

## Sources for maritime crime and security Additional maritime crime and security resources online

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This article is designed to provide readers of IJMCS with a short overview of the increasing number of resources internationally available online that cover matters related to maritime crime and security. Online resources will feature in future *Sources for Maritime Crime and Security* sections as well. Some of these resources' popularity has probably been accelerated by the COVID-19 as people have gravitated to online and taken full advantage of what it has to offer. The unexpected bonus of the pandemic is that online webinars have included subject matters experts from around the globe and a more international audience with minimum disruption to everybody's busy programmes, eradicating travel inconvenience and significantly reducing time spent getting to events and the financial cost. Whilst initiating and establishing relationships is undoubtedly best-done face to face, the enormous advantages of just opening a laptop anywhere and utilising the technology for these meetings could be setting an exciting new trend for the future.

A recent example was the Ninth International Conference on Business and Economic Development (ICBED), held as a Virtual Conference on Zoom at the end of August 2020. The Conference was hosted by Dr P R Datta, the Executive Chair of the centre for Business and Economic Research (CBER) UK, and publisher of this Journal, and Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York, USA, and took place on 20-22<sup>nd</sup> August 2020. The list of participants numbered 88 people from, or representing institutions in, 15 countries in Europe, North America, and Africa. Professor Chris Bellamy, the Editor-in-Chief of the IJMCS Journal, delivered the opening keynote speech on China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). By pressing the 'share screen' facility, presenters were able to show the presentations on their own computers while addressing the audience in an inset window.

All of the resources listed in this article below are provided free of charge (CIMSEC does invite members to make a contribution, but it is not conditional), which is a fantastic opportunity for those interested in maritime crime and security to absorb enormous volumes of quality information in several different formats. This is not an exhaustive list but aims to provide a taste of the richness and quality of material available for our readers, students, and practitioners of managing maritime crime and security. Centre for International Maritime Security (CIMSEC - <http://cimsec.org/> ) CIMSEC is a vibrant and dynamic US based, non-partisan think tank established in 2012. The organisation has 21 international chapters with over 2,000 members and subscribers in more than 60 countries globally. CIMSEC's mission is to build a global community of professionals, academics, and forward thinkers from a variety of fields who wish to further international maritime peace and security through an exchange of ideas and the rigor of critical thought and writing. The organisation pursues this mission through online forums, collaborating with similarly motivated organisations, sponsoring, and hosting events, developing publications, and connecting individuals. The website (<http://cimsec.org/> ) is clear and easy to follow, allowing visitors to quickly find the most recent articles and podcasts and open tabs to find out more detailed information.

Whilst the President of CIMSEC, Jimmy Drennan, accepted that CIMSEC is US and military biased, the organisation is taking strides to be more inclusive of other sections of the maritime community. In conversation with Jimmy, he welcomed the proposal of a collaboration with IJMCS, to assist with the broadening of their cohort. I am sure with a greater variety of contributors from a range of different related areas CIMSEC will evolve with greater diversity and progressively attract an even broader church.

As an example of CIMSEC's desire to be inclusive, Dr Sal Mercogliano of Campbell University, NC took part in two excellent podcasts (159 & 194) providing a comprehensive brief about the commercial shipping industry, describing the impact of COVID-19 on seaborne trade. Prospective authors can submit articles, typically 1,000-3,000 words in length covering topics within a given subject area or unrelated topics that are related to the genre of maritime security. Currently CIMSEC is collaborating with respected global partners to run Project Trident. The project will run over several months

and cover seven broad issues within two major subject areas, regional perspectives, and future trends & themes. The first topic in the programme was Strategic Chokepoints and Littorals, the partner organisation was the Brute Krulak Centre at the US Marine Corps University. Fourteen excellent and wide-ranging articles were published, and several fascinating linked podcasts recorded. Future topics will include Maritime Infrastructure and Trade, Maritime Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies. Authors have also recently delved into more sensitive and thought-provoking areas including "The [US] Navy's Perpetual Racism Problem and How to Fix it and Military Officers: Read Black Writers exploring some of the realisms of our age.

