

MAKING WAVES

A MARITIME NEWS BRIEF COVERING:

- 1. Maritime Security**
- 2. Maritime Forces**
- 3. Shipping Ports and Ocean Economy**
- 4. Marine Environment**
- 5. Geopolitics**

EDITED BY:
Ms Rashmi Yadav
Research Associate
rsf1.nmf@gmail.com

CONTENTS

MARITIME SECURITY	2-3
Israel-Hamas Ceasefire: Could It Signal the End of Houthi Attacks on Red Sea Shipping?	2
Philippines Challenge 'Monster' China Coast Guard Cutter, Us Carrier Vinson Drills with Philippine Forces in South China Sea	2
Terrorism And Drones Are Top Concerns for Maritime Security Companies, Un Officials Say	3
Doi Implements Gom Name Change	3
Crew Flees Hong Kong-Flagged Ship Amid Fire in Red Sea	3
MARITIME FORCES	4-6
Uscg Icebreakers Aid Great Lakes Bulkers as Winter Sets In	4
Libya Seeks \$3-4b Investment to Boost Oil Production to 1.6m Bpd, Bidding Round Expected Soon	4
Indian Register of Shipping Strengthens Naval Sector Role	5
\$5b India Submarine Deal Clears Hurdle	5
Sri Lanka Assumes Command of Combined Maritime Forces' Multinational Maritime Training Task Force	6
SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY	6-8
Bollinger Shipyards Agrees To \$1m Settlement Over Illegal Worker Claims In Coast Guard Contract	6
Red Sea Diversions Helped Container Shipping Dodge Overcapacity Crisis	7
Ningbo-Zhoushan Retains Crown as Port with Highest Cargo Volume	7
Mazagon Dock To Build Largest Floating Dry Dock at Nhava Island	7
Mol Launches Innovative "Green" Ship Aptly Named Prima Verde	8
MARINE ENVIRONMENT	8-10
Port of Long Beach Marks 20 Years of Leading Green	8
First Hybrid Waterjet Passenger Ferries in the Us Launched for Savannah, Georgia	9
World's Largest Iceberg Drifts Slowly Towards South Georgia	9
Environmentalists Call for Imo Total Ban on Scrubbers	10
Report: Targeted Subsidies, Hefty Ghg Levy Needed to Ensure E-Fuel Adoption	10
GEOPOLITICS	10-12
China Calls Shipbuilding Report "Obvious Unilateralism and Protectionism"	10
Hybrid Warfare: Russian Spy Ship in English Channel Highlights Escalating Risks	11
Philippines Suspends South China Sea Survey After China's 'Harassment'	11
Indonesia, India Vow to Deepen and Increase Maritime Cooperation	12
How to Get Ready for the Us Coast Guard's Cybersecurity Rule	12

MARITIME SECURITY

ISRAEL-HAMAS CEASEFIRE: COULD IT SIGNAL THE END OF HOUTHI ATTACKS ON RED SEA SHIPPING?

According to Ambrey analysts, the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas will ensure reduced Houthi attacks on Red Sea shipping. The initial phase of the agreement entails suspension of hostilities and withdrawal of Israeli troops, while the second phase could potentially end Houthi maritime threat tied to the conflict. Since 2023, the Houthi campaign has resulted in ship seizure, vessel damage and casualties. Houthi leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi has warned that the attacks will resume if the agreement is violated, linking their maritime operations directly to the Israel-Hamas conflict. However, if tensions escalate in the region in future, the Houthi group, which has been persistent for seven years, may resume attacks. The return of shipping to the Bab el-Mandeb Strait depends on the ceasefire's success and Houthi compliance.

Editorial comment: The ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas indicates a possible shift in maritime security in the Red Sea, ensuring hope for stability in one of the world's most critical shipping lanes. The Houthi's, however, have consented to stop attacks in specific circumstances, highlighting the delicate nature of the truce and the complexity of regional conflicts. Stakeholders in the maritime domain should then remain vigilant. This pact's effectiveness hinges not just on its implementation but also on larger initiatives to address the root causes of regional violence.

