



Australian Maritime Digest

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7 November 2013 - Developments in Global Oceans Governance and Conservation – Sydney Darlington Centre, Sydney University 20
 13-14 November 2013 - 4 Elements of Effective Corrosion Management Seminar – Amsterdam, The Netherlands 20
 20-21 November 2013 – ACI's 7th Optimising Fuel Management & Operational Efficiency conference – Singapore 20
 4-5 December 2013 – Optimising Port Development – London 20
 29-30 January 2014 - 8th Vessel Efficiency and Fuel Management Summit – London 20
 29-30 January 2014 - 10th Next Generation Vessel Maintenance – London 20
 27-28 February 2014 - 6th Intermodal Asia 2014 Australia Exhibition and Conference – Melbourne 20
 5-6 March 2014 - 4th FPSO Vessel Conference – London 20
 19-20 March 2014 – Australian Logistics Council Forum 2014 – Royal Randwick Racecourse, Sydney 20
 20-22 March 2014 – Australian Maritime Museums Conference – Queenscliff, VIC 20
 26-27 March 2014 - 9th Maritime Communications & Technologies Summit – London 20
 7-11 April 2014 – XXII International Maritime Pilots' Association Congress – Panama 20
 7-11 June 2014 – World Aquaculture Conference – Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide 20
 7-11 July 2014 - Australian Marine Sciences Association Conference – Canberra 21
 2014 (date tba) - Defence and Industry Conference - Adelaide 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

Ports and the Environment Seminar – key messages

The full proceedings of the 8 October Ports and the Environment seminar will be forwarded to the Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt, and also published in the AAMA's *Australian Journal of Ocean and Maritime Affairs* (AJMOA), but the outcome was, as summarised by the seminar Chair:

“The seminar attendees agreed that:

- a. there is an urgent need to increase the capacity of Australia's ports;
- b. the current duplication of environmental regulation is often misdirected and is delaying port development projects unnecessarily;
- c. the national harmonisation of airport regulation appears to offer a model for ports;
- d. a very useful practical step to expedite port development projects would be to require all marine environmental study data to be made publicly accessible; and
- e. the seminar chair should provide the seminar papers to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, recommending that the Minister seek COAG agreement to:
 - (1) remove regulatory duplication; and
 - (2) make marine environmental science data publicly available.”

AAMA AGM 21 October

The AAMA's Annual General Meeting was held on 21 October and your Editor is overjoyed to inform Members that Captain Justin Jones RAN, the Director of the RAN's Sea Power Centre, has agreed to become the new Chair of the AAMA and Captain Kerry Dwyer, who represents AusMEPA on the Board, has agreed to become the Treasurer, leaving your Editor to be just the editor of the Digest (with a side helping as Vice-Chair of the AAMA).

Other Board Members elected were: Ernie Davitt, Jean Davitt, Prof Neville Exon, Prof Richard Kenchington, Trixi Madon (Commonwealth Fisheries Association), Prof Marcus Haward (Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies) and Annalisse Sly (Australian Maritime Safety Authority).

Changes to publishing arrangements for the *Australian Journal of Maritime and Ocean Affairs*

The AAMA is delighted to advise that from 1 January 2014 Taylor & Francis will be publishing the *Australian Journal of Maritime & Ocean Affairs* (AJMOA) on behalf of the Australian Association for Maritime Affairs (AAMA). This partnership between AAMA and Taylor & Francis should be immensely beneficial to the Journal in enhancing its international profile, and we trust that the Journal's community will likewise support this move. There will be significant benefits for subscribers, including: searchable online access to back issues of AJMOA and discounts on many of Taylor & Francis's other publications.

The AAMA is in the process of writing to all AJMOA subscribers with more details of the changeover to the new publishing arrangements.

Who sent you this copy of the *Australian Maritime Digest*?

Did you receive this publication directly from either admin@aama.asn.au or from your own organisation's central office, eg Library? If so, skip the next bit.

If, however, you received your copy from a colleague and/or a friend, or via some even more tenuous link, please ask the person who sent it to you whether they hold a licence to redistribute it. The AAMA relies on Members' subscriptions and organisations' licences to produce the *Digest*. Subscription details are on the back page.

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.

DISCLAIMER

Views expressed in the *Australian Maritime Digest* do not necessarily reflect those of the Australian Association for Maritime Affairs – www.aama.asn.au

MARITIME DEFENCE, CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION

From Syria to South China Sea, Navies Cruise Back Into Vogue

Voice of America quoted Reuters to [report](#) “After a quarter century of Middle Eastern land wars and a sharp fall in big powers' naval spending after the Cold War, sea power is back in vogue in response to the rise of China and Western reluctance to deploy ground troops in conflicts like Syria.”

Exercise IRON MOON 2013 concludes

Defence [reported](#) “Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel have completed Exercise IRON MOON 2013, a two week Maritime Counter Terrorism training exercise in the waters off Exmouth and Dampier in North West Australia. The annual exercise involved several hundred personnel from across Defence and Australian federal and state civilian agencies. The exercise is designed to enhance and validate the ADF Maritime Counter Terrorism response capability in the most realistic environment possible.”

Australian Hydrographic Service (AHS) celebrates birthday

The AHS [informed](#) everyone “01 October marks the 93rd anniversary of the Australian Hydrographic Service (AHS). First established in 1920, the AHS is the Commonwealth agency responsible for surveying and charting Australian waters. “

Indonesia and Australia pledge greater cooperation

At the end of the visit to Indonesia by Prime Minister Abbott, a joint [communiqué](#) was released, pledging, *inter alia*, “strengthened partnership in the fields of defence and security, including expanding cooperation within the framework of the Defence Cooperation Arrangement signed in September 2012” and “strengthening Indonesia’s and Australia’s leadership of regional efforts to counter people smuggling and trafficking in persons”.

International Fleet Review begins in Sydney

Minister for Defence Senator David Johnston [announced](#) the entry of the Royal Australian Navy Fleet into Sydney Harbour for the International Fleet Review. The International Fleet Review included the RAN Sea Power Conference 2013 and Pacific 2013 International Maritime Congress and Exposition being held at Darling Harbour from 7-9 October 2013.

Nulka Anti-ship Missile Decoy Procurement

The Minister for Defence, Senator David Johnston [announced](#) that the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) has signed a multi-million dollar contract with BAE Systems for further rounds for the Nulka active missile decoy system. Nulka is a hovering rocket designed to seduce anti-ship missiles away from their targets.

DSTO and Thales Australia forge new alliance

Defence [announced](#) “The Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) and Thales Australia have signed a strategic alliance to collaborate on a number of research programs aimed at strengthening Defence capability. The new alliance focuses on research and development of armaments, underwater systems and land systems.”

MU90 torpedo enters Royal Australian Navy service

Thales [announced](#) “The MU90 lightweight torpedo has entered active service with the Royal Australian Navy, having achieved Operational Release Status after a recent final test firing. The entry into service has been achieved as a result of close collaboration between the Djimindi Alliance (comprising the Defence Materiel Organisation, Thales Australia and EuroTorp), the Royal Australian Navy and its RAN Test Evaluation Analysis Authority, and the Defence Science and Technology Organisation.”

Agreement cements DSTO and Saab Systems alliance

Defence [announced](#) “Collaboration on maritime combat systems is the focus of a new strategic alliance signed today [9 Oct] by the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) and Saab Systems. The new bilateral alliance involves research associated with Saab’s 9LV Mk3 combat management system fitted to the Royal Australian Navy’s ANZAC ships.”

Operational Launch of Cape Class Customs and Border Protection Patrol Vessel

The Prime Minister, Mr Abbott, [said](#) “Today’s [11 Oct] launch of the *Cape St George* vessel at HMAS Coonawarra in Darwin marks a new era in Australia’s maritime security and border protection. The *Cape St George* is the first of eight high-tech *Cape Class* vessels that will take a lead role in Operation Sovereign Borders to combat people smuggling and illegal maritime arrivals.

Disaster relief scenario exercise Suman Warrior

Defence [reported](#) “Exercise Suman Warrior, a Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) desk top exercise, began in Townsville today [14 Oct] to rehearse possible military responses to a disaster relief scenario. Hosted by the Australian Army’s 17th Combat Service Support

Brigade (17 CSS Bde), the exercise aims to improve interoperability with the armed forces of Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom – under the FPDA.”

