

## Headlines:

OFAC – Cuban sanctions;  
Philadelphia – security zone;  
USCRTF – meeting on 29 October;  
Senate – bill introduced re marine ecosystems;  
Senate – bill introduced re maritime technical training;  
CRS – polar icebreaker modernization; and  
IMO – bauxite liquefaction dangers.

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# Bryant's Maritime News

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## OFAC – Cuban sanctions



The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) promulgated a final rule to further implement elements of the policy to engage and empower the Cuban people. Among other things, these amendments further facilitate travel to Cuba for authorized purposes (including authorizing by general license the provision of carrier services by vessel). The amendments enter into effect immediately. [80 Fed. Reg. 56915](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-09-21/pdf/2015-23587.pdf) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-09-21/pdf/2015-23587.pdf>]. The Departments of Treasury and Commerce issued a [joint press release](http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl0169.aspx) [located at <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl0169.aspx>] explaining the changes. OFAC posted an updated set of [Frequently Asked Questions](http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/cuba_faqs_new.pdf) (FAQ) [located at [http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/cuba\\_faqs\\_new.pdf](http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/cuba_faqs_new.pdf)] regarding the amended regulations. (9/21/15).

## Philadelphia – security zone



The US Coast Guard promulgated a rule establishing a temporary security zone on waters of the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers in Philadelphia during the 2015 Papal visit on 26-27 September. [80 Fed. Reg. 56926](#) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-09-21/pdf/2015-23631.pdf>] (9/21/15).

## USCRTF – meeting on 29 October



The US Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF), sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), will meet in Fajardo, Puerto Rico on 29 October. [80 Fed. Reg. 56965](#) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-09-21/pdf/2015-23643.pdf>] (9/21/15).

## Senate – bill introduced re marine ecosystems



Senator Whitehouse (D-RI) introduced the [National Oceans and Coastal Security Act](#) (S. 2025) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114s2025is/pdf/BILLS-114s2025is.pdf>] to promote the protection and conservation of United States ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems, and for other purposes. Senator Whitehouse issued a [news release](#) [located at <http://www.whitehouse.senate.gov/news/release/whitehouse-introduces-legislation-to-protect-oceans-and-coastal-communities>] explaining the measure. (9/10/15).

## Senate – bill introduced re maritime technical training



Senator Vitter (R-LA) introduced a bill (S. 2053) to require the Secretary of Energy to award grants to expand programs in maritime and energy workforce technical training, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Senator Vitter issued a [press release](#) [located at <http://www.vitter.senate.gov/newsroom/press/vitter-baldwin-kaine-introduce-bipartisan-bill-to-boost-maritime-and-energy-jobs>] explaining the measure. (9/17/15).

## CRS – polar icebreaker modernization



The Congressional Research Service (CRS) issued an updated report on “Coast Guard Polar Icebreaker Modernization: Background and Issues for Congress”. Among other things, the report points out that, unless the service

life of the icebreaker Polar Star is further extended (or the Polar Sea is repaired), there will be a period of perhaps two to six years during which the United States will have no operational heavy polar icebreakers. The issue for Congress is whether to approve, reject, or modify the Administration's plans for sustaining and modernizing the polar icebreaker fleet. [RL34391](#) [located at <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/weapons/RL34391.pdf>] (9/2/15).

## IMO – bauxite liquefaction dangers



The IMO issued a [news release](#) [located at <http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/38-bauxite-CCC.aspx>] warning of the possible dangers of liquefaction associated with carriage of bauxite, citing the recent sinking of the motor vessel Bulk Jupiter. (9/18/15).

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

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