Source: [Here](#) 17 January 2025

PHILIPPINES CHALLENGE 'MONSTER' CHINA COAST GUARD CUTTER, US CARRIER VINSON DRILLS WITH PHILIPPINE FORCES IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

An attempt is being made by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to push back China's navy from its seas close to Western Luzon. Chinese ships, spotted in the region also include the enormous 12,000-ton ship 5901. Chinese warships often within 70 nautical miles of Luzon and well within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone are being closely observed and challenged by Philippine ships and planes. Concurrently, the US Navy is also conducting training exercises to foster collaboration in maritime security in the region, with the Philippine Navy and is conducting joint patrols in the South China Sea.

Editorial comment: The Philippine Coast Guard's proactive stance against Chinese vessels in its EEZ underscores its resolve to uphold maritime sovereignty despite facing a more powerful

adversary. While resource limitations highlight the urgent need for fleet modernisation, joint patrols with the US signal strengthening international support. The stakes in the South China Sea remain high, making these efforts vital to counter China's maritime assertiveness.

Source: [Here](#) 20 January 2025

TERRORISM AND DRONES ARE TOP CONCERNS FOR MARITIME SECURITY COMPANIES, UN OFFICIALS SAY

According to UN experts, terrorism and armed drones have surpassed piracy as the two worst dangers to maritime security. In areas like the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, private security companies that guard ships are required to implement countermeasures while adhering to international standards. UN specialists who visited Cyprus praised the stringent screening of private marine security companies that guard ships flying the Cyprus flag. Cyprus has 12 registered private security companies and the eleventh biggest fleet in the world. Although there were no significant instances of security guard wrongdoing, experts are urging improved complaint processes to increase accountability even further.

Editorial comment: UN officials noted that the threat to maritime security is shifting from piracy to terrorism and armed drone attacks. As a key player in global shipping, Cyprus sets a high standard with its thorough screening of private maritime security companies. While no serious violations have been recorded, the demand for stronger grievance redressal mechanisms underscores the need for continued vigilance to safeguard maritime personnel and operations.

Source: [Here](#) 24 January 2025

DOI IMPLEMENTS GOM NAME CHANGE

President Trump ordered the US Department of the Interior (DOI) to rename the Gulf of Mexico the "Gulf of America." The new name will be reflected in government records by the US Board on Geographic Names. According to the DOI, the Gulf is a vital economic partner for the US in the areas of oil, trade, and shipping. The comment was made in light of the Gulf's significance to American history and economic might. This action is likely to create diplomatic and global issues.

Editorial comment: The renaming of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America is a symbolic and rather contentious action that corresponds to the current administration's nationalist rhetoric. The US government's attempts to highlight the strategic and economic significance of the Gulf might lead to a diplomatic conflict with Mexico and other stakeholders in the region.

Source: [Here](#) 26 Jan 2025

CREW FLEES HONG KONG-FLAGGED SHIP AMID FIRE IN RED SEA

The crew of the Hong Kong-flagged container ship ASL Bauhinia abandoned the vessel in the Red Sea after it caught fire. They were rescued by another ship and are safe, though the cause of the fire remains unclear. The incident happened in open waters off Yemen. There has been no

comment from the ship's manager, Shanghai-based Asean Seas Line. This comes on the heels of the Houthis' announcement that they would restrict attacks in the Red Sea to Israel-linked vessels if the Gaza ceasefire is implemented. Still, most ships avoid the Red Sea, taking the longer route around Africa.

Editorial comment: This incident shows that the risks in the Red Sea have not gone away despite commitment from the Houthis. While the cause of fire is yet to be established, it highlights the volatile security environment. Shipping operators still have a preference for the longer Cape of Good Hope route.

Source: [Here](#) 28 Jan 2025

MARITIME FORCES

USCG ICEBREAKERS AID GREAT LAKES BULKERS AS WINTER SETS IN

The Great Lakes area has been engulfed in cold weather, and in order to alleviate the difficulties bulk ships are facing due to ice, the US Coast Guard has expanded its icebreaking operations. The first two significant operations were "Operation Taconite" on January 6 and "Operation Coal Shovel" on January 14. In addition to the cutters Mackinaw, Mobile Bay, Bristol Bay, and Morro Bay, these icebreakers are employed to maintain clear passages on frozen waters such as the St Clair River, Lake Superior, and Lake Michigan. Even so, following their run-in with thick ice, a big bulk carrier like *Herbert C Jackson* and a bigger one, *James R Barker* needed assistance.

