

Australia and New Zealand. The guidelines replace the *Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council Code of Practice for Anti-fouling and In-water Hull Cleaning and Maintenance, 1997* (the ANZECC Code). [It is understood that AMSA will publish the relevant Marine Order shortly – Editor]

No-take Marine Reserves make coral reefs more resilient

The Pew environmental group [reported](#) “A new study finds no-take marine reserves, where fishing for parrotfish is prohibited, may make coral reefs six times more resilient to coral bleaching and other disturbances.” and “The research is the result of Dr. Peter Mumby's three-year Pew Marine Fellowship project to better understand the health of coral reefs.”

Micro-plastics in the marine environment

The International Maritime Organisation [said](#) “International experts have met in London to review the growing problems in the marine environment caused by micro-plastics – tiny pieces of plastic or fibres which may act as a pathway for persistent, bio-accumulating and toxic substances entering the food chain.”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Research Project – Industry Focus Groups

The Centre for Customs and Excise Studies (CCES) is undertaking a review of the emerging ‘Accredited Operator’ concept which, internationally and locally, is being espoused by a number of regulatory agencies in the form of ‘Authorised Economic Operator’ (AEO), ‘Regulated Shipper’, ‘Regulated Agent’, ‘Accredited Agent’, ‘Approved Exporter’, and ‘Registered Operator’ programs which have emerged as a result of international initiatives relating to supply chain security and trade facilitation.

The principal objective of the project is to provide the Government with an Australian international trade and transport industry view of the Accredited Operator concept and the way in which it should be progressed in Australia in order to guard against any possible erosion of the industry’s competitive position in the global marketplace. In particular, it seeks to identify options for maximising the relevance and benefit of such a scheme to the Australian business community, whilst minimising compliance costs and ensuring that Australian exporters and the international trade and transport industry are able to compete on an equal footing with their overseas competitors, particularly when exporting to countries that have similar arrangements in place.

As part of the project, CCES will be holding Industry Focus Groups in August in several capital cities. The outcome of the project will potentially benefit all sectors of industry that fall within the scope of such schemes. Accordingly, participation in focus groups is open to all sectors of industry including, but not limited to importers and exporters, customs brokers, consolidators and forwarders, airlines and shipping companies, sea ports, airports, terminal operators and other service providers.

The project is designed to develop an industry position for presentation to Government on the various forms of Accredited Operator schemes that are in place, under development, or being considered by Australian agencies, including recommendations on how they should be progressed within Australia and in terms of linkages with the programs of major trading partners. Further information -click [here](#)

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If you have comment to make on an article in a previous *Digest*, or if you wish to comment on a maritime issue that you think *should* be addressed, please e-mail news@aama.asn.au with “Letter to the Editor” in the subject field. Please keep your “letter” to 100-150 words and include hyperlinks to any supporting documentation.

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Contact the Editor, Richard Griffiths: news@aama.asn.au

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

4-8 August 2013 - Intermediate Marina Management Course – Gold Coast

This four-day course is accredited by the [Global Marina Institute \(GMI\)](#) and is designed to provide marina personnel in a leadership position with fast-track training in the critical issues of marinas. For details, email the Marinas Industry Association Industry Education Officer, Ian Winestock - education@marinas.net.au