

Headlines:

White House – cybersecurity proposal;
Okeechobee Waterway – reduced operating hours;
DOE – authority to import & export LNG;
EPA – NCP proposed changes;
House – bill introduced to lift Cuba trade embargo;
House – bill introduced re TIGER grant funding;
California – marine invasive species;
Washington – seeking NRDA specialist;
EC – smuggling of migrants;
Great Barrier Reef – disabled vessel under tow;
Denmark – passenger ship survey; and
Southern Ocean – suspected illegal fishing.

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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. Soon after a new safety device is invented, innovative mariners develop a work-around.

White House – cybersecurity proposal



The White House issued a [news release](#) [located at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/01/13/securing-cyberspace-president-obama-announces-new-cybersecurity-legislat>] stating that, in an effort to further enhance cybersecurity, new legislation is being proposed to give the private sector and government the tools needed to combat cyber threats, including better sharing of cybersecurity information. (1/13/15).

Okeechobee Waterway – reduced hours proposed



The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued a notice stating that it is proposing to reduce lock operating hours on the Okeechobee Waterway. Comments on the proposal should be submitted by 13 February. **80 Fed. Reg. 1899** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-01-14/pdf/2015-00399.pdf>] (1/14/15).

DOE – authority to import & export LNG



The Department of Energy (DOE) issued a notice stating that orders have been issued during September 2014 granting authority to import and export liquefied natural gas. **80 Fed. Reg. 1906** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-01-14/pdf/2015-00513.pdf>] (1/14/15).

EPA – NCP proposed changes



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a **news release** [located at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/doc6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/917f4992f1f7e8d285257dcc005aed8c!OpenDocument>] stating that it is proposing to make changes to the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) to improve the ability to plan for and respond to oil spills. Many of the proposed changes regard the testing and use of dispersants. The official proposal should be published soon in the Federal Register. (1/13/15).

House – bill introduced to lift Cuba trade embargo



Representative Rush (D-IL) introduced a bill (H.R. 274) to lift the trade embargo on Cuba, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (1/12/15).

House – bill introduced re TIGER grant funding



Representative Larsen (D-WA) introduced the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery for Cities Underfunded Because of Size Act of 2015 – **TIGER CUBS Act** (H.R. 278) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114hr278ih/pdf/BILLS-114hr278ih.pdf>]

making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for the TIGER discretionary grant program, and for other purposes. (1/12/15).

California – marine invasive species



The California State Lands Commission (SLC) issued a **letter** to interested parties [located at http://www.slc.ca.gov/Division_Pages/MFD/Proposed_Regulatory_Actions/Informal%20Comment%20Period/Letter%20to%20Interest%20Parties.pdf] inviting comment on the proposed regulation regarding **Marine Invasive Species Act Enforcement and Hearing Process** [located at http://www.slc.ca.gov/Division_Pages/MFD/Proposed_Regulatory_Actions/Informal%20Comment%20Period/Draft%20Article%204.9%20-%20Enforcement%20Regulations.pdf]. Comments must be received by 23 February. (1/9/15).

Washington – seeking NRDA specialist



The Washington Department of Ecology issued a **notice** [located at <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/washington/default.cfm?action=viewjob&jobID=1037181>] stating that it seeks qualified applicants for the position of Natural Resource Damage Assessment Specialist (ES5). Applications must be received by 28 January. (1/7/15).

EC – smuggling of migrants



The European Commission (EC) posted a **fact sheet** [located at http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-15-3261_en.htm?locale=en] regarding the smuggling of migrants into Europe and the European response. Most of the smuggling occurs through maritime routes. (1/13/15).

Great Barrier Reef – disabled vessel under tow



The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) issued a **media release** [located at http://www.amsa.gov.au/media/documents/13012015-Media-Release-Thor-Commander-3_000.pdf] stating that the disabled freighter Thor Commander is under tow by the tug Smit Leopard en route Gladstone, Queensland. (1/13/15).

Denmark – passenger ship survey



The Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) issued a [news release](#) [located at <http://www.dma.dk/news/Sider/DanishMaritimeAuthoritylaunchesnewshipsurvey.aspx>] stating that it has launched a new ship survey process for Danish passenger ships which, to a greater extent, involves the crew and the daily safety work. (1/13/15).

Southern Ocean – suspected illegal fishing



The New Zealand Government issued a [news release](#) [located at http://beehive.govt.nz/release/illegal-vessels-fail-comply-attempts-board?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+beehive-govt-nz%2Fportfolio%2Fforeign-affairs+%28Foreign+Affairs+-+beehive.govt.nz%29] the HMNZS WELLINGTON has hailed and attempted to board two of the three vessels suspected of illegally fishing in the Southern Ocean. The vessels' flag state, Equatorial Guinea, has authorized the boardings, but the masters of the vessels have refused to cooperate and have actively resisted boarding attempts. (1/14/15)

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

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