



# Australian Maritime Digest

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## EDITORIAL

**Australian Association for Maritime Affairs**

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

[www.aama.asn.au](http://www.aama.asn.au)

**Has someone been shooting the messengers?**

A somewhat worrying [report](#) from *journalism.co.uk* tells us that “Bloomberg is seeking reporters in its London office to cover the shipping of oil, oil products, liquefied natural gas and dry-bulk commodities. Knowledge of those markets and their place in the wider economy is essential.” Bloomberg had previously been providing fairly extensive coverage of shipping issues so, apart from demonstrating the demanding nature of the reporting role, this article may indicate a recent loss of reporting capability.

Given the role of shipping as a canary in the mine of global trade and, hence, the global economy, more rather than less shipping news should be the hope. (Australian readers should occasionally scour our local media to see how it performs in that regard – or not.)

**Ports and the Environment Seminar – 14.00-17.15 Tuesday 8 October at Darling Harbour**

It's both gratifying and slightly worrying that the seminar on [Ports and the Environment](#) to be held as part of the Pacific 2013 conferences seems to be attracting so many attendees already. Admission to the Seminar is free to registered trade visitors to Pacific 2013, but seminar attendees are asked to pre-register beforehand to be assured of a seat.

The seminar will address a key factor shaping the development and growth of our major ports: environmental issues and the regulatory framework that impacts on port operators, the shipping industry and their stakeholders in the export and logistics sectors.

Send an [e-mail](#) to secure your seat, and [pre-register](#) with Pacific 2013 for a Trade Visitor's badge. That will speed up your arrival at the Pacific 2013 conference registration and mean that you can wander the exhibitions if you arrive at Darling Harbour early.

**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](mailto: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.

**.... then tell them to get their own!**

By all means show your colleagues if you have seen something of interest in your *Australian Maritime Digest*, but then suggest that they stop bothering you and get their own subscription. That way you can do your bit to help the AAMA keep the *Digest* running, thus benefiting both the Australian maritime community and your personal work environment. The subscription form is at the back.

**Is bigger better?**

Now that the *Digest* has gone completely to electronic distribution from 1 July, your Editor is no longer constrained to 16 pages. Obviously every effort will be made to publish only relevant material, but some editions may expand by a few pages to accommodate slightly longer articles. Does any subscriber have a problem with an occasionally longer *Digest*? Would you prefer more short articles or fewer but longer ones? Please e-mail [news@aama.asn.au](mailto:news@aama.asn.au)

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## MARITIME DEFENCE, CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION

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### Consolidation of final keel block for first Air Warfare Destroyer

Minister for Defence Materiel Dr Mike Kelly AM MP [announced](#) the final keel block for the future destroyer, *Hobart*, has been successfully lifted into place by the AWD Alliance in Adelaide. The final keel block is the 18th of 31 blocks to be joined into what is rapidly becoming the recognisable structure of the *Hobart*.

### First MH-60R Seahawk Romeo helicopter's first test flight

Minister for Defence Materiel Dr Mike Kelly AM MP [announced](#) the first of 24 MH-60R Seahawk Romeo helicopters has successfully completed its first test flight. The MH-60R Seahawk Romeo will replace the 16 Seahawk 'Classic' helicopters and will introduce an air-to-surface strike capability.

### Blueprint for Reform of the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

The Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Justice Jason Clare released the first [report](#) of the Customs Reform Board and a [Blueprint](#) for Reform of the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service. Measures include: enhance patrols of the waterfront (wharves, harbours) and airports (airside, tarmac, baggage areas) around the country; increase remote area patrols; and investigate full electronic data reporting for all goods arriving and departing our borders.

### Inquiry into unresolved recognition for Service with the United States Army Small Ships Section

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Senator Feeney, [said](#): "The independent Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal will inquire into unresolved recognition for service with the United States Army Small Ships Section." and "I have asked the tribunal to inquire into what Australian and Imperial awards service with the US Army Small Ships Section should attract, including for service with the section after 1945". Submissions to the inquiry will close on Friday, 16 August 2013.

### Defence calls on Australian companies to help solve complex capability challenges

Minister for Defence Materiel Dr Mike Kelly AM MP [called](#) on Australian companies to participate in complex capability problem solving for Australian warfighters by announcing the latest 'Invitation to Participate' in Defence's Rapid Prototyping, Development and Evaluation Program (RPDE). [Use of the term "warfighter" in this statement seems to be a refreshingly blunt statement of the primary role of the ADF – Editor]

## HMAS Newcastle in search for missing fishermen in the Indian Ocean

The Department of Defence [reported](#) that “HMAS *Newcastle* has combined with the Chinese People’s Liberation Army – Navy (PLA-N) warship *Mianyang* to search for survivors of a damaged fishing trawler in Middle Eastern waters. *Newcastle* and *Mianyang* worked together to conduct a search and rescue operation in the Indian Ocean, 350 nautical miles north of Seychelles.”

## 2013 Comcare Work Health and Safety Awards finalists

Comcare [announced](#) the finalists for its 2013 awards, including *HMAS Warramunga* for “sustainable performance optimisation through leadership”.

## European Commission eases customs formalities for ships

The European Commission set out [plans](#) to ease internal custom formalities for ships – reducing red tape, cutting delays in ports and making the sector more competitive. With the new Commission proposals, shipping transport will face less administrative hurdles and therefore be able to be used to its full potential in the EU internal market and beyond.

## Indian Ocean security pact signed

*The Hindu* [reported](#) “India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives will share capacities and information to address threats to maritime security — such as piracy, terrorism and gunrunning — in the Indian Ocean and to pursue sustainable development of maritime environment.”

## Boulderstone to manage the construction of AWD and LHD sustainment facilities in Sydney

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Senator Feeney, [announced](#) that Boulderstone Pty Ltd will be appointed to manage the construction of new and refurbished sustainment facilities in Sydney for the Royal Australian Navy’s new Air Warfare Destroyers and Landing Helicopter Dock ships. The projects will provide berthing infrastructure, permanent maintenance, and systems support facilities for the new ships at Garden Island, and training facilities at Randwick Barracks and HMAS *Watson*.

## Navy commissions 808 Squadron and new MRH 90 helicopter

Defence [announced](#) the commissioning ceremony held at HMAS Albatross, near Nowra, NSW. 808 Squadron will be based at the Naval Air Station, *HMAS Albatross* and its air craft will operate from the Navy’s amphibious and afloat support ships such as HMA Ships *Success*, *Tobruk* and *Choules*.

## Exercise Talisman Saber 2013 begins

Defence [announced](#) the commencement of Exercise Talisman Saber on 15 July. Talisman Saber is a biennial training activity jointly sponsored by the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Joint Operations Command and the US Pacific Command to train the United States 7th Fleet and Australian Deployable Joint Headquarters staffs as a designated Combined Task Force.

## Terms of engagement: Australia’s regional defence diplomacy

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) [released](#) this [report](#), which “makes a number of recommendations including that our defence engagement in the priority regions should focus on the maritime dimension. The highest priority should be attached to implementing the Pacific Maritime Security Project as the cornerstone of our maritime security engagement in the South Pacific.”

