

MAKING WAVES

A MARITIME NEWS BRIEF COVERING:

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

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MARITIME SECURITY

THE FROZEN FRONTIER'S HIDDEN THREAT - CYBERSECURITY IN THE ARCTIC'S NEW ERA

The Arctic's rapid development as a shipping and research hub brings new cybersecurity challenges, especially with limited infrastructure and growing geopolitical tensions. A major threat is the potential sabotage of undersea data cables, highlighted by the emergence of deep-sea cable-cutter technology. The region's harsh environment complicates the detection and repair, making attacks more disruptive. Experts urge a multi-layered approach which would include investing in resilient infrastructure, international cooperation, robust cybersecurity, and rapid response capabilities to safeguard Arctic operations.

Source: [Here](#) 01 May 2025

HOUTHI THREATEN SHIPOWNERS CARRYING US CRUDE IN THE RED SEA

The Houthi Humanitarian Operations Coordination Center, through a declaration, has prohibited movement of US crude oil exports via the Red Sea, directly threatening shipowners transporting the American oil. This escalation has occurred despite a recent US-Houthi ceasefire, reflecting the ongoing risks for vessels in the region. The Houthis' actions are part of a broader campaign targetting ships linked to the US, UK, and Israel, further destabilising global shipping and raising security concerns for maritime trade through this vital route.

Source: [Here](#) 04 May 2025

ILLEGAL SUPPLIES TO FOREIGN SHIPS BUSTED OFF PARADIP COAST, LAKHS SEIZED IN MIDNIGHT OPERATION

Paradip Marine Police busted a covert operation which was supplying goods illegally to foreign ships anchored offshore. Smugglers used fishing boats from the Nehru Bungalow Fishing Harbour to transport industrial pipes, motors, and other materials mid-sea without customs clearance, causing significant revenue loss. Acting on a tip-off, police conducted a late-night raid, seizing equipment worth around Rs 10 lakh and arresting three individuals. One suspect remains at large as authorities continue their investigation into the smuggling racket.

Source: [Here](#) 06 May 2025

ROBBERIES CONTINUE IN SINGAPORE STRAIT WITH SIX SHIPS HIT IN MAY

In May 2025, the Singapore Strait experienced six ship robberies, contributing to a total of 50 incidents this year—significantly higher than the 14 incidents during the same period in 2024. Most attacks occurred near Phillip Channel's eastbound lane and involved armed criminals. Although no crew members were harmed, theft of engine parts and increased weapon sightings are concerning. ReCAAP calls for enhanced patrols, surveillance, and cooperation among regional States to address the growing threat.

Source: [Here](#) 09 May 2025

SECURITY MEASURES RAISED TO MARSEC LEVEL- 2 OF ALL SHIPS, PORTS

India has raised security at all ports, terminals, and ships to MARSEC Level 2, indicating a heightened threat environment. This move comes amid escalating regional tensions and follows intelligence warnings of potential maritime attacks. Enhanced measures include stricter access controls, increased surveillance, and readiness protocols for all maritime assets. Authorities urge vigilance and cooperation from port operators and shipping companies to ensure safety and to prevent any security breaches during this critical period.

Source: [Here](#) 09 May 2025

MARITIME FORCES

***HMS DAUNTLESS* COMPLETES AIR DEFENCE EXERCISE DURING CARRIER STRIKE GROUP 25 DEPLOYMENT**

HMS Dauntless, a Type 45 destroyer, completed an air defence exercise (ADEX) as part of Carrier Strike Group 25's deployment, showcasing her ability to protect the task group from aerial threats. The exercise included a flypast by an F-35B Lightning jet, demonstrating the ship's advanced Sea Viper missile system, which can neutralise multiple high-level threats. Previously, *Dauntless* successfully destroyed a drone swarm during live-fire drills, highlighting her vital defensive capabilities.

Source: [Here](#) 02 May 2025

SEEING DOUBLE: CARRIER STRIKE GROUP TO TEAM UP WITH ITALIAN FORCE ON FIRST BIG TEST

Carrier Strike Group 25 (CSG25), led by *HMS Prince of Wales*, is teaming up with Italy's ITS Cavour for Exercise Med Strike off southern Italy—their first major joint test. The exercise brings together two carrier strike groups, 21 warships, 41 jets, and over 8,000 personnel to hone anti-submarine and other warfare skills. This marks a significant phase of CSG25's eight-month Indo-Pacific mission, demonstrating NATO's solidarity and the UK's commitment to regional security.

Source: [Here](#) 04 May 2025

WITH NEW ZEALAND THE LATEST TO JOIN, THE PHILIPPINES IS BUILDING A NETWORK OF DEFENCE PARTNERS AMID SOUTH CHINA SEA TENSIONS

New Zealand has signed a Status of Visiting Forces Agreement with the Philippines, enabling joint military exercises to strengthen Manila's growing network of security partners in response to persistent Chinese maritime threats. This deal follows similar agreements with the US, Australia, and Japan. Furthermore, it reflects the Philippines' frustration with limited support from ASEAN and its slow progress on regional security. With the US alliance's reliability under scrutiny, the Philippines is increasingly favouring bilateral partnerships to bolster its defence capabilities.

