



Australian Maritime Digest

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7-11 July 2014 - Australian Marine Sciences Association Conference – Canberra 21
29-30 July 2014 - Defence and Industry Conference - Adelaide 21
16-18 October 2014 - 3rd Annual World Congress of Ocean & Investment and Trade Fair-2014 – Dalian, China 21
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2-4 February 2016 – 2016 Pacific International Maritime Exposition – Sydney Exhibition Centre, Glebe Island 21

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

This Edition of the *Digest*

As mentioned in the 1 December edition, this 1 January 2014 edition contains maritime news of relevance to Australia only up until c.o.b. 19 December 2013. Any further maritime news from late December 2013, as well as the January 2014 news, will be included in the 1 February 2014 edition.

Happy Christmas and enjoy your holidays!

Changes to the Baltic Capesize Index

The changes to the Baltic Exchange's "Capesize" definition reported below should send a small frisson of nervousness through the finance world.

The Capesize Index feeds into the Baltic Dry Index (BDI), which is watched by many economists and others who have no other connection with the sea because it seems to give the closest approximation to the world's actual trading, and therefore economic, health. Some readers may remember that a few years ago *The Economist* published a study based on nations' official trade statistics which found that, adding up imports and exports, the whole world was, somehow, exporting much more than it was importing, ie the official statistics were rubbish (probably because customs charges were being evaded). The BDI, on the other hand, reflects directly what pretty hard-headed people pay for various shipping financial services. To that extent it is less open to manipulation than either official statistics or some arcane financial measures, like the now-infamous LIBOR.

The changes announced by the Baltic Exchange mean that our readers can enjoy their Christmas even more, knowing that people in financial centres around the world, and particularly some hedgefund operators, who may never have learned to tell port from starboard, will be trying to assess how to allow for the impact on their financial forecasting models of the Exchange's increasing the DWT of "Capesize" ships and adjusting their speed in knots.

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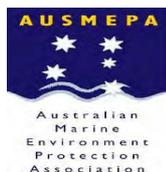
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The Board of the Australian Association for Maritime Affairs thanks its corporate supporters.

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THE COMMERCIAL MARITIME AND NAVAL DEFENCE SHOWCASE FOR THE ASIA PACIFIC

The banner features a background image of a large blue wave. The text is centered and uses a mix of white and blue colors. Below the main text is a collage of six small photographs showing various scenes from the exhibition, including people in business suits and naval uniforms interacting at booths.

MARITIME DEFENCE, CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION

Australian Navy takes lead in maritime security in Middle East and North Indian Ocean

Defence [reported](#) “Australia is leading maritime security operations in the Middle East and North Indian Ocean after assuming command of Combined Task Force 150 (CTF 150) on 1 December. The fifth rotation of the Royal Australian Navy’s maritime security task force command group departed Australia on 19 November for a five-month deployment to the Middle East as part of the 29-nation Combined Maritime Forces in Bahrain.”

ANZAC Class frigate communications upgrade

Defence Minister Senator David Johnston [announced](#) that Defence has awarded two multi-million dollar contracts to Selex ES Ltd for the acquisition and support of modernised communication systems for the Royal Australian Navy's eight ANZAC Class frigates.

To counter piracy, Japan eases a samurai-era ban on civilians carrying guns

InterManager [reported](#) "Pirates wielding rocket-propelled grenades and AK-47s have prompted Japan to ease a samurai-era ban on civilians carrying guns, allowing guards on locally registered oil tankers to be armed for the first time. Shipping companies will be able to place security personnel with guns on the tankers when sailing through specified areas of the Indian Ocean and in and around the Gulf of Aden, where pirates have collected hundreds of millions of dollars by hijacking ships. The change in the law, which became effective Nov. 30 and only applies to oil vessels, marks the first time Japan has authorized civilians to carry automatic weapons."

US Navy could take lessons from commercial shipbuilding industry

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) "The Navy could look to the commercial shipbuilding industry for ways to reduce problems in the construction and delivery of U.S. warships, a [government watchdog report](#) says. Commercial ship buyers "establish clear lines of accountability" and employ roaming patrols and impromptu inspections to spot problems before a ship is delivered, the U.S. Government Accountability Office said in a November report." [Perhaps the US, and Australia, should examine Rickover's techniques when getting the first nuclear submarines built – Editor]

Australian-led Operation RENDER SAFE concludes in Solomon Islands

Defence [announced](#) "The Australian-led Operation RENDER SAFE 2013 has concluded in Solomon Islands after disposing of more than 12,000 items of unexploded World War II ordnance. The operation consisted of a Task Force of nearly 200 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) specialists and support staff from the Australian Defence Force (ADF), New Zealand Defence Force, Canadian Armed Forces, the United States Navy and Royal Solomon Islands Police Force."

Navy updates ship colour scheme for modern war-fighting

The Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, [announced](#) that the Navy will progressively change the colour of its surface fleet to meet modern war-fighting and regional environmental conditions.

Two illegal foreign fishing boats intercepted off Darwin

Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Scott Morrison, [announced](#) that two alleged illegal foreign fishing boats have been apprehended in northern Australian waters in the past week [29 Nov – 6 Dec] by a Border Protection Command asset, working with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA).

HMAS *Tobruk* delivers aid to remote Philippines islands

Defence [reported](#) "HMAS *Tobruk* has been working with the World Food Programme (WFP) and other aid organisations to get much needed supplies to remote islands in the Philippines while deployed on Operation PHILIPPINES ASSIST. From 4 – 6 December 2013, the ship completed aid delivery operations to a number of remote islands north of Cebu, including Malapascua Island, Guintacan Island, Bantayan and the Don Islands."

HMAS *Penguin* redevelopment officially opened

Defence [announced](#) "After two years of construction, the upgraded Royal Australian Navy Diving School and the Submarine and Underwater Medicine Unit (SUMU) were officially opened at a ceremony at HMAS *Penguin* today [9 Dec]."

Recognition of Service on Operation DAMASK VI

Defence [announced](#) "The Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal has provided the report of their inquiry into the recognition of service by HMAS *Canberra* on Operation DAMASK VI in the Middle East in 1992 and 1993. The inquiry focused on the appeals by two former members of HMAS *Canberra*, who sought permission to receive both the Australian Active Service Medal and Australian Service Medal to denote their involvement in both the warlike and non-warlike periods of their deployment. The Tribunal has upheld the appeals and recommended that all members of the crew of HMAS *Canberra* who served on Operation DAMASK VI also be recommended for the award of both medals."

