



MAKING WAVES

A maritime news brief covering:

- **MARITIME SECURITY**
- **MARITIME FORCES**
- **SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY**
- **MARINE ENVIRONMENT**
- **GEOPOLITICS**

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MARITIME SECURITY

ASEAN-US SUMMIT: PH CALLS FOR COOPERATION ON CLIMATE CRISIS, MARITIME SECURITY

During its participation at the ASEAN-US Special Summit this week, the Philippines called for regional cooperation on a variety of topics, including the climate crisis, maritime security, and post-pandemic recovery. Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr., who led the Philippine delegation in place of President Rodrigo Duterte, met with other Southeast Asian leaders to discuss ways to address these global issues and other challenges, according to a statement issued by the Philippine Embassy in Washington on Saturday.

Source: cnnphilippines.com; 14 May 2022

JOE BIDEN HOSTS ASEAN LEADERS: PLEDGES TO SUPPORT CLEAN ENERGY, MARITIME SECURITY

The Southeast Asian region is once again in the spotlight in Washington, thanks to a special ASEAN meeting hosted by American Vice President Joe Biden.

Source: [World News \(wionews.com\)](https://www.wionews.com); 13 May 2022

BIDEN PROMISES SUPPORT FOR MARITIME SECURITY TO ASEAN

The statement was made by the Biden administration as it launched a two-day conference with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, as part of a drive to demonstrate that the US still values Asia despite months of heavy concentration on opposing Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The White House offered \$150 million in new programmes, a pittance in comparison to a \$40 billion package for Ukraine and the billions pushed into the region by China, which has supplanted the US as ASEAN's top trade partner.

Source: [The Jakarta Post](https://www.thejakartapost.com); 13 May 2022

CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON REGIONAL MARITIME SECURITY

From May 10 to 12, the Royal Australian Navy conducted the Indo Pacific Sea Power Conference 2022 in conjunction with the Indo Pacific 2022 International Maritime Exposition at Sydney's International Convention Centre. The conference's subject was Australia and the Indo-Pacific: A Shared Purpose. Military delegations from over 30 nations will attend the conference, while the industry exhibition will include over 700 defence sector enterprises. One major issue for discussion, according to Vice Admiral Noonan, will be the shifting nature of 'grey-zone' actions in the Indo-Pacific.

Source: [Defence News](#): 13 May 2022

CHANNEL ISLANDS JOIN MARITIME SECURITY TREATY WITH UK AND FRANCE

The Channel Islands will sign a pact to offer "extra protection" for passenger ships passing through the Channel. It will give UK and French emergency responders broader authority to deal with possible terrorist crises in the Channel. A memorandum of understanding was negotiated and agreed upon with the United Kingdom to determine how the pact would operate in Channel Island seas. The Treaty will be presented to the UK Parliament for ratification later this year.

Source: [BBC News](#) 12 May 2022

MARITIME FORCES

CHINESE NAVY SHIP OPERATING OFF AUSTRALIA, CANBERRA SAYS

The Chinese ship continued south, and on May 9th, it was 150 nautical miles off the coast of Exmouth, as a RAAF P-8 monitored the intelligence ship. At the same time, HMAS Perth (FFH157) went out of port to monitor Haiwangxing but returned when the Chinese ship altered course on Tuesday morning. Haiwangxing sailed north, 125 nautical miles from Exmouth, at a pace of six knots. The ship was being observed by a RAAF P-8 and an Australian Border Force (ABF) Dash-8 maritime surveillance aircraft.

Source: news.usni.org; 13 May 2022

CHINESE FIGHTER JETS, FLYING ABOARD LIAONING AIRCRAFT CARRIER, CONDUCT DOZENS OF SORTIES NEAR JAPAN

According to Japanese Defense, fighter planes and helicopters onboard China's Liaoning aircraft carrier have made over 100 landings and takeoffs near Okinawa in the last week, potentially enhancing the Chinese Navy's ability to operate in more remote locations. According to Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi, the actions took place in waters between 160 kilometers southwest of Okinawa Prefecture's Okidaito Island and 150 km south of its Ishigaki Island.

