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USCG – petition for load line exemption;
FMC – NCBFAA petition;
USCG – bulker detained for safety violations;
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USCG – new NOAD schema;
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House – bill introduced re offshore California;
House – bill introduced re offshore eastern seaboard;
Senate – bill introduced re offshore eastern seaboard;
House – USCG authorization bill introduced;
IMO – free BWM online course; and
IMO – microplastics in the ocean.

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

Puget Sound – safety zones & RNA



The US Coast Guard promulgated a rule establishing safety zones around each vessel associated with Royal Dutch Shell's planned Arctic oil drilling and exploration operations and any vessel actively engaged in towing or escorting those vessels while located in waters of the Sector Puget Sound Captain of the Port Zone. In addition, a regulated navigation area (RNA) has been designated as a Voluntary First Amendment Area for individuals to exercise their free speech rights with regard to Shell's operations. The rule remains in effect until 30 June

2015. [80 Fed. Reg. 23445](#) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-04-28/pdf/2015-09858.pdf>] (4/28/15).

USCG – petition for load line exemption



The US Coast Guard issued a notice stating that it has denied a petition for a rulemaking to establish a load line-exempted route on Lake Michigan, along the eastern shore to Muskegon, Michigan. [80 Fed. Reg. 23493](#) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-04-28/pdf/2015-09790.pdf>] (4/28/15).

FMC – NCBFAA petition



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) seeks comments on a petition from the National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America (NCBFAA) seeking a rulemaking to revise the Negotiated Rate Arrangements (NRAs) regulations to allow inclusion of economic terms beyond rates in NRAs and to permit NRAs to be modified at any time upon mutual agreement between a non-vessel-operating common carrier (NVOCC) and shipper; and to revise 46 CFR Part 531 to either eliminate the filing and essential terms publication requirements of Negotiated Service Arrangements (NSAs) or eliminate 46 CFR Part 531 in its entirety. Comments on the petition must be received by 8 June. [80 Fed. Reg. 23549](#) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-04-28/pdf/2015-09833.pdf>] (4/28/15).

USCG – bulker detained for safety violations



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2497666/>] stating that the bulk carrier Kind Seas has been detained in Kalama, Washington after significant safety violations were found during an inspection. (4/25/15).

USCG – cruise ship newsletter



The USCG Cruise Ship National Center of Expertise (CSNCOE) published the spring 2015 edition of its [Semi-Annual Newsletter](#) [located at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/csncoe/docs/newsletters/Issue%2013%20Spring%202015%20Edition.pdf>]. This edition addresses, among other things, enforcement reminders and trends, technical notes, and top cruise ship deficiencies. (4/24/15).

USCG – new NOAD schema



The USCG National Vessel Movement Center (NVMC) issued a **notice** [located at [https://www.nvmc.uscg.gov/NVMC/\(S\(elozjuw1d1y4gy4quqgy15yi\)\)/News.aspx?newsId=49FDF35-808D-40D1-8005-56FDBA9FC296](https://www.nvmc.uscg.gov/NVMC/(S(elozjuw1d1y4gy4quqgy15yi))/News.aspx?newsId=49FDF35-808D-40D1-8005-56FDBA9FC296)] stating that, on 26 May, an updated Notice of Arrival and Departure (NOAD) schema, versioned 3.5, will be released which will reflect recently released changes to 33 CFR 160 and improvements to vessel/crew longshoreman data reporting. Thereafter, NOAD Schema 3.3 and older versions will no longer be supported. (4/24/15).

FMC – vessel noise reduction presentation



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.fmc.gov/brown-bag-5-6-2015/>] stating that its May 6 Speaker Series Presentation will address issues related to the reduction of vessel noise as it relates to shipping. (4/23/15).

EPA – Clean-Diesel grant for Port of Houston



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a **news release** stating that Clean-Diesel grants totaling about \$900,000 are being awarded to the Port of Houston to improve air quality. The grants will be used to help replace 25 older drayage trucks with trucks powered by cleaner engines. (4/27/15).

NPS & MARAD – Maritime Heritage Grants



The National Park Service (NPS), in cooperation with the Maritime Administration (MARAD), operates the **Maritime Heritage Program** [located at <http://www.nps.gov/maritime/index.htm>] to advance awareness and understanding of the role of maritime affairs in the history of the United States. For 2015, Maritime Heritage Grants totaling \$1.7 million will be available. Applications must be submitted between 15 May and 3 August. (4/27/15)

House – bill introduced re offshore California



Representative Capps (D-CA) introduced a bill (H.R. 1952) to permanently prohibit oil and gas leasing off the coast of the State of California, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (4/22/15).

House – bill introduced re offshore eastern seaboard



Representative Pallone (D-NJ) introduced a bill (H.R. 1977) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and North Atlantic planning areas. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (4/22/15).

Senate – bill introduced re offshore eastern seaboard



Senator Menendez (D-NJ) introduced a bill (S. 1042) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and North Atlantic planning areas. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (4/22/15).

House –USCG authorization bill introduced



Representative Hunter (R-CA) introduced a bill (H.R. 1987) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure issued a [press release](#) [located at <http://transportation.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398841>] discussing the measure. (4/23/15).

IMO – free BWM online course



The IMO issued a [news release](#) [located at <http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/14-BWMelearning.aspx#.VT6IQ9JVhBc>] announcing availability of a free e-learning course on the Operational Aspects of Ballast Water Management (BWM). The course was developed by the GEF-UNDP-IMO GeoBallast Partnerships Programme and the Global Industry Alliance (GIA). (4/27/15).

IMO – microplastics in the ocean



The IMO issued a [news release](#) [located at <http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/15-microplasticsreport.aspx#.VT6KFdJVhBc>] announcing the availability of a report by the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental

Protection (GESAMP) entitled “Sources, fates & effects of microplastics in the ocean”. (4/27/15).

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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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