EIS allows US Navy to have more Atlantic training

Reporting on an initiative that may be relevant to Australia, *Stars and Stripes* [said](#) "The Department of the Navy announced the signing of an environmental impact statement that will enable more training along the Atlantic Coast and the Gulf of Mexico. The area is 2.6 million square nautical miles along the Atlantic, from Maine to Florida, and Gulf coasts." and "The proximity to home ports near the training ranges was a consideration because sailors and Marines will not have to routinely travel far from home."

Inaugural Australia-Papua New Guinea Defence Ministers' Meeting – Gift of an LCH

In [reporting](#) on the meeting, the Minister for Defence Senator David Johnston said "I am also pleased to announce that Australia intends to gift [sic] Papua New Guinea one Royal Australian Navy Landing Craft Heavy in 2014. The Landing Craft Heavy (LCH) will assist the Papua New Guinea Defence Force Maritime Element to develop a strengthened sealift capability."

Defence begins drawdown of Philippines recovery operations

Defence [announced](#) “HMAS *Tobruk* has completed its mission in the Philippines and is returning to Australia with a load of Army engineer machinery, vehicles and 35 Army personnel.”

First MH-60R Seahawk Romeo Helicopters accepted by Defence

Defence Minister David Johnston [hailed](#) as an “outstanding success” the delivery of the first two of 24 US-built MH-60R Seahawk Romeo maritime combat helicopters to be acquired by the Royal Australian Navy’s Fleet Air Arm.

Media Reporting of Salvage Activity on the Wreck of HMAS Perth I

Defence [confirmed](#) media reports of apparent salvage operations on the wreck and said “The Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs has written to his counterpart the Chief of the Indonesian Navy, Admiral Dr. Marsetio on this issue. The Australian embassy Defence staff in Jakarta continues to work on this with Indonesian officials.” [The tenor of the statement suggested that Defence is more agitated about the impact of the media reports than about the salvage activities - Editor]

US Navy expands sonar testing despite troubling signs

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) “The U.S. Navy plans to increase sonar testing over the next five years, even as research it funded reveals worrying signs that the loud underwater noise could disturb whales and dolphins.”

HMAS *Tobruk* brings sailors, soldiers and equipment home

Defence [reported](#) “Royal Australian Navy ship HMAS *Tobruk* has returned to Townsville to disembark 35 Army personnel and unload equipment following Australian Defence Force Humanitarian Disaster Relief (HADR) operations in the Philippines.”

Appointment of three new Board members to ASC Pty Ltd

The Finance Minister, Senator Cormann, [said](#) “I am pleased to announce the appointment of three new board members to ASC Pty Ltd. Mr Peter Iancov, Mrs Sophie Mirabella and Mr Paul Rizzo have all been appointed for three year terms.”

2012–13 Major Projects Report - Defence Materiel Organisation

The Auditor-General released this [report](#) on current major Defence projects, criticising, among other things, discrepancies between initial cost estimates and what is being achieved. [Any reader who has ever compared the initial budget for their home renovations with the final total bill will probably have some sympathy for DMO project managers criticised in this report– Editor]

HMAS *Melbourne* intercepts drug dhows in Middle East

Defence [reported](#) “Australian personnel onboard HMAS *Melbourne* have seized and destroyed amphetamines valued at approximately \$11.3 million during two separate boardings over the past week in the Arabian Sea as part of the Combined Maritime Forces.”

Australian and New Zealand Defence Ministers' meeting

In the [communiqué](#) from their meeting, the ministers reported “discussions on naval cooperation between the countries and further cross-crewing initiatives”.

Review of the Air Warfare Destroyer programme

In a “joint” [statement](#), the Ministers for Finance and Defence said “Since coming into Government, I [sic] have received detailed briefings from key stakeholders associated with the Air Warfare Destroyer program. There are clearly issues associated with this important program. This is part of the legacy of unresolved issues which we have inherited from Labor. Together with the Minister for Defence we are working to resolve these issues. We are committed to establishing an independent review into the Air Warfare Destroyer program. We will provide further details of this review when we finalise the terms of reference in early 2014.”

Pirate Gangs Still Active but Attacks on Cargo Vessels and Tankers Switch Coasts of Africa

The *Handy Shipping Guide* [reported](#) “The latest news from the coastline of the [African] continent further highlights the disparity between East and West as regards the crimes which occur at sea in the different regions. On Monday (16 December) a gang of ten attacked an oil tanker, the MT *Althea*, registered in the Marshalls Islands and with a complement of eighteen crew members. The raid was almost surgical in nature, no attempt to steal either vessel or her cargo of oil but two senior crew, the Ukrainian captain and the Greek engineer, were abducted and transferred to the criminals speedboat which then departed.” [It seems unlikely to be the actual pirate gangs who have moved across Africa, just the *modus operandi* - Editor]

In the same vein, *BusinessDay* [reported](#) “As part of its effort to curb the menace of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea region that is currently rated as a high risk area, Ocean Marine Security, one of the leading maritime security companies in West Africa has partnered with PSG Group, a United Kingdom-based maritime security specialist, to establish a Secure Anchorage Area (SAA) off the coast of Lagos to protect vessels operating within the region.”

China Seas Developments – December

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) “Two of the [US] Navy’s new P-8A Poseidon reconnaissance aircraft have arrived at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa”

The Globe and Mail [Canada] [reported](#) “China has a sovereign right to establish a maritime air defence zone over another region as it did in the East China Sea, the Chinese envoy to the Philippines said Monday [2 Dec].”

The [US] *Navy Times* [reported](#) “The United States and Japan on Tuesday [3 Dec] let Beijing know they aren’t backing down amid fresh tensions.” and “To that end, the White House on Tuesday morning issued a fact sheet describing U.S.-Japanese cooperation. The final category was focused on “safety and security” on the high seas.”

GMA News [Philippines] [reported](#) “The Philippines will submit to the United Nations Arbitral Tribunal next year a formal statement regarding China’s claim of sovereignty over territories in the South China Sea, Foreign Affairs secretary Albert Del Rosario said Tuesday [3 Dec].”

The *Navy Times* [reported](#) “Giving no ground, Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. Vice President Joe Biden traded strong arguments Wednesday over China’s contentious new air defense zone, with no indication of progress toward defusing a situation that is raising anxieties across Asia and beyond.”

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) “South Korea said Thursday [5 Dec] that it would proceed with a joint naval exercise with the United States and Britain, amid tensions over China’s declaration of an air defence zone over the East China Sea.” and “The exercises were planned with the US long ago, the spokesman said, and should not be regarded as a protest against China’s establishment of an air defence identification zone in late November.” [But - Editor]

Stars and Stripes later [reported](#) that the ships are “The Shiloh, a Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser with the 7th Fleet, has a crew of approximately 400 sailors and is forward deployed to Yokosuka, Japan. Also participating in the exercise are South Korea’s Yulgok Yi I, a guided missile destroyer, and the Royal Navy destroyer HMS Daring.” [That is a powerful force! - Editor]

Bloomberg Business Week [reported](#) “China’s new air defense zone won’t affect U.S. military operations in the region even as it increases the risk of “miscalculations,” U.S. Vice President Joe Biden said.”

