

Headlines:

White House – coordinating national Arctic efforts;
CMTS – maritime activity in US Arctic region;
TSA – TWIC delays;
USCG – seafarers’ access to maritime facilities;
USCG – NMC updated engine illustrations;
FMC – Port Environmental Initiatives Forum;
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Senate – bill introduced re USMMA improvements;
House – bill introduced to lift Cuba trade embargo;
House – bill introduced re Alaska marine sanctuaries;
House – bill introduced to limit maritime liens on fishing permits;
House – bill introduced re LNG exports;
House – bill introduced re LHWCA recreational vessel;
Court – failure to disclose preexisting medical condition;
EP – US restrictions re foreign ship repair; and
St. Lawrence Seaway – Seaway Handbook changes.

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Bryant’s Maritime News



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*Note: This newsletter is one section of the **Bryant’s Maritime Consulting** website. Visit the site for more extensive maritime regulatory information. Individual concerns may be addressed by retaining **Dennis Bryant** 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 – coordinating national Arctic efforts



President Obama issued **Executive Order 13689** – Enhancing Coordination of National Efforts in the Arctic [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-01-26/pdf/2015-01522.pdf>]. The EO establishes the Arctic Executive Steering Committee to provide guidance to executive departments and agencies and enhance coordination of Federal Arctic policies across agencies and offices and, where applicable, with State, local, and

Alaska Native tribal governments and similar Alaska Native organizations, academic and research institutions, and the private and nonprofit sectors. (1/21/15).

CMTS – maritime activity in US Arctic region



The Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) posted the **report** 'A 10-Year Projection of Maritime Activity in the U.S. Arctic Region' [located at <http://www.cmts.gov/Bulletin.aspx?id=87>]. The report provides estimates of vessel traffic based on modeling of current vessel activity patterns, growth potential, and vessel projection scenarios, including diversion from other routes, and oil and gas development. (1/26/15).

TSA – TWIC delays



The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) issued a **notice** [located at <http://www.tsa.gov/stakeholders/transportation-worker-identification-credential-twic%C2%AE>] stating that some TWIC applicants are experiencing delays of more than 75 days to receive their TWIC cards. Applicants should apply for their TWICs at least ten weeks prior to the time they will be needed. (1/26/15).

USCG – seafarers' access to maritime facilities



The US Coast Guard posted a **summary** [located at <http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2015/01/26/1262015-after-action-from-public-meeting-for-seafarers-access-to-maritime-facilities/>] of the 26 January public meeting regarding seafarers' access to maritime facilities. The goal of the proposed regulation is to preserve freedom and human dignity for seafarers while maintaining safety and security. (1/26/15).

USCG – NMC updated engine illustrations



The USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) issued an **announcement** [located at <http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/announcements/pdfs/Updated%20Engine%20Illustrations.pdf>] stating that updated illustrations have been developed for the Motor Plant Exam. (1/23/15).

FMC – Port Environmental Initiatives Forum



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a **notice** [located at <http://www.fmc.gov/2015-port-environmental-forum/>] stating that the third annual Port Environmental Initiatives Forum will be held on 20 February in Washington, DC. The theme of this forum will be ‘Collaborating with Competitors: Challenges, Goals, and Success Stories in Addressing Environmental Concerns’. (1/21/15).

Offshore North Carolina – wind energy EA



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a **press release** [located at <http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/milestone-reached-for-commercial-wind-energy-development-offshore-north-carolina.cfm>] stating that it seeks comment on the draft environmental assessment (EA) for commercial wind energy development offshore North Carolina. Public meetings will be held in the Northern Outer Banks (9 February); Wilmington (11 February); and the Southern Outer Banks (12 February). Written comments must be received by 23 February. (1/22/15).