Editorial comment: The US Coast Guard has launched icebreaking operations, "Taconite" and "Coal Shovel," to aid vessels navigating icy Great Lakes waterways. These efforts helped bulk carriers *Herbert C Jackson* and *James R Barker* safely reach their docks, highlighting the importance of icebreakers maintaining navigation during winter.

Source: [Here](#) 17 January 2025

US PARTICIPATES IN SOUTH CHINA SEA MARITIME EXERCISE

The US Navy's sixth naval exercise since 2023 in the South China Sea with the Philippines would incite China as US is gearing for a potential Pacific war by 2027. The exercise, part of growing US-Philippine security cooperation under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, involved the US Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group, two guided missile destroyers, helicopters, and F-18 Hornet aircraft, alongside the Philippine Antonio Luna frigate and Andres Bonifacio patrol ship. This joint activity coincided with Philippines' criticism of China's presence in its maritime zone also aims at maritime cooperation and collaboration. The US navy demonstrated its alliance with Philippines through a scheduled port visit of the Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group on January 5.

Editorial comment: The US-Philippines maritime exercise highlights strengthening defense ties amidst growing tension in the South China Sea. These maritime exercises and cooperation, including expanded base access, act as a strategic deterrent and signal commitment to regional

security. Recurring port visits and joint drills, however, are probably going to worsen ties with China, which is still claiming contested seas. The US Navy's larger Indo-Pacific policy is also reflected in the Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group deployment alongside partners in the region

Source: [Here](#) 20 January 2024

INDIAN REGISTER OF SHIPPING STRENGTHENS NAVAL SECTOR ROLE

The Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) is involved in major building projects for the Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy, and has established the standard for independent defense production under *Atmanirbhar Bharat*. The first Next Generation Missile Vessel at Cochin Shipyard, the second Fleet Support Ship at L&T Shipbuilding, and other patrol vessels at Mazagon Dock recently underwent steel-cutting ceremonies. At L&T, the third Cadet Training Ship's keel was laid as well. According to Cdr K K Dhawan (Retd), Head Defence, IRS, the agency is dedicated to maintaining high safety and performance standards, even in the face of the difficulty of managing projects across several shipyards.

Editorial comment: The Indian Register of Shipping's (IRS) contribution to the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard under the *Atmanirbhar Bharat* scheme highlights India's growing indigenous shipbuilding capabilities. Ensuring quality and safety across shipyards is a challenge, but IRS's assistance will be essential in maintaining operational standards and guaranteeing project completion on schedule as India moves closer to self-reliance in warship building.

Source: [Here](#) 20 January 25

\$5B INDIA SUBMARINE DEAL CLEARS HURDLE

ThyssenKrupp of Germany and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd of India have successfully completed field testing of six sophisticated conventional submarines for the Indian Navy. Thyssenkrupp's competitor, a Spanish state-held shipbuilder Navantia and India's Larsen and Tourbo (L&T) could not meet the standards set by the Indian Navy. The project is essential to upgrading India's military since it includes submarines with air-independent propulsion (AIP) technology, which gives them an advantage over their current fleet and allows them to stay underwater for more than two weeks. The first submarine is expected to arrive in three to five years, and commercial discussions are anticipated to begin next week.

Editorial comment: ThyssenKrupp, in collaboration with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd, has successfully cleared field trials for building six advanced conventional submarines for the Indian Navy. The submarines, featuring air-independent propulsion (AIP) technology, are key to enhancing India's naval capabilities amid China's growing presence in the region. With nearly half of India's conventional submarines having undergone extensive upgrades and retrofits in recent years, the initiative ensures a seamless transition to a more advanced and capable fleet, enhancing the country's maritime strength.

Source: [Here](#) 23 January 25

SRI LANKA ASSUMES COMMAND OF COMBINED MARITIME FORCES' MULTINATIONAL MARITIME TRAINING TASK FORCE

On January 26, the Sri Lankan Navy took command of Combined Task Force (CTF) 154 from the Egyptian Navy during a ceremony in Bahrain. Under the leadership of Commodore Haytham Khalil, CTF 154 organized key maritime security training events. Sri Lankan Commodore KMH Bettage now leads the task force, which focuses on maritime awareness, law, interdiction, SAR, and leadership development. Established in May 2023, CTF 154 is part of the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), the world's largest multinational naval partnership, dedicated to ensuring global maritime security.

