



## THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

### SELECTED WEBSITES AND ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

"During National Oceans Month, we celebrate the value of our oceans to American life and recognize the critical role they continue to play in our economic progress, national security, and natural heritage. Waterborne commerce, sustainable commercial fisheries, recreational fishing, boating, tourism, and energy production are all able to contribute to job growth and strengthen our economy because of the bounty of our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes."

- President Obama, Presidential Proclamation June 2, 2011

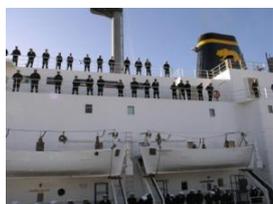
**National Oceans Month** Presidential Proclamation. *The White House*, June 2, 2011.

**Good News, Bad News about Oceans** *IIP Digital*, June 6, 2011.

**Saving Oceans – and the Planet** *IIP Digital*, June 6, 2011.

**Ocean Acidification: National Strategy to Meet the Challenges of a Changing Ocean** *National Research Council*, April 22, 2010. Note: 175p.

### **Protecting the World's Oceans**



#### **The Visit of the Golden Bear to Wellington, May 2011.**

250 students from California arrived in Wellington aboard the TS Golden Bear, the training ship of the **California Maritime Academy**. The ship left California a month ago and will be doing training exercises in the Pacific for about 3 months. All students at Cal Maritime take part in summer training cruises in the Pacific to apply the skills they've learned. One of only seven degree-granting maritime



academies in the United States, Cal Maritime focuses heavily on leadership training, applied technology, and global awareness. **See also our Flickr Page & our Ambassador's Blog & Golden Bear's shipboard blog**

**Clean Water: Foundation of Healthy Communities and a Healthy Environment** *White House*, April 27, 2011. 19p.

The Nation's investment in clean water began with a commitment by the Federal government to end the flagrant pollution of rivers, lakes and coastal waters. Forty years later, there is a growing appreciation that clean water, healthy watersheds, and resilient ecosystems are essential to the health and well-being of people and to the character and economic vitality of communities.

**Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes** Exec.Order, White House, July 19, 2010.

This Executive Order establishes a national policy to ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources, enhance the sustainability of ocean and coastal economies, preserve our maritime heritage, support sustainable uses and access, provide for adaptive management to enhance our understanding of and capacity to respond to climate change and ocean acidification, and coordinate with our national security and foreign policy interests.

**State of the Coast** – NOAA, U.S. Dept of Commerce / **The new website is announced** June 22, 2010.

**No recommendation is made in respect of non-U.S. Government web sites listed**

**2010 Status of U.S. Fisheries** *National Marine Fisheries Service*, May 2010. **News Release**

A performance measure for the sustainability of 230 U.S. fish stocks<sup>1</sup> selected for their importance to commercial and recreational fisheries. The FSSI will increase as stock status becomes known, overfishing is ended, and stocks increase to the level that provides maximum sustainable yield.

**Marine Biodiversity and Biogeography: Regional Comparisons of Global Issues** - collected resources from the *Public Library of Science (PLoS)*

## **THE OCEANS**

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to Establish Nation's Largest Coastal No-Sewage Zone**  
*EPA news release*, August 25, 2010.

**Species Recovery in the Pacific Region 2009: On-the-Ground Actions** *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Pacific Region)*, May 2010. 18p. **Press Release**

### **Marine Life – Antarctica**

**Oceans and Coastal Resources – Antarctic Environmental Protection and Mineral Resources**

**Changes in the Arctic: Background and Issues for Congress** *CRS*, April 7, 2011. 71p.

**International Governance and Regulation of the Marine Arctic** Three reports for the *WWF International Antarctic Programme*, April (?) 2010. Note: 118p.

**Arctic Sea Ice Decline: Projected Changes in Timing and Extent of Sea Ice in the Bering and Chukchi Seas** by D.C. Douglas. *U.S. Geological Survey*, 2010. 39p.

**Database: Oil Spills Since 2000 / Oil and Chemical Spills**

**Impact of Oil on Marine Life: Information from National Ocean Service (NOAA)**

## **REPORTS**

**Transportation Security: Issues for the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress** *CRS*, February 1, 2011. 19p.

The nation's air, land, and marine transportation systems are designed for accessibility and efficiency, two characteristics that make them highly vulnerable to terrorist attack. While hardening the transportation sector from terrorist attack is difficult, measures can be taken to deter terrorists. The dilemma facing Congress is how best to construct and finance a system of deterrence, protection, and response that effectively reduces the possibility and consequences of another terrorist attack without unduly interfering with travel, commerce, and civil liberties.

