

Headlines:

USCG – conducting OCS activities with DP systems;
Arctic Research Commission – meeting 4-5 March;
FMC – meeting 11 February;
USN – robotic firefighting;
USN – retreat of Arctic Ocean ice;
House – bill introduced re transportation security card program;
House – bill introduced to lift Cuban trade embargo; and
House – hearing on CG & maritime transportation budget.

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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.

USCG – conducting OCS activities with DP systems



The US Coast Guard has extended, through 27 May, the period within which to submit comments on its proposed regulation concerning requirements for MODUs and other vessels conducting outer continental shelf (OCS activities with dynamic positioning (DP) systems. **80 Fed. Reg. 6679** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-02-06/pdf/2015-02415.pdf>] (2/6/15). *Caveat: In my [article](#) in the January edition of *Maritime Reporter and Engineering News*, I generally endorsed the USCG proposal. A friend reminded me that current DP guidelines contain provisions such as “where adequate protection from damage is demonstrated” that would not easily translate into mandatory regulations. Thus, a broad-brush approach to DP regulations by the Coast Guard must be carefully considered.*

Arctic Research Commission – meeting 4-5 March



The US Arctic Research Commission will meet on 4-5 March in Washington, DC. The focus of the meeting will be on Arctic policy issues and on programs and research projects affecting the Arctic. **80 Fed. Reg. 6687** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-02-06/pdf/2015-02346.pdf>] (2/6/15).

FMC – meeting 11 February



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a notice stating that the Commissioners will meet in Washington, DC on 11 February. During the open session, they will receive briefings on the FMC Continuity of Operations Plan and the FMC information technology upgrade. During the closed session, they will receive a briefing on the LA/LB Port Infrastructure and Environmental Programs Cooperative Working Agreement. **80 Fed. Reg. 6712** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-02-06/pdf/2015-02558.pdf>] (2/6/15).

USN – robotic firefighting



The US Navy issued a **news release** [located at http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=85459] unveiling a shipboard firefighting robot prototype. The robot is equipped with thermal imaging and a light detection and ranging (LIDAR) laser to see through dense smoke while using a hose to extinguish small fires. (2/4/15).

USN – retreat of Arctic Ocean ice



The US Navy issued a **news release** [located at http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=85470] stating that its Marginal Ice Zone (MIZ) experiment in the Arctic Ocean last summer confirmed that the Arctic sea ice extent is decreasing and that summer sea ice levels could potentially fall to zero before the end of this century. (2/5/15).

House – bill introduced re transportation security card program



Representative Jackson Lee (D-TX) introduced a bill (H.R. 710) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a comprehensive security assessment of the transportation security card program, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (2/4/15).

House – bill introduced to lift Cuban trade embargo



Representative Serrano (D-NY) introduced a bill (H.R. 735) to lift the trade embargo on Cuba, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (2/4/15).

House – hearing on CG & maritime transportation budget



The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure issued a **notice** [located at <http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=398626>] stating that on 25 February the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation will conduct a hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Request for Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Programs. (4/4/15).

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

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