

Headlines:

NTSB – wreck found, possibly El Faro;
USCG – credential application status emails;
DHS – Arctic Coast Guard Forum;
Indiana - \$10 million TIGER grant;
San Diego - \$10 million TIGER grant;
Baltimore - \$10 million TIGER grant;
Offshore Virginia – wind energy research lease;
House – hearing re dirty bomb threat;
House – bill introduced to amend HSA;
California – 0.1% sulfur limit;
ReCAAP – 25% piracy/armed robbery increase;
Australia – new icebreaker unveiled; and
Australia – lifting wire ropes.

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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. Time passes because it consistently gets good marks.

NTSB – wreck found, possibly El Faro



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued a [press release](http://www.nts.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/pr20151031.aspx) [located at <http://www.nts.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/pr20151031.aspx>] stating that the search team on board USNS Apache has found wreckage on the ocean bottom offshore the Bahamas at a depth of 15,000 feet which may be that of the lost cargo ship El Faro. A more sophisticated remotely operated vehicle (ROV) will be used to survey the wreck and confirm whether it is that of El Faro, lost during Hurricane Joaquin on 1 October. This secondary survey could take 15 days or longer. (10/31/15).

USCG – credential application status emails



The USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) issued a **notice** [located at http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/announcements/pdfs/merchant_mariner_credential_application_status_emails_103015.pdf] stating that, commencing 1 November, automated merchant mariner credential status emails will more clearly indicate separation between those referring to credentials or endorsements and those referring to medical certificates. Additionally, a new email will provide awareness when an application has begun initial processing. This email will include the applicant's Mariner Reference Number and Application ID, which will be needed in order to check application status online. (10/30/15).

DHS – Arctic Coast Guard Forum



The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.dhs.gov/news/2015/10/30/coast-guard-leaders-arctic-nations-sign-historic-joint-statement>] announcing establishment of the Arctic Coast Guard Forum with the signing of a joint statement by leaders representing all eight coast guard agencies of the Arctic nations – Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United States. The Forum is an operationally-focused, consensus-based organization with the purpose of leveraging collective resources to foster safe, secure, and environmentally responsible maritime activity in the Arctic. (10/30/15).

Indiana – \$10 million TIGER grant



The Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a **press release** [located at <http://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-department-transportation-announces-10-million-tiger-grant-truck-rail-and-rail>] stating that the Port of Indiana-Jeffersonville will be awarded a \$10 million TIGER grant for its Truck-to-Rail and Rail-to-Water Improvement Project. (10/30/15).

San Diego – \$10 million TIGER grant



The Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-department-transportation-announces-10-million-tiger-grant-tenth-avenue-marine>] stating that the Port of San Diego will be awarded a \$10 million TIGER grant for the Tenth Avenue Marine Terminal Modernization Project. (10/30/15).

Baltimore – \$10 million TIGER grant



The Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-foxx-announces-10-million-tiger-grant-port-baltimore>] stating that the Port of Baltimore will be award a \$10 million TIGER grant to support infrastructure improvements for the Southeast Baltimore Port Industry Freight Corridor Plan. (10/29/15).

Offshore Virginia – wind energy research lease



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a notice stating that it issued a wind energy research lease to the Commonwealth of Virginia for an area situated on the outer continental shelf (OCS) offshore Virginia. **80 Fed. Reg. 67416** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-11-02/pdf/2015-27875.pdf>] (11/2/15).

House – hearing re dirty bomb threat



The Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure conducted a **hearing** [located at <http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=399348>] entitled “Prevention of and Response to the Arrival of a Dirty Bomb at a U.S. Port”. Various government and private sector witnesses testified on how the federal government utilizes a whole-of-government, layered approach including law enforcement, technology, and intelligence to detect, deter, and interdict potential threats. (10/27/15).

House – bill introduced to amend Homeland Security Act



Representative Perry (R-PA) introduced the **HSA Technical Corrections Act** (H.R. 3859) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114hr3859ih/pdf/BILLS-114hr3859ih.pdf>] to make technical corrections to the Homeland Security Act of 2002. (10/29/15).

California – 0.1% sulfur limit



The California Air Resources Board (CARB) issued a notice advising that the ultra-low sulfur fuel oil (ULSFO) used on some vessels, as purchased, is only slightly below the 0.1% sulfur limit. In-use samples have been found to

exceed the regulatory limit. This may be due to shipboard contamination with high sulfur fuels in tanks or pipes, or other factors. Operators and masters should consider various options to minimize the risk of inadvertently exceeding the regulatory limit. **Marine Notice 2015-1** [located at http://www.arb.ca.gov/ports/marinevess/documents/marinenote2015_1.pdf] (10/28/15).

ReCAAP – 25% piracy/armed robbery increase



The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre posted its **report** for the period 1 January – 30 September 2015 [located at [http://www.recaap.org/Portals/0/docs/Reports/2015/ReCAAP%20ISC%203rd%20Qtrly%20Report%202015%20\(Open\).pdf](http://www.recaap.org/Portals/0/docs/Reports/2015/ReCAAP%20ISC%203rd%20Qtrly%20Report%202015%20(Open).pdf)]. A total of 161 incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported during the period (11 piracy and 150 armed robbery incidents). This is an increase of 25% over the same period in 2014. (10/30/15).

Australia – new icebreaker unveiled



The Australian Antarctic Division issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.antarctica.gov.au/news/2015/australias-state-of-the-art-icebreaker-unveiled>] unveiling the design for its state-of-the-art icebreaker to replace the aging Aurora Australis. Commissioning is expected in October 2019. (10/29/15).

Australia – lifting wire ropes



The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) issued a notice reminding operators and masters of their responsibility to ensure the safe operation of lifting appliances and associated equipment, including lifting wire ropes. **Marine Notice 18-2015** [located at <https://apps.amsa.gov.au/MOREview/MarineNoticeExternal.html>] (10/30/15).

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

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