## Australia and Papua New Guinea regional settlement arrangement

In a joint media statement, Kevin Rudd - Prime Minister, Mark Dreyfus - Attorney General and The Hon Tony Burke MP - Australian Minister for Immigration [said](#) “As of today [19 July] asylum seekers who come here by boat without a visa will never be settled in Australia. Under the new arrangement signed with Papua New Guinea today – the Regional Settlement Arrangement – unauthorised arrivals will be sent to Papua New Guinea for assessment and if found to be a refugee will be settled there. Arriving in Australia by boat will no longer mean settlement in Australia.”

## Operation Sovereign Borders – Coalition policy

Opposition Leader Tony Abbott [announced](#) that “A Coalition government will establish a military-led response to combat people smuggling and to protect our borders – [Operation Sovereign Borders](#).”

## Second Annual Australia-Indonesia Defence Ministers' Meeting

In a [statement](#) issued after the Second Annual Australia-Indonesia Defence Ministers' Meeting, Mr Smith said, *inter alia*, “We also agreed to share lessons learnt on submarine maintenance and sustainment, and to explore options for cooperation on submarine rescue.”

## Chief of the Defence Force hosts Commander US Pacific Command

Chief of the Defence Force General David Hurley [hosted](#) the Commander of the United States Pacific Command (PACOM), Admiral Samuel Locklear III, in Cairns for the annual Australia-PACOM Military Representatives (MILREPS) meeting.

## China Seas Developments – July

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, which puts the issues in better perspective.

Reuters [reported](#) that “China agreed to hold formal talks with Southeast Asian nations on a plan to ease maritime tensions on Sunday [30 June] as the Philippines accused it of causing “increasing militarization” of the South China Sea, one of Asia’s naval flashpoints.”

*Detroit Free Press* [reported](#) “China will join Russia later this week [1-8 July] for its largest-ever naval drills with a foreign partner, underscoring deepening ties between the former Cold War rivals along with Beijing’s desire for closer links with regional militaries.”

The *Christian Science Monitor* [reported](#) that “China, confident after a recent high-level meeting in the United States and bilateral talks with regional rivals, is ignoring a second round of US advice to sign a code of conduct that could ease the threat of conflict in a crowded, contested tract of Asian ocean.” whereas the *Bangkok Post* [reported](#) that “China has agreed to discuss a code of conduct to ease the dispute over the South China Sea, Thailand’s ambassador to Brunei says.”

The final [paragraph](#) of the communique from the Australia - Republic of Korea Foreign and Defence Ministers (2+2) Meeting reads “Australia and the ROK also agreed on the importance of maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation, unimpeded lawful commerce, and the peaceful resolution of disputes in the South China Sea in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). They supported the early conclusion of a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea. They welcomed the ASEAN Chair’s statement at the ASEAN Leaders’ Summit in April.

In a [statement](#) following his visit to Japan, the Australian Minister for Defence, Stephen Smith, said “As trading nations, Australia and Japan are like-minded on the importance of maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation and unimpeded lawful commerce. I took the opportunity to reiterate to Minister Onodera the Australian Government’s commitment to the peaceful resolution of disputes in the South and East China Seas in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.”

[References to UNCLOS with regard to the South China Sea disputes are not very oblique rejections of China’s refusal to accept the UNCLOS as a basis for settling its territorial claims – Editor]

The US DoD newspaper *Stars and Stripes* gave a reasonably hopeful summary of the China Sea situation - [Positive trends greet Navy’s Asia deployments, but tensions at sea remain](#) – while displaying a glint of the steel underlying the US position.

The Canadian *Big News Network* [reported](#) that: “China is trying to “use force to change the status quo” in the South China Sea region by displaying its military might, says Japan’s annual defense paper that was adopted Tuesday [8 July]. The crucial document is the first since Japan nationalized a set of disputed islands known as Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China in September, worsening a long-standing territorial dispute with China.” and, the article continues: “China has in its counterattack described the annual report full of “untruthful accusations”. China’s foreign ministry slammed the accusations and in turn alleged that “some political forces” in Japan are “advocating for the strengthening of their military and preparing for war”.

The *Voice of America* [reported](#) “U.S. and Chinese diplomats meet in Washington Wednesday [17 July?] for a security and economic dialogue expected to include rival territorial claims to the South China Sea.”

The *Hindu* [reported](#) that “Despite China having made noises about India exploring for oil in the Phu Khanh Basin of the South China Sea, Vietnam said on Thursday [11 July] that New Delhi was within its rights to do so because the area came under its “exclusive economic zone.” Vietnam had been displeased with India’s decision to suspend exploration operations in block no. 128 over a year ago.”

*Eleven* (Myanmar) [reported](#) that “Myanmar will be forced to walk a fine line between being a close ally of China and dealing with the disputed territory in the South China Sea when the country takes up Asean chairmanship in 2014.”

*Channel NewsAsia* [reported](#) that “Singapore and the US are holding the annual maritime drill Exercise CARAT - short for Singapore-US Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training - from 15 to 26 July in the South China Sea.”

The Philippines *GMA News* [reported](#) that “A United Nations tribunal has been convened in the Netherlands to look into a complaint filed by the Philippines questioning the legality of China’s massive territorial claim in the resource-rich South China Sea.”

UPI [reported](#) that “The China National Offshore Oil Corp. said it signed a production sharing contract with BP to develop deep water reserves in the South China Sea. CNOOC said it signed with deal with BP for work in the Pearl River basin in the eastern section of the South China Sea.”

*China Daily* [reported](#) “Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin said on Friday [19 July] that China will continue its efforts to promote peace, cooperation, stability and development in the South China Sea region. Liu made the remarks while addressing the Second Workshop on Cooperation and Development in the South China Sea.

*China.org.cn* [reported](#) “China’s patrol vessel Haixun 21 set out for a five-day patrol mission on the waters of Xisha Islands in South China Sea on July 22, 2013. It will monitor maritime traffic safety, investigate maritime accidents, detect pollution, and carry out search and rescue work. Also on Monday, the restructured State Oceanic Administration (SOA) went into formal operation. The SOA integrates functions of China Marine Surveillance, the coast guard forces of the Public Security Ministry, the fisheries law enforcement command of the Agriculture Ministry and the maritime anti-smuggling police of the General Administration of Customs. According to a rule recently approved by the State Council, the SOA will increase its duties concerning law enforcement and the protection of maritime rights.”

*Aljazeera* [reported](#) that Filipino protesters demonstrated in front of the Chinese consulate in Manila, demanding that China stop its claims and get out of disputed territories in the South China Sea. The *Malaya Business Insight* [reported](#) “More than 600 protesters belonging to the West Philippine Sea Coalition, an umbrella group of about 30 cause-oriented groups, yesterday [24 July] staged a rally in front of the Chinese consular office in Makati City [Philippines] to denounce China’s sweeping claim to much of the South China Sea and its incursion in Philippine territorial waters. But the consulate was closed yesterday, with the officials citing “security concerns.””

*Channel NewsAsia* [reported](#) that “Vietnam’s president on Thursday [24 July] voiced firm opposition to China’s claims in the South China Sea but declined to back a Philippine bid to take the row to a UN tribunal.”

*Stars and Stripes* [reported](#) that “Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Saturday [27 July] pledged more assistance to the Philippines in securing its seas amid territorial disputes with China.”

In a [speech](#) in Hongkong, Australia's Foreign Minister Bob Carr said “We continue to call on all parties, including but not only China, to resolve their differences through peaceful means, in accordance with international law. Australia's Defence White Paper sets out clearly our view that the US – China relationship is the most important determinant of our strategic outlook.”