Defence supports school-based submarine technology challenge pilot

Minister for Defence David Johnston [announced](#) the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) will sponsor Re-Engineering Australia to undertake a pilot ‘Future Submarine Technology Challenge’ in selected Australian schools next year.

US Admiral Harry Harris takes over leadership of US Pacific Fleet

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) “A new commander is taking over leadership of the U.S. Navy in the Pacific. A two-week-old federal government shutdown made Adm. Harry Harris’ Pacific Fleet change of command ceremony different than others in years past. To save money, the Navy didn’t pass out any programs. Guests were instead encouraged to find a digital program online. The chief of naval operations didn’t fly out from Washington, and U.S. Pacific Command commander Adm. Samuel Locklear presided over the ceremony instead.”

Four illegal foreign fishing boats intercepted, crew detained

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) [announced](#) “HMAS *Wollongong*, together with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS), has apprehended four Indonesian boats suspected of illegal fishing in Australian waters.”

Shadow Minister for Defence

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr Shorten, [announced](#) that Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy would be the Shadow Minister for Defence.

Shadow Minister for Immigration and Border Protection

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr Shorten, [announced](#) that the Hon Richard Marles would be the Shadow Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

Triton Centenary draws to a close

Defence [announced](#) “The final phase of the Royal Australian Navy’s (RAN) International Fleet Review drew to a close today [18 Oct], with the completion of Exercise *Triton Centenary 2013*.”

Resurgence of Somali Piracy

InterManager [reported](#) “Following the attack on a British-managed vessel on Friday [11 Oct] in the Somali Basin, UK maritime intelligence provider Dryad Maritime Intelligence has renewed its calls for heightened vigilance, stating that just one successful hijack and holding to ransom of a large ship could revive Somalia’s maritime criminal infrastructure.”

HMAS Melbourne apprehends alleged pirates

Defence [announced](#) “Royal Australian Navy ship, HMAS *Melbourne*, has intercepted suspected pirates off the coast of Somalia as part of maritime security patrols in Middle Eastern waters for Operation SLIPPER. The suspected pirates were intercepted on 15 October 2013 after the Combined Maritime Forces received two reports of attempted acts of piracy against two separate merchant vessels during the previous four days.”

Port of Townsville Berth 10 upgrade

The Minister for Defence, Senator David Johnston, attended the opening of the Quayside Terminal and Wharf 10 at the Port of Townsville with the Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Ray Griggs on 18 Oct. The opening of the \$85 million facility, designed to expand existing Defence capabilities and the growing cruise ships market, was officiated by the Governor of Queensland Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC. Senator Johnston [said](#) “The upgrade will enhance the capability to support Navy’s Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) and the capacity to provide access for other visiting RAN and foreign warships.”

Australia's Antarctic challenges

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) released [Strategic Insights 66 - Cold calculations: Australia's Antarctic challenges](#). It “looks at the range of Australian objectives in Antarctica, the assumptions that underpin those goals, and the options open for us to best achieve our aims.”

US to stop printing nautical charts next year

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) “The [US] federal government is going into uncharted waters, deep-sixing the giant paper nautical charts that it has been printing for mariners for more than 150 years. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced Tuesday [22 Oct] that the traditional brownish heavy paper charts won’t be printed after mid-April.”

Australian submarine capability overview

In a [speech](#) to the Submarine Institute of Australia, the Minister for Defence, Senator Johnston, gave his overview of both the Collins class remedial work and the new submarine project, saying, *inter alia*, “We must drive the restoration of Collins very hard; we must learn the lessons and apply them as we simultaneously work towards SEA 1000.” The Minister also addressed frustrations with Defence Export Control decisions.

US Navy must look 'very hard' at aircraft carrier cuts

In a story with implications for Australia's defence, *Stars and Stripes* [reported](#) “Even as the U.S. prepares to christen its newest aircraft carrier, oncoming budget cuts will compel the Navy to seriously consider reducing the overall size of its carrier fleet, the Navy's top officer said Wednesday [23 Oct].”

New US Navy sub program still 'top priority'

The US *Navy Times* [reported](#) “Navy officials call the replacement of Ohio-class submarines home-ported at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay and at the Pacific base in Bangor, Wash., the service's “top priority program.” And if it means scrapping air and land nuclear weapon delivery systems to replace the fleet, then so be it, according to a study by the Cato Institute, a public policy think tank that conducts independent, nonpartisan research on a wide range of policy issues.”

Australia hosts the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation in Perth

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop [announced](#) she will welcome foreign ministers from around the Indian Ocean region to Perth this week for the annual Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) meeting. Australia will assume the role of IOR-ARC Chair for a two year term, taking over from India during the meetings from 30 October to 1 November, 2013. Indonesia will assume the role of Vice Chair.

China Seas Developments – October

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

The *Times of India* [reported](#) “China is changing track and wooing countries like Indonesia and Malaysia with lucrative business offers in a manner that would affect Indian efforts to enhance linkages with the Association of South East Asian Nation. The new move is strikingly different compared to threatening noises from Beijing over the South China Sea disputes during the last regime of Hu Jintao. President Xi Jinping, who became the first foreigner to speak in the Indonesian parliament, is using the charm offensive instead of threats.”

The *Voice of America* [reported](#) “China said on Monday [7 Oct] that the U.S., Australia and Japan should not use their alliance as an excuse to intervene in territorial disputes in the East China Sea or the South China Sea, and urged them to refrain from inflaming regional tensions. On Friday [4 Oct], Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry raised the maritime disputes during a trilateral strategic dialogue in Bali, Indonesia.

The *Global Post* [reported](#) “China remains Taiwan's biggest military threat, using a "carrot and stick" approach in doling out economic benefits while building up its military to take the island by force if necessary, Taiwan's Defense Ministry said in its National Defense Report released Tuesday [8 Oct].”

Xinhua newsagency [reported](#) “Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said here Wednesday [9 Oct] that his country will continue consultations with Southeast Asian nations on formulating a code of conduct (COC) in the South China Sea. Addressing the 16th leaders' meeting between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Li said the situation in the South China Sea is generally stable and some existing disputes there will not and should not undermine the overall bilateral relations.”

The Chinese Foreign Ministry [reported](#) that “China and Brunei Decide to Strengthen Maritime Cooperation to Promote Joint Development”

econs.cn [reported](#) “The relationship between China and Vietnam has made substantial progress, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang told a joint press conference with his Vietnamese counterpart, Nguyen Tan Dung, in Hanoi on Sunday [13 Oct].”

The *People's Daily* [reported](#) “The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy has started a combat drill in the open sea of the West Pacific Ocean, according to the Saturday [19 Oct] edition of the PLA Daily. The exercise, which began Friday and will last until the beginning of November, is expected to improve high sea combat abilities and hone strategies for utilizing information technologies, the newspaper reported.”

The Taiwanese *Want ChinaTimes* [reported](#) “Malaysia's defense minister, Hishammuddin Hussein, declared on Oct. 10 that a new naval base will be constructed in the Bintulu Division of Sarawak, which is only 100 kilometers away from James Shoal, the southernmost point of the disputed Spratly islands, reports the UK-based Jane's Defense Weekly.”

The *Tehran Times* [reported](#) “[Japan's] Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, in an interview published on Saturday [26 Oct], said Japan was ready to be more assertive in guarding against what he said might be an attempt by China to use force to attain its diplomatic goals. But a top retired Chinese diplomat said any move by Tokyo to contain China could amount to an attempt to conceal ulterior motives in the region and prove to be "extremely dangerous".”

CNTV [reported](#) “A spokesman for China's Ministry of National Defense has criticized Japan for making provocations and creating a tense atmosphere after it declared it will shoot down Chinese drones if they violate Japanese territorial airspace. The spokesman issued the response at a news briefing on Sunday [27 Oct].”

The *People's Daily* [reported](#) “On October 25, the US Nimitz class aircraft carrier USS George Washington entered Manila Bay. At the head of Carrier Strike Group Five, the aircraft carrier had spent the past week sailing the disputed waters of the South China Sea.”