The Guardian [reported](#) “China is taking the highly unusual step of refusing to participate in a United Nations arbitration process over a territorial conflict with the Philippines, one of five countries challenging Beijing’s claims of ownership over the oil-rich South China Sea.”

The *Navy Times* [reported](#) “South Korea on Sunday [8 Dec] announced an expansion of its air defense zone following China’s move to establish a similar zone that has been criticized by Beijing’s neighbors.”

Xinhua [reported](#) “China stands ready to promote the creation of a harmonious ocean together with other nations, said a Chinese envoy to the UN on Monday [9 Dec].”

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) “A near-final draft of a new Japanese national security strategy calls for a stronger military to deal with a rising China and other growing risks close to home.”

Global Nation [Philippines] [reported](#) “Territorial disputes in the West Philippine Sea—that part of the South China Sea the Philippines claims to be belonging to its exclusive economic zone—the East Sea and Yellow Sea will be on the table as President Aquino joins fellow heads of state of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations for a summit meeting with Japan.”

Want China Times [Taiwan] [reported](#) “China will construct two conventionally powered aircraft carriers in Dalian and Shanghai between 2014 and 2015, a source from China’s Central Military Commission has told Duowei News, an outlet run by overseas Chinese.”

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) “On Dec. 5, a Chinese warship nearly collided with a U.S. Navy guided missile cruiser, according to U.S. Pacific Fleet.”

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) “Taking clear aim at China’s growing aggressiveness in territorial disputes with its smaller neighbors, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry announced Monday [16 Dec] that the United States will boost maritime security assistance to the countries of Southeast Asia amid rising tensions with Beijing.”

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) “Japan on Tuesday [17 Dec] approved a plan to increase defense spending by 5 percent over the next five years to purchase its first surveillance drones, more jet fighters and naval destroyers in the face of China’s military expansion.”

Xinhua writer Wu Xia [commented](#), concluding “After all, the United States, as the sole superpower in the world, should find ways to dissipate distrust and foster cooperation over the South China Sea, where everyone may come out as a winner.”

The *Taipei Times* [reported](#) “During a briefing about John Kerry’s current visit to Asia, a US Department of State official struggled to keep Taiwan out of the questions”

The *Navy Times* [US] [reported](#) “Military relations with the United States face a rosy outlook, China’s Defense Ministry said Wednesday [18 Dec], in an apparent attempt to limit damage from a recent confrontation between the countries’ navies in the South China Sea.”

Operation Sovereign Borders updates – December

The Minister for Immigration and Border Protection released these updates: [6 Dec](#), [13 Dec](#)

SHIPPING, SHIPBUILDING & PORTS

Gladstone Marina Achieves Gold Anchor Accreditation

The Marina Industries Association (MIA) [announced](#) that Gladstone Ports Corporation’s (GPC) Gladstone Marina has been awarded MIA Gold Anchor rating for its services and facilities. MIA International Gold Anchor ratings are a customer focused accreditation scheme for marinas across the Asia Pacific region. To date there are 18 accredited MIA Gold Anchor marinas with more in the process of being accredited.

Fresh Water Analysis Certificate – Compulsory requirement in Brazil

InterManager [relayed](#) the following from one of its members “Please be informed that we were notified by local Port Health Authorities, that following Brazilian Health Regulation called RDC 10-2012 all vessels calling any Brazilian ports must have on board the Fresh Water Analysis Certificate and also send records related to Cleaning and/or disinfection of Fresh Water Tanks, maintenance control and/or certificates of the last 12 months.”

US Task force for Philippine typhoon relief effort shut down

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) “The U.S. Pacific Command has shut down the task force it set up two weeks ago to assist in relief efforts following Typhoon Haiyan, the storm that killed thousands in the Philippines. Joint Task Force 505 ended its mission Sunday [1 Dec] “now that the unique capabilities of the U.S. military are no longer required,” its headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo in Manila said in a statement.”

First CITIC shipment of iron ore

Trade and Investment Minister Andrew Robb [congratulated](#) CITIC Pacific Mining on the first shipment of iron ore concentrate from the multi-billion-dollar Sino Iron project in Western Australia's Pilbara. "The Sino Iron project, with its first shipment today from Cape Preston, marks a very important chapter in the history of foreign investment into our country which we of course warmly welcome," Mr Robb said.”

NSW Ports 2012/13 Trade Report released

NSW Ports has released its 2012/13 Trade [report](#) covering both Port Kembla and Port Botany.

Record tonnages for Queensland's coal ports in October

Logistics & Materials Handling [reported](#) “The state's two main coal ports of Dalrymple Bay and Gladstone both saw record levels of coal move through in October on the back of high levels in the past few months. Gladstone recorded 5.98 million tonnes in October, up 17.4 per cent on last year, while Dalrymple Bay recorded 5.79 million tonnes, up 19 per cent on the previous year.”

G6 Alliance plans expansion to Trans-Pacific West Coast and Trans-Atlantic trades

Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. (MOL) [announced](#) plans to expand G6 cooperation to the Asia-North America West Coast and Trans-Atlantic trade lanes. The G6 Alliance plans to deploy about 76 ships across 12 services connecting 27 Asian and North America West Coast ports. Approximately another 42 ships will be deployed across five services including two pendulum services in the Trans-Atlantic trade lane calling at 25 ports covering the US East Coast, US West Coast, Canada, Panama, Mexico, Netherlands, the UK, France, Belgium and Germany.

US Navy could take lessons from commercial shipbuilding industry

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) “The Navy could look to the commercial shipbuilding industry for ways to reduce problems in the construction and delivery of U.S. warships, a [government watchdog report](#) says. Commercial ship buyers "establish clear lines of accountability" and employ roaming patrols and impromptu inspections to spot problems before a ship is delivered, the U.S. Government Accountability Office said in a November report.”

Port of Newcastle's November coal exports to China hit 6-month low

Platts [reported](#) “Australian Newcastle port's coal shipments to China dipped to their lowest level in six months in November at 1.74 million mt, shipping data from terminal operator Port Waratah Coal Services showed Tuesday [3 Dec].”

Contracts awarded for Port of Hastings marine site surveys

VIC Minister for Ports, David Hodgett, [announced](#) “Two well respected companies have been awarded major contracts to undertake marine site surveys for the Port of Hastings Development Authority”. The companies awarded contracts are: Worley Parsons – marine geotechnical surveys; and Aurecon – marine geophysical surveys.