The *Washington Post* [reported](#) that “The Philippines plans to relocate major air force and navy camps to a former U.S. naval base northwest of Manila to gain faster access to waters being contested by China in the South China Sea, according to the country's defense chief and a confidential government report.”

The *Global Post* [reported](#) that “China has turned on a 1,100-kilometer gas pipeline that ships natural gas to southern China from Myanmar. The pipeline, built largely by the state-owned China National Petroleum Corp., gives China a vital overland supply route without passing through the South China Sea.”

### **Border Protection Command Interceptions and/or Assistance – July**

The Home Affairs Minister, Jason Clare, reported in July: [1 July](#) ACV *Ocean Protector* (intercept), [2 July](#) merchant vessel (assist), [3 July](#) HMAS *Warramunga* (assist), [3 July](#) HMAS *Warramunga* (2<sup>nd</sup> assist), [4 July](#) HMAS *Bundaberg* (assist), [4 July](#) HMAS *Larrakia* (assist), [5 July](#) Australian Federal Police and Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (“detect” [presumably “intercept”]), [5 July](#) HMAS *Larrakia* (assist), [6 July](#) HMAS *Warramunga* (assist), [6 July](#) HMAS *Bathurst* (intercept), [7 July](#) ACV *Triton* (assist), [8/9 July](#) HMAS *Bathurst* (intercept), [9 July](#) HMAS *Bundaberg* (assist), [10 July](#) HMAS *Bathurst* (assist), [10 July](#) HMAS *Warramunga* (assist), [11/12 July](#) HMAS *Bathurst* and ACV *Triton* (assist), [13 July](#) HMAS *Warramunga* (assist), [13 July](#) ACV *Ocean Protector* (intercept), [13/14 July](#) ACV *Triton* and HMAS *Bathurst* (assist), [14 July](#) HMAS *Maitland* (intercept), [14 July](#) HMAS *Albany* (intercept), [14 July](#) HMAS *Bathurst* (assist), [15 July](#) HMAS *Albany* and ACV *Triton* (assist), [16 July](#) HMAS *Bathurst* (assist), [17 July](#) ACV *Triton* and HMAS *Bathurst* (assist), [19 July](#) Customs and Border Protection (intercept), [19 July](#) Western Australian Police vessel, *Delphinus* with Australian Customs and Border Protection Service officers on board (intercept), [19 July](#) new asylum seeker arrangements announced, [20 July](#) HMAS *Bathurst* (assist), [23 July](#) HMAS *Huon* (intercept), [23 July](#) HMAS *Maryborough* (assist), [23 July](#) HMAS *Maryborough* (2<sup>nd</sup> assist), [23 July](#) HMAS *Melville* (assist), [23 July](#) HMAS *Bathurst* (assist), [24 July](#) HMAS *Maryborough* (intercept), [24 July](#) HMAS *Bathurst* (intercept), [24 July](#) HMAS *Maryborough* (assist), [25 July](#) Australian Customs and Border Protection Service officers, with the support of the Australian Federal Police (intercept), [25 July](#) HMAS *Bathurst* (assist), [25 July](#) HMAS *Maryborough* (assist), [25 July](#) HMAS *Maryborough* (intercept), [26 July](#) HMAS *Bathurst* (assist), [30 July](#) HMAS *Maryborough* (assist).

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## SHIPPING, SHIPBUILDING & PORTS

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### **Ministerial Changes**

The Prime Minister, Mr Rudd, [announced](#) the following ministerial and parliamentary secretarial changes of relevance to Australia's maritime interests:

- The Deputy Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, will take on the Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy portfolio in addition to Infrastructure and Transport.
- Kim Carr will join the Cabinet as the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and Minister for Higher Education.
- Mark Butler will take on the portfolios of Climate Change, Environment, Heritage and Water.
- Joel Fitzgibbon joins the Cabinet as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Matt Thistlethwaite will add Infrastructure and Transport to his existing Parliamentary Secretary responsibilities.

### **Historic day for Maritime Sector – new national laws**

The Minister for Transport, Mr Albanese, [said](#) “New national laws which regulate the safety of ships and seafarers and ensure shipping is conducted in a manner which protects Australia's precious marine environment come into effect today [1 July]. The commencement of the Navigation Bill 2012 and the Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Bill 2012 are the biggest reforms to Australia's maritime sector in more than a century.”

### **US Ports Dredging FY2014: Record Federal Grant Recommended**

*MarineLink.com* [reported](#) that “The U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development completed its mark up of the fiscal 2014 appropriation bill for the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which includes a record \$1 billion draw from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for maintaining America's federal navigation channels and related infrastructure.”

### **San Francisco Shipping Lane Changes**

The California Academy of Sciences [says](#) that as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, commercial shipping vessels leaving and entering San Francisco Bay are required to stay in the shipping lanes for an extended distance of approximately 6 miles to reduce the incidence of strikes on whales.

### **National Infrastructure Plan released**

Infrastructure Australia [released](#) its [National Infrastructure Plan](#), the organisation's latest report to the Council of Australian Governments. Recommendations include:

1. Establishing a single national infrastructure fund;
2. Moving from grant funding of infrastructure to a system that encourages private investment;
3. Selling or long-term leasing of government infrastructure assets and re-investing the proceeds in new infrastructure;
4. Wider application of user pays funding arrangements, especially but not only in the freight sector, but on the proviso that users get a say in scoping new projects; and
5. Improvements to project governance and procurement to reduce the cost of developing new infrastructure.

The report also updates the National Infrastructure Priority List of projects. [Ports are addressed at pages 42-55 of the main Plan (Page 50 points out the lack of long-term plans for ports, apart from Gladstone), and the Infrastructure Priority List is at pages 96-122, with possible ports infrastructure projects (none ready to start) addressed at page 100 - Editor]

### **Consolidation of final keel block for first Air Warfare Destroyer**

Minister for Defence Materiel Dr Mike Kelly AM MP [announced](#) the final keel block for the future destroyer, *Hobart*, has been successfully lifted into place by the AWD Alliance in Adelaide. The final keel block is the 18th of 31 blocks to be joined into what is rapidly becoming the recognisable structure of the *Hobart*.

### **Blueprint for Reform of the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service**

The Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Justice Jason Clare [released](#) the first [report](#) of the Customs Reform Board and a [Blueprint](#) for Reform of the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service. Maritime measures include: enhance patrols of the waterfront (wharves, harbours) and airports (airside, tarmac, baggage areas) around the country; increase remote area patrols; and investigate full electronic data reporting for all goods arriving and departing our borders.

### **Taskforce Polaris expanded to Brisbane as Taskforce Jericho**

Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Justice Jason Clare [announced](#) the commencement of operations for Taskforce Jericho – a multi-agency law enforcement taskforce which will target organised crime in the cargo system in Brisbane. The Federal Government has invested \$5.6 million to expand the successful work of Taskforce Polaris model to Melbourne and Brisbane. Taskforce Polaris was established in July 2010 to investigate organised crime on the waterfront in Sydney.

### **Los Angeles Ports to raise traffic mitigation fee by 8.1 percent**

*L.A. Biz* [reported](#) that “Marine terminal operators will raise the traffic mitigation fee at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach by 8.1 percent beginning Aug. 19. The increase will sustain continued operation of PierPass OffPeak gates amid increases in labor costs”.