Gulf of Mexico – unmanned platform damaged



The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) issued a **press release** [located at <http://www.bsee.gov/BSEE-Newsroom/BSEE-News-Briefs/2015/BSEE-RESPONDS-TO-DAMAGED-UNMANNED-PLATFORM-IN-THE-GULF-OF-MEXICO/>] stating that an unmanned platform in the Gulf of Mexico five miles south of Port Fourchon was damaged, possibly by a vessel, resulting in a fire on the platform and gas bubbles rising intermittently to the surface. The fire has been extinguished and an emergency shutdown has been performed. The incident is under investigation. (1/23/15).

Senate – bill introduced re improvements to USMMA



Senator Wicker (R-MS) introduced the **United States Merchant Marine Academy Improvements Act of 2015** (S. 143) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114s143is/pdf/BILLS-114s143is.pdf>] to allow for improvements to the United States Merchant Marine Academy and for other purposes. (1/9/15).

House – bill introduced to lift Cuba trade embargo



Representative Rush (D-IL) introduced the **United States-Cuba Normalization Act of 2015** (H.R. 274) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114hr274ih/pdf/BILLS-114hr274ih.pdf>] to lift the trade embargo on Cuba, and for other purposes. (1/12/15).

House – bill introduced re Alaska marine sanctuaries



Representative Young (R-AK) introduced a bill (**H.R. 332**) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114hr332ih/pdf/BILLS-114hr332ih.pdf>] to amend the National Marine Sanctuaries Act to prescribe an additional requirement for the designation of marine sanctuaries off the coast of Alaska. (1/13/15).

House – bill introduced to limit maritime liens on fishing permits



Representative Young (R-AK) introduced the **Maritime Lien Reform Act** (H.R. 337) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114hr337ih/pdf/BILLS-114hr337ih.pdf>] to provide limitations on maritime liens on fishing permits, and for other purposes. (1/13/15).

House – bill introduced re LNG exports



Representative Poe (R-TX) introduced the **Export American Natural Gas Act of 2015** (H.R. 428) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114hr428ih/pdf/BILLS-114hr428ih.pdf>] to provide for the expedited approval by the Secretary of Energy of liquefied natural gas exports, and for other purposes. (1/21/15).

House – bill introduced re LHWCA recreational vessel



Representative Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) introduced the **Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Clarification Act of 2015** (H.R. 436) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114hr436ih/pdf/BILLS-114hr436ih.pdf>] to amend the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act to provide a definition of recreational vessel for purposes of such Act. (1/21/15).

Court – failure to disclose preexisting medical condition



The US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled that the intentional concealment of medical history precludes recovery of maintenance and cure by an injured seaman. In the instant case, plaintiff crew boat master strained his back while lifting a hatch cover. When hired for this position, plaintiff failed to disclose prior spinal injuries, which were aggravated by the lifting incident. *Meche v. Key Marine Services*, No. 14-30032 (5th Cir., January 22, 2015) [located at <http://www.ca5.uscourts.gov/opinions/pub/14/14-30032-CVo.pdf>]. *Note: This item was brought to my attention by my good friend Keith Heard of Burke & Parsons.*

EP – US restrictions re foreign ship repair



The Committee on Transport and Tourism of the European Parliament posted a **draft opinion** [located at <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fNONSGML%2bCOMPARL%2bPE-544.474%2b01%2bDOC%2bPDF%2bVo%2f%2fEN>] for the Committee on International Trade on the report containing Parliament's recommendations to the European Commission on the negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Among other things, the document calls upon the EC to address in the TTIP the protectionism by the United States with regard to restrictions placed on US-flag vessels having repair and conversion services carried on outside the US. (1/9/15). *Note: This item was brought to my attention by my good friend Louis Le Gendre of International Shipping & Logistics.*

St. Lawrence Seaway – Seaway Handbook changes



The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation of Canada (SLSMC) issued a **notice** [located at <http://www.greatlakes-seaway.com/en/pdf/SeawayHandbook2015Rev.pdf>] of proposed revisions to Seaway Practices & Procedures to be effective 31 March. (1/26/15).

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

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