Source: eurasianimes.com ; 12 May 2022

NEW MIDEAST TASK FORCE CAN COUNTER IRANIAN ARMS SMUGGLING, BUT MORE CAPABILITIES ARE NEEDED

With the continued flow of Iranian weapons to the Houthis in Yemen in mind, the Combined Maritime Forces, a naval alliance of 34 nations led by the United States Central Command, established a new multinational task force last month that will focus on the Red Sea, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, and the Gulf of Aden. If properly resourced and maintained, Combined Task Force 153 might enable a more effective response to the ongoing problem of Iranian weapons smuggling to terrorist proxies fueling crises throughout the Middle East.

Source: defensenews.com ; 09 May 2022

SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY

RISING DIESEL COSTS ARE STRAINING U.S. TRUCKERS, SHIPPING OPERATIONS

Diesel prices are reaching new highs across the United States, putting a burden on trucking companies' operations and wreaking havoc on the transportation budgets of businesses that need to convey goods. According to the US Energy Information Administration, the price of heavy-duty truck fuel has risen by more than \$1.50 per

gallon in the last two months. The national average price of gasoline has risen to \$5.62 a gallon, a new high for the second week in a row, while prices at the pump have topped \$6 in some markets. "The main issue we're having right now is gasoline expenses," said Jake Phipps, CEO of Phipps & Co., a West Palm Beach, Fla.-based maker of interior finishes and building supplies for real-estate developers.

Source: [Rising Diesel Costs Are Straining U.S. Truckers, Shipping Operations - WSJ](#); 12 May 2022

SHIPPERS TOLD TO ROUTE CARGO THROUGH INDIAN PORTS

In a letter to the head of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority, the Ceylon Association of Shipping Agents stated that boats that had finished operations were sitting inside the Colombo port, unable to sail away. Delays in departure result in significant financial losses for shipping lines, loss of schedule integrity, delayed cargo delivery, and missed berthing possibilities at other ports, among other things.

Source: [The Hindu](#); 11 May 2022

UKRAINE INVASION ADDS TO PANDEMIC CHALLENGES

The battle has caused considerable interruption to worldwide shipping, and it is expected to compound the continuing supply chain disruption, port congestion, and personnel shortages caused by the Covid-19 outbreak. With the loss of life and boats in the Black Sea, the interruption of commerce with Russia and Ukraine, and the mounting cost of sanctions, the maritime sector has been impacted on numerous fronts. Day-to-day operations are also being challenged, with consequences for personnel, the cost and availability of bunker fuel, and the rising danger presented by cyber risks.

Source: [Impact of Ukraine war on global shipping | AGCS \(allianz.com\)](#); 09 May 2022

VIETNAM'S SHIPPING INDUSTRY: PROPOSED UPGRADE TO REGIONAL CONTAINER FLEET

Vietnam has a lengthy coastline that runs along the Gulf of Thailand, the South China Sea, and the Gulf of Tonkin. After the Philippines, the country boasts the most international ports in ASEAN. While the average speed of products through the country's seaports grows by 10-15% every year, additional investment is required to solve difficulties. Along Vietnam's coastline, there are three major port cities: Hai Phong in the north, Ho Chi Minh City in the south, and Da Nang in the center. The Ho Chi Minh City port is one of Asia's leading container ports in terms of cargo capacity, and it handles most of the cargo in Vietnam.

Source: [Vietnam's Shipping Industry: Proposed Upgrade to Container Fleet \(vietnam-briefing.com\)](#); 05 May 2022

SUPPLY SQUEEZE TRUMPS DEMAND DIP AS SHIPPING SECTOR BOOMS

The world's largest shipping companies are expecting another extremely profitable year as freight rates along the major shipping channels continue to rise. Shipping corporations, like mining and oil and gas industries, are raking in revenue as others in the supply chain struggle to preserve margins.