Operation Sovereign Borders updates – September/October

The Minister for Immigration and Border Protection released these updates: [23 Sep](#), [30 Sep](#), [11 Oct](#), [18 Oct](#), [25 Oct](#)

SHIPPING, SHIPBUILDING & PORTS

Newcastle Port Corp says goodbye to long-standing chief

Logistics & Materials Handling [reported](#) “Gary Webb finished his job at the company on Sunday [29 Sep] after working for the corporation for more than 20 years. Webb was made chief of NPC in 2004, and will be replaced by Grant Gilfillan, the former chief of Sydney Ports Corporation.”

New Chairman for Ports Australia

Ports Australia has [appointed](#) Mr Vincent Tremaine, Chief Executive Officer of Flinders Ports, as its new Chairman. [In place of Mr Webb who also stepped down as CEO of Newcastle Ports Corporation - Editor]

ACCC releases discussion paper in cartel immunity policy review

In a measure of possible relevance to shipping's liner arrangements, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has [released](#) a public discussion [paper](#) inviting comment upon several key issues arising from its review of the ACCC Immunity Policy for Cartel Conduct.

Focus On Cash Control Impacts Ship Operating Costs

InterManager [reported](#) “Total annual operating costs in the shipping industry fell by an average 1.8 per cent in 2012, according to international accounting specialists Moore Stephens. This compares with the 2.1 per cent average rise in costs recorded for the previous year.

Port Hedland Port Authority Annual Report for 2012-13

The PHPA released its [Annual Report](#) for the 2012-13 financial year. “The financial year saw the PHPA register another period of strong trade growth, with a record total throughput of 288.4 million tonnes.”

Port of Melbourne Operations Centre opens

VIC Minister for Ports David Hodgett formally [opened](#) the new state-of-the-art Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) at the Port of Melbourne during a visit last month, following its completion thanks to a \$3.2 million investment by Port of Melbourne Corporation (PoMC).

Dawn of the super-ports? Mammoth ships force ports to adapt

CNN [reported](#) “According to London Gateway supply chain manager, Peter Ward, it is important the UK has these advanced facilities to ensure it isn't cut off or isolated from its trading partners. The ships that are out there are getting bigger and it's necessary that we have this kind of infrastructure to handle the UK's global trade,” Ward said. As it stands, only a handful of other ports around the world have the infrastructure to host behemoths like the Triple E and Marco Polo.” [Seems to be a message for Australia there - Editor]

Eleven Pirates Captured By EU Naval Force Dutch Warship Are Convicted In The Seychelles

EUNavFor [reported](#) “On Wednesday 2 October 2013 eleven pirates were convicted in the Seychelles Supreme Court of committing acts of piracy and operating a pirate vessel between 7 – 11 May 2012. Their sentences ranged from 18 months to 16 years. The pirates had been apprehended by the Royal Netherlands Navy frigate, HNLMS Van Amstel, on 11 May 2012, after the warship's Lynx helicopter sighted a suspicious fishing dhow towing 2 skiffs, 400 nautical miles off the Somali coast.”

Appointment of Stephen Cleary as CEO of NSW Ports

NSW Ports, the operator of Port Botany and Port Kembla in New South Wales, [announced](#) the appointment of Mr. Stephen Cleary as its Chief Executive Officer.

The Role of the Maritime Sector: Major Freight and Infrastructure Developments

In a [speech](#) to the PACSHIP 2013 Shipping and Export Leaders' Summit, the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Mr Truss, said, *inter alia*, “Our ports and our shipping services should therefore be working to grow their capacity and developing a vision for a much greater role in our domestic as well international freight movement task.” and “... I am determined to put the current system under the microscope to streamline processes and foster a vibrant and sustainable shipping industry in Australia.”

Maritime Australia Limited Industry Innovation Awards

The winners of the inaugural Maritime Australia Industry Innovation awards were [announced](#) at the Pacific 2013 International Maritime Exposition. They included: One Atmosphere Pty Ltd from Western Australia, for its development of the Pegasus Aircraft Buoyancy System; Commercial Diving Services Pty Ltd and Thomas & Coffey Limited for their work on developing and then commercialising a new hull surface treatment technology for removing marine growth from the hulls of ships; and PHM Technology Pty Limited from Victoria for its Maintenance-Aware Design Environment, or MADE, software application.

SSS Bluebottle makes waves

Steber International [said](#) “An Australian made unmanned surface vessel (USV) literally [sic] stole the show at the Pacific 2013 Defence Conference in Sydney. The Steber Solar Sailor Bluebottle, tasked for ocean monitoring and surveillance, is a joint project between two innovative NSW companies - boat builders, Steber International and marine technology company, Solar Sailor.” and “Bluebottles operate

on energy available at sea - solar, wave and wind and coupled with the fact they are unmanned, represent an ideal platform for low cost ocean surveillance both above and below the surface.”

Overlapping Commonwealth and State marine environmental regulation hinders port development

Attendees at a Pacific 2013 seminar on *Ports and the Environment* [agreed](#) that overlapping of Commonwealth and State marine environmental regulation not only hinders the development of Australia's ports to serve the national economy, but can also degrade the environmental protection eventually achieved. The attendees also agreed that all marine environmental study data produced as part of port development processes should be made public, so that the nation can benefit from previous work.

Sea Vision/IMarEST photo competition

To encourage young people to investigate a little about the maritime and marine sector, Sea Vision, in partnership with the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST), is running a [photographic competition](#) during the current school term, “Picture This”. Entry is simply by uploading a photo to the Sea Vision competition [site](#) which captures your take on Marine Engineering, Science and Technology.

Pacific Basin Shipping seeks to sell PB Towage and PB Sea Tow

The *Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) “Pacific Basin Shipping Ltd. (2343.HK) has hired Citigroup Inc. to find a buyer for its Australian units, PB Towage and PB Sea Tow.”

Defence supports school-based submarine technology challenge pilot

Minister for Defence David Johnston [announced](#) the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) will sponsor Re-Engineering Australia to undertake a pilot ‘Future Submarine Technology Challenge’ in selected Australian schools next year.

Major security weakness in vessel tracking system exposed

The Malaysian *Star Online* [reported](#) “A computer security team has found a way to fake ship positions by exploiting weaknesses in a globally-used vessel tracking system. At the Hack In The Box 2013 security conference here [KL], the largely Italian team said the Automatic Identification System (AIS) - used in over 400,000 installations - was not at all secure. To prove their point, they showed how they were able to create an imaginary ship, complete with identity code, tonnage and even geographical coordinates off the Italian port city of Genoa earlier this year.”

QLD Draft Ports Strategy Released

QLD Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning The Honourable Jeff Seeney [announced](#) “The Queensland Government has proposed declaring five Priority Port Development Areas (PPDAs) for the state’s leading long-established ports, where development will be concentrated and encouraged.” and “..... the PPDAs would be created for the ports of Brisbane, Mackay/Hay Point (two separate zones), Gladstone, Townsville and Abbot Point.” The [draft Queensland Ports Strategy](#) is now available for [public comment](#).

Goundar Shipping Services to extend its services in South Pacific

The *Fiji Times* [reported](#) “In an interview, company director George Goundar said if all goes well, they would provide service to Tuvalu, Papua New Guinea and the Gilbert Islands by February.”

Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr Shorten, [announced](#) that the Hon Anthony Albanese MP would be the Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transport.

Funding for transfer to Australia of the hull of historic vessel *City of Adelaide*

The Australian Government [confirmed](#) it will provide up to \$850,000 (GST exclusive) towards the transfer to Australia of the hull of historic vessel *City of Adelaide*.

Resurgence of Somali Piracy

InterManager [reported](#) “Following the attack on a British-managed vessel on Friday [11 Oct] in the Somali Basin, UK maritime intelligence provider Dryad Maritime Intelligence has renewed its calls for heightened vigilance, stating that just one successful hijack and holding to ransom of a large ship could revive Somalia’s maritime criminal infrastructure.”

HMAS Melbourne apprehends alleged pirates

Defence [announced](#) “Royal Australian Navy ship, HMAS *Melbourne*, has intercepted suspected pirates off the coast of Somalia as part of maritime security patrols in Middle Eastern waters for Operation SLIPPER. The suspected pirates were intercepted on 15 October 2013 after the Combined Maritime Forces received two reports of attempted acts of piracy against two separate merchant vessels during the previous four days.”

