

Headlines:

St. Louis – Upper Mississippi River closed;
DOS – meeting on 25 January;
NOAA – deep seabed exploration licenses;
NOAA – global shipping changes; and
CMTS – MTS R&D Conference.

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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. Plan to be spontaneous.

St. Louis – Upper Mississippi River closed



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2771202/) [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2771202/>] stating that the Upper Mississippi River at St. Louis has been closed to navigation due to hazardous conditions (extremely high water levels and fast currents). (12/29/15).

DOS – meeting on 25 January



The Department of State (DOS) will conduct an open meeting in Washington, DC on 25 January 2016 to prepare for the upcoming session of the IMO Facilitation Committee (FAC 40). Topics on the agenda include access to certificates and documents and protecting the maritime transport network from cyberthreats. [80 Fed. Reg. 81412](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-12-29/pdf/2015-32748.pdf) [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-12-29/pdf/2015-32748.pdf>] (12/29/15).

NOAA – deep seabed exploration licenses



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice stating that, due to a clerical error, comments submitted by the Center for Biological Diversity on a requested extension of Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources Act exploration licenses were not considered until after the licenses were extended. After reviewing and considering those comments, NOAA has found that they provide no basis for reconsidering the requested license extensions or revising the now-extended licenses. **80 Fed. Reg. 81529** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-12-30/pdf/2015-32889.pdf>] (12/30/15).

NOAA – global shipping changes



The NOAA Office of Response and Restoration posted an **article** [located at <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/about/media/how-will-climate-change-new-technologies-shifting-trade-patterns-affect-global-shipping.html>] discussing how climate change, new technologies, and shifting trade patterns affect global shipping. (12/21/15).

CMTS – MTS R&D Conference



The Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) posted a **notice** [located at <http://www.cmts.gov/Bulletin.aspx?id=109>] stating that abstracts are now being accepted for presentations at “From Sail to Satellite: Delivering Solutions for Tomorrow’s MTS”. The conference is sponsored by the National Academies and the Transportation Research Board (TRB) and will be held in Washington, DC on 21-23 June 2016. (12/29/15).

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

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