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IMO – no ban on travel needed due to Ebola;
IMO – Polar Code approved; and
IMO – ballast water management.

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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. Drink coffee – make mistakes faster and with more energy.

USCG – STCW NVICs



The US Coast Guard issued a notice announcing availability of five Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circulars (NVICs) implementing the agency's final rule aligning regulations with amendments to the International Convention

on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW Convention) and changes to national endorsements. This third set of STCW NVICs entered into effect on 24 October and consist of: (1) Guidelines for Qualifications for High-Speed Craft Type-Rating Endorsements (NVIC 20-14); (2) Guidelines on Qualification for Endorsements for Vessel Security Officers, Vessel Personnel with Designated Security Duties, and Security awareness (NVIC 21-14); (3) Guidelines on Qualification for STCW Endorsements for Officers and Ratings on Oil, Chemical, and Liquefied Gas Tank Vessels (NVIC 22-14); (4) Guidelines for Qualification for STCW Endorsements as Electro-Technical Officer on Vessels Powered by main Propulsion Machinery of 750 kW/1,000 HP or More (NVIC 23-14); and (5) Guidelines on Qualification for STCW Endorsements as Electro-Technical Rating on Vessels Powered by Main Propulsion Machinery of 750 kW/1,000 HP or More (NVIC 24-14). **79 Fed. Reg. 63547** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-24/pdf/2014-24869.pdf>] (10/24/14).

USCG – North Carolina AMSC



The US Coast Guard seeks applications for membership on the North Carolina Area Maritime Security Committee (AMSC). Applications must be received by 24 November. **79 Fed. Reg. 63635** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-24/pdf/2014-25386.pdf>] (10/24/14).

Saipan Harbor – safety zone



The US Coast Guard promulgated a rule establishing a temporary safety zone in certain waters of Saipan Harbor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) in support of disposal of World War II ordnance. The safety zone will remain in effect through 18 December. **79 Fed. Reg. 63315** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-23/pdf/2014-25273.pdf>] (10/23/14).

Seattle – regulated navigation area



The US Coast Guard promulgated a rule establishing a regulated navigation area (RNA) at the Slip 4 Early Action Area Superfund Site in the Lower Duwamish Waterway, Seattle to protect the integrity of the engineered sediment and slope caps that have been placed in that waterway by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). **79 Fed. Reg. 62827** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-21/pdf/2014-25003.pdf>] (10/21/14).

Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal – safety zone



The US Coast Guard issued a notice stating that it will enforce the safety zone between Mile Marker 296.1 and Mile Marker 296.7 on the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal at specified times from 8 October through 26 November during installation by the US Army corps of engineers (USACE) of a new permanent fish barrier. **79 Fed. Reg. 63818** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-27/pdf/2014-25501.pdf>] (10/27/14).

Hudson River – security zone



The US Coast Guard promulgated a rule establishing a moving security zone around a crane barge that will operate from Jersey City on the New York Harbor Upper Bay to the Tappan Zee Bridge on the Hudson River. The security zone will be in effect from 27 October to 31 December. **79 Fed. Reg. 63813** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-27/pdf/2014-25500.pdf>] (10/27/14).

MERPAC – meeting



The Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 9 December via teleconference to discuss Task Statement 87 concerning review of policy documents providing guidance on the Coast Guard final rule entitled “Implementation of the Amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarer, 1978 and Changes to National Endorsements”. **79 Fed. Reg. 64399** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-29/pdf/2014-25686.pdf>] (10/29/14).

NOSAC – meeting



The National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee (NOSAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet in 18-19 November in Houston. Topics on the agenda include diving safety; OSV purpose and offshore workers; and training of personnel on MODUs and OSVs working on the OCS. **79 Fed. Reg. 63922** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-27/pdf/2014-25472.pdf>] (10/27/14).

USACE & EPA – “waters of the United States”



The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the availability of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) final **peer review** of the EPA draft report *Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters: A Review and Synthesis*, which analyses the proposed rule on definition of “waters of the United States” under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA). **79 Fed. Reg. 63594** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-24/pdf/2014-25138.pdf>] (10/24/14).

