

## Headlines:

White House – Jen Johnson confirmed as DHS Secretary;  
North Carolina – ferry grounding with injuries;  
USCG – foreign rebuild to add LNG-fueled engine;  
USCG – SONS Executive Seminar;  
USCG – updated Certificate of Compliance form;  
Offshore Maryland – proposed lease sale;  
FMC – request for additional information;  
MERPAC – working group meeting;  
House – bill introduced re Ocean Energy Safety Institute;  
Caribbean Sea – US ECA effective 1 January 2014; and  
FMC – Global Regulatory Summit.

December 18, 2013



# Bryant's Maritime News

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## White House – Jen Johnson confirmed as DHS Secretary



The White House issued a [statement](#) on the confirmation by the Senate of Jeh Johnson as Secretary of Homeland Security. (12/16/13).

## North Carolina – ferry grounding with injuries



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that it and others are responding to the grounding of the Bald Head Island ferry in North Carolina. Fourteen passengers have been medically evacuated. The casualty is under investigation. (12/17/13).

## USCG – foreign rebuild to add LNG-fueled engine



The USCG National Vessel Documentation Center (NVDC) issued a **Determination Letter** stating that the work proposed by Horizon Lines to be performed in a foreign shipyard to replace the steam propulsion and auxiliary plants of three container carriers with geared medium speed diesel dual (LNG and liquid) fuel engine plants will not, under currently applicable law and practice, adversely affect the eligibility of those vessels to engage in the coastwise trades of the United States. (12/11/13).

## USCG – SONS Executive Seminar



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that it hosted the 2013 Spill of National Significance (SONS) Executive Seminar on 16 December. More than 75 senior agency officials from the Department of Homeland Security, NSS and National Response Team agencies participated. The primary topic was exploration of national level policy issues associated with Arctic spill response and the exercise of national-level coordination of Senior Officials during an Arctic SONS. (12/17/13).

## USCG – updated Certificate of Compliance form



The US Coast Guard issued a notice announcing that it has updated the Certificate of Compliance (COC) form (CG-3585), clarifying procedural issues for each category of vessel and providing additional amendments to include a deficiency report. **MI Notice 05-13** (12/17/13).

## Offshore Maryland – proposed lease sale



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a notice of the proposed sale for commercial leasing for wind power on the outer continental shelf (OCS) offshore Maryland. Comments and bidder qualification materials must be received by 18 February 2014. **78 Fed. Reg. 76643** (December 18, 2013). The Department of the Interior (DOI) issued a **press release** providing further information.

## FMC – request for additional information



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a notice stating that it has formally requested that parties to Agreement No. 011284-072 provide additional information pursuant to 46 U.S.C. § 40304(d). This action prevents the agreement from becoming effective as originally scheduled. Interested parties may file comments within fifteen (15) days. **78 Fed. Reg. 76625** (December 18, 2013).

## MERPAC – working group meeting



A working group of the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet in Linthicum Heights, Maryland on 8-9 January 2014 to work on Task Statement 80, concerning crew training requirements onboard vessels subject to the International Code of Safety for ships using gases or low flash-point fuels (IGF Code). **78 Fed. Reg. 76635** (December 18, 2013).

## House – bill introduced re Ocean Energy Safety Institute



Representative Holt (D-NJ) introduced a bill (H.R. 3780) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish an Ocean Energy Safety Institute, to promote the use of best available and safest offshore drilling technologies, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (12/16/13).

## Caribbean Sea – US ECA effective 1 January 2014



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular reminding owners, operators, and masters that the United States Caribbean Sea Emission Control Area (ECA) under MARPOL Annex VI enters into effect on 1 January 2014. The ECA entered into force on 1 January 2013, but enforcement has been delayed for one year in accordance with usual procedures. The ECA applies to waters surrounding Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. **Shipping Circular 21-2013** (12/17/13).

## FMC – Global Regulatory Summit



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a [news release](#) stating that the Global Regulatory Summit convened in Washington, DC on 17 December with senior representatives from the People's Republic of China, the European Commission, and the FMC. The officials discussed their differing regulatory frameworks and the potential effects of ocean carrier cooperation on international trade. (12/17/13).

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