### **DP World And QUBE “Putting Lives At Risk” by delaying stevedoring safety code**

The Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) has strongly [denounced](#) “a move by a minority of stevedoring companies to try to delay the approval of the first-ever National Stevedoring Code of Practice”, saying “The Department of Finance and Deregulation has ordered a Regulation Impact Statement, even though an expert group of stakeholders recently agreed that there was no new cost associated with NSCOP and, as a consequence, Safe Work Australia agreed to release the code for public comment.”

### **Greenpeace report outlines 91 coal new projects planned for Australia and how they drive climate change**

Greenpeace [released](#) a report which concluded “if these 91 projects are built, they would significantly add to already dangerous levels of global warming. These are the projects that must be halted if we’re to meet our climate change commitments, and protect the future wellbeing of the country.” [This is presumably of interest to port authorities, as well as the coal companies - Editor]

### **Port Hedland record tonnage throughput for 2012/13**

The Port Hedland Port Authority (PHPA) has [reported](#) a record tonnage throughput of 288.4 Million tonnes (Mt) for the 2012/13 financial year, an increase of 17% from the previous year. Total throughput for the month of June 2013 was 28.2Mt, an increase of 27% from the same month in 2012. Iron ore exports for the month of June totalled 27.7Mt, an increase of 29% from the same month in 2012.

### **Diamlemos Shipping using Cisco solution to support ships' internal communications**

*Menafn.com* (Middle East North Africa Financial Network) [reported](#) that: “Cisco CSCO said that the Diamlemos Shipping Corp. has decided to implement a unique telecommunications solution that is specifically designed for the shipping industry: SmartBox-V. The SmartBox-V is an integrated bundle of Software and quality Services from Setel running on a Cisco blade server which is hosted within a Cisco modular 2900 series router. This solution will allow Diamlemos to reduce the complexity of on-vessel communications equipment.” and “Diamlemos Shipping is one of the oldest Hellenic shipping companies.”

### **MOL's shipboard engine emissions reduction demonstration test**

Mitsui O.S.K. Lines (MOL) [announced](#) plans to install the Selective catalytic Reduction (SCR) system — jointly developed by MOL, Yanmar Co. Ltd, and Namura Shipbuilding Co.— on all three power generators of an MOL-operated oceangoing freighter for a demonstration test. This test demonstrates NOx denitration under the actual operation of freighter, to meet the Tier III NOx regulations set by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

## QE2 to start new life as floating luxury hotel in Asia next year

Dubai Drydocks World [announced](#) that Dubai Drydocks, in partnership with Oceanic Group International Limited, will have spent another \$90 million to refurbish the ocean liner *Queen Elizabeth 2* (QE2) before it steams out of the emirate in October to be moored somewhere in Asia as a 400-room luxury hotel. Dubai World's investment arm Istithmar bought the ship from Cunard for \$100 million back in 2007, but the 2008 debt crunch left the conglomerate heavily indebted.

## Moorebank Intermodal Company CEO Appointed

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese, and Minister for Finance and Deregulation, Senator Penny Wong, [announced](#) the appointment of Ian Hunt as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Moorebank Intermodal Company. One of his central tasks will be to oversee the formal procurement process that will identify private companies to develop and operate the Terminal. The formal procurement process is expected to commence in August 2013, with construction of the Intermodal Terminal planned to commence in mid-2015. It will open for business in 2017.

## European Commission eases customs formalities for ships

The European Commission set out [plans](#) to ease internal custom formalities for ships – reducing red tape, cutting delays in ports and making the sector more competitive. With the new Commission proposals, shipping transport will face less administrative hurdles and therefore be able to be used to its full potential in the EU internal market and beyond.

## *Income Tax Assessment (Infrastructure Project Designation) Rule 2013*

The Assistant Treasurer, David Bradbury, made this [rule](#), under legislation which aims to reduce the disincentives for private expenditure on nationally significant infrastructure that result from the long lead times between incurring deductions for, and earning assessable income from, such expenditure. The rules set out processes and conditions relating to applications for designated infrastructure project status. [e.g. ports – Editor]

## Port of Melbourne Board Directors Appointed

VIC Minister for Ports David Hodgett [announced](#) four appointments to the Port of Melbourne Corporation Board: to renew appointments for Deputy Chair James Cain and Director David Cranwell, and appoint new Directors Alice Williams and Jim Marshall.

## Qube Ports training centre for Port Kembla

The *Illawarra Mercury* [reported](#) that Qube Ports has officially opened a Japanese-style Pure Car Carrier (PCC) Dojo Training Centre in Port Kembla.

## LNG bunkering in Singapore, Gothenburg and Rotterdam

Lloyd's Register [announced](#) that it has won a Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) contract “to develop operational procedures and technical standards required to develop LNG bunkering capabilities in the Port of Singapore. In the contracted work, which has already commenced, Lloyd's Register will identify technical specifications, LNG bunkering procedures, and development of crew competency for LNG bunkering in the Port of Singapore, to support Singapore in developing its ambitions to develop the capability and infrastructure to supply LNG as a fuel for ships.”

*MarineLink.com* [reported](#) “Liquefied natural gas for shipping by 2015 at the latest is the pledge in a collaboration between the Ports of Gothenberg and Rotterdam and private infrastructure companies spurred on by a SEK 305-million European Union grant.”

## ILO Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) comes into force on 20 August

The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) has [issued](#) advice to shipowners to help them pre-empt port state control problems when the Convention enters in force on 20 August. The ICS said “Regardless of the progress which may or may not have been made by a vessel's flag state, ships are required to meet the standards in the Convention. Our [brochure](#) therefore seeks to explain the current situation and the measures that operators might take to demonstrate compliance, even if they have not yet been issued with MLC certification.”

## Support for a total ban on the dumping of dredged waste in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

The Australian Marine Conservation Society and the World Wildlife Fund [reported](#) that “research shows more than three-quarters of people in the Queensland electorate of Capricornia [75.2%] support a total ban on the dumping of dredged waste in the waters of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.”

## Marina Management Scholarships

[Superior](#) and the [Marina Industries Association](#) (MIA) announced that the winner of the Superior Intermediate Marina Management (IMM) Scholarship is Robert Ditcham, Senior Dockmaster at Queenscliff Harbour in Victoria. Later, the Marina Industries Association announced that applications are sought from suitably qualified personnel in the marina industries to apply for a scholarship to attend the [Advanced Marina Management](#) (AMM) School being held in Sydney from 22-27 September. [Applications](#) close on 9 August.

## Pacific Ministers meeting to boost regional trade

Minister for Trade Richard Marles and Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs Senator Matt Thistlethwaite, [welcomed](#) outcomes from the 2013 Pacific Islands Forum Trade Ministers Meeting, held in Apia. “The officials' negotiating sessions and workshops held to date in the PACER Plus negotiations have made progress on the agreed priority issues of: rules of origin; trade facilitation

(customs procedures, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures); regional labour mobility; and development assistance.

### **AMSA secures research grant to examine shipping safety culture**

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), the University of Queensland and the University of Western Australia will [investigate](#) the safety culture of shipping operations over a three-year period. AMSA and UQ have been successful in securing a linkage grant through the Australian Research Council (ARC) to examine the predictors and outcomes of safety culture in the Australian maritime industry. The project will be undertaken through UQ's School of Psychology, supported by AMSA's Human Factors section in the Ship Operations and Qualifications area.

