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MARAD – Title XI cargo preference;
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House – bill introduced re offshore drilling;
Australia – Great Barrier Reef & Torres Strait;
UK – ECDIS training; and
Earth Day – 22 April 2015.

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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. I welcome any criticism that you have so long as it does not affect me.

UNSC – arms embargo re Houthis in Yemen



The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted **Resolution 2216 (2015)** [located at [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2216\(2015\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2216(2015))] imposing an arms embargo with regard to the Houthi insurgency in Yemen. Member States are to take the necessary measures to prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale, or transfer of arms and related material to members of this group. Member States are called upon to inspect all cargo in their territory, including seaports, if there is information that provides reasonable grounds to believe that the cargo contains prohibited items. Items thus found shall be seized and disposed of. (4/14/15).

USCG – evaluating sea service aboard liftboats



The US Coast Guard issued a policy letter providing guidance for evaluating and crediting sea service aboard liftboats used to qualify for national officer endorsements on Merchant Mariner Credentials (MMCs). **CG-CVC Policy Letter 14-03** (4/6/15).

St. Lawrence Seaway – closed due to grounding



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2495094/>] that the bulk carrier Juno, which grounded yesterday in the St. Lawrence Seaway near the Thousand Islands Bridge, remains aground. The Seaway is closed to navigation at that point. Salvage efforts continue. There have been no reports of injury or pollution. The incident is under investigation. (4/21/15).

NTSB – bulk carrier-icebreaker collision



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued the report of its investigation of the 5 January 2014 collision involving the bulk carrier Mesabi Miner and the USCG cutter Hollyhock in the Straits of Mackinac. Hollyhock was breaking ice in the Strait to establish a path for six merchant vessels heading for Lake Michigan when it ran into thicker ice and had difficulty continuing ahead. The bulk carrier, which was the first of the merchant vessels, was unable to slow quickly enough and struck the Hollyhock stern, damaging both vessels. The probable cause of the casualty was the lack of effective communication between the two bridge teams during icebreaking operations, which resulted in an insufficient amount of time to take action to avoid the collision. **MAB 15-07** [located at <http://www.nts.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Reports/MAB1507.pdf>] (4/21/15).

MARAD – Title XI “other relevant criteria”



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued its policy regarding “other relevant criteria” for consideration when evaluating the economic soundness of Title XI maritime loan guarantee program applications. The revised policy enters into effect immediately. **80 Fed. Reg. 22421** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-04-22/pdf/2015-09385.pdf>] (4/22/15).

MARAD – Title XI cargo preference



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) seeks comments on a proposed policy clarification for the application of the Cargo Preference Act of 1954 to applications, commitments, and guarantees under MARAD's Federal Ship Financing Program (Title XI). Comments should be submitted by 22 May. **80 Fed. Reg. 22611** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-04-22/pdf/2015-09371.pdf>] (4/22/15).

CBP – quarterly interest rates



The Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issued a notice stating that the interest rates for the calendar quarter beginning 1 April will be 2% for overpayments by corporations and 3% for overpayments by non-corporations; and 3% for underpayments by both corporations and non-corporations. **80 Fed. Reg. 22543** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-04-22/pdf/2015-09345.pdf>] (4/22/15).

EPA – Clean Diesel Grants to US ports



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a **news release** stating that it is awarding \$5 million in Clean Diesel Grants at various US ports. Grant recipients include the Los Angeles Harbor Department, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and the Port of Houston Authority. (4/21/15).

DOI, EPA & NOAA – Resilient Lands & Waters Initiative



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a **news release** [located at http://www.noaa.gov/stories2015/Resilient%20Landscapes%20Press%20Release_042115_FINAL.pdf] stating that it has joined with the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in announcing the Resilient Lands and Waters Initiative to prepare natural resources for climate change. Four collaborative landscape partnerships have been recognized in Florida, Hawaii, Washington, and Michigan where the agencies will focus efforts with partners to conserve and restore important lands and waters. (4/21/15).

House – bill introduced re offshore drilling



Representative Castor (D-FL) introduced a bill (H.R. 1895) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit oil and gas preleasing, leasing, and related activities in certain areas of the Outer Continental Shelf off the coast of Florida, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (4/20/15).

Australia – Great Barrier Reef & Torres Strait



The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) posted a **Quick Guide** [located at <http://www.amsa.gov.au/navigation/quick-guide-gbr-torres/>] regarding navigation through the Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait, highlighting key obligations of ship masters while transiting these waters. (4/21/15).

UK – ECDIS training



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) posted clarification of the training that is required for masters and deck officers of UK-registered vessels for which ECDIS is the primary means of navigation. **MIN 503 (M)** [located at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/422342/MIN_503.pdf] (4/21/15).

Earth Day – 22 April 2015



Today marks the forty-fifth anniversary of the recognition of **Earth Day**, intended to increase our awareness of the complexity and interdependence of life. A lot has changed in those 44 years. There have been a number of ecological success stories, such as the increase in the number of bald eagles. Other species, such as the North Atlantic right whale, remain at risk. Do your part today. And, if you are aware of another Earth nearby, please share.

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

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