Source: [Here](#) 13 May 2025

CTF 152 CONDUCTS SOLAS EXERCISE WITH FOUR NATIONS

On April 27, 2025, Combined Task Force (CTF) 152 led a multinational SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) exercise in the northern Arabian Gulf, with representation from the naval and coast guard units from Iraq, Kuwait, the UK, and the US. Following a water landing by an aircraft, the drill simulated a search and rescue operation, which enhanced coordination, communication, and leadership capabilities. The exercise strengthened regional unity and demonstrated the commitment to safeguarding lives and maritime security.

Source: [Here](#) 13 May 2025

COMBINED MARITIME FORCES HOSTS 2025 MARITIME SECURITY CONFERENCE

The Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), a 46-nation naval partnership, hosted its 2025 Maritime Security Conference in Manama, Bahrain from May 12-14. Senior military leaders reviewed the past year's achievements, set strategies for future regional maritime security, and coordinated coalition task force plans. Key topics discussed included counter-piracy, counter-narcotics, and

enhancing cooperation among member states. The conference reaffirmed its commitment to upholding the rules-based international order and securing vital global shipping lanes.

Source: [Here](#) 15 May 2025

SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY

INDIA TO EXPORT 4.12 LAKH TONNES OF GREEN HYDROGEN DERIVATIVES TO JAPAN, SINGAPORE

India will export 4.12 lakh tonnes (412,000 tonnes) of green hydrogen derivatives—including green ammonia and methanol—to Japan and Singapore as part of its push to become a global leader in clean energy sector. The agreements, facilitated by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, mark a significant milestone for India's green hydrogen sector. This move is expected to boost India's renewable energy exports and strengthen international partnerships in the transition to sustainable fuels.

Source: [Here](#) 02 May 2025

PORT HOUSTON TO HOST 4TH ANNUAL HOUSTON INTERNATIONAL MARITIME CONFERENCE

Port Houston will host the 4th annual Houston International Maritime Conference (HIMC25) from November 2-5, 2025, at Hilton Americas, Houston. The event will gather industry leaders to discuss global supply chains, regulatory changes, tanker shipping, and port infrastructure. This year expands the focus to include the liquid bulk and petrochemical sectors. The keynote speaker, the Panama Canal Administrator Dr. Ricaurte Vasquez Morales, will join panels and networking sessions, fostering collaboration and innovation across the maritime industry.

Source: [Here](#) 04 May 2025

COCHIN SHIPYARD STRENGTHENS TIES WITH DRYDOCKS WORLD TO DEVELOP SHIP REPAIR CLUSTERS IN INDIA

Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) and Drydocks World, a DP World company, are deepening their partnership to develop ship repair and offshore fabrication clusters across India. Following a recent MoU, Drydocks World's CEO visited CSL's facilities in Kochi, including the new International Ship Repair Facility. The collaboration aims to garner global best practices, boost

capacity, and support the Maritime India Vision 2030, positioning India as a world-class maritime hub with advanced infrastructure and skilled workforce.

Source: [Here](#) 13 May 2025

INDIA APPROVES THREE MORE RUSSIAN INSURERS TO COVER SHIPS AT ITS PORTS

India has approved three additional Russian insurers—Sberbank Insurance, Ugoria Insurance Group, and ASTK Insurance Company—to provide marine insurance for vessels entering Indian ports, their approval valid until February 20, 2026. This brings the total recognised Russian insurers to eight, enabling Russia's oil exports to India amid Western sanctions and restrictions. These insurers, though are not part of the International Group of P&I Clubs, offer an alternative for Russian oil shipments, facilitating trade flows despite global regulatory pressures.

Source: [Here](#) 14 May 2025

SURGE IN SHIPMENTS FROM CHINA MAY BE SHORT-LIVED, INDUSTRY WARNS

A recent surge in shipments from China, driven by easing US tariffs and frontloading, has temporarily boosted freight demand and rates. However, industry experts warn this growth may be short-lived due to fragile economic recovery, looming protectionist measures, and market adjustments. Once frontloaded shipments are completed and new shipping capacity are arrived, trade volumes and freight rates are expected to decline, with forecasts predicting negative container growth and a slowdown in global shipping activity in 2025 and beyond.

Source: [Here](#) 15 May 2025

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

ACT NOW OR WAIT CENTURIES: MARINE RESTORATION SUCCESS HINGES ON IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION

Marine habitats face severe threats from trawling, pollution, and the expansion of seabed mining, with 66% of coastal areas already degraded. While the UN aims to protect 30% of oceans by 2030, experts warn that this alone is insufficient. While active restoration—such as replanting seagrass and stabilising seafloors—can significantly accelerate the recovery, passive methods may take centuries. Success depends on restoration methods, ongoing maintenance, site selection, and supportive policies, funding, and technology, making immediate intervention crucial.

Source: [Here](#) 01 May 2025

LOSS OF SEA ICE ALTERS THE COLORS OF LIGHT IN THE OCEAN

New research shows that the loss of sea ice due to global warming not only increases the amount of light entering polar oceans but also changes its colour, shifting from a broad spectrum under ice to a blue-dominated spectrum in open water. This affects photosynthetic organisms like ice algae and phytoplankton, potentially altering species composition and impacting the entire Arctic food web. The findings highlight the need to consider light spectra in climate models.

