

13<sup>th</sup> Annual Clara Barton Competition, 2026  
Sunday, March 15



# CLARA BARTON

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMPETITION

## Round 6

Prep Window:  
1:30pm-2:50pm

Test Window:  
2:55pm-3:30pm

|                |                                   |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Side A:</b> | Representatives of Stodia         |
| <b>Side B:</b> | Representatives of Crawn Republic |

## Re: Upcoming F.I.S.H. Meeting



**Julia Jam** <juliajam@crawnrepublicstate.gov.cr>  
To: FC Counsel [fccounsel12@crawnrepublicstate.gov.cr](mailto:fccounsel12@crawnrepublicstate.gov.cr)



Sun 03/15/2026 9:10 AM

Hello all,

Thank you for your willingness to handle this meeting with such short notice. As you know, the past month has seen a notable escalation in tensions between our government and Stodia as the effects of the ongoing Burcet-Stodia conflict continue to intensify.

This escalation has coincidentally occurred right before the biannual meetings of the Forden International Seafaring Huddle (F.I.S.H.), a working group of the continent-wide Forden Council. Due to the escalation, an emergency meeting has been called to discuss concerns about the disputes between the Crawn Republic and Stodia and the respect for international law in the Lerran Sea, the Pale Sea, and the LaForge Strait.

You are tasked with representing our great nation before a panel of F.I.S.H. rapporteurs to deliver prepared remarks, respond to questions by the rapporteurs, and offer closing comments. Specifically, under Council procedures, you will have to give four (4) minutes of prepared remarks; ten (10) minutes of questions by rapporteurs; and three (3) minutes for closing remarks. (Is this enough?) Do note that representatives from Stodia will be afforded the same allotment of time.

Thanks,  
**Ambassador Julia James**  
Crawn Republic Delegation to the Forden Council  
Crawn Republic Ministry of Foreign Affairs

 Reply

 Forward

# STODIA-BURCET WAR ESCALATES WITH SKIRMISH IN STRAIT

---

---

*SHELLTON CRAWN REP. — The ongoing armed conflict between Stodia and Burcet took on new developments on Tuesday 3 March, as enemy warships opened fire while passing through the Strait of LaForge, jointly shared by Gorah and the Crawn Republic. Until this incident, it was not uncommon to see ships from either force passing through the strait to get to the other side, as the two belligerents are fighting each other on both sides of the strait, but as watchful Crawn residents know, the warships are usually able to avoid traversing the strait in visual range or at the same time.*

*At approximately 8:46 a.m. Crawn time on Tuesday, a Burcet warship fired upon a Stodia warship in the strait, not far off the Crawn Republic's shores. The Stodia ship returned fire, and both ships appeared incurred major damage according to witnesses. Stodia continued to fire until the Burcet ship was sunk.*

*The President of the Crawn Republic issued identical formal communiqués to Stodia and Burcet recalling Crawn's neutrality in the war between the two sides. Said a spokeswoman for the President, "This incident was an affront to the Crawn Republic. We respect it as an unfortunate reality that our neighbors have resorted to violence to resolve their differences, but it is imperative to stress that hostilities are prohibited in neutral waters. Both Stodia and Burcet should know better."*

*A representative of Burcet apologized to the Crawn Republic and Gorah, sharing in a public statement that Burcet regrets the incident and hopes to resume its friendly relations with both neutral countries. However, a spokesperson for the Stodian armed forces defended its actions, highlighting that it did not begin the confrontation in the strait.*

*Tensions are expected to continue as the warring parties navigate the choppy waters of the Strait of LaForge and the neutral parties navigate the choppy waters of international law and diplomacy.*

---

---



6 MARCH 2026

**JOINT STATEMENT OF THE MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITIES OF  
THE STATE OF GORAH AND THE CROWN REPUBLIC ON THE  
RESTRICTION OF THE STRAIT OF LAFORGE**

The Maritime Authority, acting under the authority of the Department of Waters of the State of Gorah, and the Port Authority, acting under the authority of the Ministry of Transport of the Crown Republic, issue this joint notice.

On 3 March 2026, two warships belonging to Stodia and Burcet engaged in a naval firefight in the Strait of LaForge, an international strait between Gorah and the Crown Republic, resulting in heavy damage to one vessel and the complete loss of the other vessel.

