

## Headlines:

White House – Offshore Alaska leasing withdrawal;  
DOI – offshore oil & gas leasing;  
USCG – medical waivers;  
NTSB – fire on saturation diving support vessel;  
SLSDC – Seaway regulations and rules;  
GAO – high-risk maritime cargo shipments;  
Paris MOU – hours of rest CIC results;  
Australia – incinerator injury; and  
Denmark – joint sulphur campaign.

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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 – Offshore Alaska leasing withdrawal



President Obama issued a **Memorandum** [located at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/01/27/presidential-memorandum-withdrawal-certain-areas-united-states-outer-con>] withdrawing certain areas of the US outer continental shelf (OCS) offshore Alaska from the oil and gas leasing program. (1/27/15).

## DOI – offshore oil & gas leasing



The Department of the Interior (DOI) issued a **press release** [located at <http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/interior-department-announces-draft-strategy-for-offshore-oil-and-gas-leasing.cfm>] announcing the draft strategy for offshore oil and gas leasing. The strategy includes ten sales in the Gulf of Mexico;

three sales in Alaska (but not including the areas withdrawn by President Obama); and one sale in the Atlantic. (1/27/15).

### **USCG – medical waivers**



The US Coast Guard seeks comment on the proposed policy clarification regarding criteria for granting medical waivers to mariners who require use of potentially impairing prescription medications. It is also seeking input regarding effective methods of risk evaluation of such mariners. Comments must be received by 30 March. **80 Fed. Reg. 4582** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-01-28/pdf/2015-01623.pdf>] (1/28/15).

### **NTSB – fire on saturation diving support vessel**



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued the report of its investigation of the fire on board the saturation diving support vessel Ocean Patriot in the Gulf of Mexico on 28 November 2013. There were no injuries and no pollution, but the vessel incurred approximately \$9.8 million. The fire broke out in the forward machinery space and was brought under control by the fixed fire suppression system. The probable cause of the fire was damage to electrical cables due to the tightly installed metal securing bands in a cable tray chafing the protective layers of the cables and creating an ignition point. Contributing to the damage was the combustible material stored immediately below the cable tray area, fueling the fire. **MAB-15/02** [located at <http://www.nts.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Reports/MAB1502.pdf>] (1/27/15).

### **SLSDC – Seaway regulations and rules**



The Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) promulgated a final rule updating the Seaway Regulations and Rules. The amendments enter into force on 31 March. **80 Fed. Reg. 4499** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-01-28/pdf/2015-01554.pdf>] (1/28/15).

### **GAO – high-risk maritime cargo shipments**



The Government Accountability Office (GAO) posted its report on supply chain security. The GAO found that, when determining the disposition of high-risk maritime cargo shipments, the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) targeting units are inconsistently applying criteria to make waiver decisions and

are incorrectly documenting the reasons for some waivers. [GAO-15-294](#) [located at <http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/668098.pdf>] (1/27/15).

### Paris MOU – hours of rest CIC results



The Paris MOU issued a [news release](#) [located at <https://www.parismou.org/press-release-preliminary-results-concentrated-inspection-campaign-hours-rest>] announcing the preliminary results of its Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on hours of rest. During the period 1 September through 30 November 2014, sixteen ships (14% of all detentions) were detained on issues related to hours of rest. The main areas of concern were recordkeeping and watchkeeping personnel without sufficient rest. (1/23/15).

### Australia – incinerator injury



The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) issued the report of its investigation of a crew member injury on board the passenger ship Seven Seas Voyager berthed in Sydney on 1 February 2014. The crew member was conducting routine maintenance on the ship's waste incinerator when a pneumatically-operated valve closed against his body, resulting in serious bruising and shock. Investigation revealed that the incinerator ash dump valve's control systems had not been properly isolated and residual air pressure caused the accidental closing of the valve on the crew member. The ship's safety management system was found to be inadequate regarding incinerator maintenance, as was the manufacturer's instruction manual. [MO-2014-001](#) [located at <http://www.atsb.gov.au/media/5191819/mo2014001-final.pdf>] (1/27/15).

### Denmark – joint sulphur campaign



The Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) issued a [news release](#) [located at <http://www.dma.dk/news/Sider/Nowajointsulphurcampaignislaunchedfromeasttwest.aspx>] advising that an international information campaign on the new stricter sulphur requirements and their enforcement will be launched in February, along with enhanced cooperation between the so-called SECA countries. (1/26/15).

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

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