Editorial comment: Sri Lanka's first leadership of CTF 154 highlights its growing role in global maritime security. The CTF's focus on training and collaboration underscores the importance of multinational efforts in securing vital trade routes. Under Commodore Khalil, CTF 154 made significant progress in enhancing maritime readiness through training, strengthening global cooperation in the face of evolving maritime challenges.

SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY

BOLLINGER SHIPYARDS AGREES TO \$1M SETTLEMENT OVER ILLEGAL WORKER CLAIMS IN COAST GUARD CONTRACT

Bollinger Shipyards LLC has agreed to a \$1.025 million settlement over allegations of improperly billing the US Coast Guard for unauthorised labour under its Fast Response Cutter (FRC) contracts between 2015 and 2020. The company allegedly failed to verify employee eligibility, violating contract terms. Officials stressed the importance of accountability in government contracting. Despite the settlement, Bollinger remains a key player in US shipbuilding, with contracts for 67 FRCs and major defence projects, including the Polar Security Cutter. The investigation was led by the DHS Office of the Inspector General and the Coast Guard Investigative Service.

Editorial comment: Bollinger Shipyards' settlement over False Claims Act violations underscores the critical need for accountability in government contracts. While the company remains a key player in US shipbuilding, the case highlights the importance of strict compliance in defence projects, especially those vital to maritime security.

Source: [Here](#) 16 Jan 2025

LIBYA SEEKS \$3-4B INVESTMENT TO BOOST OIL PRODUCTION TO 1.6M BPD, BIDDING ROUND EXPECTED SOON

Libya needs \$3-4 billion to ramp up oil production to 1.6 million barrels per day (bpd), with a longer-term goal of hitting 2 million bpd, says acting Oil Minister Khalifa Abdulsadek. Speaking at the Libya Energy and Economy Summit, he emphasised that the country's economy depends almost entirely on oil and that boosting output is key to reconstruction efforts. To attract investment, Libya is preparing to launch its first oil licensing round in 17 years, covering major basins like Sirte, Murzuq, and Ghadames. The move comes as the country tries to recover its pre-2011 production levels while ensuring future supply through new exploration. The bid round now awaits final approval from the government.

Editorial comment: Libya's endeavours to increase its oil output demonstrate the country's economic reliance on the industry and the necessity for investment. In order to sustain and increase output, \$3–4 billion in investment will be needed as a much-anticipated bidding round draws near. Nonetheless, political stability and regulatory clarity remain major obstacles to persuading overseas investors.

Source: [Here](#) 19 Jan 2025

NINGBO-ZHOUSHAN RETAINS CROWN AS PORT WITH HIGHEST CARGO VOLUME

In 2024, China's Ningbo-Zhoushan Port handled 1.34 billion tons of cargo, making it the busiest port in the world for the 16th year in a row. Additionally, it handled 47.64 million TEU of containers, an increase of 10.4% year over year. In terms of finances, the port reported RMB 28.64 billion in revenue, up 10.17%, and RMB 6.9 billion in operating profit, up 11.36%. It offers more than 300 container services with more than 250 international routes, and serves 600 ports from 200 countries. With a throughput of more than 1.8 million TEU, the port's sea-rail intermodal transportation also saw strong development.

Editorial comment: The fact that Ningbo-Zhoushan Port continues to dominate the world's cargo volume demonstrates how important it is to international maritime trade. With record-breaking container throughput, rising income, and more intermodal connections, the port keeps expanding China's maritime might. Its strategic significance is demonstrated by its capacity to retain scale and efficiency in the face of shifting global economic conditions.

Source: [Here](#) 22 Jan 2025

MAZAGON DOCK TO BUILD LARGEST FLOATING DRY DOCK AT NHAVA ISLAND

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd is working on India's biggest floating dry dock at Nhava Island in Mumbai, which is part of a massive ₹5,000 crore expansion plan to take on larger ship orders. Shoft Shipyard Pvt Ltd is in charge of building this ₹475 crore dry dock, which will be 180 meters long, 44 meters wide, and 19.5 meters deep. They're constructing it in six sections that will be assembled together at Nhava by March. This new facility is expected start operating by the end of

this year and will be able to accommodate vessels weighing up to 12,800 tons. It will also support the building and repair of large ships, including the latest destroyers. On top of that, Mazagon Dock has plans for a new 15-acre shipbuilding and repair site with a graving dry dock near its current location, which can already hold 11 submarines and 10 warships.

