"What the Ship (Ep 150): Global Shipbuilding Boom, Dock Strike & Chokepoint Attacks" by *What's Going on With Shipping?* (published November 1, 2026):

1. Global Shipbuilding & Financial Boom [00:37]

- Despite ongoing geopolitical risks, shipowners are heavily investing in fleet renewal and alternative marine fuels (such as LNG dual-fuel carriers) [04:34] to get ahead of upcoming International Maritime Organization (IMO) fuel regulations [03:53].
- Notable recent orders include Wallenius Wilhelmsen ordering LNG car carriers [00:54], MISC ordering LNG carriers from Chinese yards [01:20], and Mærsk negotiating exclusively with Chinese shipyards for a massive series of 24,000 TEU ultra-large containerships [02:58].
- East Asia (particularly centered around Shanghai) [04:52] continues to dominate roughly 95% of global shipbuilding [04:52]. Meanwhile, COSCO reported an 81% jump in Q3 net income, driven largely by trans-Pacific routes [04:04].

2. U.S. Shipbuilding & Maritime Policy [05:09]

- Hanwha Philly Shipyard secured a $269 million contract to build a Landing Ship Medium (LSM) for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps [05:09], though questions remain over the operational safety and practicality of beaching operations in contested areas [06:00].
- Bipartisan lawmakers are pushing to retain and expand provisions of the **Ships for America Act** in defense legislation to bolster the domestic commercial maritime industry [06:55]. However, the administration's stance remains mixed, pending a crucial decision on renewing the **Jones Act waiver** in mid-November [07:44].

3. Global Port Labor Unrest [08:29]

- Coordinated labor demonstrations affected 113 ports across 22 countries under the banner *"Dock workers don't work for war,"* protesting military cargo movements, wage disputes, and working conditions [08:33].
- In the U.S., a potential strike by port security watchmen (ILWU Local 26) threatened major container terminals at Los Angeles and Long Beach, highlighting ongoing vulnerabilities in global supply chain labor relations [09:31].

4. Black Sea Maritime Security Threats [11:06]

- The Black Sea has increasingly overtaken the Persian Gulf as one of the deadliest shipping regions, with over 570 reported attacks and at least 40 seafarer fatalities since the beginning of 2026 [13:02].
- Highlighting the expanding threat zone, the Greek-operated, Liberian-flagged container ship *K Ship Jet* was struck by naval drones and subsequently sank off the Bulgarian coast near NATO waters [11:21]. War risk insurance premiums for Black Sea voyages have surged as high as 15% [13:40].

5. Escalation in the Strait of Hormuz [16:05]

- The Strait of Hormuz remains a primary chokepoint facing continuous escalation. Iranian forces and regional actors continue employing small boat tactics, missiles, drones, and newly highlighted **limpet mines** (explosives physically attached to hulls) [19:05].
- While crude oil tankers continue to transit through the region [22:12], shipments of refined products, liquefied natural gas (LNG), and bulk cargo are facing severe disruptions and much higher queue times [21:14].