

Headlines:

USCG – STCW gap-closing requirements;
USCG – vessels arriving from Yemen;
Bellingham – safety zone;
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BOEM & Virginia – offshore wind energy research lease;
Senate – bill introduced re small port dredging;
CRS – US Tsunami Program;
California – Marine Invasive Species Program report;
Malacca Strait – caution recommended; and
Singapore – Smart Port initiatives.

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Bryant's Maritime News

Bryant's Maritime Consulting - 4845 SW 91st Way - Gainesville, FL 32608-8135 - USA

Tel: 1-352-692-5493 – Email: dennis.l.bryant@gmail.com – Internet: <http://brymar-consulting.com>

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.

USCG – STCW gap-closing requirements



The USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) issued a **notice** [located at

http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/announcements/pdfs/stcw_gapclosing_bulletin.pdf] concerning STCW gap-closing requirements. The regulatory changes that became effective on 24 March 2014 require additional training and/or assessments for certain Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW) endorsements. These “gap-closing” requirements must be met by mariners who hold STCW endorsements issued under the previous regulatory requirements. Mariners who submit applications without evidence of meeting gap-closing may have their STCW endorsements limited to “Not valid after 31 Dec 2016”. STCW gap-closing requirements do not affect limitation or retention of national endorsements. (3/24/15).

USCG – vessels arriving from Yemen



The US Coast Guard issued a notice announcing that, effective 8 April, it is imposing conditions of entry on vessels arriving in the United States after having called at any port in Yemen other than the Ash Shihr Terminal, the Port of Hodeidah, and the Balhaf LNG Terminal, during their last five port calls. In summary, each affected vessel must: (1) implement the Security Level 2 measures from its ship security plan while in an affected Yemen port; (2) ensure that each access point is guarded and that guards have total visibility of the exterior of the vessel while in an affected Yemen port; (3) attempt to execute a Declaration of Security while in an affected Yemen port; (4) log all security actions; and (5) report actions taken to the pertinent USCG Captain of the Port [COTP] prior to arrival in the US. **80 Fed. Reg. 15800** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-25/pdf/2015-06866.pdf>] (3/25/15).

Bellingham – safety zone



The US Coast Guard promulgated a rule establishing a temporary safety zone on waters of the Port of Bellingham, Washington around the barge Arctic Challenger due to operational testing of its Arctic Containment System. The safety zone will be in effect through 1 April. **80 Fed. Reg. 15683** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-25/pdf/2015-06580.pdf>] (3/25/15).

NOAA – Pacific Remote Islands MNM



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) promulgated a final rule establishing requirements for fishing in the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument Expansion. The rule enters into effect on 24 April. **80 Fed. Reg. 15693** [located at] (3/25/15).

IOOS Advisory Committee – meeting



The US Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Advisory Committee, sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), will meet on 29-30 April in Washington, DC. Topics on the agenda include the IOOS Act Reauthorization; raising IOOS to a national-level program; and increasing engagement with industry. **80 Fed. Reg. 15750** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-25/pdf/2015-06799.pdf>] (3/25/15).

BOEM & Virginia – offshore wind energy research lease



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a [press release](http://www.boem.gov/press03242015a/) [located at <http://www.boem.gov/press03242015a/>] stating that the first wind energy research lease in federal offshore waters has been issued to the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (DMME). DMME proposes to design, develop, and demonstrate a grid-connected, 12-megawatt offshore wind test facility on the outer continental shelf offshore Virginia. (3/24/15).

Senate – bill introduced re small port dredging



Senator Paul (R-KY) introduced a bill (S. 837) to modify the criteria used by the Corps of Engineers to dredge small ports. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Senator Paul issued a [press release](http://www.paul.senate.gov/?p=press_release&id=1319) [located at http://www.paul.senate.gov/?p=press_release&id=1319] explaining the measure. (3/23/15).

CRS – US Tsunami Program



The Congressional Research Service (CRS) issued a report on the U.S. Tsunami Program. The tsunami warning centers in Hawaii and Alaska monitor, detect, and issue warnings for tsunamis in the Pacific region, but almost one-third of the tsunami detection buoys are not operational. [R41686](http://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41686.pdf) (3/18/15) [located at <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41686.pdf>].

California – Marine Invasive Species Program report



The California State Lands Commission (SLC) posted its [2015 Biennial Report](http://www.slc.ca.gov/Spec_Pub/MFD/Ballast_Water/Documents/Reports/2015MISPBiennialReport.pdf) on the California Marine Invasive Species Program [located at http://www.slc.ca.gov/Spec_Pub/MFD/Ballast_Water/Documents/Reports/2015MISPBiennialReport.pdf]. The 133-page report discusses both the state's ballast water management program and the state's hull husbandry program. The report notes that no currently available ballast water management system meets California performance standards. (February 2015).

Malacca Strait – caution recommended



The Indian Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) issued a notice advising Indian ships transiting Malacca Strait and Southeast Asian waters to be extra cautious and to take necessary precautionary measures. [ISPS Circular 01-](#)

2015 [located at http://dgshipping.gov.in/WriteReadData/News/201503241216185795628ntcir1_2015_isps.pdf] (3/23/15).

Singapore – Smart Port initiatives



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a [news release](http://www.mpa.gov.sg/sites/global_navigation/news_center/mpa_news/mpa_news_detail.page?filename=nr150323.xml) [located at http://www.mpa.gov.sg/sites/global_navigation/news_center/mpa_news/mpa_news_detail.page?filename=nr150323.xml] unveiling its Smart Port initiatives, which will include 4G broadband access in Singapore port waters. (3/23/15).

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

Dennis L. Bryant

Bryant's Maritime Consulting
4845 SW 91st Way
Gainesville, FL 32608-8135
USA

1-352-692-5493
dennis.l.bryant@gmail.com
<http://brymar-consulting.com>

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