The Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) at the University of Wollongong has been Australia's leading research, education and training institute in ocean affairs and maritime security for over 20 years.

Established as a partnership between the Royal Australian Navy and the University of Wollongong as the Centre for Maritime Policy in 1994, ANCORS has grown to be the world's largest ocean policy, law and maritime security research centre. It provides advice and training on ocean issues and maritime security to over 50 countries plus a number of international and regional organisations.

ANCORS continues its close relationship with the Royal Australian Navy, particularly via the RAN’s Sea Power Centre – Australia, and the Department of Defence.

It also maintains strong working relationships with Border Protection Command (BPC) and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS), and other Australian Government agencies.

ANCORS' maritime security activities fall under four main categories:
- Research
- Education
- Training
- Advisory services.

**Border protection**
ANCORS has collaborated with the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and Border Protection Command for many years, supporting the Australian Government to enhance national maritime security through improved border protection measures.

Current ANCORS Director Professor Stuart Kaye chaired a review of maritime enforcement legislation on behalf of Defence and Customs that recommended a new single maritime enforcement act, with a number of specific features.


Image above: Ship’s Company of HMAS Perth observe Indian Navy Ship, INS Sahyadri during a Passage Exercise conducted off the northern coast of Australia.
ANCORS’ maritime security capacity-building programs have a global reach, but focus mainly on four maritime regions: Southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean, the South-west Pacific and the Gulf of Guinea.

In Southeast Asia ANCORS facilitates the Maritime Security Desktop Exercise (MSDE) in Indonesia on behalf of ACBPS and BPC to promote maritime security understanding and cooperation amongst the representatives of 22 Indo-Pacific region countries and territories. It has tested various scenarios related to combating piracy and armed robbery at sea, maritime terrorism and people smuggling at sea.

For more than 15 years ANCORS has partnered with the Defence Cooperation Program to deliver professional short courses, both in the region and within Australia. For example, ANCORS has partnered with the RAN to deliver a Maritime and Strategic Studies Period (MSSP) to the Indonesian Naval Command and Staff College (SESKOAL) annually since 1999 and to the Philippines since 2012.

This is the longest continuously operating Defence Cooperation activity Australia has with Indonesia.

ANCORS has educated naval and coast guard officers from 10 nations in its Master of Maritime Policy degree under the Defence Cooperation Scholarship Program, which is focused on South and Southeast Asia and the Southwest Pacific.

In all, naval and coast guard officers from 23 countries have completed UOW award courses with ANCORS at Masters or Graduate Certificate levels.

In a major African capacity-building initiative, ANCORS has hosted officials from both East Africa/western Indian Ocean and West Africa on behalf of the aid division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), delivering both professional short course and award course programs in Ocean Governance and Maritime Security.

ANCORS also delivers DFAT-funded programs for Indian Ocean Rim – Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR – ARC) countries, and to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on combating maritime crime in the western Indian Ocean.

In addition, ANCORS has delivered a capacity-building program on maritime security to Gulf of Guinea states in Accra for the Department of Defence and a major Ghana-based Australian grant project researching the relationship between fisheries and maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea.

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ANCORS Director Professor Stuart Kaye (left) and Research Fellow Dr Chris Rahman at the Vessel Tracking Laboratory at ANCORS headquarters

**Capacity-building with a global reach**

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**Vessel tracking**

Over the past seven years ANCORS and key partners have developed a satellite vessel tracking system that allows Pacific island nations to monitor legal fishing and detect illegal fishing in their territorial waters.

ANCORS facilitates training and research on the use of vessel tracking data to improve maritime domain awareness, an increasingly important element of maritime security.

This initiative includes establishment of a laboratory at ANCOR’s headquarters at the University of Wollongong’s Innovation Campus for research, training and demonstration purposes.

The ANCORS VTI was developed in collaboration with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and industry partners Polestar Space Applications Ltd and L-3 Oceania.