



Drumbeat: June 2, 2012

Posted by [Leanan](#) on June 2, 2012 - 10:09am

[Clinton highlights importance of oil-rich Arctic](#)

TROMSO, Norway -- Secretary of State Hillary Clinton boarded a research ship on Saturday to tour the Arctic, where big powers are vying for vast deposits of oil, gas and minerals that are becoming available as the polar ice recedes.

The top U.S. diplomat took the unusual step of visiting Tromso, a Norwegian town in the Arctic Circle, to dramatize U.S. interests in a once inaccessible region whose resources are up for grabs as the sea ice melts with climate change.

[Clinton talks cooperation in resource-rich Arctic](#)

To safely exploit the riches, the U.S. and other countries near the North Pole are trying to work together to combat harmful climate change, settling territorial disputes and preventing oil spills.

"From a strategic standpoint, the Arctic has an increasing geopolitical importance as countries vie to protect their rights and extend their influence," Clinton said Friday in the Norwegian capital of Oslo. Governments should "agree on what would be, in effect, the rules of the road in the Arctic, so new developments are economically sustainable and environmentally responsible toward future generations."

[U.S. Navy's Pacific Presence to Expand, Panetta Says](#)

Disagreements and clashes in the South China Sea have been building since 2009, according to "Stirring Up the South China Sea," a report published in April by Brussels-based International Crisis Group.

Oil reserves in the South China Sea may be as much as 213 billion barrels, according to Chinese studies cited in 2008 by the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

[Oil Falls to Eight-Month Low on Unemployment Rates](#)

Crude fell to the lowest level in almost eight months as employment reports in the U.S.

and the euro area signaled fuel demand may tumble.

Oil dropped 3.8 percent after the Labor Department said American employers added the fewest workers in a year in May. The euro region's jobless rate reached a record high, the European Union's statistics office in Luxembourg said. Brent dropped below \$100 for the first time since October.

[Citi cuts 2013 Brent crude oil price fcast to \\$99/barrel](#)

REUTERS - Citigroup Global Markets lowered its 2013 Brent crude oil price forecast by 17.5 percent to \$99 per barrel, saying accelerating shale oil production in the United States could reduce imports into the country.

The bank lowered its 2013 Brent price forecast to \$99 from \$120 and 2012 price forecast to \$115 from \$125 per barrel.

[Oil prices tumble; will gas prices follow?](#)

Cheaper oil means cheaper gasoline. The national average is now \$3.61 per gallon, 33 cents below their April peak of \$3.94, according to AAA, Wright Express and the Oil Price Information Service. Analysts forecast that gas could drop to \$3.40 before Labor Day.

That would mean a few more bucks in the pockets of consumers, including those who purchased an estimated 1.4 million cars and trucks in May. Auto sales remain a bright spot in the U.S. economy. Still, those sales won't significantly boost gas demand because the new models are more fuel efficient than older models heading to the scrap heap.

[Falling oil, gas prices are silver lining as economy weakens](#)

There's some good news behind the discouraging headlines on the economy: Gas is getting cheaper. It's dropped to \$2.99 in some areas of South Carolina and could soon fall below \$3 in a handful of Southern states.

[Why you're getting a break at the gas pump this summer](#)

One might be tempted to point fingers at Washington, and certainly, President Barack Obama came under fire when fuel prices started nearing \$4 a gallon. His challenger for the White House, Mitt Romney, said last month that the president "gets full credit or blame for what's happened to this economy and what's happened to gasoline prices under his watch."

In reality, suggested GasBuddy's DeHaan, the White House was responsible for neither this year's run-up in fuel prices nor its sharp decline.

[Petrol price to be cut by 2 rupees a litre - sources](#)

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - State-run oil refiners have agreed to a partial rollback of last month's petrol price increase, two oil company sources said on Saturday, in an expected move after a public outcry over the steepest rise in the country's history.

[Pertamina, Shell lower prices of non-subsidized fuels](#)

Following declining global oil prices in the past several months, state-run oil and gas firm Pertamina and Anglo-Dutch Shell cut the prices of non-subsidized fuels.

[Russia central bank says oil may further hit rouble](#)

MOSCOW: The Russian Central Bank Chairman Sergei Ignatyev said on Saturday the rouble, which last week tumbled to its three-year low, may further weaken if oil prices continue to slide, Interfax news agency reported.

[Saudi Arabian Shares Drop Most in 10 Months After Oil Tumbles](#)

Shares in Saudi Arabia, OPEC's biggest oil producer, headed for the biggest slump in 10 months after crude fell to the lowest since October as employment reports in the U.S. and Europe signalled fuel demand may tumble.

[Commodity Index Extends Slide to Lowest Since October](#)

Commodities extended their decline, falling to the lowest level in almost eight months, after U.S. employers created fewer jobs than economists estimated and Chinese manufacturing slowed.

The Standard & Poor's GSCI Spot Index fell 2.6 percent to 580.99 in New York, the lowest settlement since Oct. 4. The index declined 6.4 percent this week, a fifth straight drop and the biggest since September. Wheat, heating oil, cotton and gasoline led the losses.

[The Truth About the "Oil Bear Market"](#)

Remember, oil prices fell as low as \$30 a barrel in early 2009, but here we sit, watching analysts panic over crude slumping to \$87.

[Peak oil: Are we looking at it all wrong?](#)

By as early as 2015, global demand for oil will begin to decline, some scientists say. Not because we'll have run out of the fossil fuel, but because we just won't need as much of it.

[Iran to claim for OPEC secretary general post](#)

Iranian Oil Minister Rostam Qasemi said that Iran will claim for OPEC secretary general post, IRNA reported.