Gorah and the Crown Republic reaffirm their neutrality in the armed dispute between Stodia and Burcet.

In order to preserve the neutrality, sovereignty, and security of the two coastal States, Gorah and the Crown Republic hereby announce that the Strait of LaForge will be closed to warships from Stodia and Burcet until both parties can provide meaningful guarantees of non-repetition.

Warships attempting to enter the strait will be interdicted and passage will not be allowed until further notice.

# CLASSIFIED

## REPORT OF THE CRAWN REPUBLIC COAST GUARD

**Date: March 1, 2026**

### Background

11. A fleet of five small-to-medium fishing vessels registered and flagged in the Crawn Republic regularly works in the same area of the Strait of LaForge. None of the vessels have been subject to sanction for major violations of any relevant regulation.

2. According to the company owning and operating the vessels, Prawn Republic LLC, each vessel is equipped with a GPS transponder and multiple cameras facing out toward the sea for security purposes.

3. The vessels are operated by fisherman of primarily Crawn nationality, though at least one fisherman is known to be of Goran nationality.

4. This fleet of boats has been operating when Burcet and Stodian warships have passed through the strait, so both parties are aware of the existence of the vessels.

### Incident

5. On 26 February 2026 at 04:47 Crawn time, the Stodian Corvette-class warship SNS Melville fired upon each of the vessels. The Crawn Republic Coast Guard (CRCG) responded to a mayday transmission from one of the vessels.

6. Upon arrival to the scene at 05:09, CRCG witnessed that all five boats were severely damaged, with one fully sunk and four in various stages of sinking.

7. CRCG undertook a search-and-rescue operation and recovered 23 fishermen. Six were treated for hypothermia, and 16 were treated for lacerations or blunt force trauma.

8. CRCG received a transmission from SNS Melville, informing that the warship had also engaged in search-and-rescue activities, recovering seven fishermen from the water. SNS Melville transferred the recovered fishermen to the CRCG.

9. All fishermen were accounted for. The incident caused no fatalities.

10. SNS Melville informed the CRCG that Stodia had reliable intelligence indicating that the Burcet military had hacked into the GPS transponders and cameras aboard the fishing vessels, using the vessels to precisely track the movements of Stodian armed forces. SNS Melville asserted that by directly participating in hostilities by engaging in real-time intelligence sharing, the fishermen and their vessels were valid targets for attack.

11. Captain Ylsib Ezcal of the lead fishing vessel, in charge of the fleet while on the water, denied any knowledge of possible Burcet virtual incursion into the security systems onboard. Prawn Republic LLC similarly denies any knowledge.

12. Considering the state of destruction of the vessels, it was impossible for CRCG to investigate the equipment in any way.

13. CRCG returned to shore for further medical treatment and debrief of the fishermen.

## Investigation: Wartime Surveillance Hacking Leaves Crawn Fishermen Adrift

READ THIS ARTICLE IN

العربية

English

Русский

Українська

Հայերեն ↗

Azərbaycan dili ↗

Română ↗

On February 26, the Stodian Navy fired upon five Crawn Republic fishing boats just off the Crawn coast, sinking them and injuring several crew members. Stodia claims that its adversary, Burcet, hacked into the surveillance camera systems onboard the boats and was using them to spy on Stodian ships as they passed by the fishermen. The Stodian Navy said in an official statement that it was “pleased that no one lost their lives in our targeted strike on enemy spy gear”.

For its part, the Crawn Republic expressed “outrage” that its civilians were fired upon by military forces and claimed that the attack was a “gross violation of the integrity of the Crawn Republic, its people and their property.” The Crawn Republic further questioned the motivation and justifications for the strike, expressing doubt about the legitimacy of the claims of Burcet surveillance.

Bellingdog can now confirm that the Burcet hacking operation was real.

Through advanced digital forensic techniques, our investigators combed through the digital wreckage of the fishing fleet. The data was automatically transmitted and stored in a backup at the land-based office of the fishing company, Prawn Republic LLC, which offered a copy to Bellingdog for investigation. The data shows traces of manipulation indicating that it was covertly diverted to another source, with digital markers easily recognizable to experts who have worked on identifying Burcet cyber operations.

