



# SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



## China-Russia Maritime Law Agreement

Overseas media has widely reported the late-April signing of a maritime law enforcement agreement between China's coastguard and Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB).

The coverage has cited reportage by state broadcaster, China Central Television (CCTV) – [Ed, which *Semaphore* was unable to locate] – that the signing took place after a two-day meeting in the city of Murmansk in northwestern Russia, located within the Arctic Circle.

CCTV reportedly stated the countries would “actively promote maritime law enforcement co-operation, join hands to build a maritime community of destiny, and make every effort to serve the comprehensive strategic partnership of co-operation between China and Russia in the new era”.

A joint statement signed in 2022 by Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin described the ties between the countries as a “no-limits” partnership.

The Chinese and Russian militaries have reportedly conducted a number of joint exercises in recent years, including naval operations in the Pacific and Sea of Japan.

An increasing military build up of different nations has been noted in the Arctic in recent times, as rapidly-receding sea ice is both enabling access to a range of valuable resources and opening up shipping lanes and connectivity opportunities.

June 2023