One-stop shop for QLD environmental approvals

The Prime Minister, Mr Abbott, [announced](#) that “The Federal and Queensland Governments have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create a one-stop shop for environmental approvals.” and “The one-stop shop does not replace any State or Federal environment laws – it simply streamlines the process, ensuring just one application, instead of two, needs to be made.”

'One stop shop' for environmental approvals

The Minister for the Environment, Greg Hunt, [announced](#) that the Government had approved the framework for achieving the one stop shop for environmental approvals that will accredit state planning systems under national environmental law, to create a single environmental assessment and approval process. This includes a three-stage process with each of the willing jurisdictions, comprising:

- signing a Memorandum of Understanding;
- agreement on bilateral assessments and updating any existing agreement with the state; and
- negotiation of approval bilateral agreements within 12 months.

Maritime Security Identification Card (MSIC) scam

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) [urged](#) people to beware of a scam offering overseas residents a Maritime Security Identification Card (MSIC) and Australian visas to gain jobs with cruise companies. AMSA was alerted to the email scam which offers job opportunities with cruise lines operating in Australia and a relevant visa on the completion of paperwork of the inaccurately named "Australia Maritime Security Identification Card" (AMSIC).

BITRE *Australian Infrastructure Statistics Yearbook 2013*

The Minister for Infrastructure, Mr Truss, [released](#) this [yearbook](#), saying "The freight task is enormous, with 208 billion tonne kilometres of freight moved by road and 259 billion tonne kilometres of freight moved by rail. More than 6.6 million shipping containers were moved through the nation's five main container ports, and 100 billion tonne kilometres of freight were moved around the coast,"

Port of Townsville Berth 10 upgrade

The Minister for Defence, Senator David Johnston, attended the opening of the Quayside Terminal and Wharf 10 at the Port of Townsville with the Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Ray Griggs on 18 Oct. The opening of the \$85 million facility, designed to expand existing Defence capabilities and the growing cruise ships market, was officiated by the Governor of Queensland Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC. Senator Johnson [said](#) "The upgrade will enhance the capability to support Navy's Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) and the capacity to provide access for other visiting RAN and foreign warships."

US to stop printing nautical charts next year

Stars and Stripes [reported](#) "The [US] federal government is going into uncharted waters, deep-sixing the giant paper nautical charts that it has been printing for mariners for more than 150 years. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced Tuesday [22 Oct] that the traditional brownish heavy paper charts won't be printed after mid-April."

Changes to the management of WA regional ports

ABC Online [reported](#) "The [WA] Government is due to introduce legislation to parliament this week [21-25 Oct] to merge the individually-managed ports in country areas into regional authorities for WA's north, Mid West and south. It is expected to come into effect from mid next year. The Esperance Chamber of Commerce's Grant Ship says he is deeply concerned about the proposal."

Later, the *Bunbury Mail* [reported](#) "The Bunbury Port Authority will be amalgamated with Albany and Esperance after the state government introduced legislation to consolidate regional ports into four overarching authorities today [24 Oct]. The [Ports Legislation Amendment Bill 2013](#) introduced to State Parliament will see four new regional port authorities established - Kimberley, Pilbara, Mid West and Southern - while Fremantle remains a stand-alone port authority."

Ocean Race Around Australia – August 2014

sailworld.com [reported](#) "There are just 38 weeks until the start of the longest and the toughest coastal yacht race on the planet – the inaugural 'Ocean Race Around Australia – 2014.'" and "There are four ports from which boats, monohull and multihulls, can start and finish the event; Fremantle, Port Lincoln, Melbourne and Sydney. International entrants can choose either Fremantle or Sydney as their 'home port' in the race."

Standardisation of Ballast Water Treatment Systems

Handy Shipping Guide [reported](#) "Ahead of this year's Global Ballast Water Management [R&D Forum](#) organised under the offices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), representatives from 16 ballast water treatment (BWT) system testing organisations have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), to establish the GloBal TestNet, a new group that aims to 'greater levels of standardisation, transparency and openness in the process of technology approvals'" [See also the IMO's [announcement](#) of this development.]

Abbot Point Capital Dredging Project concerns

North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation (NQBP) [said](#) "We are aware of recent concerns from tourist operators at Airlie Beach in relation to the extent that plumes associated with the Abbot Point Capital Dredging Project will travel. We believe that some of these concerns have arisen as a result of modelling that was undertaken by SKM/APASA for Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) as part of the Improved Dredge Material Management (IDMM) report that was prepared to inform the Strategic Assessments of the Great Barrier Reef. The SKM/APASA model itself was never designed to be used for impact assessment. The model was developed to help determine whether there were comparative benefits in placing dredged material in shore or offshore within the Great Barrier Reef lagoon."

Rail Infrastructure Expansion for Fremantle Port

Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Warren Truss, and Western Australian Transport Minister, Troy Buswell, [announced](#) that the major contract for the extension of the North Quay Rail Terminal had been awarded to Australian engineering and construction company York Civil. Mr Buswell said the Western Australian Government's contribution to developing Fremantle Port's rail infrastructure was part of a suite of strategies aimed at maximising the use of the rail system for container trade.

Tasmanian economic assistance to include a review of shipping costs

The Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Warren Truss, [announced](#) that "as part of its support for the Tasmanian economy the Government would deliver on its pre-election commitment to provide more than \$100 million in an economic package for Tasmania." and "We will implement a Productivity Commission review into Tasmania's shipping costs, the competitiveness of Tasmania's freight industry structure and the equity and effectiveness of the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation and the Bass Strait Passenger Vehicle Equalisation Schemes."

False alarm incidents traced to outdated 121.5MHZ distress beacons

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) [advised](#) 121.5 MHz distress beacon owners to dispose of their outdated beacons appropriately and switch to 406MHz beacons after four false alarms over the past seven days.

A Third Of Seafarers Are Burdened By Admin Tasks, Survey Finds

InterManager [reported](#) "Seafarers feel they spend too much time on tasks they consider to be an administrative burden according to the findings of a study by the Danish Maritime Authority, supported by InterManager, the international trade association for ship and crew managers. A comprehensive survey of international seafarers revealed that a third of all nationalities are annoyed or frustrated by administrative burdens in the maritime sector. These burdens stem from what the seafarers consider to be unnecessary repetition of tasks and demands for too much paperwork and documentation to be handled." [Perhaps a rationalisation of overlapping regulation is needed? Editor]

EU Attempt to Ensure a Safe and Clean End to Freight Vessels

The *Handy Shipping Guide* [reported](#) "Most ship breaking takes place in South Asia, often on tidal beaches and under dangerous conditions as we have [highlighted in some detail previously](#)." and "In an effort to reduce these negative impacts on EU-registered shipping, the [European Parliament](#) has [backed plans](#) to end the scrapping of old ships flagged in an EU member country, on third-country beaches and ensure they are recycled in EU-approved facilities worldwide instead."

Reducing Coal Train Congestion at Newcastle Port

Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Warren Truss, [said](#) "A project designed to get coal to Newcastle Port more efficiently by easing rail congestion has been given the green light to start construction next month." and "... the Hexham Relief Roads project would greatly improve the Hunter Valley coal network through to the port. It involves the construction of five new railway tracks allowing trains to be temporarily diverted off main tracks while they wait to enter the loading facilities at Newcastle Port"

International Oil Pollution Compensation (IOPC) Fund meeting – 25 October

InterManager reported on the Fund's meeting at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) from 21-25 Oct. Readers with a prurient interest in maritime horror stories, mixed with bureaucratic and legal matters, can indulge themselves [here](#).

Nicholas Whitlam appointed Chair of Newcastle Port Corporation

NSW Treasurer Mike Baird and Ports Minister Duncan Gay [announced](#) the appointment of Nicholas Whitlam as Chairman of Newcastle Port Corporation (NPC). [For any reader who may be becoming confused about Mr Whitlam's many titles, he is also the Chairman and CEO of Port Kembla Port Corporation, and Chairman of Sydney Ports Corporation – Editor]

2013-14 cruise ship visits to Port of Melbourne

The Port of Melbourne Corporation (PoMC) [announced](#) that Melbourne will host a record 67 cruise ship visits during the 2013-14 season bringing around 200,000 passengers and crew to Station Pier.

