency and Fuel Management Summit – London

The event will examine the performance enhancing options available to ship owners and ship managers for efficiency maximisation and increased profitability. Special focus will be placed on how to maximise existing vessel's profitability, the tools for measuring performance and specific fuel-efficiency improving equipment. For details, click [here](#)

29-30 January 2014 – 10th Next Generation Vessel Maintenance – London

The two-day meeting will take a fresh approach in meeting the challenge in optimising maintenance and highlighting best practices in the maritime & offshore industry. It will create awareness in training options and offer solutions in overcoming costly and outdated routine maintenance processes. For details, click [here](#)

27-28 February 2014 – 6th Intermodal Asia 2014 Australia Exhibition and Conference – Melbourne

Supported by Port of Melbourne Corporation. For details, click [here](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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. Email your completed Symposia proposal to the [Chair of the AMSA2014 Scientific Committee \(Dr Rachel Przeslawski\)](#) by 30 November 2013.

2014 (date tba) – Defence and Industry Conference – Adelaide

Press [statement](#)

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](#)

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

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