### **Shipping through Russian Arctic has quadrupled in past year**

The *Anchorage Daily News* [reported](#): "For years people have been speculating that the melting of Arctic sea ice due to climate change would open new shipping lanes. In fact, it's happening now. The *Financial Times* reports that, as of last week, 204 ships had received permits this year to ply the Northern Sea Route, which connects East Asia to Europe via the waters off of Russia's northern coast. Last year, just 46 vessels made the trip. Two years ago, the number was four." [Shorter passages will add to the general shipping glut – Editor]

### **Port Expansions and the Great Barrier Reef can safely coexist**

North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation [said](#) "much of the debate is misinformed and has the potential to adversely impact the economy of this country and hence future investment in the health and wellbeing of the Great Barrier Reef"

### **Mining companies accused of breath-taking hypocrisy over calls for 'tighter port regulations'**

The Australian Marine Conservation Society [accused](#) multi-national mining companies of breath-taking hypocrisy over calls for 'tighter port regulations'. Felicity Wishart, Great Barrier Reef campaign director said calls for tighter port regulation were stunning given the same companies strong push for governments to cut environmental protection legislation or so-called 'green tape'.

### **And for the yatchties: wind-with-tide weather app**

Tidetch [says](#) "Advanced weather app WeatherTrack has integrated Tidetch's global high-resolution tide and current data to create one of the most complete mobile weather apps for sailors and marine enthusiasts. High-resolution regions include San Francisco – developed for the 34th America's Cup – The Solent and Sydney Harbour, while tides and currents with a resolution ranging from 200 metres to 10km cover the English Channel, east coast USA, southwest UK, Mediterranean, Singapore and Malacca Straits, South China Sea and more."

### **Marine Order 98 (Marine pollution - anti-fouling systems) 2013**

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) made this [order](#), which gives effect to those provisions of the *International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships* that provide for controls on anti-fouling systems and for the survey, inspection and certification of ships for those systems, and prescribes survey and certification requirements and forms to be used to report happenings.

### **Port of Bundaberg recovery measures**

Attorney-General and Minister for Emergency Management Mark Dreyfus QC, Queensland Community Recovery and Resilience Minister David Crisafulli and Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney-General and Member for Blair Shayne Neumann [announced](#) that work will commence immediately to reopen the Port of Bundaberg to full-size ships. Heavy silting after severe flooding in early 2013 has prevented full-sized ships from entering the Port of Bundaberg bulk sugar facility, forcing the sugar industry to rely on smaller, more costly ships to carry Queensland sugar to export markets.

### **Largest ever shipment of iron ore from Port Hedland**

The Port Hedland Port Authority [said](#) "The largest ever shipment of iron ore has left Port Hedland (on Wednesday evening, 24 July 2013) with 256,646 tonnes aboard the Fortescue loaded vessel, PSU Eighth. This breaks the previous record for the largest single shipment of iron ore from Port Hedland by 196 tonnes, which was set on 9 June 2013 with 256,450 tonnes aboard the PSU Seventh." [That's probably enough of these in the *Digest*, unless the record is being broken by a significant amount – Editor]

### **Appointment of new Gladstone Ports Corporation Chief Executive Officer**

Gladstone Ports Corporation [announced](#) that it has appointed a new Chief Executive Officer, Craig Doyle, to commence with the corporation on Monday 16 September 2013.

### **Indian Shipping Ministry plans maritime training academy**

The *New Indian Express* [reported](#) that "The Union Shipping Minister on Saturday [27 July] announced that Shipping Corporation of India would set up a maritime training academy at Thoothkudi in collaboration with VOC Chidambaranar Port Trust."

### **Dry bulk shippers shun damp ore cargoes**

*Malaya Business Insight* [reported](#) that "Measures to tackle high moisture content in iron and nickel ores shipped across oceans have increased awareness of the risks of cargoes liquefying and capsizing ships, leading to rejections of cargoes on safety grounds."

**Anti-fouling and in-water cleaning guidelines**

The Standing Committee on Primary Industries has endorsed new [guidelines](#), which provide guidance on best practice approaches for the application, maintenance and removal of anti-fouling coatings, and the management of biofouling on vessels and moveable structures in Australia and New Zealand. The guidelines replace the *Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council Code of Practice for Anti-fouling and In-water Hull Cleaning and Maintenance, 1997* (the ANZECC Code). [It is understood that AMSA will publish the relevant Marine Order shortly – Editor]

**Review of the emerging ‘Accredited Operator’ concept for Customs and ports**

The Centre for Customs and Excise Studies (CCES) at the University of Canberra is undertaking a [review](#) of the emerging ‘Accredited Operator’ concept which, internationally and locally, is being espoused by a number of regulatory agencies in the form of ‘Authorised Economic Operator’ (AEO), ‘Regulated Shipper’, ‘Regulated Agent’, ‘Accredited Agent’, ‘Approved Exporter’, and ‘Registered Operator’ programs which have emerged as a result of international initiatives relating to supply chain security and trade facilitation. [For more details see Letters to the Editor]

**Pirate gang preying on shipping off Bintan Island, Indonesia**

InterManager [reported](#) “Security experts have warned that an organised criminal gang is preying on shipping off Bintan Island, Indonesia. The warning comes in the latest piracy report from security consultants AKE Maritime which cites two attacks off Tanjung Berakit.”

**World Shipping Outlook – July**

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

The *Market Realist* [reported](#) why shipping rates for tankers continue to fall. [Well worth a read if you want to appreciate some of the drivers of both the tanker market and the general outlook for oil, particularly in the light of US shale oil and LNG production – Editor]

Later, another *Market Realist* analyst [reported](#) “During May, the average vessel prices for 15-year-old Panamax, Handymax/Supramax, and Handysize ships rose to an eight-month high.” [Which apparently suggests an imminent dry bulk recovery if one uses a magnifying glass when looking at the last stages of the graph in the article – Editor]

Reuters [reported](#) that “Commerzbank is more optimistic about its shipping business, easing investor concerns about the German bank's exposure to the struggling sector and sending its shares sharply higher. “We have always said that we expect provisions for bad ship loans to remain stable in 2013 at high levels and nothing has changed, except that I am a bit more optimistic today than several months ago,” Chief Financial Officer Stephan Engels said.” [The CFO was “clarifying” earlier statements which had caused a drop in Commerzbank's share price – Editor]

*Business Recorder* [reported](#) “China Rongsheng Heavy Industries Group, China's largest private shipbuilder, appealed for financial help from the Chinese government and big shareholders on Friday after cutting its workforce and delaying payments to suppliers.” while *SinoShipNews* [reported](#) “Anhui Wuhu Shihui Jianghai Shipping, the largest private shipping company in Anhui province, has gone into bankruptcy, and the boss of the company has run away and is nowhere to be found.” [Sometimes the meaning is not lost in translation, but actually amplified - Editor]

In a similar vein, *China Daily* [reported](#) “Even though China's first-half export performance was stable, the vast shipping sector will remain vulnerable as limited cashflows, lower freight rates and tight [liquidity](#) squeeze the industry.”

The Port of Los Angeles released its June 2013 [cargo volumes](#). June overall volumes decreased 7.2 percent compared to June 2012. The decrease was due in part to a vessel service that shifted out of the Port of Los Angeles.

