

## Headlines:

USCG – guidance on maritime cybersecurity standards;  
BOEM – OPA 90 limit of liability;  
NOAA – lionfish prevention & management plan;  
NOAA – endangered species of sawfish;  
EPA – VGP webinar;  
Congress – passage of Coast Guard authorization bill;  
House – hearing on Arctic opportunities;  
House – ports contract resolution sought;  
IMO – irregular maritime migration;  
EU – seafarer protection; and  
Panama Canal – final lock gates transit completed.

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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. Better to light one candle than curse your flashlight.*

## **USCG – guidance on maritime cybersecurity standards**



The US Coast Guard issued a notice announcing a public meeting in Washington, DC on 15 January to receive comments on development of guidance on maritime cybersecurity standards. The deadline to reserve seats for the meeting is 5 January. Written comments must be received by 29 January. **79 Fed. Reg. 73896** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-12/pdf/2014-29205.pdf>] (12/12/14).

## **BOEM – OPA 90 limit of liability**



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a final rule adjusting the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) limit of liability for offshore

facilities to account for changes in the consumer price index (CPI). Effective 12 January 2015, the limit of liability will change from \$75 million to \$133.65 million. The rule also establishes a methodology for future periodic adjustments in the limit to account for changes in the CPI. **79 Fed. Reg. 73832** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-12/pdf/2014-29093.pdf>] (12/12/14). The action is further explained in a BOEM [press release](#).

## NOAA – lionfish prevention & management plan



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) seeks comments on the draft National Invasive Lionfish Prevention and Management Plan. Comments must be received by 26 January 2015. **79 Fed. Reg. 73884** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-12/pdf/2014-29199.pdf>] (12/12/14).

## NOAA – endangered species of sawfish



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a final rule listing as endangered under the Endangered Species Act five species of sawfish. The rule comes into effect on 12 January 2015. **79 Fed. Reg. 73977** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-12/pdf/2014-29201.pdf>] (12/12/14).

## EPA – VGP webinar



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a **notice** [located at [http://www.brymar-consulting.com/wp-content/uploads/incidental%20discharges/VGP\\_webinar\\_141211.pdf](http://www.brymar-consulting.com/wp-content/uploads/incidental%20discharges/VGP_webinar_141211.pdf)] stating that it is hosting a webinar on 7 January to discuss the annual report requirements of the 2013 Vessel General Permit (VGP) and to provide an overview of how to use EPA's electronic tool for preparing and submitting those reports. (12/11/14).

## Congress – passage of Coast Guard authorization bill



The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation and the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure issued a **joint press release** [located at [http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=PressReleases&ContentRecord\\_id=ea02d13e-dead-4906-98ff-2c52fa0ba400](http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=PressReleases&ContentRecord_id=ea02d13e-dead-4906-98ff-2c52fa0ba400)] noting passage of the bipartisan Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014

(S. 2444) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-113s2444es/pdf/BILLS-113s2444es.pdf> ]. The measure will, among other things, help replace and modernize aging Coast Guard assets in a cost effective manner; prepare the Coast Guard for Arctic operations; reform the Federal Maritime Commission; and create opportunities for veterans. (12/11/14).

### House – hearing on Arctic opportunities



The Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs conducted a hearing on **The United States as an Arctic Nation: Opportunities in the High North** [located at <http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-united-states-arctic-nation-opportunities-high-north> ]. Testimony was heard from Admiral Robert Papp, Jr., USCG (ret), US Special Representative for the Arctic; Mr. Scott Borgerson, Cargo Metrics Technologies; and Mr. Andrew Holland, American Security Project. (12/10/14).

### House – ports contract resolution sought



Representative David Reichert (R-WA) issued a **press release** [located at <http://reichert.house.gov/press-release/pacific-northwest-members-congress-call-president-urge-ports-resolution> ] stating that Pacific Northwest Members of Congress sent a letter to President Obama asking he encourage the International Longshoreman Warehouse Union and the Pacific Maritime Association to use a federal mediator in order to bring about a swift resolution to their current contract negotiations. (12/10/14).

### IMO – irregular maritime migration



The IMO issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/42-migrants.aspx#.VInbMdLF98E> ] stating that it has joined with other UN agencies in calling for concerted action from the international community to address the deeply concerning problems of the loss of life, injury, trauma, and serious human rights violations affecting migrants, asylum-seekers, and refugees traveling by sea. Currently, the problem is particularly bad in the Mediterranean Sea. (12/11/14).

### EC – seafarer protection



The European Commission (EC) posted the **statement** of Commissioner Thyssen [located at [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_STATEMENT-14-](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-14-)

[2582\\_en.htm?locale=en](#) ] welcoming the informal agreements of the Council of Employment and Social Policy Ministers aimed at improving the protections of seafarers and of workers in inland waterway transports. (12/11/14).

## Panama Canal – final lock gates transit completed



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued a [press release](#) [located at <http://www.pancanal.com/eng/pr/press-releases/2014/12/10/pr533.html> ] stating that the last set of gates for the Pacific side of the Canal Expansion Project has completed its transit to the new locks. All the gates are now ready for installation during the next couple of months. The project is now 82% complete. (12/10/14).

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