Commonwealth Government Deregulation Agenda: Priorities and Strategies

In a [speech](#) to The Sydney Institute, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Josh Frydenberg, outlined the Government's priorities for reducing regulation and said, *inter alia*, "Secondly, we must work to eliminate the extensive duplication and regulatory overlap that exists between different layers of government, particularly federal and state." and "In order to remove duplication, the Commonwealth will create a single approvals and documentation process under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act via the state system, while at the same time ensuring the highest environmental standards apply."

Poor ports discourage foreign cruises, says Indonesian ministry

The *Jakarta Post* [reported](#) "The development of Indonesia has seen its cruise ship calls and passenger traffic increase by more than 30 percent annually for the past four years, making the country an important cruise destination in Asia. But the slow development of port facilities in the country's major tourism destinations has caused a decline in foreign cruise ship calls. Recent data compiled by the Tourism and Creative Economy Ministry has shown contractions in the growth of the nation's cruise tourism sector. "

Draft Model Code of Practice: Managing Risks in Stevedoring

Safe Work Australia has [released](#) a Consultation Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) on Stevedoring to support the public comment process for the draft Code of Practice: Managing Risks in Stevedoring. The public comment period for the draft model Code and the Consultation RIS closes on Friday, 29 November 2013 at 5.00pm (AEDST).

Work-related fatalities statistics

When releasing this [report](#) - the *Fifteenth Edition of the Comparative Performance Monitoring (CPM)* report - Safe Work Australia [said](#) "transport and storage, manufacturing, construction, and agriculture, forestry and fishing industries are still substantially higher than the national average of fatality and injury rates for all industries"

World Shipping Outlook – October

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

InterManager [reported](#) "The Greek shipping industry shed 28 companies, or 3.9% of the total, in the last year, according to a survey by shipping research house and consultancy Petrofin. Although the year-on-year number is not massive, it means 72 companies have ceased operation since 2011 and the number of Greek shipowners has declined by a quarter since 1998, when Petrofin began its annual profiling."

Mitsui Overseas Lines (MOL) announced "Members of the G6 Alliance have announced the withdrawal of eight Asia-Europe sailings from late October 2013 to February 2014, in response to expected low demand over the winter season." [Just an e-mailed statement; nothing on any website to link to – Editor]

The Port of Los Angeles released its September 2013 [cargo volumes](#). It reported that "September overall volumes totaled 710,892 Twenty-Foot Equivalent (TEU) containers, the third consecutive month volumes exceeded 700,000 TEUs. Compared to September 2012, volumes dropped 4.57 percent."

The *Seattle Post Intelligencer* [reported](#) "A South Korean shipping line that badly needs to cut costs plans to leave the Port of Portland, threatening the Northwest economy, increasing costs to big importers and putting at risk the viability of the port's international container terminal. Hanjin Shipping Co. Ltd., the Port of Portland's biggest trans-Pacific container carrier, has made plans to pull out of Portland, The Oregonian reported."

VietnamNetBridge [reported](#) "Selling ships is a solution that helps shipping firms survive the current difficulties, but it is not the way they can follow to earn their living. Deputy Minister of Transport Nguyen Hong Truong said Vinashinlines has successfully sold 90 percent of the ships anchored overseas for many days. The last one, Hoang Son 28, still cannot be sold due to some problems with the procedures, but will be sold this year."

recycling today [reported](#) "Shipping lines in the [Transpacific Stabilization Agreement \(TSA\)](#) Westbound section are calling for rate increases in a number of commodity categories that the shipping lines say have seen rate erosion over the past several months."

Bloomberg Business Week [reported](#) "DNB ASA (DNB), Norway's largest bank, said 2014 will remain "challenging" for the shipping industry as weak demand and vessel oversupply combine to keep freight rates near record lows for a sixth year."

The *Borneo Post* [reported](#) "It has been a relatively quiet period for the local shipping sector, with little growth caused by the standstill in world economics and less demand for bulk cargo and manufactured goods. Although Malaysian shipping companies were previously sailing on high waters, they seem to have hit a rough patch in 2013 with issues of overcapacity creeping in. Overall, the economic environment has not been favouring the shipping industry as evidenced by the liquidation of a shipping giant in Sarawak, Swee Joo Bhd, and the less than satisfactory performance of other surviving shipping players listed in the KLSE."

DailyFinance [assessed](#) why "It's been a bad month for dry-shipping stocks, particularly for ex-high-flying names such as DryShips, Genco Shipping & Trading, and Eagle Bulk Shipping. All three have been trading almost as if their entire fleets have been torpedoed and sunk."

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

No reports on this issue.

FISHERIES

AFMA continues fight against fishing cheats

AFMA [reported](#) "Following investigations by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), over 100 charges have been laid against four fishing operators across two States suspected of cheating the fishing quota system."

Southern Bluefin Tuna Commission meeting

Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Senator Richard Colbeck, [said](#) "Fisheries delegates from around the world are gathered in Adelaide today [14 Oct] to talk about the sustainable management of southern bluefin tuna." and "This year's meeting is setting global and national catch limits for southern bluefin tuna for three years,"

Ocean and atmospheric data collection by fishing vessels

The World Ocean Council said “On September 29th in St. John’s, Newfoundland, Canada, the World Ocean Council (WOC) convened the “Smart Fishing Vessels” workshop to expand and improve ocean and atmospheric data collection by fishing vessels. The report is available online [here](#).”

Gillnet Hook and Trap Future Directions project

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) is seeking [comment](#) on the recommendations of the Future Directions Working Group on the Gillnet Hook and Trap (GHAT) sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery.

Line weighting in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery reduces risk of seabird capture

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) [says](#) that “A new line weighting study in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery has shown a reduced risk to seabird capture with no influence on fish catch rate.” and “The study was completed in collaboration with the Australian Antarctic Division and the tuna fishing industry, with funding support from the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation. In addition to protecting seabirds, the new weighting system did not affect the live baits or catch rates for target species.”

Commonwealth commercial fish catch data goes online

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) [says](#) “AFMA has put catch data for most Commonwealth commercial fisheries online.” and “The data that we have put online shows the recorded catch that is landed at ports around Australia each year and you can search the data by species, fishery, catch amount or year.”

2013-14 National (Domestic) Compliance Program Launched

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) [says](#) “AFMA has launched the 2013-14 National Compliance Program, which will focus on quota evasion and vessel monitoring system (VMS) compliance.”

Regulator Engagement with Small Business

The Productivity Commission released this research [report](#), which, *inter alia*, addresses the *Abel* Tasman “mega-trawler” fishing dispute, saying “This recent example demonstrates some of the external pressures that regulators are faced with when adopting a risk management approach.” and “Governments should explicitly acknowledge that some risks cannot be eliminated and that regulators should operate independently, and without undue interference from government, in implementing risk management approaches. These acknowledgements should be incorporated in a public statement of governments’ expectations of their regulators.”

The Commonwealth Fisheries Association [welcomed](#) the report.

Marine Protected Areas in Antarctica

EU Commissioner Maria Damanaki issued a [statement](#) on behalf of the EU, jointly with the US Secretary of State John Kerry, Australian Foreign Minister Bishop [[statement here](#)], French Minister Fabius, and New Zealand Minister McCully. The statement read in part “... we are looking forward to the upcoming meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) on the crucial issue of Marine Protected Areas in the waters around Antarctica. Together, we call on the Members of CCAMLR to bring years of preparation to a successful conclusion by establishing these important Marine Protected Areas.” The Pew environmental group [supported](#) the creation of a reserve in the Ross Sea.

Four illegal foreign fishing boats intercepted, crew detained

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) [announced](#) “HMAS *Wollongong*, together with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS), has apprehended four Indonesian boats suspected of illegal fishing in Australian waters.”

Later the Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce, [said](#) three illegal fishing vessels were destroyed today [23 Oct] after being apprehended in Northern Australian waters recently, highlighting the significant threat the vessels could pose to Australia’s fishing industry and biosecurity.

Shadow Minister for Agriculture

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr Shorten, [announced](#) that the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP would be the Shadow Minister for Agriculture.