The Philippines *Business Mirror* [reported](#) “Because supply far exceeds demand, shipping rates have plummeted, as have the prices of ships. Some shipping companies have sought to capitalize on this trend by purchasing newer, larger ships at lower prices so that they can remain price-competitive. But unless demand rebounds by the time these ships become operational, the industry's oversupply problem will only worsen.” *SteelGuru.com* gave a similarly pessimistic [assessment](#), despite a recent pickup in Chinese demand for iron ore.

From left field comes a [report](#) from the UK *Sunday Times* that the advent of 3D printing will have a huge effect on shipping that carries China's exports.

*China Daily* [reported](#) that “Responding to rising trade volumes, Zhengzhou, a business and logistic center in Central China, has started rail service to Hamburg, Germany. The train takes 18 days to make the 10,214-kilometer trip, but that's more than twice as fast as maritime transport. It can also effectively save 80 percent of the cost compared with air shipments, and it's about \$489 cheaper on average compared with road transportation, which is a major incentive for the Eurasian Land Bridge, also dubbed New Silk Road.”

Reuters [reported](#) “A flood of orders for new vessels and slower Chinese growth in demand for commodities could derail a recovery in dry bulk shipping, industry leaders warn, keeping freight rates low and threatening a further shake-out among shipping firms.”

On the other hand, Bloomberg [reported](#) “Nordea Bank AB (NDA) and DNB ASA (DNB), two of the world's largest shipping lenders, are seeing signs of an end to the maritime industry's five-year slump as bets grow on a recovery in sea-borne trade.”

*Xinhua* [reported](#) “With low trade volume growth and greater capacity addition expected in the second half of the year, Asia's shipping sector will continue to face a difficult operating environment although experts see a silver lining for dry-bulk shipping.”

**UN, US & EU Sanctions on Iranian shipping – July developments**

*Al Arabiya* [quotes](#) Reuters reporting that “Two top Chinese shipping lines severed ties with Iran as tough new U.S. sanctions over the country's disputed nuclear program came into effect on Monday, leaving the country increasingly dependent on front companies and overland routes.”

The *Hindu Business Line* [reported](#) “The two-day Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) Economic and Business Conference here [Mauritius] noted that energy security is vital to ensure smooth running of the other component of economies. Asked how the members will deal with situations in another member country – Iran – and whether it will have an impact on bilaterals of the member countries with Iran, Anand Sharma, [Indian] Minister for Commerce and Industry, said that the members were very clear in recognising the issue of energy security. “But, certain issues are matters of details which countries work out.””

The *Tehran Chronicle* [reported](#) there were two EU/US sanctions cases reported against the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL Group) which are claimed to be against international law.

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## FISHERIES

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### Ministerial Changes

The Prime Minister, Mr Rudd, [announced](#) the following ministerial and parliamentary secretarial changes of relevance to Australia's maritime interests:

- The Deputy Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, will take on the Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy portfolio in addition to Infrastructure and Transport.
- Kim Carr will join the Cabinet as the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and Minister for Higher Education.
- Mark Butler will take on the portfolios of Climate Change, Environment, Heritage and Water.
- Joel Fitzgibbon joins the Cabinet as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- *Matt Thistlethwaite will add Infrastructure and Transport to his existing Parliamentary Secretary responsibilities.*

### *Fisheries Management Amendment Regulation 2013 (No. 1)*

The Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Mr Sidebottom, made the [regulation](#) which amends the *Fisheries Management Regulations 1992* to repeal the application fees and replace them with updated provisions. The regulation sets the amount payable for lodging an application to deal in a fishing concession as well as the amount payable for logbook processing. The regulation also corrects two minor typographical errors where a Fishing Permit was incorrectly referenced as a Statutory Fishing Right.

### Recovery Plan for the Australian Sea Lion

The previous Minister for the Environment, Tony Burke, made the [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 - section 269a - Instrument making a recovery plan \(Recovery Plan for the Australian Sea Lion \(\*Neophoca cinerea\*\)\) \(11/06/2013\)](#) which establishes a national framework to guide and coordinate the recovery of the Australian sea lion. The Recovery Plan identifies research and management priorities necessary to assist the long-term recovery of the species.

### Director of National Parks retires

The Minister for the Environment, Water and Heritage, Mark Butler, [said](#) that “The Director of National Parks, Peter Cochrane, has advised me he will not seek reappointment when his contract expires in December this year.” and “More recently he has overseen the management planning process of Australia's internationally acclaimed network of marine reserves.”

### Consistent Fish Names applications – Deep Sea Dory and Flake

Seafood Services Australia [said](#) three months public consultation is required before any amendment is made to the Australian Fish Names Standard. In March 2013 the Australian Fish Names Committee met to consider two applications to amend the standard - Deepsea Dory and Flake. Anyone with an opinion on these two applications is welcome to make comment by using the form available on the fish names website at [www.fishnames.com.au](http://www.fishnames.com.au) or by email to [fnc@seafoodservices.com.au](mailto:fnc@seafoodservices.com.au). Comments close by 15 August 2013. [Noting that the media release is dated 9 July on the fishnames website and 10 July on the distributed statement, neither appears to allow the required three months for public consultation – Editor]

### AFMA's fishing vessel monitoring system (VMS) zero-tolerance program

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) [says](#) its zero-tolerance program has increased compliance rates without the need for AFMA to take any serious action against non-compliant operators. Compliance with rules for using the monitoring systems has risen to about 97 per cent.

### Southern Bluefin Tuna Core and Buffer Zones 2013

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) [says](#) “To minimise the risk of Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) being taken in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) without quota, AFMA annually implements core and buffer zones for restricted access in the ETBF. This year's Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) Zones have now been introduced in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF).”  
[Follow the link to see the zones – Editor]

## Wrapping Up the Banana Prawn Season

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) [says](#) “Following over two months of fishing, the Northern Prawn Fishery (NPF) banana prawn season concluded on 15 June. As expected, given the poor wet in many parts of Northern Australia, the total catch of banana prawns is down compared to recent years,” and “Fishing will re-commence on 1 August where boats will be mainly targeting tiger prawns.”

## Export approval for the high seas fishery

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) [says](#) “Export approval has been re-granted to Australian operators fishing on the high seas for the next five years.” and “High seas permits allow Australian operators to fish outside the Australian fishing zone in areas managed under the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation or the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement.”

## Torres Strait Finfish Fishery Management Plan 2013

The then-Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, Mr Ludwig, made the [plan](#), which changes the management regime of the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery from input controls to output controls (a quota management system).

## Seafood Services Australia ceases trading

Seafood Services Australia (SSA) [announced](#) that it will cease trading and close its doors. It said: “Over the past five years there has been a significant reduction in the availability of funding for all primary production industries. This has impacted on SSA’s future revenue stream and played a significant role in the SSA Board’s decision to put in place the processes to deregister the company while still in a position to ensure current commitments and obligations are met.” [Seafood Services Australia (SSA) was a national service provider in the areas of trade and market access, standards and facilitating communications to enhance consumer perception of seafood. See the earlier announcement about the use of names like “Deepsea Dory” and “Flake” above – Editor]

## Northern Prawn Fishery (Closures) Direction No. 165

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) made the [direction](#), which sets out a second season closure to protect spawning stocks in the Northern Prawn Fishery. It also prevents trawling during daylight hours in key tiger prawn areas because it is believed that mature female tiger prawns are more susceptible to daylight trawling.