Since inception CIMSEC has produced around 200 (at time of going to press) podcasts of between 45 mins to around 1.15 mins each. The podcasts have covered an extremely wide range of topics. The reviewer has listened to several fascinating podcasts including, (podcast # 162) "Redesigning the [US] Marine Corps with Jon Frerichs and Mark Nostro", (podcast # 167) Indonesia's Maritime Security Challenges, (podcast # 176) Down South in the Falklands with Rear Admiral (Retd) Dr Chris Parry and (podcast # 196) Blue Crime with Dr Christian Bueger. CIMSEC also partners with other like-minded organisations. In June 2020 they teamed up with Stable Seas Report to discuss their report about the Bay of Bengal (podcast # 185), with Jay Benson, principle author of the report and Abhijit Singh of the Observer Research Foundation. The podcast was an outstanding elucidation of this often-overlooked area of the world and wonderfully complemented the report (see review below

<https://stableseas.org/publications/stable-seas-bay-bengal-maritime-security%20>). The host of the podcasts, Jared Samuelson, who expertly manages the programme with either single subject matter experts or a small group of specialists discussing specific papers or reports. The podcasts are informative, stimulating and often entertaining.

"Bilge Pumps" is a less formal podcast, where three naval historians from around the globe reflect and informally chat about current naval topics. Their focus tends to be predominantly naval matters, which is their respective academic areas of intense interest and research, and the discussions don't always appear to navigate the most direct course to the destination and can be quite eclectic. Bilge pump podcasts normally last 60-90 minutes and can be very entertaining. Membership of CIMSEC is free and as a member you receive notification by e-mail of articles and podcasts that have been published and released. Members are encouraged to make a modest donation to CIMSEC, but it is not conditional. On average there are around three written articles, one Sea Control podcast and a Bilge Pumps podcast every ten days or so.

CIMSEC is one of several relatively new organisations that is effectively exploiting the online medium to further their objectives and I think doing so very effectively. Whilst they have now been around for 8 years, it is fair to say they continue to evolve, exploring new areas of the growing area of maritime security. Whilst not all the CIMSEC offerings may be to your taste I urge you to explore their excellent website, flick through their extensive range of articles, dip into their diverse range of podcasts and give Bilge Pumps a go! These organisations comprise:

One Earth Foundation <https://oneearthfuture.org/> One Earth Future is a nonprofit foundation established in Denver, Colorado, USA in 2009. It is a privately operating foundation that incubates programmes designed to foster sustainable peace and find ways to resolve complex problems through

orchestrated collaboration. The organisation has incrementally raised its profile earning deserved credibility and traction internationally. Within the portfolio of programmes, it runs, two are specifically related to maritime crime and security, secure fisheries, and stable seas.

Secure Fisheries <https://securefisheries.org/> : Secure Fisheries promotes peace, economic stability, and resilience in Somali coastal communities through effective co-management of fisheries. On their website there are a range of excellent reports that focus on the management of fisheries within the waters off the coast of Somalia, which can be used as case study material and identifies some of the challenges faced by coastal States attempting to prevent IUU fishing in their waters and revitalising their own fishing industries.

Stable Seas <https://stableseas.org/> : The Stable Seas programme is the successor to the Oceans Beyond Piracy (OBP) programme. For many affected by resurgence of piracy, OBP was the definitive source of independent material on the contemporary phenomena. As it became evident that maritime crime was so much more than just piracy and there were multiple criminal activities that were or could potentially be conducted at sea the Stable Seas programme grew and gradually replaced OBP. The principle OBP annual publication that became an industry orientation point, the State of Piracy report continues to be published by Stable Seas and retains its position as an authoritative reference document and barometer of piracy around the globe. The first Stable Seas report entitled Somali Waters, was published in May 2017, and set the new standard for OEFs view of the emerging diversity of maritime security. Since the first report published over three years ago, a further 17 reports of varying length and subjects have been published covering topics as diverse as, Maritime

Enforcement and the Rule of Law, Undersea Fibre-Optic Cable Security – Threats from Below to one of the most recent comprehensive report published in August 2020 covering Violence at Sea: How Terrorists, Insurgents, and Other Extremists Exploit the Maritime Domain. Whilst these reports are not peer reviewed, they are diligently researched and referenced. Consequently, Stable Seas often collaborate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP), their work is also well respected by the commercial maritime and security industries. The Stable Seas website is vibrant and dynamic, it includes two initiatives; the Maritime Terrorism Resource Portal provides a wealth of information about violent non-state actors, a few short and longer reports and other related information. The Maritime Security Index measures nine maritime security issues for 70 countries around the continent of Africa, southern and south-east Asia. There is a tab that provides all of the downloadable reports and a very useful Blog that is kept up to date with relevant and current global issues.