Bellingdog can also confirm that the espionage was initiated remotely from Burcet, and our digital forensics found absolutely no evidence in the data that Prawn Republic or any of the fishermen knew that their security equipment was being used to transmit video and location data to the Burcet armed forces.

# Stodia Seizes Neutral Ship Bound for Burcet, Sparking Diplomatic Protest

Share 

By Jason Gideon

March 8, 2026

Beteburg, Gorah Stodian naval forces intercepted a neutral merchant vessel and subsequently seized some of its cargo on March 7<sup>th</sup>, alleging that it was carrying materials intended for military use to a belligerent port in Burcet, a move that has triggered sharp condemnation from the ship's owners and raised concerns about the widening scope of the ongoing conflict.

The vessel, Slippery Manatee, registered in the Crawn Republic and operated by the Meridian Trade Consortium, was stopped in international waters approximately 60 nautical miles outside of Burcet's exclusive economic zone. According to Stodia's Ministry of Defense, the ship was stopped and inspected after naval intelligence "established credible evidence" that its cargo was destined for military use by Burcet armed forces.

"This was a lawful search and seizure conducted in accordance with the laws of armed conflict," Rear Admiral Aaron Hotchner, spokesperson for Stodia's navy, said at a press briefing. "The vessel was transporting military-grade technological equipment to Hunter's Port, a port that functions as a key military logistics hub for Burcet. Allowing that shipment to proceed would have directly contributed to hostile military operations."

## Alleged Military Cargo

Military officials stated that preliminary inspections revealed technological components and electrical systems "inconsistent with purely civilian infrastructure projects," though they declined to release detailed technical findings, citing security concerns.

Stodia has previously accused Burcet of using neutral commercial shipping to circumvent wartime supply constraints, an allegation Burcet has consistently denied. No crew members were injured during the interception, and all 43 sailors aboard the Slippery Manatee, nationals of both the Crawn Republic and Burcet, are reported to be safe.

## Merchant Company Condemns Seizure

Meridian Trade Consortium strongly rejected the allegations, calling the seizure "an unlawful act committed against a neutral commercial operator."

---

**READ MORE**

Our company operates strictly within international law,” the firm said in a statement released Wednesday. “The Slippery Manatee was carrying civilian goods under valid export licenses issued by the authorities of the Crawn Republic. At no point was the cargo intended for military use, we were never informed of any such end use, and the Stodian government never made any indication that trade with Burcet could be met with such a response.”

The company accused Stodia of “unilaterally redefining neutrality” and warned that the seizure could have a chilling effect on global maritime commerce.

“Detaining neutral vessels based on speculative intelligence and then seizing cargo contemporaneously determined to be contraband sets a dangerous precedent,” the statement said. “If allowed to stand, this action undermines the freedom of navigation for all who sail in international waters.”

### **Diplomatic Fallout**

Officials in the Crawn Republic confirmed they are seeking clarification from Stodia and have stated their intention to have their warships accompany Republic-flagged merchant vessels that request it.

“We take our neutral status seriously,” Jennifer Jareau, a spokesperson for the Crawn Republic’s Foreign Ministry said. “We expect all parties to respect the law of the sea and will take all necessary steps to ensure the safety of our vessels.”

So far, Stodia has not indicated whether it intends to permanently confiscate the cargo or implement an official blockade of Burcet. Defense officials said a final determination would be made “once the investigation is complete.”

### **Broader Implications**

Analysts say the incident underscores the increasingly blurred line between civilian and military supply chains in modern conflicts.

“Dual-use goods are a gray zone of maritime warfare,” said Dr. Spencer Reid, a senior fellow at the Institute for Strategic Navigation. “What we’re seeing is a test case, how far a belligerent state is willing to go to disrupt an adversary’s logistics, even at the risk of alienating neutral trading partners.”

As the conflict between Stodia and Burcet enters its second month, shipping insurers and freight operators are already reassessing routes through the region, wary that similar seizures could follow.

# DECLASSIFIED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

**Report ID:** DMI-MARINT-7714-C

**Date:** March 2, 2026

**Subject:** Assessment of Neutral Merchant Vessel the Slippery Manatee (Flag: Crawn Republic)

---

This report assesses the likelihood that the Crawn Republic-flagged merchant vessel the Slippery Manatee, registered to a shipping company from the Crawn Republic, is transporting military-grade goods to the belligerent port of Hunter's Port, Burcet.