Source: [Here](#) 02 May 2025

DATABASE REVEALS VITAL OCEAN LINKS TO AID CONSERVATION

Scientists have launched the Migratory Connectivity in the Ocean (MiCO) database, an interactive global map displaying the migratory patterns of over 100 marine species—including birds, mammals, turtles, and fish—using data from more than 1,300 sources. MiCO connects nearly 2,000 crucial habitats, highlighting the need for international cooperation to protect species that traverse national and high seas waters. The tool supports global conservation efforts and informs treaties by revealing critical cross-boundary connections essential for effective marine protection.

Source: [Here](#) 08 May 2025

'IT'S A BARRIER DIVIDING US': HOW A CONCRETE SEAWALL SPLIT THIS JAPANESE ISLAND VILLAGE

A planned 180m-long concrete seawall at Katoku beach on Japan's biodiverse Amami Ōshima island has sharply divided the local community. Proponents argue that it is essential for protection against coastal erosion and typhoons, while opponents—including ecologists and many residents—warn it threatens endangered species and delicate ecosystems. Critics advocate for nature-based solutions like planting local species. The controversy highlights global tensions between hard infrastructure and natural defences as climate change intensifies coastal risks.

Source: [Here](#) 13 May 2025

MARINE-BIODEGRADABLE POLYMER DECOMPOSES BY 92% IN ONE YEAR, RIVALS NYLON IN STRENGTH

A Korean research team has developed a high-performance polyester-amide (PEA) polymer that biodegrades by more than 92% within one year under real marine conditions—significantly outperforming current biodegradable plastics. The PEA matches nylon's strength and flexibility, is recyclable, and can be produced using existing manufacturing infrastructure. Made from castor oil derivatives and recycled nylon waste, it also reduces CO₂ emissions by two-thirds, offering a promising solution to marine plastic pollution and aiming for industrial adoption soon.

Source: [Here](#) 14 May 2025

GEOPOLITICS

IOS SAGAR IN PORT VICTORIA, SEYCHELLES

INS Sunayna (IOS SAGAR) arrived at Port Victoria, Seychelles, on May 1, 2025, after completing an EEZ surveillance mission in Mauritius. The visit, part of India's SAGAR initiative, includes professional exchanges, cultural activities, and joint exercises with Seychelles Defence Forces, strengthening regional maritime cooperation. The ship carries a multinational crew from nine nations, highlighting India's commitment to security and capacity-building in the South-West Indian Ocean. The deployment also included stops in Tanzania, Mozambique, and Mauritius.

Source: [Here](#) 01 May 2025

INDONESIA PARLIAMENT SET TO RATIFY SEA BOUNDARY WITH VIETNAM, LAWMAKER SAYS

Indonesia's parliament is set to ratify a landmark agreement with Vietnam establishing their exclusive economic zone (EEZ) boundaries in the South China Sea after 12 years of negotiations. The deal resolves longstanding disputes over overlapping claims and illegal fishing, clarifying rights and responsibilities of both nations. The agreement, based on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), also signals a united stance against China's expansive maritime claims in the region.

Source: [Here](#) 01 May 2025

WORLD TUNA DAY 2025 HIGHLIGHTS SUSTAINABILITY AND OCEAN HEALTH

World Tuna Day, observed on May 2, 2025, spotlights tuna's crucial role in food security, livelihoods, and marine ecosystems. Established by the UN in 2016, the day raises awareness about overfishing and illegal practices, advocating for science-based management and sustainable sourcing. Events include policy discussions, educational programs, and conservation efforts, emphasizing the need for global responsibility to protect tuna species and ocean health, especially for communities dependent on tuna resources.

Source: [Here](#) 02 May 2025

GERMANY, PHILIPPINES SIGN DEFENCE AGREEMENT

Germany and the Philippines have signed a new defence cooperation agreement to enhance military ties and joint activities as Manila strengthens alliances amid ongoing disputes with China in the South China Sea. Signed in Berlin by Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro and Minister Boris Pistorius, the deal expands collaboration to the areas of cybersecurity, defence equipment,

logistics, and UN peacekeeping. This pact adds to the Philippines' growing network of defence partners beyond its traditional US alliance.

Source: [Here](#) 15 May 2025

QUAD INITIATIVE SEEKS TO BOLSTER CIVILIAN DISASTER RESPONSE IN INDO-PACIFIC

Australia, India, Japan, and the US recently conducted a tabletop exercise in Hawaii to launch the Quad Indo-Pacific Logistics Network (IPLN), aimed at strengthening civilian disaster response in the Indo-Pacific. Held from April 28 to May 2, 2025, the exercise tested shared logistics capabilities to enable faster, more efficient humanitarian aid during natural disasters. The IPLN, alongside maritime domain awareness initiatives, underscores the Quad's commitment to practical cooperation and a free, open, and resilient Indo-Pacific.

Source: [Here](#) 08 May 2025