Editorial comment: Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd has ushered in a new era in India's shipbuilding sector by putting into action the upcoming ₹5,000 crore development program, which involves the construction of the country's largest floating dry dock. A design like this will make it easier to develop an advanced warship, which will improve India's naval ship building.

Source: [Here](#) 25 January 2025

MOL LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE “GREEN” SHIP APPLY NAMED PRIMA VERDE

Mitsui OSK Lines (MOL) has unveiled Prima Verde, a cutting-edge, environmental friendly multipurpose cargo ship that has made several sustainability advancements. Constructed at Japan's Onomichi Dockyard, the 17,500-dwt vessel has wind power-assisted propulsion, a fuel-efficient engine, and a green steel. Prima Verde is the world's first ship built with JFE Steel's low-emission JGreeX steel and powered by a high-efficiency engine that runs exclusively on marine gas oil (MGO). It also has two Econowind VentoFoil wind power-assisted units to increase fuel efficiency. The Liberia-flagged ship will be used for operations for MOL Drybulk and is built to carry a wide range of cargoes. MOL views this initiative as a component of their overarching plan to attain net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Editorial comment: Prima Verde by Mitsui OSK Lines is a pioneering example of environmental friendly shipping. As the first in the world to employ wind-assisted propulsion, MGO-only engines, and green steel, it is a benchmark for green marine innovation. The ship signifies the industry's shift to cleaner operations and is in line with MOL's net-zero objective.

Source: [Here](#) 30 January 2025

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

PORT OF LONG BEACH MARKS 20 YEARS OF LEADING GREEN

In his State of the Port presentation, CEO Mario Cordero stated that the Port of Long Beach broke its 2024 record by processing 9.6 million TEUs while also achieving its environmental objectives. The Green Port Policy has been in place for 20 years. Emissions have decreased by 92% for diesel, 71% for nitrogen oxides, 98% for sulfur oxides, and 17% for greenhouse gasses. Long Beach is also leading the way in renewable energy. Important initiatives include the projected Pier Wind terminal, which would encourage the development of more offshore wind technology and generate \$14.5 billion in economic output by 2045, and the renewable hydrogen system with Toyota and FuelCell Energy.

Editorial comment: In his eighth State of the Port address CEO Mario Cordero highlighted Long Beach's achievements in sustainability and operational efficiency, including its Green Port Policy,

which improved air quality and maintained record cargo movement. The port's commitment to zero-emission goals and commercial growth emphasizes the need to balance environmental initiatives with economic growth.

Source: [Here](#) 17 Jan 2025

FIRST HYBRID WATERJET PASSENGER FERRIES IN THE US LAUNCHED FOR SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Marine Jet Power (MJP) and Derecktor Shipyards have constructed the very first hybrid waterjet-powered passenger ferries in the United States for Chatham Area Transit (CAT) in Savannah, Georgia. MJP UltraJet 305 waterjets and a BAE HybriGen® power system are used by these 65-foot ferries, Juliette Gordon Low II and Susie King Taylor II, to preserve efficiency and lessen their environmental effect. These boats offer better agility and fuel efficiency because they were built for short, continuous voyages. As a leader in the building of hybrid ships, Derecktor Shipyards is dedicated to sustainability, and this project is just one more example of this. The ferries are now en route to Savannah and will shortly begin service.

Editorial comment: The launch of the first hybrid waterjet ferries raises the bar for sustainable transport. This highlights the industry's shift towards cleaner, more efficient operations, paving the way for wider acceptance of sustainable solutions. By integrating hybrid-electric technology with waterjet propulsion, these vessels enhance maneuverability while reducing emissions. As the maritime sector embraces sustainability, such advancements demonstrate the potential for greener, smarter ferry systems.