Los Angeles – Everport Terminal EIS



The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) announced initiation of the scoping process for preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Los Angeles Harbor Department Berths 226-236 [Everport] Container Terminal Improvements Project. A scoping meeting will be held in San Pedro on 13 November. Written comments must be received by 24 November. **79 Fed. Reg. 63609** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-24/pdf/2014-25267.pdf>] (10/24/14).

Chesapeake Bay – Shipping Channels SEIS



The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) announced initiation of the process to prepare a decision document and supporting supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) to execute Phase II of the Baltimore Harbor and Channels 50-Foot Project to complete the construction of the project channels to their authorized widths and consider reformulation of the plan to develop new alternatives. **79 Fed. Reg. 63386** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-23/pdf/2014-25290.pdf>] (10/23/14).

DOJ – proposed consent decree



The Department of Justice (DOJ) seeks comments on a proposed partial consent decree in *United States v. ATP Oil & Gas Corp.* relating to proposed civil penalties and injunctive relief relating to unauthorized discharges of oil and chemicals from an offshore platform in the Gulf of Mexico. Comments must be received within 30 days. **79 Fed. Reg. 63167** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-22/pdf/2014-25092.pdf>] (10/22/14).

OFAC – sanctions re situation in Ukraine



The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) imposed additional sanctions regarding the situation in Ukraine. Among the entities against which sanctions have been imposed are one shipbuilder and three oil companies. **79 Fed. Reg. 62827** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-21/pdf/2014-24988.pdf>] (10/21/14).

DOI – Deepwater Horizon oil spill ROD



The Department of the Interior (DOI) issued a notice stating that the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Final Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Early Restoration Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement has been published. **79 Fed. Reg. 64831** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-31/pdf/2014-25794.pdf>] (10/31/14).

MARAD – VISA Program



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) announced the extension, until 1 October 2019, of the Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA) Program. **79 Fed. Reg. 64462** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-29/pdf/2014-25755.pdf>] (10/29/14).

NOAA – RESTORE Act Science Plan



The National oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) seeks comments on the draft Science Plan for the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies (RESTORE) Act Science Program. Comments must be submitted by 15 December. **79 Fed. Reg. 64572** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-30/pdf/2014-25797.pdf>] (10/30/14).

NOAA – National System of Marine Protected Areas



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) seeks comments on the **proposed update** of the Framework for the National System of Marine Protected Areas. Comments should be received by 26 December. **79 Fed. Reg. 63899** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-27/pdf/2014-25448.pdf>] (10/27/14).

IMO – no ban on travel needed due to Ebola



The IMO issued a [news release](http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/35-ebola.aspx#.VFKZCjTF98E) [located at <http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/35-ebola.aspx#.VFKZCjTF98E>] reiterating that there should be no general ban on international travel or trade due to the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa, citing recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO). (10/24/14).

IMO – Polar Code approved



The IMO issued a [news release](http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/32-mepec-polar.aspx#.VFKaezTF98E) [located at <http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/32-mepec-polar.aspx#.VFKaezTF98E>] stating that the Marine Environment Protection Committee approved the environmental provisions of the draft Polar Code, together with associated draft amendments to the MARPOL Convention to make the Code mandatory. The Code and draft MARPOL amendments will be considered for adoption at the next MEPC session in May 2015. Once adopted, they should enter into force on 1 January 2017. (10/20/14).

IMO – ballast water management



The IMO issued a [news release](http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/33-mepec-67-bwm.aspx#.VFKcIDTF98E) [located at <http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/33-mepec-67-bwm.aspx#.VFKcIDTF98E>] stating that the Marine Environment Protection Committee approved resolutions intended to assist in accelerating the entry into force and implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention by addressing issues surrounding type-approval of BWM systems and guidance for port state control inspections. (10/20/14).

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

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