Based on multi-source intelligence, including maritime tracking data, commercial shipping records, signals intelligence, and historical precedent, we assess with moderate-to-high confidence that the cargo includes items intended for military end use by Burcet's armed forces.

Stodia remains in an active international armed conflict with Burcet. The Crawn Republic has formally declared neutrality and has not publicly aligned with either country.

Hunter's Port is a designated strategic logistics hub for Burcet and has been previously identified as a reception point for defense and dual-use imports supporting military operation and sustainment activities.

---

## Vessel Information

- Name: The Slippery Manatee
- Flag State: Crawn Republic
- Type: General cargo vessel
- Gross Tonnage: 22,400 GT
- Registered Owner: Meridian Trade Consortium (registered in Crawn Republic)
- Declared Destination: Hunter's Port, Burcet
- Declared Cargo: "Agricultural machinery, commercial technological components, and spools of fabric."

## **Indicators of Military End Use**

### **a. Potential of Cargo**

Customs manifests obtained through commercial databases list technological components consistent with commercial usage amongst the Manatee's cargo. However, technical specifications of said components also match those previously documented in Burcet military grade unmanned aerial vehicles, communications arrays, and targeting systems.

### **b. Routing and Timing**

The vessel has been exclusively sailing between Calderburg, an eastern industrial port in the Crawn Republic, and Hunter's Port, Burcet from one week before the outbreak of hostilities between Stodia and Burcet to the completion of this report.

### **c. Signals Intelligence (SIGINT)**

Intercepted communications between port and military officials in Burcet reference an incoming "priority shipment" arriving by sea, described as "essential to defense capability and force projection."

---

## **Confidence Assessment**

- Overall Confidence Level: Moderate to High
- Primary Uncertainty: Absence of physical inspection or direct confirmation of cargo contents.
- Assessment Outlook: Additional corroboration expected within 7 to 10 days through vessel interception and search.

### **Prepared by:**

Maritime Intelligence Division

Directorate of Military Intelligence, Stodian Armed Forces

### **Distribution:**

Chief of Defense Intelligence; Minister of Defense; National Security Council (Restricted)

---

13<sup>th</sup> Annual Clara Barton Competition, 2026  
Sunday, March 15



# CLARA BARTON

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMPETITION

## Round 6

Prep Window:  
1:30pm-2:50pm

Test Window:  
2:55pm-3:30pm

|                |                                   |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Side A:</b> | Representatives of Stodia         |
| <b>Side B:</b> | Representatives of Crown Republic |

Re: Upcoming F.I.S.H. Meeting

 **Jim Brockmire** <jbrockmire43@stodiamfa.gov.st>  
To: FC Legal [fclegal3@stodiamfa.gov.st](mailto:fclegal3@stodiamfa.gov.st)

😊    ↩    ↶    ↷    ...  
Sun 03/15/2026 9:10 AM

Hello all,

Thank you for your willingness to handle this meeting with such short notice. As you know, the past month has seen a notable escalation in tensions between our government and the Crawn Republic as the knock-on effects of the ongoing Burcet-Stodia conflict continue to intensify.

This escalation has coincidentally occurred right before the biannual meetings of the Forden International Seafaring Huddle (F.I.S.H.), a working group of the continent-wide Forden Council. Due to the escalation, an emergency meeting has been called to discuss concerns about the disputes between the Crawn Republic and Stodia and the respect for international law in the Lerran Sea, the Pale Sea, and the LaForge Strait.

You are tasked with representing our great nation before a panel of F.I.S.H. rapporteurs to deliver prepared remarks, respond to questions by the rapporteurs, and offer closing comments. Specifically, under Council procedures, you will have to give four (4) minutes of prepared remarks; ten (10) minutes of questions by rapporteurs; and three (3) minutes for closing remarks. Do note that representatives from the Crawn Republic will be afforded the same allotment of time.