Comprehensive review of competition laws and policy

The Prime Minister, Mr Abbott, [announced](#) “The Government will undertake a comprehensive review of competition laws and policy, the first in more than 20 years.” and “The competition review will examine not only the current laws but the broader competition framework, to increase productivity and efficiency in markets, drive benefits to ease cost of living pressures and raise living standards for all Australians.” [This could include liner shipping agreements and waterfront issues – Editor]

New Bulk Liquids Berth at Port Botany

NSW Ports [announced](#) the opening of Port Botany's second Bulk Liquids Berth (BLB2). The open access, multi user berth will operate on a 24 hour/ 7 day per week basis. BLB2 has been designed to accommodate 120,000 dead weight tonne vessels to a maximum of 270m length overall.

Senate Inquiry - Infrastructure Australia Amendment Bill 2013

On 5 December 2013 the Senate referred the *Infrastructure Australia Amendment Bill 2013* for [inquiry](#) and report. Submissions should be received by 20 January 2014. The reporting date is 17 March 2014.

NSW Freight and Ports Strategy released

The NSW Ministers for Transport and Roads and Ports released the [Strategy](#), saying “The scale of the freight task over the next 20 years warrants decisive action by government. The expected doubling of freight volumes through NSW to nearly 800 million tonnes by 2031 requires a strategic focus to ensure policy, infrastructure and land-planning initiatives deliver a freight network where capacity and performance can meet demand.” [The Strategy actually mentions coastal shipping! - Editor]

US regulator delays P3 shipping-alliance approval

The *Manila Bulletin* [reported](#) “The Federal Maritime Commission pushed back a decision on whether to give the world’s three-biggest container-shipping companies the green light to form an alliance that would control a 40% market share in some of the busiest ocean trade routes. The US watchdog said that one of its commissioners raised questions about the so-called P3 alliance among Danish company Maersk Line, Swiss-based Mediterranean Shipping Co. and France’s CMA CGM before a deadline on Friday [6 Dec] for concerns to be submitted. The three shipping operators now have 45 days to address those questions.”

IMO Assembly report, 28th session - 25 November through 4 December 2013

InterManager [reported](#) on the outcomes of the assembly, including: Ship Identification Number Scheme, training and certification of personnel on mobile offshore units, use of adequately qualified deep-sea pilots in the North Sea, English Channel and Skagerrak, use of adequately qualified deep-sea pilots in the Baltic, IMO Instrument Implementation Code, implementation of the International Safety Management (SM) Code, contingency planning for shipboard emergencies, use of national tonnage in applying international conventions, implementation of the Casualty Investigation Code, Amendment to the survey guidelines under the Harmonised System of Survey and Certification (HSSC) 2011, implementation of the Facilitation Convention, and fair treatment of Crew Members in respect of shore leave and access to shore-side facilities.

Senate inquiry - Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Submarine Cable Protection) Bill 2013

On 5 December 2013, the Senate [referred](#) the *Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Submarine Cable Protection) Bill 2013* to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee for inquiry and report. The reporting date is 31 March 2014.

Largest Single Shipment from Port Hedland Achieved on Record Sailing draft

The Port Hedland Port Authority [reported](#) “The largest single shipment of iron ore left Port Hedland on 5 December 2013 with 263,962 tonnes onboard the vessel Hugo N. The Fortescue loaded iron ore carrier also left the port with a record-breaking sailing draft of 19.65 metres. This single shipment broke the previous record achieved by the Wugang Haoyun last month by 939 tonnes.”

Productivity Commission research paper - Major Project Development Assessment Processes

The Productivity Commission [released](#) this [paper](#), which concluded “While Australia already has in place the building blocks of a sound development assessment and approval (DAA) regulatory system, there is substantial scope to comprehensively overhaul the framework in Australia for major projects.” and commented specifically on duplication of environmental regulation.

New Ships Built With Flex-Fuel Engines

The Wall Street Journal's Market Watch [reported](#) “Waterfront Shipping Company Ltd. has reached an agreement with Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. (MOL), Westfal-Larsen & Co A/S (WL) and Marininvest/Skagerack Invest to build six new ships, with an option for building an additional three, all to be delivered during 2016. These 50,000 dead weight tonne vessels will be built with MAN ME-LGI flex fuel engines running on methanol, fuel oil, marine diesel oil, or gas oil.”

Californian Ports to Test Congestion-Reduction Software

Transport Topics [reported](#) “The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach said they are testing efficiency software for the next six months to streamline traffic and improve air quality. The Freight Advanced Traveler Information Program is expected to reduce traffic congestion during peak hours by improving the information flow between truck fleets and port terminals, according to the ports.”

Abbot Point and Curtis Island development decisions

The Minister for the Environment, Greg Hunt, [announced](#) “After rigorous assessment, I have completed the approvals process for four Queensland projects under National Environmental Law. I have approved:

- The capital dredging program for the proposed Terminals 0, 2 and 3 at the Port of Abbot Point
- The Adani T0 project at Abbot Point
- The Arrow Liquefied Natural Gas Facility on Curtis Island
- The Arrow Gas Transmission Pipeline to Curtis Island.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority [said](#) “While the Minister’s decision includes an approval for a specific site for dredge disposal, it also requires that NQBP [North Queensland Bulk Ports] investigate an alternate site within a large offshore area identified in the project proposal by the proponent.”

Editor’s note: Abbot Point terminal construction condition No 43 requires making data and reports publicly available which, readers may recall, was a major recommendation from the 8 October *Ports and the Environment* seminar, so congratulations to all the seminar participants.

Swire's Asia to Darwin service upgrade

Swire Shipping [announced](#) “an upgrade to its services to/from Darwin. From the 1st of January 2014 the East South East Asia Service (ESEA) service will replace the New Guinea Shuttle Service (NGS) Darwin port call. The improved service will offer a direct links to Darwin from Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore, and the ability to provide vital links with key regions from Europe, Middle East and North Asian ports in China and Taiwan. Overall Swire Shipping offers three sailings per month from Asia to Darwin.”

ACCC seeks views on GrainCorp's port terminal access arrangements at Newcastle

The ACCC [announced](#) it “is seeking views on whether the scope of regulation of GrainCorp's bulk grain port terminal in Newcastle should be reduced due to the presence of other bulk export grain facilities at the Port of Newcastle. The ACCC is inviting submissions on GrainCorp's application to vary its Access Undertaking for its Carrington grain terminal.”

Collision between the bulk carrier *Furness Melbourne* and the private yacht *Riga II* - 26 May 2012

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau [released](#) its report into the collision north of Bowen, Qld, and said “The investigation found that a proper lookout was not being kept on board either vessel in the time leading up to the collision.”