**2010 Global Aquaculture Performance Index** *Pew Charitable Trusts*, October 27, 2010. **News Release: "Large-Scale Fish Farm Production Offsets Environmental Gains"**

Industrial-scale aquaculture production magnifies environmental degradation, according to the first global assessment of the effects of marine finfish aquaculture (e.g. salmon, cod, turbot and grouper) released today. This is true even when farming operations implement the best current marine fish farming practices.

**Marine Protected Areas: An Overview** by Harold Upton. *CRS*, September 29, 2010. 26p.

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are generally defined as areas reserved by law or other effective means to protect part or the entire enclosed environment. This report identifies a number of issues related to establishing MPAs in the United States. It begins by defining the concept and administrative actions taken to provide spatial protection in marine areas. It then considers some of the key issues and potential benefits and costs of designating additional MPAs. It concludes by considering potential areas of congressional interest for the 111th Congress. Existing federal laws related to the use of MPAs are summarized in the Appendix.

**Fishery, Aquaculture, and Marine Mammal Legislation in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress** *CRS*, September 24, 2010. 38p.

Fish and marine mammals are important resources in open ocean and nearshore coastal areas; many federal laws and regulations guide their management as well as the management of their habitat.

**Ballast Water Management to Combat Invasive Species** by Eugene Buck. CRS, June 2010. 15p.

In recent years, many people have become increasingly aware that the globalization of trade, the increased speed of travel, the massive volume of cargo shipments, and rising tourism have combined to increase the chance of accidental introductions of foreign species into the United States. Aquatic species arrive through a variety of mechanisms—unintentionally when attached to vessel hulls or carried in vessel ballast water and intentionally when imported for aquaria display, as live seafood for human consumption, or as a transplant to increase sport fishing opportunities.

**Interim Framework for Effective (CMSP) Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning** *The White House*, December 9, 2009. 35p.

CMSP is a comprehensive, adaptive, integrated, ecosystem-based, and transparent spatial planning process, based on sound science, for analyzing current and anticipated uses of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes areas. CMSP identifies areas most suitable for various types or classes of activities in order to reduce conflicts among uses, reduce environmental impacts, facilitate compatible uses, and preserve critical ecosystem services to meet economic, environmental, security, and social objectives. In practical terms, CMSP provides a public policy process for society to better determine how the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes are sustainably used and protected now and for future generations. This report describes policy recommendations for coastal and marine spatial planning in order to protect ecosystems while continuing to allow economic activity. The framework describes how CMSP and CMS Plans would be regional in scope and developed cooperatively among Federal, State, tribal, local authorities, and regional governance structures, with substantial stakeholder and public input.

**New Advances in Sonar Diver Detection Systems: The Hidden Threat Facing Military and Civilian Ports** *on Navaltechnology.com*, 30 April, 2009.

The Mumbai terrorist attacks served to highlight a potential Achilles' heel in the soft, watery underbelly of military and civilian port defences, making it clearer than ever that these areas are not well protected against incursion by terrorist or enemy special forces divers. This white paper outlines tech advances in sonar technologies and how they can protect military and civilian ports and visiting ships from enemy divers. It outlines the hidden threat presented by underwater diver incursion, and reviews the latest technological improvements in underwater acoustical diver detection systems in these key areas: hardware, tracking software and data fusion/systems integration.

**Report of the Workshop on Assessing the Population Viability of Endangered Marine Animals in U.S. Waters 13-15 Sept. 2005 in Savannah, Georgia** Prepared by the *Marine Mammal Commission*, 2007. 37p.

A report prepared in response to a directive from Congress to the marine Mammal Commission to assess the cost-effectiveness of protection programs for the most endangered marine mammals in U.S. waters.

**Marine Security of Hazardous Chemical Cargo** CRS, August, 2005. 41p.

Since the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, the nation has been working to improve the security of hazardous chemicals transportation. This report provides an overview of hazardous marine transportation of hazardous chemicals in the United States, discusses the general risks from such marine transportation in the homeland security context, and focuses on many of the hazardous chemicals with the greatest potential to affect the public in a terrorist attack and the marine vessels that carry such chemicals. It also summarizes federal statistics on hazardous chemical marine shipments in U.S. waters; provides a brief overview of relevant U.S. maritime security regulations; and raises security policy issues associated with these shipments, including risk uncertainties, security resources, and security effectiveness.

