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Australia – emergency towage services and ATON maintenance;
Australia – investigation of crew member injury;
India – approval of five maritime projects; and
Panama Canal – ACP demands contractor resume work.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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Offshore Oregon – Windfloat Pacific Project



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a notice stating that it has determined that there is no competitive interest in the area requested by Principle Power, Inc. to acquire an outer continental shelf (OCS) commercial wind lease offshore Oregon for its Windfloat Pacific Project. [79 Fed. Reg. 7225](#) (February 6, 2014). The Department of the Interior (DOI) issued a [press release](#) addressing this development.

St. Nicholas Island – anchorage regulations



The US Coast Guard issued a notice confirming that changes made to the restricted anchorage areas of St. Nicholas Island, California will come into effect on 10 February. [79 Fed. Reg. 7064](#) (February 6, 2014).

Black Sea – two USN warships arrive



The US Navy issued a [news release](#) stating that USS Mounty Whitney (LCC 20) and USS Taylor (FFG 50) have entered the Black Sea to perform establish and enhance cooperation, mutual training, and interoperability with regional partner nations and allies. (2/5/14).

USN – Somerset departs on maiden voyage to commissioning



The US Navy issued a [news release](#) stating that its newest amphibious transport dock ship, Pre-commissioning Unit Somerset (LPD 25) departed the Huntington Ingalls Industries Shipbuilding site in Avondale, Louisiana on 3 February, beginning its maiden voyage to its commissioning site in Philadelphia on 1 March. The ship is the ninth San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock and is named in honor of the courageous passengers of United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed near Shanksville in Somerset County, Philadelphia during the 9/11 terrorist attacks. (2/4/14).

DOT – ship recycling benefits academies



The Department of Transportation issued a [news release](#) discussing how ship recycling helps support America's maritime academies. (2/5/14).

House – policy paper on LNG exports



The House Energy & Commerce Committee released a policy paper prepared by the Majority Staff entitled "[Prosperity at Home and Strengthened Allies Abroad – A Global Perspective on Natural Gas Exports](#)". The policy paper concludes that LNG exports offer the opportunity for the US to improve the domestic economy while providing allies and trading partners an affordable and secure energy source. The Committee urges the Department of Energy to approve all remaining export licenses by the end of the year and is considering legislative action to modernize the process and remove barriers. (2/4/14).

House – hearing re USCG homeland security missions



The Subcommittee on Border & Maritime Security of the House Committee on Homeland Security conducted a hearing on the **Future of the Homeland Security Missions of the Coast Guard**. **Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr.**, Commandant, USCG, testified concerning the layered system used to counter maritime risk. (2/4/14).

House – hearing re federal aids to navigation



The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure conducted a hearing on the **Future of Federal Aids to Navigation**. **Rear Admiral Joseph Servidio**, USCG, testified concerning the Coast Guard's efforts to improve the safety of marine navigation. **Rear Admiral Gerd Glang**, NOAA, testified concerning the suite of data, products, services, and expertise provided by NOAA in support of marine navigation. **Mr. Jim Hannon**, USACE, testified concerning the Corps' support of waterborne transportation systems. **Mr. Dana Goward**, Resilient Navigation & Timing Foundation, testified on the vulnerability of GPS and the importance of the United States establishing an eLoran system. **Dr. Larry Mayer**, Center for Coastal & Ocean Mapping, testified concerning the future of eNavigation. **Captain Lynn Korwatch**, Marine Exchange of the San Francisco Bay Region, testified concerning the challenges of modern marine navigation. (2/4/14).

Senator Murkowski – Arctic Strategy Implementation Plan



Senator Murkowski (R-AK) issued a **press release** expressing support for the Administration's **Arctic Strategy Implementation Plan**, coupled with disappointment that it consists more of words than meaningful action. (1/30/14).

Court – COGSA and a house bill of lading



In a summary order, the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit affirmed an order of summary judgment that the liability limits of the Carriage of Goods by Sea Act (COGSA) applied even though a specific bill of lading had not yet been issued when the loss of cargo occurred. In the instant case, plaintiff shipper and defendant carrier had a long-standing business relationship. Defendant carrier had a house bill of lading invoking COGSA from place of receipt of the cargo to its place of delivery. The alleged theft of the cargo occurred at a point in the process before defendant carrier customarily issues its specific

bill of lading. The court ruled that the house bill of lading in these circumstances was sufficient to invoke COGSA. **OOO “Garant-S” v. Empire United Lines**, No. 13-1685-cv (2nd Cir., February 5, 2014).

ReCAAP – 2013 Annual Report



The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre posted its **2013 Annual Report**. The report states that overall improvement of the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia has continued. Although the number of incidents has increased, the bulk of them were petty theft. (2/5/14).

Australia – emergency towage services and ATON maintenance



The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) issued a **media release** stating that it has entered into contracts to provide Level 1 emergency towage services in Far North Queensland and to maintain its aids to navigation network in the same area. (2/5/14).

Australia – investigation of crew member injury



The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) issued a **notice** stating that it is conducting an investigation into injuries incurred by a crew member on board the passenger ship Seven Seas Voyager while berthed in Sydney on 1 February. (2/5/14).

India – approval of five maritime projects



The Indian Ministry of Shipping issued a **press release** stating that the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal of five projects: container terminals at Kandla, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Ennore, and Kolkata and an off-shore multipurpose cargo berth at Mumbai Port Trust. (2/5/14).

Panama Canal – ACP demands contractor resume work



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued a **press release** stating that it is demanding that Grupo Unidos por el Canal resume work on the Canal Expansion Project as required by contract. After two weeks of negotiations, which saw production levels drop to 25%, almost all activity has ceased. (2/5/14).

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