Headlines:
USCG – commercial fishing vessel engineers;
NOSAC – meeting;
NOAA – hunting of gray whales;
FMC – service of private party complaints;
St. Petersburg COTP Zone – proposed safety zones;
NTSB – investigative hearings;
USCG – Bering Strait PARS;
USCG – parasailing;
USCG NVDC – electronic payments;
NOAA – Arctic nautical charting;
NSIDC – Arctic sea ice maximum;
Senate – bill introduced re Sea Grant College Program;
Texas – The Responder newsletter; and
ReCAAP – 2014 annual report.

March 20, 2015

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

USCG – commercial fishing vessel engineers

The US Coast Guard issued a notice announcing the availability of an updated policy letter entitled "Engineer Officer Endorsements on Uninspected Commercial Fishing Industry Vessels". Commencing 15 October, the Coast Guard will look to the guidance provided in this policy letter when enforcing requirements for proper credentialing of engineer officers on uninspected commercial fishing vessels. 80 Fed. Reg. 15023 [located at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-20/pdf/2015-06480.pdf] (3/20/15).

NOSAC – meeting

The National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee (NOSAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 7-8 April in New Orleans. Topics on the agenda include commercial diving safety on the outer continental shelf (OCS); cyber security; and offshore well intervention. 80 Fed. Reg. 15021 [located at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-20/pdf/2015-06413.pdf] (3/20/15).

NOAA – hunting of eastern North Pacific gray whales

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice stating that it will hold public meetings in Seattle (27 April) and Port Angeles (29 April) to receive comments on the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) regarding the Makah Tribe's request to hunt eastern North Pacific gray whales. 80 Fed. Reg. 14912 [located at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-20/pdf/2015-06432.pdf] (3/20/15).

FMC – service of private party complaints

The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) promulgated a direct final rule governing service of private party complaints and filing of documents containing confidential material. The amended rules will enter into effect on 24 June unless significant adverse comments are filed by 26 May. 80 Fed. Reg. 14318 [located at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-19/pdf/2015-06239.pdf] (3/19/15).

St. Petersburg COTP Zone – proposed safety zones

The US Coast Guard proposes to establish several safety zones within the St. Petersburg Captain of the Port (COTP) Zone related primarily to port operations in the event of reduced visibility or in the event of disasters. Comments on the proposal must be received by 20 April. 80 Fed. Reg. 14335 [located at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-19/pdf/2015-05743.pdf] (3/19/15).

NTSB – investigative hearings

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) proposes to amend its regulations regarding rules of practice for holding investigative hearings, various types of meetings, issuing reports, and responding to petitions for reconsideration. Comments should be received by 18 May. 80 Fed. Reg. 14339

[located at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-19/pdf/2015-06187.pdf] (3/19/15).

USCG – Bering Strait PARS

The US Coast Guard issued a notice withdrawing its 19 February 2015 publication of Port Access Route Study (PARS) In the Chukchi Sea, Bering Strait, and Bering Sea. 80 Fed. Reg. 14147 [located at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-18/pdf/2015-05372.pdf] (3/18/15).

USCG – parasailing

The US Coast Guard issued a Marine Safety Information Bulletin providing guidance regarding flight safety and rules for parasailing. MSIB 03-15 [located at http://www.uscg.mil/msib/docs/003_15_3-17-2015.pdf] (3/16/15).

USCG NVDC – electronic payments

The USCG National Vessel Documentation Center (NVDC) issued a notice [located at http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/nvdc/news/Payinstr.pdf] stating that as of 18 March electronic payments may be made for Certificate of Documentation (COD) renewals/late renewals, Abstract of Title (AT), and certified copies of CODs. (3/18/15).

NOAA – Arctic nautical charting

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a news release [located at http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2015/20150317-noaa-plans-increased-2015-arctic-nautical-charting-operations.html] stating that it plans to increase its Arctic nautical charting operations. (3/17/15).

NSIDC – Arctic sea ice maximum

The National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) issued a news release [located at http://nsidc.org/news/newsroom/arctic-sea-ice-maximum-reaches-lowest-extent-record] stating that the Arctic sea ice reached its maximum extent for the 2014-15 winter on 25 February at 5.61 million square miles. This winter's maximum ice extent is the lowest in the satellite record. (3/19/15).

Senate – bill introduced re Sea Grant College Program

Senator Wicker (R-MS) introduced a bill (S. 764) to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (3/17/15).

Texas – The Responder newsletter

The Texas General Land Office (TGLO) released the spring 2015 edition of The Responder newsletter [located at http://www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for-the-coast/_publications/responder-march-2015.pdf]. (3/18/15).

ReCAAP – 2014 annual report

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre posted its 2014 Annual Report [located at http://www.recaap.org/Portals/0/docs/Reports/2014/ReCAAP%20ISC%20Annual%20Report%202014.pdf]. It notes an increase in the number of reported instances of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia as compared to the previous four years. (3/17/15).

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

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