Baltic Exchange makes changes to its “Capesize” index

The Baltic Exchange [announced](#) “The Baltic Exchange will be making significant amends to the Baltic Capesize Index including a change to its vessel description, amends to the route weightings and the addition of three new routes. The move follows a formal consultation process with the dry bulk market which began on 11 October 2013. Trial reporting on the new routes and vessel description will begin in late January/early February with a lifting of the trial anticipated by the end of March 2014. The existing routes and new routes will be published side-by-side until there is no further open interest in either Forward Freight Agreements (FFAs) or options to be settled. This vessel will routinely be referred to as the Baltic Capesize 2014.”

Marine Order 1 (Administration) 2013

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority made this [Order](#), to reduce the volume of the Marine Orders and facilitate their consistent interpretation.

Marine Order 96 (Marine pollution prevention — sewage) 2013

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

Marine Order 18 (Measures to enhance maritime safety) 2013

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority made this [Order](#), which “gives effect to various provisions in Chapter XI-1 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, done at London on 1 November 1974, as in force from time to time (SOLAS).”

Marine Order 21 (Safety of navigation and emergency procedures) Modification 2013 (No. 1)

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority made this [Order](#), which “modifies Marine Order 21 (Safety of navigation and emergency procedures) 2012 to make clear the requirements for the carriage of back up arrangements for electronic nautical charts and publications.”
[And which is relevant to recent announcements about the demise of paper-based charts – Editor]

QLD Government commissions asset sell-off study for Port of Gladstone

The *Whitsunday Times* [reported](#) “STATE Treasurer Tim Nicholls admits the Port of Gladstone is a handy money-spinner for the government, but has commissioned a scoping study into selling off the port.”

First stage of Port of Newcastle lease concludes

NSW Treasurer Mike Baird [said](#) he was pleased with the response from potential bidders for the long-term lease of the Port of Newcastle following the close of Expressions of Interest. Mr Baird said suitably qualified parties would now be invited to participate in a competitive bidding process for the Port, which is expected to conclude by mid-2014.

One-stop shop for environmental assessments and approvals

The Prime Minister, Mr Abbott, [announced](#) “The Prime Minister has today [13 Dec] signed Memoranda of Understanding to implement a one-stop shop with the Northern Territory, South Australia, Western Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory. This means all Australian states and territories are now on board to develop a one-stop shop for environmental assessments and approvals within 12 months.”

Widened Panama Canal: US East Coast To Benefit More than West

Investors.com [reported](#) “The Panama Canal's expansion project won't be finished for nearly two years. But East Coast ports already are spending heavily to prepare for megacontainer ships from Asia bypassing West Coast stops.”

Liner shipping vessel sharing pacts – Indian -v- Australian perspectives

The *Economic Times* [India] [reported](#) “The government has decided to exempt vessel sharing pacts among shipping companies from the purview of fair trade regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI). However, the government has declined to provide similar exemption for voluntary discussions agreement among shipping industry players.”

In its [submission](#) to the Productivity Commission's inquiry into Tasmania's shipping costs and the competitiveness of Tasmania's freight industry, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission criticised, *inter alia*:

- Part X of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010, which provides cartel immunity under Australian law to registered international shipping lines to enable them to cooperate with each other to service Australian trade routes; and
- existing Australian domestic coastal shipping (cabotage) restrictions.

Venu Shipping Company to cease operation to Vanua Levu

[fjivillage.com](#) reported “The Venu Shipping Company has decided to cease its [sic] operation to Vanua Levu following reports in one of the daily newspapers.” [Worth a read – Editor]

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment (Outlook Report and Other Measures) Regulation 2013

The Governor-General made this [regulation](#), which “amends the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983* to prescribe that an assessment of heritage values must be contained in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Outlook Report (the Outlook Report), and rectify typographical errors and other minor issues.”

The Explanatory Statement amplifies this by saying, *inter alia*:

“There is currently no legislative requirement (or discretion) for the Authority to provide as part of the Outlook Report an assessment of heritage values or world heritage values in the Region, including the cultural heritage and natural heritage in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area that is of outstanding universal value.

In June 2012 the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee urged the Australian Government to include an explicit assessment of outstanding universal value of the Great Barrier Reef within future Outlook Reports.

In response to the 2008 amendment to the objects of the Act and to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee recommendations, the Regulation will amend the Principal Regulations to include a new provision requiring the Outlook Report to contain an assessment of heritage values (which includes cultural heritage and natural heritage that is of outstanding universal value) in the Region. An assessment of heritage values may, for example, include examination of the condition and trend of indigenous and historic heritage components such as sacred sites, indigenous structures (e.g. fish traps), cultural practices, light stations and shipwrecks.”

Appointment of three new Board members to ASC Pty Ltd

The Finance Minister, Senator Cormann, [said](#) “I am pleased to announce the appointment of three new board members to ASC Pty Ltd. Mr Peter Iancov, Mrs Sophie Mirabella and Mr Paul Rizzo have all been appointed for three year terms.”

ICS Calls for Understanding from Port State Control on Seafarer Security Training Certification

The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) has raised [concerns](#) with governments about preparations worldwide for issuing tens of thousands of seafarers with new certificates for security-related training by 1 January, as required by the 2010 amendments to the IMO Convention on Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW 2010).

Maritime transport: Progress on safety, but some EU flag states could do better

EU transport commission Vice-President Siim Kallas [said](#) “Some EU Member States are struggling to meet their commitment to ratify international maritime conventions, according to a European Commission [report](#) on compliance with flag state requirements.”

Pirate Gangs Still Active but Attacks on Cargo Vessels and Tankers Switch Coasts of Africa

The *Handy Shipping Guide* [reported](#) “The latest news from the coastline of the [African] continent further highlights the disparity between East and West as regards the crimes which occur at sea in the different regions. On Monday (16 December) a gang of ten attacked an oil tanker, the MT *Althea*, registered in the Marshalls Islands and with a complement of eighteen crew members. The raid was almost surgical in nature, no attempt to steal either vessel or her cargo of oil but two senior crew, the Ukrainian captain and the Greek engineer, were abducted and transferred to the criminals speedboat which then departed.” [It seems unlikely to be the actual pirate gangs who have moved across Africa, just the *modus operandi* - Editor]

In the same vein, *BusinessDay* [reported](#) “As part of its effort to curb the menace of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea region that is currently rated as a high risk area, Ocean Marine Security, one of the leading maritime security companies in West Africa has partnered with PSG Group, a United Kingdom-based maritime security specialist, to establish a Secure Anchorage Area (SAA) off the coast of Lagos to protect vessels operating within the region.”

