

Headlines:

White House – resolution of West Coast ports dispute;
BOEM & BSEE – exploratory drilling on Arctic OCS;
Washington – critical habitat for southern resident killer whale;
MARAD – certification of CVSSA training providers;
USCG – fire protection measures on cruise ships;
DOJ – man charged with making fraudulent DWH oil spill claim;
India – consultation on Multimodal Transportation of Goods Act; and
Philippines – compensation for reef damage.

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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 – resolution of West Coast ports dispute



The White House issued a [statement](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/02/20/statement-press-secretary-west-coast-ports-agreement) [located at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/02/20/statement-press-secretary-west-coast-ports-agreement>] expressing appreciation for the resolution of the West Coast ports labor-management dispute. President Obama calls on the parties to work together to clear out the backlogs and congestion. (2/20/15).

BOEM & BSEE – exploratory drilling on Arctic OCS



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) issued a joint proposal concerning requirements for exploratory drilling on the Arctic outer continental shelf (OCS), focusing on the Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea Planning Areas. Comments should be submitted by 27 April. [80 Fed. Reg. 9915](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-02-24/pdf/2015-03609.pdf) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-02-24/pdf/2015-03609.pdf>] (2/24/15).

Washington – critical habitat for southern resident killer whale



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice announcing a 12-month finding on a petition to revise the critical habitat designation for the southern resident killer whale distinct population segment in Washington State to include certain Pacific Ocean marine waters along the coast and to address protective in-water sound levels. Possible regulatory revisions are under consideration. **80 Fed. Reg. 9682** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-02-24/pdf/2015-03378.pdf>] (2/24/15).

MARAD – certification of CVSSA training providers



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) is implementing a process to certify cruise vessel security and safety training program providers. The **voluntary program** [located at http://www.marad.dot.gov/environment_safety_landing_page/Office_of_Security/OS_CVSSA/cvssa.htm] will review training plans and supporting information for consistency with training standards established under the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act of 2010 (CVSSA). (2/23/15).

USCG – fire protection measures on cruise ships



The US Coast Guard posted **two fire protection notices** [located at https://homeport.uscg.mil/mycg/portal/ep/contentDetailViewPopup.do?BV_SessionID=@ @ @ @0648963196.1424725587 @ @ @ @ &BV_EngineID=cccfdgfgkgjhffcngcfkmdfhdfgo.0&fromSearch=yes&contentType=EDITORIAL&contentId=511473] issued by the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA). The first notice relates to fire protection measures for covered mooring decks and the second notice relates to water mist fire suppression systems in category “A” machinery spaces. (2/17/15). *Note: This is a repetition of an earlier item because the earlier link did not consistently work. Hopefully the problem has now been resolved.*

DOJ – man charged with making fraudulent DWH oil spill claim



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/north-carolina-man-charged-making-23-million-fraudulent-claim-deepwater-horizon-spill>] stating that a man has been arrested and charged with making a fraudulent claim in the amount of \$2.3 million for damages allegedly incurred by a fictitious business as a result of the

Deepwater Horizon oil spill. He has been charged with mail fraud, wire fraud, and money laundering. (2/23/15).

India – consultation on Multimodal Transportation of Goods Act



The Indian Ministry of Shipping issued a **notice** [located at <http://shipping.nic.in/showfile.php?lid=1926>] stating that it seeks comments on proposed amendments to the Multimodal Transportation of Goods Act. Comments must be received by 15 March. (2/16/15).

Philippines – compensation for reef damage



The Philippine Government issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.dfa.gov.ph/index.php/newsroom/dfa-releases/5418-statement-on-us-government-compensation-for-tubbataha-reef>] stating that it received from the US Government the full requested amount of Php 87,033, 570.71 as compensation for the damage caused to Tubbataha Reef by the grounding of the mine countermeasures ship USS Guardian (MCM 5) in January 2013. The compensation will be utilized for the protection and rehabilitation of Tubbataha Reef Natural Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Portions of the fund will also be used to further enhance capability to monitor the area and prevent similar incidents in the future. In addition to the compensation received, the US Government is also providing additional assistance to the Philippine Coast Guard to upgrade the PCG Substation in Tubbataha. (2/18/15).

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

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