Thanks,  
**Ambassador Jim Brockmire**  
Stodian Delegation to the Forden Council  
Stodia Ministry of State

↩ Reply    ↷ Forward

# STODIA-BURCET WAR ESCALATES WITH SKIRMISH IN STRAIT

---

---

*SHELLTON CRAWN REP. — The ongoing armed conflict between Stodia and Burcet took on new developments on Tuesday 3 March, as enemy warships opened fire while passing through the Strait of LaForge, jointly shared by Gorah and the Crawn Republic. Until this incident, it was not uncommon to see ships from either force passing through the strait to get to the other side, as the two belligerents are fighting each other on both sides of the strait, but as watchful Crawn residents know, the warships are usually able to avoid traversing the strait in visual range or at the same time.*

*At approximately 8:46 a.m. Crawn time on Tuesday, a Burcet warship fired upon a Stodia warship in the strait, not far off the Crawn Republic's shores. The Stodia ship returned fire, and both ships appeared incurred major damage according to witnesses. Stodia continued to fire until the Burcet ship was sunk.*

*The President of the Crawn Republic issued identical formal communiqués to Stodia and Burcet recalling Crawn's neutrality in the war between the two sides. Said a spokeswoman for the President, "This incident was an affront to the Crawn Republic. We respect it as an unfortunate reality that our neighbors have resorted to violence to resolve their differences, but it is imperative to stress that hostilities are prohibited in neutral waters. Both Stodia and Burcet should know better."*

*A representative of Burcet apologized to the Crawn Republic and Gorah, sharing in a public statement that Burcet regrets the incident and hopes to resume its friendly relations with both neutral countries. However, a spokesperson for the Stodian armed forces defended its actions, highlighting that it did not begin the confrontation in the strait.*

*Tensions are expected to continue as the warring parties navigate the choppy waters of the Strait of LaForge and the neutral parties navigate the choppy waters of international law and diplomacy.*

---

---



6 MARCH 2026

**JOINT STATEMENT OF THE MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITIES OF  
THE STATE OF GORAH AND THE CRAWN REPUBLIC ON THE  
RESTRICTION OF THE STRAIT OF LAFORGE**

The Maritime Authority, acting under the authority of the Department of Waters of the State of Gorah, and the Port Authority, acting under the authority of the Ministry of Transport of the Crown Republic, issue this joint notice.

On 3 March 2026, two warships belonging to Stodia and Burcet engaged in a naval firefight in the Strait of LaForge, an international strait between Gorah and the Crown Republic, resulting in heavy damage to one vessel and the complete loss of the other vessel.

Gorah and the Crown Republic reaffirm their neutrality in the armed dispute between Stodia and Burcet.

In order to preserve the neutrality, sovereignty, and security of the two coastal States, Gorah and the Crown Republic hereby announce that the Strait of LaForge will be closed to warships from Stodia and Burcet until both parties can provide meaningful guarantees of non-repetition.

Warships attempting to enter the strait will be interdicted and passage will not be allowed until further notice.

# **CLASSIFIED**

## **REPORT OF THE STODIAN NAVAL SHIP MELVILLE**

**Date: March 1, 2026**

### **Background**

1. A fleet of five small-to-medium fishing vessels registered and flagged in the Crawn Republic regularly works in the same area of the Strait of LaForge.
2. Each vessel is equipped with a GPS transponder and multiple cameras facing out toward the sea for security purposes.
3. According to intelligence sources, the vessels are operated by fisherman of primarily Crawn nationality, though at least one fisherman is known to be of Goran nationality. There is no indication that the vessels are crewed by anyone other than civilians.
4. This fleet of boats has been operating when Stodian warships have passed through the strait, so it is a known entity.
5. On 23 February 2026, Stodian intelligence learned that several weeks prior, the Burcet military had hacked into the GPS transponders and cameras aboard the fishing vessels, using the vessels to precisely track the movements of Stodian armed forces for several weeks. The real-time intelligence-sharing led to a significant operational disadvantage.
6. It is unknown whether the operators of the fishing vessels had knowledge of the Burcet hacking operation.
7. Stodian digital operations determined that it did not have the technological capability to remotely sever the connection, so SNS Melville received orders to kinetically disable the vessels. The captain of SNS Melville was assured by command that because the vessels were directly participating in hostilities, they were valid targets.