**Marine Mammal Protection Act 2004: Reauthorization Issues** CRS, 2004. 53p.

Addresses concerns relating to marine mammal management such as commercial fishing, scientific research, public display, animal protection, Native American, and environmental interests to identify the range of issues that might be brought before Congress during a reauthorization debate.

## HEARINGS

**U.S. Policy in the Pacific Islands** Kurt M. Campbell, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs Testimony before the *House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment*, Washington, DC September 29, 2010.

**Renegotiating the South Pacific Tuna Treaty: Closing Loopholes and Protecting U.S. Interests** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, September 22, 2010. **Transcripts**, and scroll down.

**Bills on Offshore Oil Production Regulation and Management, and On Oil Spill Response Plans:** Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources*, June 24, 2010.

**Marine Wealth: Promoting Conservation and Advancing American Exports** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance*, July 14, 2010

**Ocean Science and Data Limits in a Time of Crisis** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources*, June 15, 2010.

**Building on America's Best Idea: The Next Century of the National Park System** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources*, May 25, 2010.

**EPA's Role in Protecting Ocean Health** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works*, May 11, 2010.

**Hearing on international whale protection issues** Hearing before *subcommittees of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, May 6, 2010. **Transcripts**, and scroll down.

**The Environmental and Economic Effects of Ocean Acidification** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation*, April 22, 2010.

## TREATIES / LAW OF THE SEA

### **Implementation of Marine Pollution Treaties and International Agreements**

**Law of Sea Implications for Gulf Spill** Interview with Caitlyn Antrim, executive director, Rule of Law Committee for the Oceans. *Council on Foreign Relations*, July 2, 2010.

**U.N. Convention on Law of the Sea: Living Resources Provisions** *CRS*, January 18, 2011.

## RESEARCH

**National Science Foundation** – U.S. South Pole Station – Supporting Science

### **Arctic and Antarctica**

**U.S. Funding for Arctic/Subarctic Oil Spill Research** Draft white paper by *U.S. Arctic Research Commission*, February 24, 2010. 4p.

## WHALING

**Joint Statement on Whaling and Safety at Sea: Governments of Australia, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the United States Call for Responsible Behavior in the Southern Ocean** Joint statement, December 10, 2010.

**Hearing on international whale protection issues** Hearing before *subcommittees of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, May 6, 2010. **Transcripts**, and scroll down.

**U.S. Leadership in the International Whaling Commission and HR 2455 The Whale Conservation and Protection Act of 2009 – Joint Hearing** *subcommittees of the U.S. House Committee on International Organizations, Human rights and Oversight and the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment of the Comm. On Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, 11<sup>th</sup> Congress*, May 6, 2010.

## **MARITIME BLOGS, etc.**

[Maritime News](#)

[The Maritime](#)

[Facebook – GCaptain - A Maritime Blog About Ships](#)

[Sea Fever](#)

[Maritime Professional](#)

[Homeland Security Law and Policy Blog](#)

[The White House Blog – Deep Water BP Oil Spill](#)

[The Oil Spill - Audubon Magazine](#)

[The Gulf oil Spill Information Portal and Chat / BP – Gulf of Mexico Response](#)

## **MARITIME SECURITY**

[Maritime Security: Varied Actions Taken to Enhance Cruise Ship Security](#) June 13, 2010. 52p.

Cruise ships are the single largest passenger conveyances in the world, with one ship currently in service that can carry more than 8,500 passengers and crew. The Coast Guard considers cruise ships to be highly attractive targets to terrorists, and according to a 2008 RAND Corporation report, cruise ships can represent high-prestige symbolic targets for terrorists. [The Report](#)

[Ferry Security Measures](#) GAO, December 2010.

Ferries are a vital component of the U.S. transportation system and 2008 data show that U.S. ferries carried more than 82 million passengers and over 25 million vehicles. Ferries are also potential targets for terrorism in the United States and have been terrorist targets overseas. GAO was asked to review ferry security, and this report addresses the extent to which (1) the Coast Guard, the lead federal agency for maritime security, assessed risk in accordance with the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) guidance and what risks it identified; and (2) federal agencies, ferry and facility operators, and law enforcement entities have taken actions to protect ferries and their facilities. This is the public version of a sensitive report that GAO issued in October 2010.

[Testimony on Border Security](#) GAO, April, 2010.