## Call for Public Comment - incidental catch (or bycatch) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing

The Department of Environment etc [called](#) for public comment and released a consultation paper on varying the [Threat Abatement Plan 2006 for the incidental catch \(or bycatch\) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing operations](#) for three-month public consultation until 31 October 2013.

## Japanese pearling mother-ship wreck protected

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Water Mark Butler [announced](#) that the only known wreck of a Japanese pearling mother-ship in Australian waters will be protected by a 200 hectare Protected Zone. Located 60 kilometres off the Central Arnhem Land coast, the wreck of the *Sanyo Maru* sits on its keel at a depth of 27 metres.

## 'Perfect' food for 'perfect' prawns

CSIRO reported “Australian researchers have developed a food additive for farmed prawns that will mean prawn lovers will have access to more sustainable prawns that still taste great.” and “Farmed prawns fed with *Novacq* grow on average 30 per cent faster, are healthier and can be produced with no fish products in their diet, a world-first achievement in sustainability.”

## No-take Marine Reserves make coral reefs more resilient

The Pew environmental group [reported](#) “A new study finds no-take marine reserves, where fishing for parrotfish is prohibited, may make coral reefs six times more resilient to coral bleaching and other disturbances.” and “The research is the result of Dr. Peter Mumby's three-year Pew Marine Fellowship project to better understand the health of coral reefs.”

## Micro-plastics in the marine environment

The International Maritime Organisation [said](#) “International experts have met in London to review the growing problems in the marine environment caused by micro-plastics – tiny pieces of plastic or fibres which may act as a pathway for persistent, bio-accumulating and toxic substances entering the food chain.”

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## RESOURCE EXPLORATION & DEVELOPMENT

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## EPBC Act referral – exploration for oil and gas in the Albrohlos Commonwealth Marine Reserve, WA

The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC) has [invited](#) public comment on a referral under the EPBC Act of a proposal by Murphy Australia Oil Pty Ltd to conduct exploration for oil and gas in the Albrohlos Commonwealth Marine Reserve, WA

The apparent absence of any other marine resource exploration or development news during July should be of concern - Editor

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## San Francisco Shipping Lane Changes

The California Academy of Sciences [says](#) that as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, commercial shipping vessels leaving and entering San Francisco Bay are required to stay in the shipping lanes for an extended distance of approximately 6 miles to reduce the incidence of strikes on whales.

## Coastal Ocean Temperatures Changed Dramatically Over The Past Three Decades

[planetsave.com](#) [reported](#) on research from the [Stony Brook University School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences](#) which found that local changes in coastal ocean temperatures have been much more dramatic over the past 30 years than than global averages imply. Coastal waters at high (cold) latitudes warm much faster than at low (warm) latitudes, hence the majority of the world's coastal temperature gradients are getting shallower. This could cause dramatic reorganization of organisms and ecosystems, from small plankton communities to larger fish populations.

## Recovery Plan for the Australian Sea Lion

The previous Minister for the Environment, Tony Burke, made the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 - section 269a - Instrument making a recovery plan (Recovery Plan for the Australian Sea Lion (Neophoca cinerea)) (11/06/2013)* which establishes a national framework to guide and coordinate the recovery of the Australian sea lion. The Recovery Plan identifies research and management priorities necessary to assist the long-term recovery of the species.

## UNSW expedition studying microbes in the Indian Ocean

University of NSW [reported](#) that scientists on an expedition to study microbes in the Indian Ocean have weathered huge seas and had an encounter with giant whales on the first leg of their voyage from South Africa to Mauritius. Members of the team set sail in late May from Cape Town in an 18 metre yacht – *Indigo V* – and recently arrived in Port Louis in Mauritius.

## Harnessing Ocean Current Energy

CleanTechnica [reported](#) that a new ocean current harnessing system capable of working in deep waters has been developed by researchers at the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, and a prototype has already been successfully tested. A prototype — created in collaboration with the Astilleros Balenciaga company and the Fundación Centro Tecnológico Soermar — is one-tenth the size that a potential “industrial size” 1MW unit would be.

## Greenpeace report outlines 91 coal new projects planned for Australia and how they drive climate change

Greenpeace [released](#) a report which concluded “if these 91 projects are built, they would significantly add to already dangerous levels of global warming. These are the projects that must be halted if we're to meet our climate change commitments, and protect the future wellbeing of the country.”

## MOL's shipboard engine emissions reduction demonstration test

Mitsui O.S.K. Lines (MOL) [announced](#) plans to install the Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) system — jointly developed by MOL, Yanmar Co. Ltd, and Namura Shipbuilding Co.— on all three power generators of an MOL-operated oceangoing freighter for a demonstration test. This test demonstrates NOx denitration under the actual operation of freighter, to meet the Tier III NOx regulations set by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

## Geoscience supercomputing

CSIRO [said](#) that “Cloud computing and one of the world's most powerful supercomputers will form the backbone of a national integrated geoscience data network being developed by CSIRO, Geoscience Australia and AuScope” and described how the facility would benefit tsunami predictions, among other applications.

## Risk maps for Antarctic krill under projected Southern Ocean acidification

*Nature Climate Change* [reported](#) on research which finds that “important krill habitats of the Weddell Sea and the Haakon VII Sea to the east are likely to become high-risk areas for krill recruitment within a century. Furthermore, unless CO2 emissions are mitigated, the Southern Ocean krill population could collapse by 2300 with dire consequences for the entire ecosystem.”

## Ocean acidification has potential to degrade entire ecosystems, finds study

A quite separate study, [reported](#) on by *WaterWorld* and published online in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, found that ocean acidification can degrade not only individual species, as past studies have shown, but entire ecosystems. This results in a homogenized marine community, dominated by fewer plants and animals.

## A plan to protect the Great Barrier Reef

The Australian and Queensland governments [confirmed](#) their commitment to protecting the Great Barrier Reef with the release of the *2013 Reef Water Quality Protection Plan* and the *2011 Great Barrier Reef Report Card*. The *2013 Reef Water Quality Protection Plan* was endorsed at the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum in Brisbane and is designed to guide initiatives to ensure that runoff from agriculture has no detrimental impact on the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef.

## Southern Ocean Marine Protected Areas Talks

Minister for the Environment, Mark Butler, [said](#) that Australian Antarctic policy makers and scientists put forward the case to establish an East Antarctic representative system of marine protected areas (MPAs) to a Special Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) in Bremerhaven, Germany. Later the Pew Environment Group [reported](#) that “A special meeting of 24 countries and the European Union has failed to create proposed reserves in Antarctica’s fragile marine ecosystems. Russia, with some support from Ukraine, challenged the legal basis that would allow for the creation of large-scale marine reserves in Antarctica.”

## Study questions the impact of iron on phytoplankton blooms

*PhysOrg* [reported](#) that, at least with regard to a North Pacific event 14,000 years ago “a new study led by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) scientists and colleagues at the University of Bristol (UK), the University of Bergen (Norway), Williams College and the Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University suggests iron may not have played an important role after all, at least in some settings.”

## Support for a total ban on the dumping of dredged waste in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

The Australian Marine Conservation Society and the World Wildlife Fund [reported](#) that “research shows more than three-quarters of people in the Queensland electorate of Capricornia [75.2%] support a total ban on the dumping of dredged waste in the waters of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.”

## Further funding to protect the Great Barrier Reef

Federal Minister for the Environment Mark Butler [announced](#) new funding of \$5 million to protect the Great Barrier Reef from coral-eating predators. “Part of the Caring for our Country grants program, the Reef Rescue component will fund the control of the crown-of-thorns starfish in the world heritage listed Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and support continued research into starfish management.”