Canadian Fishers Can't Find Sardines and Climate Change May Be To Blame

The Pew environmental group [reported](#) “The sardines off the western coast of Canada have completely disappeared. No one knows exactly what has happened to the \$32 million commercial fishery, but what we do know is stunning: The region’s sardine fishermen returned to port empty-handed after failing to catch a single fish according to [a report Tuesday](#). [15 Oct]” [Of course it’s not just the sardine fishery that is affected, it’s the whole food chain – Editor]

Pacific Ocean fish stocks

The *Illawarra Mercury* (and other Fairfax Regional Media outlets) [reported](#) on Newcastle yachtsman Ivan Macfadyen's recent trip “It was the silence that made this voyage different from all of those before it. Not the absence of sound, exactly. The wind still whipped the sails and whistled in the rigging. The waves sloshed against the fibreglass hull. And there were plenty of other noises: muffled thuds and bumps and scrapes as the boat knocked against pieces of debris. What was missing were the cries of seabirds that surrounded the boat on

previous voyages across the same seas. The birds were missing because the fish were missing.” [There was no deliberate editorial juxtapositioning of this and the preceding story! They simply followed each other chronologically – Editor]

Logbook Determination (Particular Fisheries) 2013

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) made this [instrument](#), which determines the form and content of the logbook to be kept and maintained for concession holders in Commonwealth managed fisheries. The instrument provides for the submission of logbooks or the production of a receipt by AFMA evidencing the electronic submission. It relates to the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery, Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery, Eastern Skipjack Tuna Fishery, and Western Skipjack Tuna Fishery.

Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery (Closures) Direction No. 2 2013

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) made this [direction](#), which “closes the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery for a specified period of time.” [Because “testing for paralytic shellfish toxin (PST) of scallops taken in the Fishery showed PST levels in excess of the safe human limit of 0.8 mg/kg.” - Editor]

2014-2020 European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

The European Commission [said](#) it “is pleased to note that the European Parliament has rejected public aid to vessel construction and has set clear limits on the amounts of public funding Member States can spend on fleets.” and “The EMFF will support the implementation of the recently adopted reform of the CFP, in particular the rebuilding of fish stocks, reducing the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, and the progressive elimination of wasteful discarding practices. It will increase investment into small scale fisheries and aquaculture as sources for future growth and will support the improvement of fisheries data collection to allow decisions to be based on robust evidence. The fund will also increase EU support to fisheries control programmes to ensure that the rules on responsible and sustainable fishing are respected and complied with.”

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (Closures) Direction No. 11 2013

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) made this [instrument](#), which amends an area of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery previously closed to fishing. The new closure contained within the instrument is required to protect species of Dogfish but is smaller in size following receipt of additional geographical information.

Fishery status reports 2012

ABARES [released](#) these reports saying “The 18th edition of the *Fishery status reports* provides an independent evaluation of the biological status of fish stocks and the economic status of fisheries, managed or jointly managed by the Australian Government. The reports assess the biological status of the target and key byproduct species in each Commonwealth fishery, with respect to their biomass and the level of fishing mortality. The economic performance of each fishery is assessed in terms of how they are tracking with regard to maximising net economic returns to the Australian community. The reports also review bycatch or broader environmental issues within the fisheries.”

Chairpersons wanted for fishery advisory committees

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) [announced](#) it is seeking candidates for advisory committee Chair positions. One candidate will be appointed by the AFMA Commission to fill an upcoming vacancy on the Scallop Management Advisory Committee (MAC). Other candidates will have their names placed on a register which will be used to fill future vacancies as they occur.

Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management Plan 1995 - Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Fishing Season and Australia's National Catch Allocation Determination 2013-14

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) made this [instrument](#), which determines the fishing season and Australia's national catch allocation for the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery for 2013 and 2014.

Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Transfer Weighing Determination 2013

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) made this [instrument](#), which determines the manner in which the transfer weighing of Southern Bluefin Tuna is to be carried out.

Work-related fatalities statistics

When releasing this [report](#) - the *Fifteenth Edition of the Comparative Performance Monitoring (CPM) report* - Safe Work Australia [said](#) “transport and storage, manufacturing, construction, and agriculture, forestry and fishing industries are still substantially higher than the national average of fatality and injury rates for all industries”

Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Overcatch and Undercatch Determination 2014

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) made this [instrument](#), which determines the percentage, weight and additional weight for Overcatch, and the percentage for Undercatch for the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery fishing season commencing on 1 December 2013 and ending on 30 November 2014.

Southern Squid Jig Fishery Total Allowable Effort Determination 2013

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) made this [instrument](#), which determines the total allowable effort in the Southern Squid Jig Fishery for the 2014 fishing season.

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery Total Allowable Commercial Catch Determination 2014

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) made this [instrument](#), which sets the total allowable commercial catch for quota species in the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery for the 2014 fishing season commencing on 1 February 2014 and ending on 31 January 2015.

European Commission proposes fishing opportunities in the Atlantic and North Sea for 2014

The European Commission has [proposed](#) fishing opportunities for 2014 for the Atlantic and the North Sea, as well as in international waters. This is the annual proposal for the amount of fish which can be caught by EU fishermen from the main commercial fish stocks next year. The proposal sets levels of total allowable catch (TAC) and fishing effort both for stocks managed exclusively by the EU, and for stocks managed with third countries such as Norway or through Regional Fisheries Management Organisations across the world's oceans. [And any who don't get sufficient allocations in the Northern presumably come to the Southern Hemisphere? - Editor]

Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery (Closures) Direction No. 3 2013

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) made this instrument, which "closes the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery to fishing while allowing for a defined area to remain open to fishing for a specified period of time." [Reads a bit like the 18th Century prospectus for the South Sea Company. Readers should read the Explanatory Statement for details, but this Direction relates to areas re-opened after testing for paralytic shellfish toxin (PST) - Editor]

RESOURCE EXPLORATION & DEVELOPMENT

Exercise IRON MOON 2013 concludes

Defence [reported](#) "Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel have completed Exercise IRON MOON 2013, a two week Maritime Counter Terrorism training exercise in the waters off Exmouth and Dampier in North West Australia. The annual exercise involved several hundred personnel from across Defence and Australian federal and state civilian agencies. The exercise is designed to enhance and validate the ADF Maritime Counter Terrorism response capability in the most realistic environment possible."

World authority leads CSIRO ocean energy research

The CSIRO [announced](#) "One of the world's authorities on offshore oil spill countermeasures has taken the helm of CSIRO's Wealth from Oceans National Research Flagship. Dr Ken Lee will head a multidisciplinary team of over 200 CSIRO scientists and technical staff to provide the science to support the healthy and sustainable coexistence of the ocean energy industry with all other marine industries and communities."

CASA changes to offshore helicopter regulation to be examined

An Offshore Helicopter Symposium held at the Pacific 2013 International Exposition [examined](#) controversial new legislation being proposed by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

Shadow Minister for Resources

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr Shorten, [announced](#) that the Hon Gary Gray MP would be the Shadow Minister for Resources.

One-stop shop for QLD environmental approvals

The Prime Minister, Mr Abbott, [announced](#) that "The Federal and Queensland Governments have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create a one-stop shop for environmental approvals." and "The one-stop shop does not replace any State or Federal environment laws – it simply streamlines the process, ensuring just one application, instead of two, needs to be made."

'One stop shop' for environmental approvals

The Minister for the Environment, Greg Hunt, [announced](#) that the Government had approved the framework for achieving the one stop shop for environmental approvals that will accredit state planning systems under national environmental law, to create a single environmental assessment and approval process. This includes a three-stage process with each of the willing jurisdictions, comprising:

- signing a Memorandum of Understanding;
- agreement on bilateral assessments and updating any existing agreement with the state; and
- negotiation of approval bilateral agreements within 12 months.

Australia's Antarctic challenges

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) [released Strategic Insights 66 - Cold calculations: Australia's Antarctic challenges](#). It "looks at the range of Australian objectives in Antarctica, the assumptions that underpin those goals, and the options open for us to best achieve our aims."

Commonwealth Government Deregulation Agenda: Priorities and Strategies

In a [speech](#) to The Sydney Institute, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Josh Frydenberg, outlined the Government's priorities for reducing regulation and said, *inter alia*, "Secondly, we must work to eliminate the extensive duplication and regulatory overlap that exists between different layers of government, particularly federal and state." and "In order to remove duplication, the

Commonwealth will create a single approvals and documentation process under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act via the state system, while at the same time ensuring the highest environmental standards apply."