### **Incident**

8. On 26 February 2026 at 04:47 Crawn time, SNS Melville engaged in a kinetic operation upon each of the vessels. Each target was successfully disabled.
9. One vessel sank quickly, and the four others began to lose integrity.
10. SNS Melville undertook a search-and-rescue operation, recovering seven fishermen from the water.
11. The Crawn Republic Coast Guard (CRCG) arrived to the scene at 05:09 and engaged in its own search-and-rescue activities.
12. SNS Melville radioed to the CRCG and transferred the rescued fishermen to Crawn custody. SNS Melville understands that there were no fatalities from the operation.
13. SNS Melville informed the CRCG of the justification for the strike.

## Investigation: Wartime Surveillance Hacking Leaves Crawn Fishermen Adrift

READ THIS ARTICLE IN

العربية

English

Русский

Українська

Հայերեն ↗

Azərbaycan dili ↗

Română ↗

On February 26, the Stodian Navy fired upon five Crawn Republic fishing boats just off the Crawn coast, sinking them and injuring several crew members. Stodia claims that its adversary, Burcet, hacked into the surveillance camera systems onboard the boats and was using them to spy on Stodian ships as they passed by the fishermen. The Stodian Navy said in an official statement that it was “pleased that no one lost their lives in our targeted strike on enemy spy gear”.

For its part, the Crawn Republic expressed “outrage” that its civilians were fired upon by military forces and claimed that the attack was a “gross violation of the integrity of the Crawn Republic, its people and their property.” The Crawn Republic further questioned the motivation and justifications for the strike, expressing doubt about the legitimacy of the claims of Burcet surveillance.

Bellingdog can now confirm that the Burcet hacking operation was real.

Through advanced digital forensic techniques, our investigators combed through the digital wreckage of the fishing fleet. The data was automatically transmitted and stored in a backup at the land-based office of the fishing company, Prawn Republic LLC, which offered a copy to Bellingdog for investigation. The data shows traces of manipulation indicating that it was covertly diverted to another source, with digital markers easily recognizable to experts who have worked on identifying Burcet cyber operations.

Bellingdog can also confirm that the espionage was initiated remotely from Burcet, and our digital forensics found absolutely no evidence in the data that Prawn Republic or any of the fishermen knew that their security equipment was being used to transmit video and location data to the Burcet armed forces.

# Stodia Seizes Neutral Ship Bound for Burcet, Sparking Diplomatic Protest

Share 

By Jason Gideon

March 8, 2026

Beteburg, Gorah Stodian naval forces intercepted a neutral merchant vessel and subsequently seized some of its cargo on March 7<sup>th</sup>, alleging that it was carrying materials intended for military use to a belligerent port in Burcet, a move that has triggered sharp condemnation from the ship's owners and raised concerns about the widening scope of the ongoing conflict.

The vessel, Slippery Manatee, registered in the Crawn Republic and operated by the Meridian Trade Consortium, was stopped in international waters approximately 60 nautical miles outside of Burcet's exclusive economic zone. According to Stodia's Ministry of Defense, the ship was stopped and inspected after naval intelligence "established credible evidence" that its cargo was destined for military use by Burcet armed forces.

"This was a lawful search and seizure conducted in accordance with the laws of armed conflict," Rear Admiral Aaron Hotchner, spokesperson for Stodia's navy, said at a press briefing. "The vessel was transporting military-grade technological equipment to Hunter's Port, a port that functions as a key military logistics hub for Burcet. Allowing that shipment to proceed would have directly contributed to hostile military operations."

## Alleged Military Cargo

Military officials stated that preliminary inspections revealed technological components and electrical systems "inconsistent with purely civilian infrastructure projects," though they declined to release detailed technical findings, citing security concerns.

Stodia has previously accused Burcet of using neutral commercial shipping to circumvent wartime supply constraints, an allegation Burcet has consistently denied. No crew members were injured during the interception, and all 43 sailors aboard the Slippery Manatee, nationals of both the Crawn Republic and Burcet, are reported to be safe.

## Merchant Company Condemns Seizure

Meridian Trade Consortium strongly rejected the allegations, calling the seizure "an unlawful act committed against a neutral commercial operator."

---

**READ MORE**

Our company operates strictly within international law,” the firm said in a statement released Wednesday. “The Slippery Manatee was carrying civilian goods under valid export licenses issued by the authorities of the Crawn Republic. At no point was the cargo intended for military use, we were never informed of any such end use, and the Stodian government never made any indication that trade with Burcet could be met with such a response.”