Looking briefly at three of the reports that are typical of the types of documents produced, the reviewer offers a short review of each as a taster. The first is Stable Seas' *Bay of Bengal*, publication date 16 March 2020, Authors were drawn in from Stable Seas and other OEF organisations and independent observers. The question and answer session conducted by those attending who submitted questions via the "chat" function was lively, lasted around 45 minutes and was mostly focused on the current situation in the GoG. The second was NATO's Combined Joint Operations from the Sea Centre of Excellence (CJOS COE): 2020 Virtual Maritime Security Regimes Round Table (MSR RT) April/May 2020: The round table took the form of a "webinar" conducted internationally, with over 400 registered attendees. The event was open to all those with a professional interest in maritime security and is not dependent on the attendee being a member of NATO, national governments, or armed forces. The inaugural MSR RT was conducted in June 2015 in Madrid, Spain and there have been two subsequent events in the US in 2016 and 2018. This event was conducted over two consecutive days, for 4.5 hours on each day with participants accessing the Round Table from their homes/offices due to COVID-19 restrictions. The programme comprised 5 panel sessions covering contemporary challenges, information systems,

Mediterranean/North Africa updates, maritime situational awareness and the domains and operations at sea. There were 17 speakers from NATO (from all regions of the command including HQ staff and practitioners), academia, national governments, and related industries. Despite a couple of minor technical/unfamiliarity gremlins the event quickly established an efficient and business-like tempo of fascinating presentations, followed by vibrant question and answer sessions utilising the “Chat” facility on Zoom. The comprehensive Report of Proceedings can be found at <http://www.cjoscoe.org/?p=1823>, along with other useful documents related to the event. Whilst understandably the focus was more on naval operations than generalised maritime crime and security subjects, several speakers including Dr Dirk Siebels of Risk Intelligence (author of *Maritime Security in East and West Africa* – reviewed in this the first edition of the Journal) Is it? Are we sure – no.? I think it was the first issue did broaden the perspective by talking about maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea.

The advantages of the Round Table being conducted in the virtual format meant that speakers and attendees did not have to spend time and money travelling around the globe to a conference venue. The event was also live rather than recorded, which did mean for some attendees (the Indo-Pacific Editor is based in Melbourne) it was two late evening/early mornings periods in front of a screen, but the quality of the speakers and Q&As definitely made it worthwhile. In 2019 as part of the plan to establish MSR RT as a “persistent online forum”, three standing Working Groups were formed including Maritime Security Awareness (MSA), Information Sharing, Interoperability and Integration, and Cyber Defence in the Maritime Domain. These Working Groups are open to all attendees of the MSR RT and I am hoping will provide another and interesting perspective on maritime security. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/piracy/manual-and-annexes.html>: In March 2017 the GMCP of the UNODC published the first edition of the Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners, comprising nine succinct chapters covering much of the material used by the GMCP to provide the support to agencies globally in their fight against maritime crime. The chapters include the fundamental elements, what law applies at sea, how maritime zones are measured, maritime zones and powers: internal waters and contiguous zone. The Manual then focused on maritime law enforcement, the maritime crime of piracy, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by sea, conducting boarding and search and seizure operations followed by a detailed chapter on searching for and collecting evidence at sea. In June 2019, the second edition was published in a slightly reconfigured format including additional chapters on human rights in the maritime domain, kidnapping and hostage taking at sea, maritime terrorism offences and illicit oil and fuel activities in the maritime domain. The second edition was supplemented by two annexes published as stand-alone publications covering a summary of the laws regulating floating armouries and their operations, and a handbook on the use of force by private security companies (these annexes are available at the link above). In the third edition, published in July 2020 the manual contains two new chapters: a detailed review of the legal issues related to vessels without nationality and an overview of the use of ship riders and law enforcement detachments as part of international cooperation.

The manual along with the supplementing annexes are an excellent resource, whether you are a newcomer to maritime crime and security, and the legislation that underpins it, or an experienced practitioner. The chapters are clear and concise with excellent introductions including key points and a short glossary of key terms for each subject matter. Each chapter starts with a broad explanation of the fundamentals of the topic and identifying overlaps with other linked areas of crime and/or security. As each chapter unfolds, reference extracts in boxes from the relevant UN convention, resolutions, protocols, national legislation are used and when appropriate, illustrated with clear diagrams, supporting case

studies and representational examples. The manual's third edition and the two annexes can be downloaded from the link above free of charge.

**Appeal:**

Just to reiterate, these are a few examples of the emerging wealth of material that is appearing across the internet. As with all internet based resources check on their veracity but also be bold and explore the world wide web looking for useful and verifiable information that makes this emerging area of knowledge more accessible to the people who work in, on or alongside this critical and powerful domain. Any readers of the Journal that have identified another authoritative source of online information that they believe is relevant to maritime crime and security please pass the information on to Peter Cook, the IJMCS Indo-Pacific Editor ([pc@ijmcs.co.uk](mailto:pc@ijmcs.co.uk)) for review and possible inclusion in subsequent editions of the *Journal*.

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