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's (GBRMPA) Board allegations

Referring to an ABC 7.30 report, The Greens [said](#) "Allegations about conflict of interest on the Great Barrier Reef's management board are extremely worrying and require investigation. If these allegations are true, those board members should step down immediately. Management of the Reef must be free from mining interests, and members of the board should put the future of this World Heritage icon before their own self-interest and the profits of big miners."

Western Australia shark mystery

The Age, reviewing an upcoming ABC TV program, [reported](#) "What creature would be able to chase down and devour a 500 kilogram great white shark on the sea floor off Western Australia? But as filmmakers David Riggs and Leighton De Barros began to investigate what dark fate could have befallen the ten-foot monster shark earlier this year, an even bigger mystery unfolded." [The program may put further pressure on hydrocarbon projects, although opponents might query the sanity of anyone who says "'I would love in 20 years for my kids to be able to go and look at this spot." when the spot is half a square kilometre teeming with warring giant squid, white pointer sharks and killer whales! - Editor]

MARINE SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

World authority leads CSIRO ocean energy research

The CSIRO [announced](#) "One of the world's authorities on offshore oil spill countermeasures has taken the helm of CSIRO's Wealth from Oceans National Research Flagship. Dr Ken Lee will head a multidisciplinary team of over 200 CSIRO scientists and technical staff to provide the science to support the healthy and sustainable coexistence of the ocean energy industry with all other marine industries and communities."

Painter receives Antarctic Arts Fellowship

The Department of the Environment announced that Australian painter and sculptor John Kelly is the 2013 [Australian Antarctic Arts Fellow](#). Each year, the Australian Government awards an Australian Antarctic Arts Fellowship to enable those with a non-science focus to experience Antarctica first-hand so that they may communicate this unique experience and understanding to other Australians.

Australia's Marine National Research Facility to farewell its research vessel *Southern Surveyor*

The CSIRO [announced](#) "Australia's Marine Research Facility research vessel, *Southern Surveyor*, is to be sold by open tender on the international market, in the lead up to the arrival of its replacement, RV *Investigator*."

Ocean acidification at its highest in 300 million years

"[Results](#) from the latest International Programme on the State of the Ocean (IPSO)/IUCN review of science on anthropogenic stressors on the ocean go beyond the conclusion reached last week by the UN climate change panel the IPCC that the ocean is absorbing much of the warming and unprecedented levels of carbon dioxide and warn that the cumulative impact of this with other ocean stressors is far graver than previous estimates."

XL swell developing in the Indian Ocean

Taking a somewhat different approach to bad weather, [www.surflife.com reported](#) "The largest swell of the 2013 season, and one of the largest swells of the past several years, will impact Indonesia Tuesday, October 8th through Thursday, October 10th. Wind will be an issue in some areas with moderate to fresh SE/SSE/S wind at times. This swell is coming from a great looking storm now gradually starting to weaken to the southwest of Western Australia."

Australian Antarctic season begins

Environment Minister, Greg Hunt, [said](#) "Today [15 Oct] the Aurora Australis icebreaker begins the journey from Hobart to Antarctica for the start of the 2013-14 summer season." The Australian Antarctic Division of the Department of the Environment [said](#) "Ancient Adelie penguin sites may reveal whether birds' diets changed in the past, and investigations continue into the effects of carbon dioxide on marine microbes during the 2013/14 Antarctic season, which begins today [15 Oct] with the departure of the research and resupply ship, *Aurora Australis*, from Hobart."

Ocean and atmospheric data collection by fishing vessels

The World Ocean Council said "On September 29th in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, the World Ocean Council (WOC) convened the "Smart Fishing Vessels" workshop to expand and improve ocean and atmospheric data collection by fishing vessels. The report is available online [here](#)."

World ocean systems undermined by climate change by 2100

PhysOrg reported "An ambitious new study describes the full chain of events by which ocean biogeochemical changes triggered by manmade greenhouse gas emissions may cascade through marine habitats and organisms, penetrating to the deep ocean and eventually influencing humans."

2013 Ocean Health Index shows food provision remains an area of great concern

Eureka Science News [reported](#) “In the 2013 Ocean Health Index (OHI) -- an annual assessment of ocean health led by Ben Halpern, a research associate at UC Santa Barbara's National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) and professor at the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management -- scientists point to food provision as the factor that continues to require serious attention.”

Herbicide runoff reduced to Great Barrier Reef

The CSIRO [reported](#) “An innovative new approach to sugarcane plantation weed management trialled in select Great Barrier Reef (GBR) catchments has shown a 90 per cent reduction in runoff of highly soluble herbicides into waterways.”

Ocean prize for 'assisted' coral evolution

The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) [announced](#) that “ARC¹ Future Fellow at AIMS, [Dr Madeleine van Oppen](#) and Research Professor at the [Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology](#), Ruth Gates have won the [Paul G. Allen Ocean Challenge](#) award for 2013, for their proposed work on selecting genetic traits in corals that will enable them to cope better with the stresses imposed by acidifying and warming oceans.”

Regulator Engagement with Small Business

The Productivity Commission released this research [report](#), which, *inter alia*, addresses the *Abel* Tasman “mega-trawler” fishing dispute, saying “This recent example demonstrates some of the external pressures that regulators are faced with when adopting a risk management approach.” and “Governments should explicitly acknowledge that some risks cannot be eliminated and that regulators should operate independently, and without undue interference from government, in implementing risk management approaches. These acknowledgements should be incorporated in a public statement of governments’ expectations of their regulators.”

The Commonwealth Fisheries Association [welcomed](#) the report.

Marine Protected Areas in Antarctica

EU Commissioner Maria Damanaki issued a [statement](#) on behalf of the EU, jointly with the US Secretary of State John Kerry, Australian Foreign Minister Bishop [[statement here](#)], French Minister Fabius, and New Zealand Minister McCully. The statement read in part “.... we are looking forward to the upcoming meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) on the crucial issue of Marine Protected Areas in the waters around Antarctica. Together, we call on the Members of CCAMLR to bring years of preparation to a successful conclusion by establishing these important Marine Protected Areas.” The Pew environmental group [supported](#) the creation of a reserve in the Ross Sea.

Road map for Indonesian ocean recovery

The *Jakarta Post* [reported](#) “A forum of environmental NGOs on Wednesday [16 Oct] started drafting a road map to serve as a guideline for policymakers and stakeholders in determining their course of action to recover Indonesia’s critical marine condition.”

Shadow Minister for the Environment

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr Shorten, [announced](#) that the Hon Mark Butler MP would be the Shadow Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water.

One-stop shop for QLD environmental approvals

The Prime Minister, Mr Abbott, [announced](#) that “The Federal and Queensland Governments have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create a one-stop shop for environmental approvals.” and “The one-stop shop does not replace any State or Federal environment laws – it simply streamlines the process, ensuring just one application, instead of two, needs to be made.”

'One stop shop' for environmental approvals

The Minister for the Environment, Greg Hunt, [announced](#) that the Government had approved the framework for achieving the one stop shop for environmental approvals that will accredit state planning systems under national environmental law, to create a single environmental assessment and approval process. This includes a three-stage process with each of the willing jurisdictions, comprising:

- signing a Memorandum of Understanding;
- agreement on bilateral assessments and updating any existing agreement with the state; and
- negotiation of approval bilateral agreements within 12 months.

Canadian Fishers Can't Find Sardines and Climate Change May Be To Blame

The Pew environmental group [reported](#) “The sardines off the western coast of Canada have completely disappeared. No one knows exactly what has happened to the \$32 million commercial fishery, but what we do know is stunning: The region’s sardine fishermen returned to port empty-handed after failing to catch a single fish according to [a report Tuesday](#). [15 Oct]” [Of course it's not just the sardine fishery that is affected, it's the whole food chain – Editor]

Australia's Antarctic challenges

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) [released Strategic Insights 66 - Cold calculations: Australia's Antarctic challenges](#). It “looks at the range of Australian objectives in Antarctica, the assumptions that underpin those goals, and the options open for us to best achieve our aims.”

Pitcairn Islanders support marine reserve

The Pew environmental group [reported](#) “The 50 residents of Pitcairn Island have all unanimously voted to call for a fully protected marine reserve in their waters. If declared by the British government, it would be the largest marine reserve in the world at more than 830,000 square kilometres. The islanders hope a marine reserve will attract tourists and scientists to their islands and leave a global legacy of ocean protection.”