The company accused Stodia of “unilaterally redefining neutrality” and warned that the seizure could have a chilling effect on global maritime commerce.

“Detaining neutral vessels based on speculative intelligence and then seizing cargo contemporaneously determined to be contraband sets a dangerous precedent,” the statement said. “If allowed to stand, this action undermines the freedom of navigation for all who sail in international waters.”

### **Diplomatic Fallout**

Officials in the Crawn Republic confirmed they are seeking clarification from Stodia and have stated their intention to have their warships accompany Republic-flagged merchant vessels that request it.

“We take our neutral status seriously,” Jennifer Jareau, a spokesperson for the Crawn Republic’s Foreign Ministry said. “We expect all parties to respect the law of the sea and will take all necessary steps to ensure the safety of our vessels.”

So far, Stodia has not indicated whether it intends to permanently confiscate the cargo or implement an official blockade of Burcet. Defense officials said a final determination would be made “once the investigation is complete.”

### **Broader Implications**

Analysts say the incident underscores the increasingly blurred line between civilian and military supply chains in modern conflicts.

“Dual-use goods are a gray zone of maritime warfare,” said Dr. Spencer Reid, a senior fellow at the Institute for Strategic Navigation. “What we’re seeing is a test case, how far a belligerent state is willing to go to disrupt an adversary’s logistics, even at the risk of alienating neutral trading partners.”

As the conflict between Stodia and Burcet enters its second month, shipping insurers and freight operators are already reassessing routes through the region, wary that similar seizures could follow.

# DECLASSIFIED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

**Report ID:** DMI-MARINT-7714-C

**Date:** March 2, 2026

**Subject:** Assessment of Neutral Merchant Vessel the Slippery Manatee (Flag: Crawn Republic)

---

This report assesses the likelihood that the Crawn Republic-flagged merchant vessel the Slippery Manatee, registered to a shipping company from the Crawn Republic, is transporting military-grade goods to the belligerent port of Hunter's Port, Burcet.

Based on multi-source intelligence, including maritime tracking data, commercial shipping records, signals intelligence, and historical precedent, we assess with moderate-to-high confidence that the cargo includes items intended for military end use by Burcet's armed forces.

Stodia remains in an active international armed conflict with Burcet. The Crawn Republic has formally declared neutrality and has not publicly aligned with either country.

Hunter's Port is a designated strategic logistics hub for Burcet and has been previously identified as a reception point for defense and dual-use imports supporting military operation and sustainment activities.

---

## Vessel Information

- Name: The Slippery Manatee
- Flag State: Crawn Republic
- Type: General cargo vessel
- Gross Tonnage: 22,400 GT
- Registered Owner: Meridian Trade Consortium (registered in Crawn Republic)
- Declared Destination: Hunter's Port, Burcet
- Declared Cargo: "Agricultural machinery, commercial technological components, and spools of fabric."

## **Indicators of Military End Use**

### **a. Potential of Cargo**

Customs manifests obtained through commercial databases list technological components consistent with commercial usage amongst the Manatee's cargo. However, technical specifications of said components also match those previously documented in Burcet military grade unmanned aerial vehicles, communications arrays, and targeting systems.

### **b. Routing and Timing**

The vessel has been exclusively sailing between Calderburg, an eastern industrial port in the Crawn Republic, and Hunter's Port, Burcet from one week before the outbreak of hostilities between Stodia and Burcet to the completion of this report.

### **c. Signals Intelligence (SIGINT)**

Intercepted communications between port and military officials in Burcet reference an incoming "priority shipment" arriving by sea, described as "essential to defense capability and force projection."

---

## **Confidence Assessment**

- Overall Confidence Level: Moderate to High
- Primary Uncertainty: Absence of physical inspection or direct confirmation of cargo contents.
- Assessment Outlook: Additional corroboration expected within 7 to 10 days through vessel interception and search.

### **Prepared by:**

Maritime Intelligence Division

Directorate of Military Intelligence, Stodian Armed Forces

### **Distribution:**

Chief of Defense Intelligence; Minister of Defense; National Security Council (Restricted)

---