Source: investorchronicle.co.uk; 05 May 2022

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

THESSALONIKI STRENGTHENS EFFORTS TO PROTECT ITS MARINE ENVIRONMENT

The Greek city of Thessaloniki will launch several creative pilot projects to preserve its maritime environment from pollution in the coming months. The adoption of an autonomous marine craft (sea drone) to collect and remove rubbish from Thessaloniki's beaches is the most notable of these activities. According to the municipality, this will be the first time in Greece that a drone would be utilized for rubbish

Source: [TheMayor.EU](https://www.themayor.eu) ; 13 May 2022

UK TO STUDY OFFSHORE WIND IMPACTS ON MARINE LIFE

The combined impacts of offshore wind and other human activities on the maritime environment are the subject of a new UK effort. The Ecological Consequences of Offshore Wind (ECO Wind) research initiative seeks to develop policy-ready solutions that will allow offshore wind and robust marine ecosystems to coexist while also promoting environmental restoration. "The growth of offshore wind is critical," said Colin Moffat, chair of the ECO Wind scientific advisory committee. "However, we must guarantee that it is done with the marine environment in mind."

Source: [Renewable Energy News](https://www.renewableenergynews.com); 13 May 2022

CARBON STOCKS AND SEQUESTRATION IN TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS: A LEVER FOR NATURE RESTORATION?

When it comes to accomplishing the European Green Deal's two key goals of climate neutrality and growing the EU's natural capital, climate change mitigation and environment restoration are two sides of the same coin. Habitats that operate properly may absorb and store enormous amounts of carbon, lowering atmospheric CO₂ levels and greenhouse gas emissions from land use practices. To fully utilize nature's potential, we must first understand (1) the carbon storage and sequestration potential of European habitats in their current state, as well as how much carbon can be used to meet EU emissions policy targets; and (2) the measures available to increase carbon storage in habitats, as well as the synergies and trade-offs between these measures and ecosystem function.

Source [European Environment Agency \(europa.eu\)](https://europeanenvironmentagency.europa.eu) ; 11 May 2022

INGEVITY GRANTED CERTIFICATE OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT BIODEGRADABILITY FOR CAPA THERMOPLASTIC TECHNOLOGY

Ingevity's Capa thermoplastics portfolio, used in applications such as bags, films, consumer packaging, and utensils, becomes one of the few bioplastics certified as OK biodegradable MARINE, a distinction requiring materials to achieve complete biodegradation in seawater environments, where much lower temperatures make biodegradability more difficult than land composting conditions. To be certified, products must biodegrade after twelve weeks. Capa's certified goods fulfil marine biodegradability criteria while lowering impact on the marine ecology by fully biodegrading in four weeks.

Source: [Business Wire](https://www.businesswire.com) ; 10 May 2022

GEOPOLITICS

BIDEN WELCOMES SEA LEADERS WITH PLEDGES

Despite months of heavy concentration on opposing Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Biden administration, which entered office identifying China as the main foreign competitor, is eager to demonstrate that it is still emphasizing Asia. The White House offered \$150 million in new programmes, a pittance in comparison to a \$40 billion plan for Ukraine and the billions injected into the area by China, which has also displayed its power in the contentious South China Sea (SCS).

Source: [Biden Welcomes SEA Leaders With Pledges | The ASEAN Post](https://www.theaseanpost.com) 13 May 2022

MARITIME COMPETITION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

The Indian Ocean has historically been a significant theatre for involvement and attention for Delhi, as it is both New Delhi's local and extended neighborhood, which might possibly affect its security situation. As a result, a safe and stable Indian Ocean is critical to New Delhi's security environment. India benefits from a favorable strategic location in the Indian Ocean and regards itself as a significant regional and security role.

Source: [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#) ; 12 May 2022

EUROPEAN-ASIAN GEOPOLITICS – THE IMPLICATIONS OF SHIFTING SUPPLY CHAINS IN WAKE OF THE RUSSIA- UKRAINE CONFLICT

Georgia's port of Batumi on the Black Sea's eastern coast is highly established and expanding, as is the port of Poti, with Maersk committing to considerable development spending to improve freight capacity. The issue is not so much one of capacity as it is of connection to convey Georgian Black Sea cargo to and from the Caspian Sea at the Caucasus' eastern edge. This necessitates train transit, which has been plagued by both political and infrastructure obstacles due to the cooperation of Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Turkey, three nations with long-standing conflicts that must now work together to protect the peace.

Source: [European-Asian Geopolitics Silk Road Briefing](#) 12 May 2022

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