Pacific Ocean fish stocks

The *Illawarra Mercury* (and other Fairfax Regional Media outlets) [reported](#) on Newcastle yachtsman Ivan Macfadyen's recent trip “It was the silence that made this voyage different from all of those before it. Not the absence of sound, exactly. The wind still whipped the sails and whistled in the rigging. The waves sloshed against the fibreglass hull. And there were plenty of other noises: muffled thuds and bumps and scrapes as the boat knocked against pieces of debris. What was missing were the cries of seabirds that surrounded the boat on previous voyages across the same seas. The birds were missing because the fish were missing.”

Ocean Gliders Tackle Climate Change

allAfrica.com [reported](#): “South African scientists have deployed the first robotics platform in the Southern Ocean in a bid to gauge the precise links between climate and the carbon cycle in the most southern waters of the world's oceans. The pioneering project is being led by the marine robotics programme of South Africa's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and forms part of the CSIR's Southern Ocean Carbon Climate Observatory programme.”

Abbot Point Capital Dredging Project concerns

North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation (NQB) [said](#) “We are aware of recent concerns from tourist operators at Airlie Beach in relation to the extent that plumes associated with the Abbot Point Capital Dredging Project will travel. We believe that some of these concerns have arisen as a result of modelling that was undertaken by SKM/APASA for Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) as part of the Improved Dredge Material Management (IDMM) report that was prepared to inform the Strategic Assessments of the Great Barrier Reef. The SKM/APASA model itself was never designed to be used for impact assessment. The model was developed to help determine whether there were comparative benefits in placing dredged material in shore or offshore within the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.”

Ocean Currents Responsible for Wetter Northern Hemisphere

NatureWorldNews [reported](#) “Ocean currents originating from the poles cause it to rain more above the equator than below it, according to a new [study](#) published in the journal *Nature Geoscience*.”

Coral chemicals protect against warming oceans

The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) [reported](#) “Australian marine scientists have found the first evidence that coral itself may play an important role in regulating local climate. They have discovered that the coral animal - not just its algal symbiont - makes an important sulphur-based molecule with properties to assist it in many ways, ranging from cellular protection in times of heat stress to local climate cooling by encouraging clouds to form.”

Reef named in honour of Shark Man – Ron Taylor

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) [announced](#) “Ron Taylor, who captured marine life through the lens of a camera and shared his passion with the world, will be immortalised with a [reef named in his honour](#). Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority general manager Bruce Elliot said it was a fitting way to recognise Ron's work as one of the country's first marine conservationists.”

Ajaccio Declaration - Marine Protected Areas

The Pew environmental group [reported](#) “Government ministers from 130 countries issued a joint declaration today [26 Oct] emphasizing the critical role marine protected areas—both within and outside areas of national jurisdiction—play in protecting the health of the world's oceans. The statement was issued following their meeting at the [Ajaccio Ministerial Conference for Ocean Conservation](#) on the island of Corsica in Ajaccio, France.”

New Caledonia to create large marine protected area

The Pew environmental group also [reported](#) “On the heels of the weeklong International Marine Protected Areas Congress in Marseille, France, the government of New Caledonia today [26 Oct] announced their commitment to ocean conservation and their intention to work toward creating a very large fully protected marine reserve in their waters.”

Ocean acidification may provide some protection from the Irukandji jellyfish

Eurekalert.org posted a [media release](#) from Griffith University “A Griffith University led study has made the surprising discovery that ocean acidification may provide some protection for South East Queenslanders from the Irukandji jellyfish. Researchers from Griffith

University's Australian Rivers Institute have conducted a series of climate change simulation experiments to investigate whether the dangerous tropical jellyfish, the Irukandji, is likely to establish breeding populations in the South East. It was found that while higher sea temperatures could provide an opportunity for adult Irukandji to expand their range south, increasing ocean acidification may inhibit the development of juveniles."

Commonwealth Government Deregulation Agenda: Priorities and Strategies

In a [speech](#) to The Sydney Institute, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Josh Frydenberg, outlined the Government's priorities for reducing regulation and said, *inter alia*, "Secondly, we must work to eliminate the extensive duplication and regulatory overlap that exists between different layers of government, particularly federal and state." and "In order to remove duplication, the Commonwealth will create a single approvals and documentation process under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act via the state system, while at the same time ensuring the highest environmental standards apply."

Fishery status reports 2012

ABARES [released](#) these reports saying "The 18th edition of the *Fishery status reports* provides an independent evaluation of the biological status of fish stocks and the economic status of fisheries, managed or jointly managed by the Australian Government. The reports assess the biological status of the target and key byproduct species in each Commonwealth fishery, with respect to their biomass and the level of fishing mortality. The economic performance of each fishery is assessed in terms of how they are tracking with regard to maximising net economic returns to the Australian community. The reports also review bycatch or broader environmental issues within the fisheries."

20 Year Australian Antarctic Strategic Plan

The Minister for the Environment, Greg Hunt, [announced](#) "The Government today kicked off its commitment to deliver a 20 Year Australian Antarctic Strategic Plan which will deliver investment and jobs for Tasmania. The Plan will be headed by Dr Tony Press and will draw on a panel of experts in relevant fields and involve consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and the general public."

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's (GBRMPA) Board allegations

Referring to an ABC 7.30 report, The Greens [said](#) "Allegations about conflict of interest on the Great Barrier Reef's management board are extremely worrying and require investigation. If these allegations are true, those board members should step down immediately. Management of the Reef must be free from mining interests, and members of the board should put the future of this World Heritage icon before their own self-interest and the profits of big miners."

Toxic Ocean Conditions During Mass Extinction

ScienceWorldReport [reported](#) "It turns out that it doesn't take much to turn our planet's ocean waters into something that's toxic to life. Scientists have taken a closer look at a massive extinction event that occurred 93.9 million years ago and have found that it didn't take as much sulfide as previously thought in the ocean waters to cause this major climatic perturbation."

The research team's [statement](#) says "'Our work shows that even though only a small portion of the ocean contained toxic and metal-scavenging hydrogen sulfide, it was sufficiently large so that changes to the ocean's chemistry and biology were likely profound,'" Owens said. "What this says is that only portions of the ocean need to contain sulfide to greatly impact biota."

Western Australia shark mystery

The Age, reviewing an upcoming ABC TV program, [reported](#) "What creature would be able to chase down and devour a 500 kilogram great white shark on the sea floor off Western Australia? But as filmmakers David Riggs and Leighton De Barros began to investigate what dark fate could have befallen the ten-foot monster shark earlier this year, an even bigger mystery unfolded."

World's plastic devoured by ocean organism

phys.org [reported](#) "An abundant organism may be acting as a sink for the smallest plastic particles which make up the majority of the ocean's plastic load. UWA Oceans Institute director Carlos Duarte, along with UWA PhD student Julia Reiser, has been surveying the ocean to uncover the distribution of [plastic](#) across the world."

Work in Antarctica

The Australian Antarctic Division is now [advertising](#) for qualified tradespeople, builders, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, mechanics, plant operators, electronics engineers, aircraft ground support officers, aerodrome grader and plant operators, field training officers, station supply officers, communications technicians, communications operators, chefs and doctors for the 2014/15 season. Applications close on 28 November, 2013.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

7 November 2013 - Developments in Global Oceans Governance and Conservation – Sydney Darlington Centre, Sydney University

Sponsored by the Australian Committee for IUCN, the United States Study Centre at the University of Sydney and Humane Society International. For details, click [here](#).

13-14 November 2013 - 4 Elements of Effective Corrosion Management Seminar – Amsterdam, The Netherlands

The workshop will discuss the 4 elements (Treatments, Barriers, Assurance and Verification tools), essential for any successful corrosion management system. For details, click [here](#)

20-21 November 2013 – ACI's 7th 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](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For details: click [here](#)

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

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

7-11 July 2014 - Australian Marine Sciences Association Conference – Canberra

The conference theme is *Investigating our Marine Nation* with sub-themes of: Marine Habitat Mapping, The Land - Sea Boundary, Marine Management and Policy, Marine Global Change, and Marine Outreach and Communication Email your completed Symposia proposal to the [Chair of the AMSA2014 Scientific Committee \(Dr Rachel Przeslawski\)](#) by 30 November 2013.

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

Press [statement](#)

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

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