

Headlines:

White House – offshore wind energy;
Offshore Virginia – wind energy EA;
DOI – RESTORE Act Spill Impact Component Allocation;
USCG – CG-INV and S&R NCOE update;
USCG – GPS awareness and reporting;
DOT – ‘Beyond Traffic’ framework;
House – bill introduced re maritime security;
House – bill introduced re USMMA funding;
GAO – cargo preference and food aid; and
Singapore – seafarer recruitment & placement services.

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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. Unattended children will be given a cup of espresso and a free kitten.

White House – offshore wind energy



The White House posted a **Fact Sheet** [located at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/09/28/fact-sheet-white-house-summit-offshore-wind>] in conjunction with the Summit on Offshore Wind, a gathering of federal, state, and industry stakeholders committed to the long-term and sustainable development of offshore wind energy in the United States. (9/28/15).

Offshore Virginia – wind energy EA



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) posted a notice stating that it has revised the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding

of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Virginia Offshore Wind Technology Advancement Project (VOWTAP). **80 Fed. Reg. 58502** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-09-29/pdf/2015-24408.pdf>] (9/29/15).

DOI – RESTORE Act Spill Impact Component Allocation



The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, sponsored by the Department of the Interior (DOI), seeks comments on proposed regulations that will establish the formula allocating funds made available from the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund among the Gulf Coast states impacted by the DWH oil spill. Comments are due 29 October. **80 Fed. Reg. 58417** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-09-29/pdf/2015-24816.pdf>] (9/29/15).

USCG – CG-INV and S&R NCOE update



The US Coast Guard posted a **notice** providing an update from the Office of Investigations and Casualty Analysis (CG-INV) and the Suspension & Revocation National Center of Expertise (S&R NCOE). Among other things, the update addresses the drug and alcohol programs, legalized marijuana, and hair analysis. (9/28/15).

USCG – GPS awareness and reporting



The US Coast Guard posted a **notice** reminding stakeholders that meeting of the Civil GPS Service Interface Committee (CGSIC) are free and open to the public, allowing persons to learn about the broad array of GPS-based applications available. Stakeholders are also encouraged to report disruptions or degradations of GPS signals. (9/28/15).

DOT – ‘Beyond Traffic’ framework



The Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/maritime-administrator-jaenichen-vice-mayor-lowenthal-host-town-hall-style-forum>] stating that Maritime Administrator Paul “Chip” Jaenichen and Long Beach Vice Mayor Suja Lowenthal hosted a regional forum on the Beyond Traffic draft framework. The

framework examines the trends and choices facing America's transportation infrastructure over the next three decades. (9/28/15).

House – bill introduced re maritime security



Representative Miller (R-MI) introduced the **Border and Maritime Coordination Improvement Act** (H.R. 3586) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114hr3586ih/pdf/BILLS-114hr3586ih.pdf>] to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve border and maritime security coordination in the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes. (9/22/15).

House – bill introduced re USMMA funding



Representative Israel (D-NY) introduced the **Midshipmen Education Certainty Act** (H.R. 3589) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114hr3589ih/pdf/BILLS-114hr3589ih.pdf>] to amend title 46, United States Code, to ensure continuing funding for the United States Merchant Marine Academy. Representative Israel issued a **press release** [located at <http://israel.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-israel-announces-legislation-to-keep-merchant-marine-academy-open>] explaining the measure. (9/22/15).

GAO – cargo preference and food aid



The Government Accountability Office (GAO) posted its report on international food assistance. It found that, during the period April 2011 through fiscal year 2014, cargo preference for food aid increased the overall cost of shipping food aid by an average of 23% (\$107 million) over what the cost would have been had cargo preference provisions not been applied. The report also noted a difference in application of the cargo preference provisions by the Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Department of Agriculture (USDA). The report recommends that Congress clarify cargo preference legislation regarding the definition of “geographic area” and that the Department of Transportation study the potential availability of all qualified US merchant mariners needed to meet a full and prolonged activation of the reserve sealift fleet. **GAO-15-666** [located at <http://www.gao.gov/assets/680/672181.pdf>] (9/25/15). *Note: This item is reprinted from yesterday to correct a typographical error. Oops!*

Singapore – seafarer recruitment & placement services



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular updating the requirements for seafarer recruitment and placement services that operate in Singapore. **Shipping Circular 22-2015** [located at http://www.mpa.gov.sg/sites/circulars_and_notices/pdfs/shipping_circulars/sc_no_22_of_2015.pdf] (9/28/15).

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

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