Vessel detentions on arrival in the Port of Cairns

The Environmental Defenders Office of Northern Queensland (EDO NQ) issued a statement claiming “an exceptionally high rate of vessel detentions on arrival in the Port of Cairns, at the heart of the Great Barrier Reef, as a result of Safety Management System failures.” [The statement had not appeared on EDO NQ's [website](#) at the time of closing this edition of the *Digest* – Editor]

World-class port to open in Saudi Arabia

Arab News [reported](#) “Makkah Gov. Prince Khaled Al-Faisal will open the world-class seaport at King Abdullah Economic City on Jan. 1. Spreading on an area of 15 million square meters, the King Abdullah Port is designed to become one of the top 10 ports in the world.”

ACCC welcomes proposal for competitive towage services at Port Hedland

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) [said](#) it “welcomes a proposal from the Port Hedland Port Authority to facilitate the introduction of competition in the provision of towage services at the Port of Port Hedland.” and “Following consultation with interested parties and the ACCC, the port has recently committed to an open, transparent and accountable process to facilitate opportunities for new entrants in the provision of towage services at the port. This followed consultation with interested parties and the ACCC.”

World Shipping Outlook – December

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

Reuters [reported](#) “Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) is stepping up lending in shipping, a top bank official said, just as European rivals cut capital exposure to the seaborne sector.”

Emerging Markets [reported](#) “Shipping stocks continued to get a boost Thursday [5 Dec] as the dry bulk market’s benchmark crossed the 2,000-point mark and future prospects for the segment still looking positive. The BDI index, a measure of the cost of shipping all over the world for dry bulk cargo, rose 151 points to 2,145 points.”

The *Economic Times* [of India] [reported](#) “A near 100% rise in the Baltic Dry Index over the past three-and-a-half months has propelled a rally in the stocks of Indian shipping companies.” [It's better than bad news but, given that the Index topped 11,300 in 2008, today's 1,800+ points is not exactly a boom either – Editor]

Bloomberg *Business Week* [reported](#) “Shipping is at the start of a two-year rally, led by advancing rates to haul coal, iron ore and grains, as fleet growth slows and China’s strengthening economy boosts cargoes, Morgan Stanley said.”

The Port of Los Angeles released its November 2013 [cargo volumes](#). November overall volumes increased 17.3 percent compared to November 2012. It said “The increase is due in part to larger vessels calling at the Port as well as improvement in the U.S. Economy.”

Reuters [reported](#) “After a five-year slump in shipping, investors are betting on better times by taking over shipowners' debts from European banks keen to offload troubled loans to bolster their balance sheets.”

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

TribLive [quoted](#) the *Washington Post* as reporting “The Obama administration cracked down on Thursday [12 Dec] on oil and shipping companies accused of helping Iran evade economic sanctions, even as top officials continued pressing Congress to delay enacting additional restrictions while nuclear talks with Iran are under way.”

Payvand Iran News [reported](#) “The director of legal claims for Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping announced today [14 Dec] that the European Court of Justice has removed all Iranian shipping directors from the EU blacklist.”

FISHERIES

Two illegal foreign fishing boats intercepted off Darwin

Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Scott Morrison, [announced](#) that two alleged illegal foreign fishing boats have been apprehended in northern Australian waters in the past week [29 Nov – 6 Dec] by a Border Protection Command asset, working with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA).

Meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WPCFC)

The Pew environmental group [reported](#) on the WPCFC meeting in Cairns “Negotiators at this week’s meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, or WCPFC, have agreed to important conservation measures for threatened sharks and made a significant breakthrough in addressing illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. Unfortunately, the Commission failed in its core business to safeguard important tuna species such as bigeye and Pacific Bluefin from overfishing.”

Productivity analysis of key Commonwealth fisheries

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) [released](#) this report which “provides an indication of productivity trends for the Commonwealth's most valuable commercial fisheries. These trends reflect how well these fisheries use inputs to produce outputs.”

European Parliament votes on deep sea fishing

European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Maria Damanaki, [responded](#) to a European Parliament vote “Now that the European Parliament has expressed its views on the proposal, I expect the Council to finally start its work on this regulation. The Commission is ready to facilitate constructive three-party discussions on this proposal. We must work together to protect the vulnerable deep-sea species and their habitats.”

Toothfish research spawns new understanding

The Australian Antarctic Division [said](#) “Antarctic scientists have acquired the first detailed information about the reproductive maturity of Patagonian toothfish in the Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) fishery, including the location and timing of spawning.”

Fisheries Levy (Torres Strait Prawn Fishery) Amendment Regulation 2013 (No. 1)

The Governor-General made this [regulation](#), which “amends the Fisheries Levy (Torres Strait Prawn Fishery) Regulations 1998 to increase the levy for licences granted or renewed in the Fishery from \$3,359.52 to \$3766.54 per licence (a \$407.02 increase per licence) and increases the levy for each individual allocated fishing unit from \$23.75 to \$25.63 per unit (a \$1.88 increase per unit). The increase is a result of a reduced carry forward surplus compared to past years (\$11,969 in 2013/14 compared to \$53,008 in 2012/13).”

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (Commonwealth Marine Reserves) Proclamation 2013

The Governor-General made this [proclamation](#), which “revokes numerous proclamations and declares 44 areas of sea as Commonwealth reserves.” The Explanatory Statement says, *inter alia*, “The government has committed to review the scientific basis underpinning the reserves and undertake further community consultation and, following these activities, to develop new management arrangements. Revocation of the 2012 reserve Proclamation has the effect of terminating all other instruments made under the Act for the reserves, including the management plans, which means these will not come into effect on 1 July 2014, leaving a clear path for the development of new management arrangements. The declaration of new reserves over the same areas requires the preparation of new management plans, enabling the government to implement its commitment.”

The Pew environmental group [expressed](#) its concerns, and did the Australian Greens, Greenpeace and other environmental groups.

Later, the Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary [said](#) “The Coalition Government is delivering a key election promise by scrapping Labor’s plan to lock out recreational fishers from key coastal areas around the country. We are protecting the marine reserves but rejecting the flawed plans.”

Logbook Determination (Particular Fisheries) 2013 No. 2

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority made this [determination](#), which determines the form and content of the logbook to be kept and maintained for concession holders in Commonwealth managed fisheries. The determination provides for the submission of logbooks or the production of a receipt provided by AFMA evidencing the submission of the information contained in the logbook in an electronic format.

Fishing Levy Regulation 2013

The Governor-General made this [regulation](#), which repeals the Fishing Levy Regulation 2012 and replaces it with updated provisions, sets the amounts of levy payable on fishing concessions, sets the timeframes for when those amounts of levy are due and payable for the 2013-14 financial year, and sets the levy amounts for the 15 fisheries that are described in regulation 4B of the Fisheries Management Regulations 1992 and in fisheries management plans that have been determined in accordance with section 17 of the Management Act.”