## Aerosols influence ocean circulation trends

The CSIRO [reported](#) that Australian scientists have identified causes of a rapid warming in the upper subtropical oceans of the Southern Hemisphere. The research, by scientists from CSIRO and the University of NSW, was published in *nature.com's Scientific Reports* (“[Forcing of anthropogenic aerosols on temperature trends of the sub-thermocline southern Indian Ocean](#)”).

## Australia takes global leadership on whale research

Minister for the Environment, Mark Butler, [said](#) that Australia's global leadership in whale conservation has been consolidated with an extra \$6 million in federal funding to build on our non-lethal whale research program. The funding will support new research, including an Antarctic blue whale research voyage in 2014/15 to examine their post-exploitation recovery and explain their important role in the Southern Ocean ecosystem.

## Barrier reef corals deliver world first for sunscreen

The CSIRO [said](#) “CSIRO, in partnership with skincare company Larissa Bright Australia, has created the world's first UVA/UVB sunscreen filters which mimic the natural sun protection used by corals on the Great Barrier Reef.”

## EPBC Act Referral – Aquafarms Queensland – Sydney Rock Oyster Nursery

The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC) has [invited](#) public comment on a referral under the EPBC Act of a proposal by Aquafarms Queensland to establish a Sydney Rock Oyster nursery near the Great Sandy Straits, Queensland.

## Anti-fouling and in-water cleaning guidelines

The Standing Committee on Primary Industries has endorsed new [guidelines](#), which provide guidance on best practice approaches for the application, maintenance and removal of anti-fouling coatings, and the management of biofouling on vessels and moveable structures in

Australia and New Zealand. The guidelines replace the *Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council Code of Practice for Anti-fouling and In-water Hull Cleaning and Maintenance, 1997* (the ANZECC Code). [It is understood that AMSA will publish the relevant Marine Order shortly – Editor]

### No-take Marine Reserves make coral reefs more resilient

The Pew environmental group [reported](#) “A new study finds no-take marine reserves, where fishing for parrotfish is prohibited, may make coral reefs six times more resilient to coral bleaching and other disturbances.” and “The research is the result of Dr. Peter Mumby's three-year Pew Marine Fellowship project to better understand the health of coral reefs.”

### Micro-plastics in the marine environment

The International Maritime Organisation [said](#) “International experts have met in London to review the growing problems in the marine environment caused by micro-plastics – tiny pieces of plastic or fibres which may act as a pathway for persistent, bio-accumulating and toxic substances entering the food chain.”

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Research Project – Industry Focus Groups

The Centre for Customs and Excise Studies (CCES) is undertaking a review of the emerging ‘Accredited Operator’ concept which, internationally and locally, is being espoused by a number of regulatory agencies in the form of ‘Authorised Economic Operator’ (AEO), ‘Regulated Shipper’, ‘Regulated Agent’, ‘Accredited Agent’, ‘Approved Exporter’, and ‘Registered Operator’ programs which have emerged as a result of international initiatives relating to supply chain security and trade facilitation.

The principal objective of the project is to provide the Government with an Australian international trade and transport industry view of the Accredited Operator concept and the way in which it should be progressed in Australia in order to guard against any possible erosion of the industry’s competitive position in the global marketplace. In particular, it seeks to identify options for maximising the relevance and benefit of such a scheme to the Australian business community, whilst minimising compliance costs and ensuring that Australian exporters and the international trade and transport industry are able to compete on an equal footing with their overseas competitors, particularly when exporting to countries that have similar arrangements in place.

As part of the project, CCES will be holding Industry Focus Groups in August in several capital cities. The outcome of the project will potentially benefit all sectors of industry that fall within the scope of such schemes. Accordingly, participation in focus groups is open to all sectors of industry including, but not limited to importers and exporters, customs brokers, consolidators and forwarders, airlines and shipping companies, sea ports, airports, terminal operators and other service providers.

The project is designed to develop an industry position for presentation to Government on the various forms of Accredited Operator schemes that are in place, under development, or being considered by Australian agencies, including recommendations on how they should be progressed within Australia and in terms of linkages with the programs of major trading partners. Further information -click [here](#)

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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](mailto: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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Contact the Editor, Richard Griffiths: [news@aama.asn.au](mailto:news@aama.asn.au)

## CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

### 4-8 August 2013 - Intermediate Marina Management Course – Gold Coast

This four-day course is accredited by the [Global Marina Institute \(GMI\)](#) and is designed to provide marina personnel in a leadership position with fast-track training in the critical issues of marinas. For details, email the Marinas Industry Association Industry Education Officer, Ian Winestock - [education@marinas.net.au](mailto:education@marinas.net.au)

**4-5 September 2013 - 4<sup>th</sup> Maritime Salvage & Casualty Response Seminar – London, UK**

The event will focus on the most current developments in operational response to a salvage situation and what impact these have had on the industry. Register [here](#)

**9-13 September 2013 - London International Shipping Week – London, UK**

*London International Shipping Week* will comprise dozens of maritime events hosted by shipping-related associations and commercial organisations, together offering multiple networking opportunities. For details, click [here](#).

**23-25 September 2013 - The Annual World Congress of Ocean-2013 , Hangzhou, China**

Theme: Economy, Resources and Growth. For details, click [here](#).

**22-27 September 2013 - Advanced Marina Management Course – Sydney**

The Advanced Marina Management (AMM) program is a profit-management training course designed for senior marina professionals. For details, click [here](#)

**7-9 October 2013 – Pacific 2013 International Maritime Conference (IMC) – Darling Harbour, Sydney**

The Pacific 2013 IMC will be held in association with the Pacific 2013 International Maritime Exposition and the Royal Australian Navy's Sea Power Conference, and follows the success of the International Maritime Conference held in January 2012. Normally held every two years, it has been brought forward to October 2013 to coincide with the Royal Australian Navy's centenary celebrations of the first arrival of the RAN's fleet unit in Sydney on 4 October 1913. For details: click [here](#)

**8 October 2013 - Ports and the Environment Seminar (part of Pacific 2013) - at Darling Harbour, Sydney**

This will address a key factor shaping the development and growth of our major ports: environmental issues and the regulatory framework that impacts on port operators, the shipping industry and their stakeholders in the export and logistics sectors. For details, click [here](#)

**12-15 November 2013 - 2013 NSW Coastal Conference – Port Macquarie, NSW**

Covers: strategic planning, coastal values, infrastructure and the coast, and science and technology. For details, click [here](#).

**16-17 October 2013 - 9<sup>th</sup> Ballast Water Management Summit – Hamburg, Germany**

Case studies of how shipowners have gone through the process of selection and integration of ballast water systems and the latest on the ratification process and regional regulatory requirements. For details: click [here](#)

**20-21 November 2013 – ACI's 7<sup>th</sup> Optimising Fuel Management & Operational Efficiency conference – Singapore**

It will examine the performance enhancing options available to ship owners and ship managers for efficiency maximisation and increased profitability. For details: click [here](#)

**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](#)

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

Supported by Port of Melbourne Corporation. For 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](#)

**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**

Details tba.

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

Press [statement](#)

There is no charge for entries under  
"CONFERENCES & SEMINARS".  
Email details to [news@aama.asn.au](mailto:news@aama.asn.au) .

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