Source: [Here](#) 20 January 2025

WORLD'S LARGEST ICEBERG DRIFTS SLOWLY TOWARDS SOUTH GEORGIA

The world's largest iceberg, A23a, is drifting toward South Georgia, posing potential risks to local wildlife and navigation. Originally calved from Antarctica in 1986, the trillion-tonne berg remained grounded until 2020 before drifting into the Antarctic Circumpolar Current in 2024. Now about 180 miles from South Georgia, its eventual breakup could disrupt fishing routes and temporarily obstruct beaches used by penguins and seals. The impact is expected to be localized and short-lived, but previous megabergs have already complicated navigation in the region.

Editorial comment: The slow but inevitable drift of *A23a*, the world's largest iceberg, highlights the growing unpredictability of Antarctic ice movement. While experts downplay long-term wildlife impacts, the disruption to ecosystems and navigation cannot be ignored. This event underscores the need for stronger monitoring and preparedness as climate-driven changes reshape the polar landscape.

Source: [Here](#) 23 January 2025

ENVIRONMENTALISTS CALL FOR IMO TOTAL BAN ON SCRUBBERS

A study, *Poison in the Water*, by Pacific Environment, has amplified appeals to ban scrubber technology by citing severe oceanic and atmospheric pollution. The study found that this technology is highly toxic, as it accumulates in the marine food chain and poses risks to human health. Ships using scrubbers to burn high-sulfur fuel oil (HFO) emit significantly more particulate matter, black carbon, and carcinogens than ships using marine gas oil (MGO). However, environmentalists believed that the rising use of scrubbers to save money and lower CO₂ emissions would eventually harm human health and marine life. Last month, Pacific Environment urged the IMO to take decisive action, claiming that the shipping industry's lack of regulation endangers coastal communities and marine species.

Editorial comment: The study *Poison in the Water* by Pacific Environment highlights the severe toxin of discharge by scrubber, posing hazards to marine life and mortal health. While the assiduity sees scrubbers as a compliance tool, their long-term environmental impact is concerning. With mounting substantiation, the IMO faces growing pressure to ban scrubbers and prioritise ocean health.

Source: [Here](#) 29 January 2025

REPORT: TARGETED SUBSIDIES, HEFTY GHG LEVY NEEDED TO ENSURE E-FUEL ADOPTION

A new report from the UCL Energy Institute and UMAS calls for targeted subsidies and a hefty GHG levy to accelerate the maritime industry's transition to e-fuels. The report, released ahead of the IMO's MEPC meeting, warns that e-fuels like green ammonia may not be available in any volume before 2040 without urgent regulatory action. It proposes a \$150 per tonne CO₂e GHG levy to support both the energy transition and a just and equitable transition. The study also cautions that early low-cost compliance options, such as LNG and biofuels, could hinder long-term decarbonization. As a result, it urges immediate support to scale up e-fuel production.

Editorial comment: The Transition Strategy Report highlights the urgent need for strong policy measures to drive shipping's shift to e-fuels. Without a substantial GHG levy and targeted subsidies, the industry risks delays and reliance on short-term alternatives. As IMO negotiations near, decisive action is critical to ensure a swift and sustainable transition.

Source: [Here](#) 30 Jan 2025

GEOPOLITICS

CHINA CALLS SHIPBUILDING REPORT "OBVIOUS UNILATERALISM AND PROTECTIONISM"

Beijing harshly criticized a new US Trade Representative report on China's shipbuilding industry on Tuesday, calling it protectionist, careless, and untrue. The report, which was issued by

Ambassador Katherine Tai, basically charges China with controlling the world shipbuilding market through labor abuses, subsidies, and technology transfers. These assertions are untrue, according to the Ministry of Commerce and the China National Shipbuilding Industry Association, which also noted that innovation and a unique market concept are responsible for the growth of their sector. In 2024, China will account for about three-quarters of new orders and more than half of ship deliveries worldwide, resulting in a customarily elevated trade conflict between the United States and China.

Editorial comment: China's strong rebuttal to the US Trade Representative's report reflects ongoing tensions over shipbuilding dominance. Deeper trade tensions are highlighted by the debate, as Beijing rejected the results as irrational and protectionist. In light of changing global trade dynamics, the report's findings may further motivate U.S. efforts and pave the way for fiercer competition in the marine sector.

