

CANADA Daily News and Updates March 13rd 2025

Ocean Updates

- Houthis Issue New Maritime Threat as Gaza Aid Deadline Passes
- China Calls on U.S. to Stop “Wrongdoings” over Proposed Fees on Chinese Ships

Ocean Updates

Houthis Issue New Maritime Threat as Gaza Aid Deadline Passes

Yemen’s Houthi forces have declared an immediate ban on Israeli ships in the Red Sea, Arabian Sea, Bab al-Mandab Strait and Gulf of Aden, threatening to attack any vessels that violate the blockade.

This announcement follows an escalating situation where the group issued an ultimatum on March 7 demanding Israel lift its Gaza aid blockade, with a deadline set for Tuesday evening at 20:00 Sana’a time.

The Houthi-aligned Humanitarian Operations Coordination Center had temporarily halted operations against merchant vessels when the ceasefire’s first phase began on January 19th. As ceasefire talks continue, Gaza’s humanitarian situation has worsened, with Israel blocking aid deliveries and cutting power supplies to pressure Hamas.

It remains unclear whether the Houthis’ renewal of the blockade will include ships beyond those with Israeli ties, particularly given their history of seemingly indiscriminate and misinformed targeting.

This renewed threat will likely reduce the chances of shipping services returning to the traditional Suez Canal route.

Read more in an [article from gCaptain](#).

China Calls on U.S. to Stop “Wrongdoings” over Proposed Fees on Chinese Ships

A spokesperson for China’s Foreign Ministry responded to a question from Reuters, calling the proposed fees on Chinese-built ships “wrongdoings.” It comes as the war of words continues, and the trade war heats up after Donald Trump began imposing new tariffs.

It is believed the U.S. will charge a fee on any Chinese-built ship calling in U.S. ports regardless of the nationality of the shipowner. Further, the fee would be commensurate to the percentage of Chinese ships in the owner’s fleet.

“Such measures as imposing port fees and levying tariffs on cargo handling facilities hurt the U.S. itself as well as others,” Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Monday. “The move not only hikes global maritime shipping costs and disrupts the stability of global industrial and supply chains, but also increases inflationary pressures in the U.S. and hurts the interests of American consumers and businesses.”

In a report on the global containership fleet, Alphaliner says “37.8 percent of the current active containership fleet was built in Chinese shipyards.” It has been highlighted in other reports that this includes all the major carriers.

Read more in an [article from The Maritime Executive](#).