Australian fisheries to receive boost for research

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Senator Richard Colbeck, [announced](#) the funding of \$6.5 million which will support 25 new research projects managed by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC).

Appointment of Director of National Parks

The Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, [announced](#) “The Government is delighted to announce that the Australian Government has appointed Ms Sally Barnes as Director of National Parks.” and “The Director of National Parks is a statutory officeholder, responsible for six Commonwealth national parks, three of them managed jointly with their traditional owners; the Australian National Botanic Gardens; and the Commonwealth network of marine reserves.”

RESOURCE EXPLORATION & DEVELOPMENT

First CITIC shipment of iron ore

Trade and Investment Minister Andrew Robb [congratulated](#) CITIC Pacific Mining on the first shipment of iron ore concentrate from the multi-billion-dollar Sino Iron project in Western Australia’s Pilbara. “The Sino Iron project, with its first shipment today from Cape Preston, marks a very important chapter in the history of foreign investment into our country which we of course warmly welcome,” Mr Robb said.”

Invitation for Public Comment on Referral - Apache Energy Seismic Survey - Carnarvon Basin

The Department of the Environment is [seeking](#) public comment under the EPBC Act on a proposal by Apache Energy Limited for a 3D marine Seismic Survey for oil and gas exploration in the Carnarvon Basin, WA

Invitation for Public Comment on Referral - Woodside Energy - Browse FLNG Development

The Department of the Environment is [seeking](#) public comment under the EPBC Act on a proposal by Woodside Energy Ltd for marine oil and gas exploration in waters 425km north of Broome, WA as part of the Browse FLNG Development

Invitation for Public Comment on Referral - Woodside Energy - Babylon 3D Marine Seismic Survey

The Department of the Environment is [seeking](#) public comment under the EPBC Act on a proposal by Woodside Energy Ltd for marine oil and gas exploration - Babylon 3D Marine Seismic Survey - near N Muiron Islands, 53km N/W of Exmouth WA

Invitation for Public Comment on Referral - Apache Energy seismic surveys - Stag 4D & Reindeer MAZ

The Department of the Environment is seeking public comment under the EPBC Act on a proposal by Apache Energy Limited for marine oil and gas seismic surveys at Stag 4D & Reindeer MAZ in the Carnarvon Basin WA.

Productivity Commission research paper - Major Project Development Assessment Processes

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The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority [said](#) “While the Minister’s decision includes an approval for a specific site for dredge disposal, it also requires that NQBP [North Queensland Bulk Ports] investigate an alternate site within a large offshore area identified in the project proposal by the proponent.”

[Editor's note: Abbot Point terminal construction condition No 43 requires making data and reports publicly available which, readers may recall, was a major recommendation from the 8 October *Ports and the Environment* seminar, so congratulations to all the seminar participants.]

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Amendment (Safety Case and Environment Plan Levies) Regulation 2013

The Governor-General made this [regulation](#), which amends the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Regulations 2004* to adjust environment plan and safety case levies, in line with the recommendations made by NOPSEMA’s review of cost recovery arrangements.

Invitation for Public Comment on Referral - TGS_NOPEC Geophysical Company - Huzzas phase 2

The Department of the Environment is [seeking](#) public comment under the EPBC Act on a proposal by TGS_NOPEC Geophysical Company Pty Ltd to conduct Huzzas phase 2 marine seismic survey for oil and gas exploration on Exmouth Plateau, Northern Carnarvon Basin, WA

Invitation for Public Comment on Referral - CGG Services (Australia) - Davros MC

The Department of the Environment is [seeking](#) public comment under the EPBC Act on a proposal by CGG Services (Australia) Pty Ltd/Exploration to conduct Davros MC 3D Marine seismic survey in Commonwealth waters north west of Dampier WA

MARINE SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT**China's 30th ocean exploration voyage gets underway**

Xinhua newsagency [reported](#) “Research vessel Dayang Yihao (Ocean No. 1) departed from the city of Sanya in the southernmost, island province of Hainan on Monday [2 Dec], on China's 30th oceanic exploration mission. The global voyage, which will last 180 days and cover 19,000 nautical miles, will take the vessel across the Indian Ocean. A total of 339 people are on board, including 254 scientists and engineers.”

Antarctica - Davis station helicopter incident

The Minister for the Environment, Greg Hunt, [commended](#) the Australian Antarctic Division on their speedy and successful response to the helicopter incident near Davis station, Antarctica, yesterday. Three expeditioners were injured on Sunday [1 Dec] evening when their helicopter crashed when returning from a scientific mission around 150 nautical miles from Davis station.

Ocean acidification: A bleak future for Pacific biodiversity

The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) [said](#) that researchers from AIMS have published a paper in the UK-based Royal Society's peer-reviewed journal, [Proceedings of the Royal Society B](#), which shows the detrimental effects of increasing levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) on the diversity of invertebrates that inhabit our coral reefs.

Additional funding to manage crown-of-thorns starfish

The Minister for the Environment, Greg Hunt, [announced](#) "The Government is allocating an extra \$1.1 million in funding to further protect the Great Barrier Reef from the destructive crown-of-thorns starfish." and "This new funding will support the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators with an additional dedicated boat and crew to continue culling efforts into the new spawning season".

EIS allows US Navy to have more Atlantic training

Reporting on an initiative that may be relevant to Australia, *Stars and Stripes* [said](#) "The Department of the Navy announced the signing of an environmental impact statement that will enable more training along the Atlantic Coast and the Gulf of Mexico. The area is 2.6 million square nautical miles along the Atlantic, from Maine to Florida, and Gulf coasts." and "The proximity to home ports near the training ranges was a consideration because sailors and Marines will not have to routinely travel far from home."

Senate inquiry - Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Submarine Cable Protection) Bill 2013

On 5 December 2013, the Senate [referred](#) the *Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Submarine Cable Protection) Bill 2013* to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee for inquiry and report. The reporting date is 31 March 2014.

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Senate inquiry - Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2013

On 12 December, the Senate [referred](#) the *Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2013* to the Environment and Communication Legislation Committee for inquiry and report. Submissions should be received by 17 January 2014. The reporting date is 12 February 2014.

Antarctic Arts Fellowship

The Australian Antarctic Division [announced](#) "Applications are now open for the 2014 Australian Antarctic Arts Fellowship. Each year the Australian Government offers accomplished arts, social science and humanities professionals the opportunity to travel to Antarctica under the Fellowship program, managed by the Australian Antarctic Division."

