

## Headlines:

Upper Mississippi River – safety zones;  
USCG – vessel documentation renewal fees;  
California – whale strikes in Channel Islands NMS;  
DHS – meeting re information sharing;  
NIAC – meeting;  
California – EIS for MOTCO modernization;  
USCG – NOA requirements re OCS activities;  
USCG – switching to ultra-low sulfur fuel oil;  
USCG – handling of LPG and hydrates;  
USCG – GPS issues;  
USCG – mobile vapor control systems; and  
Southeast Alaska – Geographic Specific Appendix required.

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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. Stupidity is a gift of God, but I try to not misuse it.*

## Upper Mississippi River – safety zones



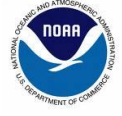
The US Coast Guard has established safety zones on the Upper Mississippi River between mile 38.0 and 46.0 and between mile 78.0 and 81.0 due to potential hazards associated with subsurface rock removal. The rule enters into effect immediately. [80 Fed. Reg. 11885](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-05/pdf/2015-03331.pdf) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-05/pdf/2015-03331.pdf>] (3/5/15).

## USCG – vessel documentation renewal fees



The US Coast Guard seeks public comment on whether to increase the period of validity for renewing endorsements on Certificates of Documentation (CODs) and updating the fee for vessel documentation renewal. Comments must be received by 1 June. **80 Fed. Reg. 11361** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-03/pdf/2015-03651.pdf>] (3/3/15).

## California – whale strikes in Channel Islands NMS



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) seeks comment on the market and non-market economic value of the reduction in the risk of whale strikes in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (NMS)US Coast Guard promulgated a rule establishing a regulated navigation area. Comments must be submitted by 4 May. **80 Fed. Reg. 11977** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-05/pdf/2015-05003.pdf>] (3/5/15).

## DHS – meeting re information sharing



The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a notice stating that its Office of Cybersecurity and Communications will hold a public meeting on 18 March in Washington, DC to discuss Information Sharing and Analysis Organizations, cybersecurity information sharing, and the recent Executive Order regarding cybersecurity information sharing. **80 Fed. Reg. 11683** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-04/pdf/2015-04435.pdf>] (3/4/15).

## NIAC – meeting



The National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC), sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), will meet on 20 March in Washington, DC. Topics on the agenda include intelligence information sharing and the transportation sector's resilience against potentially disruptive events. **80 Fed. Reg. 12028** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-05/pdf/2015-05094.pdf>] (3/5/15).

## California – EIS for MOTCO modernization



The US Army issued a notice advising that a final environmental impact statement (EIS) has been prepared for the modernization and repair of

piers 2 and 3 at the Military Ocean Terminal Concord, California (MOTCO). **80 Fed. Reg. 11983** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-05/pdf/2015-05083.pdf>] (3/5/15).

### USCG – NOA requirements re OCS activities



The US Coast Guard issued a Marine Safety Information Bulletin regarding notice of arrival (NOA) requirements for units conducting activities on the US outer continental shelf (OCS). These requirements include a 14-day advance NOA for MODUs; a notice prior to relocating a MODU on the OCS; a 96-hour advance NOA for floating facility arrival; a 96-hour advance NOA for MODU arrival; and a 96-hour advance NOA for arrival of certain vessels. **MSIB 01-15** (3/3/15) [located at [http://www.uscg.mil/msib/docs/001\\_15\\_3-3-2015.pdf](http://www.uscg.mil/msib/docs/001_15_3-3-2015.pdf)].

### USCG – switching to ultra-low sulfur fuel oil



The US Coast Guard issued a Safety Alert regarding ultra-low sulfur (ULS) fuel and compliance with MARPOL requirements. The alert focuses on practices that should be adopted to ensure safe switching from traditional fuel to ULS fuel, as is required when entering either the North American or the US Caribbean Sea Emission Control Areas (ECAs). **Alert 2-15** (3/3/15) [located at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg545/alerts/0215.pdf>].

### USCG – handling of LPG and hydrates



The US Coast Guard issued a Safety Alert reminding owners and operators of gas carriers of the importance of ensuring that all personnel follow approved safety management system (SMS) cargo handling procedures and industry best practices when handling liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cargo and hydrates. **Alert 3-15** (3/3/15) [located at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg545/alerts/0315.pdf>].

### USCG – GPS issues



The USCG Navigation Center (NAVCEN) issued a **notice** [located at [http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=degradation\\_05302015](http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=degradation_05302015)] stating: Users in certain parts of the world may experience a very short period of high Dilution of Precision (DOP >6) in the vicinity of Western Sahara and Morocco at their border and within a large area offshore the United Kingdom and Ireland in the Atlantic from 052117Z - 052120Z Mar 2015 (three minutes), due to satellite

maintenance (NANU 2015013, below). DOP depends only on the geometry of the four satellites used by the user equipment to determine its position and time and is a multiplier. Simply speaking, Signal-in-Space error (how much accuracy the signal lost during its travel from the satellite to your receiver) plus Receiver Error (inherent in the manufacture of the device) multiplied by the DOP equals Navigation Error (how far off you can expect the position to be within). Graph illustration of the predicted event can be seen at:

[http://navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=degradation\\_05302015](http://navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=degradation_05302015) Predictions are based on a "Best Four" analysis to illustrate the worst case scenario and are provided for situational awareness only. Please report any outages through the NAVCEN "Report a GPS Problem" page. (3/4/15).

### USCG – mobile vapor control systems



The US Coast Guard posted a policy letter providing interim guidance for regulated facilities for the review and approval of mobile or portable vapor control systems (VCSs). **CG-ENG Policy Letter 01-15** (2/23/15) [located at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg521/docs/CG-ENG.PolicyLetter.01-15.pdf>].

### Southeast Alaska – Geographic Specific Appendix required



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2473894/>] reminding owners, operators, and masters that covered tank vessels and non-tank vessels transiting within the boundaries of the Southeast Alaska Captain of the Port (COTP) Zone are required to have an approved Vessel Response Plan (VRP) and an approved Geographic Specific Appendix for the Southeast Alaska COTP Zone. (3/4/15).

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