Qasemi said that Libyan Abdullah El-Badri has served as secretary general at OPEC since 2007 for two terms and Iran is preparing to discuss getting this post for next term at upcoming members' meeting.

[Ousted Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak gets life in prison](#)

CAIRO (AP) – Hosni Mubarak was sentenced to life in prison Saturday for failing to stop the killing of protesters during the uprising that forced him from power last year. But the ousted president and his sons were acquitted of corruption charges in a mixed verdict that swiftly provoked a new wave of anger on Egypt's streets.

[Russia's May oil output edges up to 10.34 mln bpd](#)

(Reuters) - Russian oil output, the world's largest, inched up 0.1 percent to 10.34 million barrels per day (bpd) in May from 10.33 bpd in April, Energy Ministry data showed on Saturday.

In tonnes, the ministry said crude production in Russia stood at 43.743 million last month.

[Russia Exit Heralds End of Browne's BP as Production Dips](#)

BP Plc's decision to consider selling out of its Russian venture signals the end for John Browne's vision of a British driller able to challenge Exxon Mobil Corp. as the world's largest publicly-traded oil producer.

At the helm from 1995 to 2007, the former chief executive officer forged a \$100 billion series of deals that made BP Europe's largest oil company. Today, it's shrinking.

[Chevron Looking At Mature Oilfields Off Mexico--Pemex](#)

HOUSTON – Chevron Corp. (CVX) is interested in developing matured oilfields off the

coast of Mexico that are part of state-run oil firm Petroleos Mexicanos's second contract auction, according to public documents posted by Pemex on its website.

Chevron's interest in the Arenque Block is likely to be seen as a positive sign in Mexico's efforts to bring major oil companies back to its oilfields after it introduced a new upstream contract last year. Some analysts have said luring oil majors was likely to be a challenge because contract terms for the blocks don't allow companies to book oil and gas reserves.

[Colorado State Increases Forecast for Atlantic Storms](#)

Colorado State University researchers raised their expectations for this year's Atlantic hurricane season to 13 named storms, just above average.

Five of those storms may become hurricanes and two may develop into major systems, said the team, which pioneered long- range hurricane forecasting 29 years ago. Its April prediction for 10 storms, four of them hurricanes and two of them major, was increased because an El Nino pattern that would limit Atlantic storms hasn't shown signs of forming yet.

[Fracking's interstate pollution needs U.S. rules, scientist says](#)

Air and water pollution from natural- gas and oil production using hydraulic fracturing moves across state lines, so the drilling should be regulated by the federal government, a Cornell University scientist said.

[When Cleaning Up Power Plants, Time is Money](#)

An analysis suggests that the power sector will incur far lower costs if federal pollution rules are phased in more gradually.

[Along a Utah Range, a New Skirmish Over Development or Conservation](#)

For more than 100 years, the towering range has been protected as a watershed. Expansions of ski areas in the central Wasatch are not allowed under multiple jurisdictional management plans, which the resorts say inhibit their ability to compete.

Ski areas now cover 6,294 acres of the central Wasatch, though Mr. Bishop's legislation could create a legal precedent that could pave the way to more than double that, encompassing the watershed's headwaters and affecting Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons, which are home to four ski areas and supply 60 percent of Salt Lake City's water.

[The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars: Dispatches from the Front Lines](#)

A telling anecdote involves the publication of the 1998 *Nature* paper by Mann, Bradley, and Hughes that first presented the hockey stick graph documenting the temperature record of the Northern Hemisphere in the past 1000 years. Mann says he was “caught completely off-guard” by the media attention the graph received, which raises a crucial question: How is it that the academic community encourages young scientists to issue press releases, yet leaves them unprepared to interact with the press and defend their work?

[A Conservative's Approach to Combating Climate Change](#)

It is a well established principle in the Anglo-American legal tradition that one does not have the right to use one's own property in a manner that causes harm to one's neighbor. There are common law cases going back 400 years establishing this principle and international law has long embraced a similar norm. As I argued at length in this paper, if we accept this principle, even non-catastrophic warming should be a serious concern, as even non-catastrophic warming will produce the sorts of consequences that have long been recognized as property rights violations, such as the flooding of the land of others.

My argument is that the same general principles that lead libertarians and conservatives to call for greater protection of property rights should lead them to call for greater attention to the most likely effects of climate change.

[Experts: Oklahoma not Texas, had hottest summer ever](#)

TULSA, Okla. — Oklahoma and Texas have argued for years about which has the best college football team, whose oil fields produce better crude, even where the state border should run. But in a hot, sticky dispute that no one wants to win, Oklahoma just reclaimed its crown.

After recalculating data from last year, the nation's climatologists are declaring that Oklahoma suffered through the hottest summer ever recorded in the U.S. last year — not Texas as initially announced last fall.

[In Louisiana, Rising Seas Threaten Native Americans' Land](#)

Native Americans' tribal lands along the Louisiana coast are washing away as sea levels rise and marshes sink. Part of our *Coping with Climate Change* series, Hari Sreenivasan reports from Isle de Jean Charles, a community that is slowly disappearing into the sea.

[Irish Sea level to rise 47cm by end of century](#)

THE IRISH Sea's level will rise by almost half a metre by the end of the century, according to new research published by NUI Galway's Ryan Institute.

More extreme coastal flooding will occur in Dublin and other vulnerable urban areas in Ireland and Britain, and sea surface temperatures will increase by 1.9 degrees, according to the research.

[What makes sea-level rise?](#)

Last week the science community was shocked by the claim that 42% of the sea-level rise of the past decades is due to groundwater pumping for irrigation purposes. What could this mean for the future – and is it true?



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 United States License](#).