Source: [Here](#) 17 Jan 2025

HYBRID WARFARE: RUSSIAN SPY SHIP IN ENGLISH CHANNEL HIGHLIGHTS ESCALATING RISKS

The Royal Navy intercepted the Russian spy ship *Yantar* in the English Channel, amid rising concerns over hybrid warfare targeting undersea infrastructure. HMS *Somerset* and HMS *Tyne*, supported by a Merlin helicopter, tracked *Yantar*, which had previously loitered near UK maritime infrastructure in November. Recent undersea attacks on power cables and pipelines in the Baltic have heightened NATO's security efforts, with the UK deploying advanced monitoring systems and RFA *Proteus* to protect vital assets. Defence Secretary John Healey warned Russia against further provocations, reaffirming the UK's commitment to securing its maritime networks.

Editorial comment: The Royal Navy's interception of the Russian spy ship *Yantar* underscores the UK's vigilance in protecting critical undersea infrastructure. Commanders Matthew Teare and Hugo Floyer's remarks highlight the strategic importance of safeguarding data cables, pipelines, and power links. With NATO strengthening maritime security, Defence Secretary John Healey's firm stance signals a robust response to hybrid threats at sea.

Source: [Here](#) 24 Jan 2025

PHILIPPINES SUSPENDS SOUTH CHINA SEA SURVEY AFTER CHINA'S 'HARASSMENT'

A scientific study in the South China Sea was halted by the Philippines after China's Coast Guard and Navy engaged in what it called "harassment" and threatening actions. Three China Coast Guard ships approached two Philippine fisheries vessels that were tasked with gathering sand samples off Sandy Cay. A Chinese naval aircraft also interfered, as China, claiming control over the region and accused the Philippine ships of intruding into its territorial seas. The incident was condemned by the Philippine Coast Guard as a safety hazard. Following recent diplomatic efforts to establish common ground, the incident is the most recent in a string of tensions. The 2016 arbitration ruling invalidating Beijing's broad maritime claims is still being disregarded.

Editorial comment: The Philippines' suspension of its scientific survey in the South China Sea underscores the long-standing tensions in their disputed waters. This adds to the recent string of show of force incident by Chinese maritime vessels and China's ongoing refusal to accept international judgments. The confrontations, amidst diplomatic engagement, underscore the tenuous nature of regional stability and the difficulty of exercising maritime rights under international law.

Source: [Here](#) 25 Jan 2025

INDONESIA, INDIA VOW TO DEEPEN AND INCREASE MARITIME COOPERATION

During Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto's visit to New Delhi, the two countries decided to strengthen their economic and defense relations, with particular emphasis on boosting commerce and collaborating on defense manufacture. According to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Indonesia is a vital partner in the Indo-Pacific region for advancing freedom of navigation and a rules-based system. Along with strengthening marine ties, key Indonesian defense officials will shortly travel to India. In order to speed up bilateral collaboration, Prabowo pledged to reduce bureaucratic red tape. This action comes as India is trying to outmaneuver China within the Indo-Pacific, particularly as it still depends heavily on commerce through the Malacca Straits and the South China Sea.

Editorial comment: Strengthening initiations for security and commercial ties between India and Indonesia highlights shared interests in advancing regional stability and support for a rules-based system. President Prabowo Subianto's decision to streamline collaboration does align with India's strategic goals in relation to its challenge to China's hegemonic influence.

Source: [Here](#) 26 Jan 2025

HOW TO GET READY FOR THE US COAST GUARD'S CYBERSECURITY RULE

The US Coast Guard has released its final cybersecurity regulation, which establishes obligatory standards to improve the Marine Transportation System's cyber resilience. Under the Maritime Transportation Security Act, the regulation will take effect on June 1, 2025, and it will apply to US flag ships, offshore installations, and port terminals. A cybersecurity officer must be appointed, and cybersecurity and incident response plans must be submitted by 2027 to guarantee multifactor authentication, encryption, and network security measures, and frequent training exercises must be carried out. The rule mandates that cyber incidents must be reported to the National Response Center every six months, in accordance with the federal cybersecurity framework.

Editorial comment: The US Coast Guard's final rule on maritime cybersecurity is a significant step in strengthening cyber resilience of the Marine Transportation System. The rule requires vessel and facility owners to actively comply with its requirements for robust technological controls, , and mandatory cybersecurity strategies. Affected organisations must review their cybersecurity frameworks now in order to meet the 2027 deadlines, even if the staggered adoption gives them time.

Source: [Here](#) 30 Jan 2025