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NATO – counter-piracy mission extended through 2016; and
Panama Canal – safe boarding.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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Freeport, TX – waterway suitability assessment



The US Coast Guard issued a notice stating that it received a Letter of Intent (LOI) and Waterways Suitability Assessment (WSA) for a proposed construction project to modify existing petroleum product import/export facilities in Freeport, Texas to add liquefied hazardous gas (LHG) operations. Comments on the documents must be received by 7 July. **79 Fed. Reg. 32565** (June 5, 2014).

CBP – proposed revocation of ruling letter



The US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), on pages 34-49 of its [Customs Bulletin and Decisions 48-22](#), issued a notice stating that it proposes the revocation of a ruling letter and revocation of treatment relating to the exportation of imported duty-paid yachts sailed from the United States to the Bahamas for transport back to the United States on foreign cargo vessels. Comments on the proposal must be received by 7 July. (6/4/14).

Access Board – meeting



The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) will meet in Washington, DC on 9 July. Among other things, it will receive a report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Passenger Vessels. [79 Fed. Reg. 32530](#) (June 5, 2014).

DHS – NEPA implementing procedures



The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a notice stating that it seeks comments on its draft directive and instruction manual for implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments should be submitted by 4 August. [79 Fed. Reg. 32563](#) (June 5, 2014).

DOI – DWH early restoration PEIS



The Department of the Interior (DOI) issued a notice announcing availability of the Final Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Final Early Restoration Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement relating to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. [79 Fed. Reg. 32570](#) (June 5, 2014).

Treasury – international boycott list



The Department of the Treasury published the current list of countries which require or may require participation in, or cooperation with, an international boycott within the meaning of section 999(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The listed countries are: Iraq; Kuwait; Lebanon; Libya; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; Syria; United Arab Emirates; and Yemen. [79 Fed. Reg. 32605](#) (June 5, 2014).

NOAA – lowering ship speeds in protected areas



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a **news release** stating that a new **study** indicates that the agency's policy of notifying – but not necessarily citing – speeding vessels in protected areas along the East Coast has been effective in lowering their speeds and protecting the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale, while keeping punitive fines to a minimum. (6/3/14).

USCG – Proceedings



The US Coast Guard has published the Summer 2014 edition of the **Proceedings** of the Marine Safety & Security Council. This edition focuses on passenger vessel safety. (6/4/14).

Senate – bill introduced re Food for Peace Program



Senator Corker (R-TN) introduced a bill (S/ 2421) to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) to reform the Food for Peace Program, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Senator Corker issued a **news release** explaining the measure. (6/3/14).

Senate – port security hearing



The Senate Committee for Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs conducted a hearing on “**Evaluating Port Security – Progress Made and Challenges Ahead**”. **Ms. Ellen McClain**, Department of Homeland Security, testified that the Department has adopted a risk based and layered approach to port security. **Mr. Stephen Caldwell**, Government Accountability Office (GAO) testified that substantial progress has been made in port security programs, but that challenges remain. (6/4/14).

Court – well owner liable for spill penalties



The US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit affirmed the district court determination that BP Exploration & Production and Anadarko Petroleum are subject to liability under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA) for the mandatory civil penalties imposed upon owners of facilities from which oil or

a hazardous substance is discharged. Defendants contended that the discharge occurred from the point of entry into the water, the marine riser of Transocean, the owner of the MODU Deepwater Horizon. The court ruled that the discharge emanated from the well (offshore facility), which was the operative source of the blowout. Liability for the civil penalty is unaffected by the path traversed by the discharged oil and it is not precluded by any culpability on the part of the vessel's owner or operator. **United States v. BP Exploration & Production**, No. 12-30883 (5th Cir., June 4, 2014).

NATO – counter-piracy mission extended through 2016



NATO issued a **news release** stating that the Defence Ministers have decided to extend the counter-piracy mission in waters of the Indian Ocean until the end of 2016. (6/4/14).

Panama Canal – safe boarding



The Panama Canal Authority issued an advisory designating 7-11 July as 2014 Safe Boarding Week. During this period, the ACP will emphasize safe boarding practices on all vessels arriving at the waterway. **Advisory 13-2014** An appendix provides stakeholders with a copy of the safe boarding **inspection checklist**. (6/2/14).

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

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