On March 30, the Government Accountability Office released GAO-11-508T, [Testimony by Richard M. Stana, GAO Director of Homeland Security and Justice Issues Before the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, U.S. Senate: Border Security: DHS Progress and Challenges...](#) This testimony is based on GAO's body of work from 2007 to the present that examined DHS efforts to secure the U.S. border. The testimony identified high-risk maritime facilities and vessels pondering threats that might come at them over U.S. borders.

[Maritime Security: Information Sharing Efforts are Improving](#) GAO, July 2006.

Area maritime security committees provide a structure that has improved information sharing among port security stakeholders; such information has included assessments of vulnerabilities at port locations and strategies the Coast Guard intends to use in protecting key infrastructure. GAO's ongoing work indicates that these committees continue to be useful forums for information sharing.

[Preliminary Observations on the Border Control Measures for the SouthWest Border](#) GAO, February 15, 2011.

This study is the result of the fact that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reports that the nearly 2,000-mile U.S. border with Mexico is vulnerable to cross-border illegal activity. The Office of Border Patrol (Border Patrol), within DHS's U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is responsible for securing the border between U.S. ports of entry and has divided responsibility for southwest border miles among nine Border Patrol sectors. CBP reported spending about \$3 billion on Border Patrol's southwest border efforts in fiscal year 2010, apprehending over 445,000 illegal entries. This testimony provides preliminary observations on (1) the extent to which DHS reported progress in achieving operational control—Border Patrol was able to detect, respond, and interdict cross-border illegal activity—of the southwest border; (2) the extent to which operational control reflects Border Patrol's ability to respond to illegal activity at the border or after entry into

the United States; and (3) how DHS reports the transition to new border security measures will change oversight and resource requirements for securing the southwest border.

**National Marine Sanctuaries** America's greatest museum of our past as a seafaring nation lies on the bottom of the sea and lakes in the National Marine Sanctuaries. Prehistoric sites, shipwrecks, and naval battlefields are protected by sanctuaries. They are places to explore, discover and appreciate our country's maritime cultural heritage. **Where They Are...**

**National Hurricane Center**

**Port Security**

**Maritime Terrorism.com**

## **DISASTERS**

### **Emergency Response:**

**U.S. Tsunami Programs: A Brief Overview** CRS, March 18, 2011. 11p.

**U.S. Tsunami Preparedness: NOAA Has Expanded Its Tsunami Programs, but Improved Planning Could Enhance Effectiveness** GAO, April 2010. 39p.

**Oil Spills in U.S. Coastal Waters: Background, Governance, & Issues for Congress** CRS, April 30'10.

**Federal Evacuation Policy: Issues for Congress** CRS, April 29, 2010.

**NOAA - Office of Response and Restoration**

### **Japan:**

**Japan's 2011 Earthquake and Tsunami: Food and Agriculture Implications** CRS, April 13, 2011.

**Japan 2011 Disaster: CRS Experts** CRS, April 7, 2011.

**Japan's 2011 Earthquake & Tsunami: Economic Effects and Implications for U.S.** CRS, April 6'11.

**Effects of Radiation from Fukushima Daiichi on the U.S. Marine Environment** CRS, April 15, 2011.

## **RESPONSE TEAMS and TASK FORCES**

**EPA Oil Spill Program - EPA**

**U.S. National Response Team - NRT**

**National Response Team - EPA**

**National Spill Control School**

## **DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL IN GULF OF MEXICO (2010)**

**President Obama - 1-Year Anniversary of the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill** White House, April' 211.

**The Gulf Spill's Lingering Questions** "First take" analysis by Michael A. Levi. CFR, April 20, 2011.

**President Obama - Long-Term Recovery Plan after the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.** Sept., 28'10.

**Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Highlighted Actions and Issues** CRS, September 13, 2010.

**Exxon Valdez to Deep Water Horizon: Protecting Victims of Major Oil Spills** Hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, July 27, 2010.

**Assessing Natural Resource Damages Resulting from the BP Deepwater Horizon Disaster** Hearing before a subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, July 27, 2010.

**Deluge of Oil Highlights Research and Technology Needs For Effective Cleanup of Oil Spills** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology*, June 9, 2010.

