

## Headlines:

White House – Joint Plan of Action re Iran;  
OFAC – temporary easing of sanctions re Iran;  
USCG – STCW virtual meeting;  
Pacific Ocean – crew members rescued;  
Beaufort Sea – taking of marine mammals;  
ITC – certain marine sonar imaging devices;  
Congress – appropriations bill adopted;  
House – bill introduced to amend LHWCA;  
Alaska – agreement on Gasline;  
COSPAS-SARSAT – 2013 results;  
Panama – North Korea to pay fine;  
Panama Canal – suspension announcement invalid; and  
UK – fire on wind farm support vessel.

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# Bryant's Maritime News

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*Note: This newsletter is one section of the [Bryant's Maritime Consulting](http://brymar-consulting.com) website. Visit the site for more extensive maritime regulatory information. Individual concerns may be addressed by retaining [Dennis Bryant](mailto:dennis.l.bryant@gmail.com) directly. Much of the highlighted text in this newsletter constitutes links to Internet sites providing more detailed information. Links on this page may be in PDF format, requiring use of Adobe Acrobat Reader. Comments on these postings are encouraged and may be made by email to the editor or by going to the blog page on the website and clicking the envelope that appears at the end of each posting. Be aware that the daily newsletter is a single posting, even though it contains a number of individual items. Every new beginning begins with a tenuous first step.*

## White House – Joint Plan of Action re Iran



The White House issued a [news release](#) stating that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has verified that Iran has taken the initial steps to which it committed as part of the Joint Plan of Action between it and the P5+1. As a result, implementation of the Joint Plan of Action will begin. (1/20/14).

## OFAC – temporary easing of sanctions re Iran



The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued a 9-page **Guidance** document relating to the provision of temporary sanctions relief in order to implement the Joint Plan of Action between the P5+1 and the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as 7-page set of **Frequently Asked Questions** (FAQ) on the same topic. It should be noted that US persons and US-owned or US-controlled foreign entities continue to be generally prohibited from conducting transactions with Iran, including any transactions of the types permitted pursuant to the JPOA, unless licensed to do so by OFAC. (1/20/14). *Note: Petrochemical product transactions involving the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) or the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) remain subject to sanctions, as well as otherwise permitted transactions that either began prior to 20 January or that end after the six-month temporary sanctions relief terminates.*

## USCG – STCW virtual meeting



The US Coast Guard issued a **notice** stating that it will conduct an STCW Virtual Meeting on 23 January. The meeting is intended to address the new Final Rule on implementation of amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW Convention). Interested persons may attend via teleconference or via webcast. (1/17/14).

## Pacific Ocean – crew members rescued



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that the 24 crew members who abandoned a disabled vessel in the Pacific Ocean west of Guam have been rescued by another vessel, a participant in the AMVER system. The cargo ship Rich Forest was abandoned after taking on water and losing power. A Coast Guard cutter is en route to bring the crew members ashore. The disabled vessel remains afloat and presents a hazard to navigation. (1/20/14).

## Beaufort Sea – taking of marine mammals



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice stating that it has issued a Letter of Authorization (LOA) to BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. to take marine mammals, by harassment, incidental to

operation of offshore oil and gas facilities in the Beaufort Sea, effective through 14 January 2019. [79 Fed. Reg. 3347](#) (January 21, 2014).

### ITC – certain marine sonar imaging devices



The International Trade Commission (ITC) issued a notice stating that it has determined not to review an initial determination (ID) issued by the presiding administrative law judge (ALJ) granting Navico, Inc. and Navico Holding AS unopposed motion to amend their complaint and notice of investigation regarding certain marine sonar imaging devices, products containing the same, and components thereof to add further respondents. [79 Fed. Reg. 3406](#) (January 21, 2014).

### Congress – appropriations bill adopted



The Congress has adopted and the President has signed the 1524-page [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014](#) (H.R. 3547) to fund the federal government for the remainder of the fiscal year. (1/17/14).

### House – bill introduced to amend LHWCA



Representative Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) introduced a bill (H.R. 3896) to amend the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act to provide a definition of recreational vessel for purposes of such Act. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (1/16/14).

### Alaska – agreement on Gasline



Alaska Governor Parnell issued a [press release](#) stating that a [Heads of Agreement](#) (HOA) has been signed establishing a roadmap for developing Alaska's natural gas reserves, a project known as Gasline. The project envisions, among other things, a new LNG train at the liquefaction plant for export. (1/15/14).

### Gulf of Aden – pirates apprehended after unsuccessful attack



The EU NAVFOR issued a [press release](#) stating that a tanker was attacked by pirates in the Gulf of Aden on 17 January, but were repelled by the

embarked private armed security team. On 18 January, an EU warship, with assistance from Japanese forces, boarded a dhow suspected of involvement in the attack. The crew of the dhow was released and five suspected pirates on board were apprehended. (1/20/14). *Note: In an unrelated incident, an Egyptian cargo vessel initially reported that it had been boarded by pirates in the Red Sea. It was later learned that the boarding party consisted of Eritrean forces, which have anchored the vessel in Eritrean waters.*

## EC – development of blue energy



The European Commission (EC) issued a **press release** announcing a **Blue Energy** action plan to facilitate further development of the renewable ocean energy sector in Europe. (1/20/14).

## COSPAS-SARSAT – 2013 results



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a **news release** stating that, during 2013, COSPAS-SARSAT satellites operated by Russia and the United States assisted in saving the lives of 253 persons. Of these, 139 were waterborne rescues. (1/17/14).

## Panama – North Korea to pay fine



The Panamanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a **press release** stating that the Government of North Korea has agreed to pay the fine imposed by the Panama Canal Authority for failing to properly report the cargo carried by vessel Chong Chon Gang. The vessel was found to be carrying war material prohibited by UN sanctions. The original fine of \$1 million has been reduced by one-third. Of the vessel's crew of 35 men, 32 will be allowed to leave Panama immediately. The vessel will remain in Panama until payment of the penalty has been achieved. (1/16/14).

## Panama Canal – suspension announcement invalid



The Panama Canal Authority issued a **press release** stating that the suspension of work announced for Monday, 20 January, by Grupo Unidos por el Canal, SA is not valid, lacks merit, and goes against what is established in the contract for the Expansion Project. (1/19/14).

## UK – fire on wind farm support vessel



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) issued a **press notice** stating that one crew member of a wind farm support vessel was medically evacuated by helicopter after the starboard engine caught fire. The crew was able to extinguish the fire and bring the vessel into port. (1/20/14).

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