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USCG – Qualified Assessor Program;
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Arctic Ocean – Navy terminates ice camp;
Bermuda – Hamilton Declaration;
Singapore – oil spill response rates; and
Singapore – fees for crewing-related services.

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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. A boiled egg first thing in the morning is hard to beat.

USCG – Texas City “Y” incident update



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that assessments are being made to determine when vessel traffic through the area impacted by the Texas City “Y” collision and oil spill can partially resume. Currently there are 43 outbound and 38 inbound vessels in the queue. Response efforts continue. A [second news release](#) states that the waterway remains closed while the response operations continue. Now there are 49 outbound vessels and 52 inbound vessels in the queue. (3/24/14).

USCG – flag officer assignments



The US Coast Guard issued a message stating that President Obama has nominated the following flag officers for promotion and assignment, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate: VADM(s) T.P. Ostebo – Deputy Commandant for Mission Support (DCMS); VADM(s) C.D. Michel – Deputy Commandant for Operations (DCO); VADM(s) W.D. Lee – Atlantic Area Commander (LANT-00); and VADM(s) C.W. Ray – Pacific Area Commander (PAC-00). **ALCOAST 121/14** (3/21/14).

USCG – Qualified Assessor Program



The USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) issued an **announcement** regarding the Qualified Assessor (QA) Program. As noted in NVIC 02-14, the Coast Guard will accept STCW assessments that have been performed and signed by an assessor who has not been Coast Guard-approved until 31 December 2016, provided that the assessor meets the professional requirements of 46 CFR 10.405(a)(3) to assess competence for the specific endorsement. The Coast Guard intends to issue a new NVIC which will clarify the responsibilities of and requirements to become a QA. (3/24/14).

Alaska – APC for nontank vessels



The US Coast Guard issued **letters** to the Alaska Maritime Prevention and Response Network approving that entity's Alternative Planning Criteria (APC) for vessels carrying OPA 90 regulated oils as fuel for main propulsion or as a secondary cargo in the Western Alaska Captain of the Port Zone (12/20/13) and the Prince William Sound Captain of the Port Zone (1/10/14). The letters acknowledge that currently there are insufficient response capabilities in these two Zones to meet the nontank vessel oil spill response planning requirements, but that increased risk reduction measures, such as vessel routing, have been adopted.

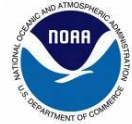
Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal – safety zone



The US Coast Guard issued a notice stating that it will enforce the safety zone on the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal from Mile Marker 296.1 to Mile Marker 296.7 each day from 21 March until 30 March between 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. and between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. during US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Fish

Suppression and Dispersal Barriers testing operations. [79 Fed. Reg. 16199](#) (March 25, 2014).

NOAA – Block Island Wind Farm



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice stating that it received an application from Deepwater Wind Block Island, LLC for an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to take marine mammals by harassment incidental to development of the Block Island Wind Farm. Comments on the application should be submitted by 24 April. [79 Fed. Reg. 16301](#) (March 25, 2014).

DOE – Jordan Cove authorized to export LNG



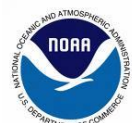
The Department of Energy (DOE) issued a [news release](#) stating that it has conditionally authorized Jordan Cove Energy Project, LP to export domestically produced liquefied natural gas (LNG) to countries that do not have a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United States from the Jordan Cove LNG Terminal in Coos Bay, Oregon. Authorization is conditioned an environmental review and final regulatory approval. (3/24/14).

Baltimore – Port-Wide Industry Day



USCG Sector Baltimore issued a [bulletin](#) stating that the Annual Port-Wide Industry Day will be held in Baltimore on 29 April in conjunction with the Federal Agency Trade Fair. The event is designed as an informal opportunity for the Coast Guard, federal agencies, vessel operators, and Port of Baltimore stakeholders to exchange ideas and information in order to facilitate safe, secure, and environmentally sound maritime commerce. (3/24/14).

NOAA – crude oil may cause abnormalities in fish



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a [news release](#) stating that study reveals that crude oil from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico may cause severe defects in the developing hearts of larva of large marine fish such as bluefin and yellowfin tuna. (3/24/14).

NSF – R/V Sikuliaq conducts acceptance trials



The National Science Foundation (NSF) issued a **news release** stating that its ice-capable research vessel R/V Sikuliaq conducted preliminary acceptance trials on the Great Lakes. The 261-foot ship will be operated by the University of Alaska as part of the US academic research fleet. (3/20/14).

Norfolk – fatal shootings onboard destroyer



The US Navy issued a **news release** stating that a male sailor and a male civilian suspect died in shootings onboard USS Mahan (DDG 72) moored at Naval Station Norfolk. Preliminary investigation indicates that the civilian suspect killed the sailor and that naval security forces killed the civilian suspect. The incident remains under investigation. (3/25/14).

Arctic Ocean – USN terminates ice camp



The US Navy issued a **news release** stating that Ice Camp Nautilus has been terminated early due to the instability of the ice floe on which it was situated. As part of Ice Exercise 2014 (ICEX-2014), Commander, Submarine Forces had the camp constructed on an ice floe in the Arctic Ocean north of Prudhoe Bay as a temporary facility to operate through 30 March, but shifting winds and other factors led to multiple fractures in the ice. (3/24/14). *Note: Unofficial reports indicate that the Russian Government has ceased its program of establishing facilities on Arctic ice floes because it has been unable to locate one with suitable characteristics. This ends an annual polar research project that has been ongoing for more than 50 years.*

Bermuda – Hamilton Declaration



The Government of Bermuda issued a **notice** stating that, on 11 March 2014, representatives of the Governments of Azores, Bermuda, Monaco, United Kingdom, and United States met in Hamilton, Bermuda and signed the **Hamilton Declaration** on Collaboration for the Conservation of the Sargasso Sea. The Declaration is a non-binding political statement exercising a stewardship role for the Sargasso Sea to keep its health, productivity, and resilience under continual review. (3/11/14).

Singapore – oil spill response rates



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular updating the rates applicable to oil spill response and anti-pollution services provided by MPA's support oil spill response agencies. **Port Marine Circular 5-2014** (3/24/14).

Singapore – fees for crewing-related services



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular updating its administrative fee scheme for crewing-related services. **Shipping Circular 8-2014** (3/24/14).

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If you have questions regarding the above items, please contact the editor:

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