**U.S. Deepwater Drilling's Future** Backgrounder by Toni Johnson, *CFR*, May 25, 2010.

**BP Deepwater Oil Spill – White House**      **NASA images of the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill**

**Restore the Gulf.gov** – “the official federal portal for the Deepwater BP oil spill response and recovery”

**Deepwater Horizon Response – “The Official Site of the Deepwater Horizon Unified Command”**

**Compilation of material about the Deepwater Horizon oil rig emergency in the Gulf of Mexico**

**BP Site on the Response to Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill**

**CDC Resources on the Response to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill** (health aspects)

**Deepwater Horizon Spill: International Offers of Assistance** *U.S. Dept of State*, June 29, 2010.

- **Clarification** July 1, 2010.

## **PIRACY ON THE HIGH SEAS**

**The Economic Cost of Maritime Piracy One Earth Future Working Paper** One Earth, December 2010.

At the end of 2010, around 600 seafarers from more than 18 countries are being held hostage by pirates.<sup>1</sup> Piracy clearly affects the world's largest trade transport industry, but how much is it costing the world? One Earth Future (OEF) Foundation has conducted a large-scale study to quantify the cost of piracy as part of its *Oceans Beyond Piracy* project. Based on our calculations, maritime piracy is costing the international economy between \$7 to \$12 billion, per year.

**Piracy off the Horn of Africa** *CRS*, April 27, 2011.

**U.S. Approaches to Counter-Piracy** Media note, *U.S. Dept of State*, March 31, 2011.

**U.S. Approaches to Counter-Piracy** Remarks by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Andrew J. Shapiro to the International Institute for Strategic Studies, in Washington DC, March 30, 2011.

**Counter Piracy Contact Group Confronts Maritime Crime in the Horn of Africa** Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of State*, March 25, 2011.

**Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia Meets in New York** Media note, *U.S. Dept of State*, March 21, 2011.

**Assuring the Freedom of Americans on the High Seas: The United States Response to Piracy** Hearing before the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, March 15, 2011.

**Piracy Reached Record Level in 2010**, Monitors Say. *New York Times* online, January 18, 2011. **The Report**

**Maritime Security: Federal Agencies Have Taken Actions to Address Risks Posed by Seafarers, but Efforts Can Be Strengthened** *GAO*, January 2011. 78p. (seafarer identification and related issues)

**Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia Meets in New York** *U.S. Dept of State*, November 9, 2010.

**Maritime Security: Responses to Questions for the Record** *GAO*, October 22, 2010. 27p.

**Maritime Security: Actions Needed to Assess and Update Plan and Enhance Collaboration among Partners Involved in Countering Piracy off the Horn of Africa** *GAO*, September 2010. 90p.

**The Long War Against Piracy: Historical Trends** by James A. Wombwell. *Combat Studies Institute Press*, May 2010. Note: 208p.

**International Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea** *Bureau of Transportation Statistics, April 14, 2010.*

**Anti-Piracy, Adrift** by J. Peter Pham. *Journal of International Security Affairs, Spring 2010.*

**Anti-Piracy Efforts** Briefing by U.S. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Countryman, February 18, 2010.

**Maritime Security and Piracy** – a bibliography. APCSS, updated January 2009.

**Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia** *U.S. Dept of State, January 29, 2010.*

**Maritime Security: Coast Guard Inspections Identify and Correct Facility Deficiencies, but More Analysis Needed of Program's Staffing, Practices, and Data** *GAO, February 14, 2008.*

**Supply Chain Security: Examination of High-Risk Cargo at Foreign Seaports Have Increased, but Improved Data Collection and Performance Measures Are Needed.** *GAO, January 25, 2008.*

**Maritime Security: Federal Efforts Needed to Address Challenges in Preventing and Responding to Terrorist Attacks on Energy Commodity Tankers** *GAO, December 10, 2007.*

**Maritime Security: The SAFE Port Act: Status and Implementation One Year Later** *GAO, October 30, 2007.*

**Piracy at Sea - YouTube.com – View**

**Risk of Piracy at Sea**

**Piracy at Sea**

**Monitoring the Pirates**

**A Different Kind of Pirate**

**Pirates of the 21st Century**

**Note:** CRS = Congressional Research Service  
DOT = U.S. Dept of Transportation  
DOI = U.S. Dept. of the Interior  
EPA = Environmental Protection Agency [U.S.]  
GAO = Government Accountability Office  
NSF = National Science Foundation  
NOAA = National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**No recommendation is made in respect of non-U.S. Government web sites listed here.**

**All Internet links were active at **June 16, 2011****

**We welcome your feedback! Email us: [wellington.arc@state.gov](mailto:wellington.arc@state.gov)**

**If you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader, [download it here](#)**

**See also our [e-Spotlite on Marine Oil Spills](#)**



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