

Headlines:

USCG – flag officer and SES assignments;

USCG – Great Lakes pilotage rates;

Hampton Roads – SAR forum;

Cook Inlet – seismic survey;

House – bill introduced to establish Maritime Goods Movement User Fee; and

Senate – Executive power to authorize crude oil exports.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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USCG – flag officer and SES assignments



The US Coast Guard posted a message identifying various flag officer and senior executive service (SES) assignments for 2014. The most senior assignments are all listed as TBD (to be determined) because the official nomination of the next Commandant has yet to be announced. Once that occurs, the slate will be finalized. [ALCOAST 077/14](#) (2/28/14).

USCG – Great Lakes pilotage rates



The US Coast Guard promulgated a final rule adjusting Great Lakes pilotage rates, raising those rates by approximately 2.5%. Most of the adjustments come into effect on 1 August. [79 Fed. Reg. 12084](#) (March 4, 2014).

Hampton Roads – SAR forum



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that a five-day Search and Rescue (SAR) forum is being held in Hampton, Virginia. Participants include the Coast Guard, the Virginia Port Authority, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and several state and local agencies involved in SAR operations in the Hampton Roads area. In addition to classroom work, the forum includes practical evolutions, two nighttime evolutions, and a daylight SAR exercise. (3/3/14).

Cook Inlet – seismic survey



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice stating that it received an application from Furie Operating Alaska LLC for an Incidental Harassment Authorization to take marine mammals by harassment incidental to a proposed 3D seismic survey in Cook Inlet, Alaska between May 2014 and May 2015. Comments on the application should be submitted by 3 April. [79 Fed. Reg. 12160](#) (March 4, 2014).

House – bill introduced to establish Maritime Goods Movement User Fee



Representative McDermott (D-WA) introduced the [Maritime Goods Movement Act for the 21st Century](#) (H.R. 4105) to establish a Maritime Goods Movement User Fee and provide grants for international maritime cargo improvements and for other purposes. Representative McDermott issued a [press release](#) explaining the bill. (2/27/14).

Senate – Executive power to authorize crude oil exports



The Minority Staff of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources posted a report prepared for Senator Murkowski (R-AK) entitled "[Past is Precedent – Executive Power to Authorize Crude Oil Exports](#)". The report points to previous authorizations issued by the Executive Branch for exports of crude oil to Canada, as well as exports of crude oil from Cook Inlet and exports of California heavy crude oil. (3/3/14).

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