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (Commonwealth Marine Reserves) Proclamation 2013

The Governor-General made this [proclamation](#), which “revokes numerous proclamations and declares 44 areas of sea as Commonwealth reserves.” The Explanatory Statement says, *inter alia*, “The government has committed to review the scientific basis underpinning the reserves and undertake further community consultation and, following these activities, to develop new management arrangements. Revocation of the 2012 reserve Proclamation has the effect of terminating all other instruments made under the Act for the reserves, including the management plans, which means these will not come into effect on 1 July 2014, leaving a clear path for the development of new management arrangements. The declaration of new reserves over the same areas requires the preparation of new management plans, enabling the government to implement its commitment.”

The Pew environmental group [expressed](#) its concerns, and did the Australian Greens, Greenpeace and other environmental groups.

Australian fisheries to receive boost for research

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Senator Richard Colbeck, [announced](#) the funding of \$6.5 million which will support 25 new research projects managed by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC).

Deep-sea corals record dramatic long-term shift in Pacific Ocean ecosystem

Science Codex [reported](#) “Long-lived deep-sea corals preserve evidence of a major shift in the open Pacific Ocean ecosystem since around 1850, according to a study by researchers at the University of California, Santa Cruz. The findings, published December 15 in *Nature*, indicate that changes at the base of the marine food web observed in recent decades in the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre may have begun more than 150 years ago at the end of the Little Ice Age.”

US Navy expands sonar testing despite troubling signs

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) “The U.S. Navy plans to increase sonar testing over the next five years, even as research it funded reveals worrying signs that the loud underwater noise could disturb whales and dolphins.”

New tsunami education resource raises awareness

Geoscience Australia [said](#) “A valuable new online resource has been produced by Surf Life Saving Australia and partner agencies to raise community awareness of what to do in the event of a tsunami impacting on Australia’s coastline. The online information package, [Tsunami: The Ultimate Guide](#), is designed to raise awareness that Australia does experience tsunami events on average every two to four years. And, while most are small and present little threat of land inundation to coastal communities, the abnormal waves, tides and currents caused by even relatively small tsunami can be dangerous to swimmers and mariners.”

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment (Outlook Report and Other Measures) Regulation 2013

The Governor-General made this [regulation](#), which “amends the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983* to prescribe that an assessment of heritage values must be contained in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Outlook Report (the Outlook Report), and rectify typographical errors and other minor issues.”

The Explanatory Statement amplifies this by saying, *inter alia*:

“There is currently no legislative requirement (or discretion) for the Authority to provide as part of the Outlook Report an assessment of heritage values or world heritage values in the Region, including the cultural heritage and natural heritage in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area that is of outstanding universal value.

In June 2012 the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee urged the Australian Government to include an explicit assessment of outstanding universal value of the Great Barrier Reef within future Outlook Reports.

In response to the 2008 amendment to the objects of the Act and to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee recommendations, the Regulation will amend the Principal Regulations to include a new provision requiring the Outlook Report to contain an assessment of heritage values (which includes cultural heritage and natural heritage that is of outstanding universal value) in the Region. An assessment of heritage values may, for example, include examination of the condition and trend of indigenous and historic heritage components such as sacred sites, indigenous structures (e.g. fish traps), cultural practices, light stations and shipwrecks.”

Sea Shepherd Fleet departs for Tenth Antarctic Whale Defence Campaign: Operation Relentless

Sea Shepherd [reported](#) “This morning [18 Dec] friends, family and supporters gathered at Sea Shepherd Australia’s Operations Base in Williamstown, and at Elizabeth Street Pier in Hobart to bid a fond farewell to crews of *The Steve Irwin*, *The Sam Simon* and *The Bob Barker* as the ships depart for Sea Shepherd’s tenth Antarctic Defence Campaign, *Operation Relentless*.”

Appointment of Director of National Parks

The Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, [announced](#) “The Government is delighted to announce that the Australian Government has appointed Ms Sally Barnes as Director of National Parks.” and “The Director of National Parks is a statutory officeholder, responsible for six Commonwealth national parks, three of them managed jointly with their traditional owners; the Australian National Botanic Gardens; and the Commonwealth network of marine reserves.”

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

Abstract Submission, Registration & Conference Dates

Book your accommodation. Don't miss out!

Call for Symposia OPENS

Call for Symposia CLOSED

Abstract Submission OPENS

Registration for the Conference OPENS.

Abstract Submission CLOSES

Authors notified of acceptance of abstracts

CLOSE of Earlybird Registration prices

Presenter registration CLOSES

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

Exhibition Stand setup from 2pm

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

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

AMSA2013 Conference Sessions and
Social Events

Iconic Function Venues

Australian War Memorial

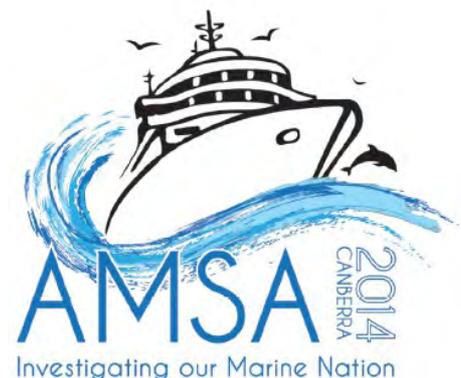
(Welcome Function)

Old Parliament House

(Conference Dinner)

Conference Venue

National Convention Centre - Canberra



 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.

SOMETHING TO SAY?
The Australian Maritime Digest

(ISSN 2201-7003)

Why not advertise in the *Australian Maritime Digest*, particularly if your advertisement is relevant to a current story? Your advertisement would reach right into the heart of the maritime community – those who would be most interested in your organisation, its events and its products. Advertising is accepted at the discretion of the Editor and rates are based on \$330 for a quarter page.

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

 CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

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](#)

24-26 February 2014 - World Ocean Summit 2014 – San Francisco

Hosted by *The Economist* and *National Geographic*. The summit will convene global leaders from government, business, international organisations, NGOs, think-tanks and academia to continue the unique outcome driven dialogue first established at the 2012 summit. For details, click [here](#)

26-28 February 2014 - Advanced Rig Moving and Anchor Handling Techniques including Jacking Systems – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

For offshore engineers. Participants will be presented with a practical guidance on how to apply the advanced techniques in rig moving, anchoring and fosters an integrated approach to the different types of offshore rigs including the self-elevated jackup rigs, mat-type drilling units and semi-submersible on how they operated, transported, anchored and jacked down during various applications such as offshore drilling (using MODU), intervention and barge operation. For details, contact **Ms Lydia Wee** at lydia@yf-asia.com or call +65 6222 9638

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](#)

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](#)

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.

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](#)

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”.**
Email details to news@aama.asn.au .

