

Headlines:

Lower Mississippi – closed due to collision;
NOAA – North Atlantic right whales;
OFAC – Cuban Assets Control Regulations;
BIS – Cuba Licensing Policy Revisions;
FMC – exemption petition;
FMC – OTI rules corrections;
OMB – voluntary consensus standards;
Treasury – international boycott countries; and
House – bill introduced re Sea Grant College Program.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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*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. One must never blatantly assume the existence of right triangles.*

Lower Mississippi – closed due to collision



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2779990/>] stating that the Lower Mississippi River between mile markers 126 and 131 has been closed to navigation following a collision between two towing vessels and their barges. One barge carrying caustic soda has capsized. There are no reports of injuries. The incident is under investigation. (1/26/16).

NOAA – North Atlantic right whales



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) promulgated a final rule expanding the critical habitat for the North Atlantic right

whale. The amendment enters into effect on 26 February. **81 Fed. Reg. 4837** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-01-27/pdf/2016-01633.pdf>] (1/27/16). A **news release** provides additional information.

OFAC – Cuban Assets Control Regulations



The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) promulgated a final rule, effective immediately, amending the Cuban Assets Control Regulations to implement the policy to engage and empower the Cuban people. **81 Fed. Reg. 4583** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-01-27/pdf/2016-01559.pdf>] (1/27/16).

BIS – Cuba Licensing Policy Revisions



The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) promulgated a final rule, effective immediately, amending the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) for exports and reexports to Cuba. **81 Fed. Reg. 4580** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-01-27/pdf/2016-01557.pdf>] (1/27/16).

FMC – exemption petition



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a notice stating that it received a petition from COSCO Container Lines Company (COSCON) for an exemption from the rules requiring the filing of individual service contract amendments. Comments on the petition must be received by 12 February. **81 Fed. Reg. 4627** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-01-27/pdf/2016-01579.pdf>] (1/27/16).

FMC – OTI rules corrections



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued correcting amendments, effective immediately, to its rules governing the licensing, financial responsibility requirements, and duties of Ocean Transportation Intermediaries (OTIs). **81 Fed. Reg. 4592** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-01-27/pdf/2016-01578.pdf>] (1/27/16).

OMB – voluntary consensus standards



The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a notice stating that it has revised Circular A-119: “Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities”. **81 Fed. Reg. 4673** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-01-27/pdf/2016-01606.pdf>] (1/27/16).

Treasury – international boycott countries



The Treasury Department issued its list of countries requiring cooperation with an international boycott. The list consists of: Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. **81 Fed. Reg. 4739** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-01-27/pdf/2016-01622.pdf>] (1/27/16).

House – bill introduced re Sea Grant College Program



Representative Huffman (D-CA) introduced the **Opportunities in Cooperative Education And New Research Partnerships Act** (OCEAN Research Partnerships Act (H.R. 4394) [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114hr4394ih/pdf/BILLS-114hr4394ih.pdf>] to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes. (1/25/16).
Note: I wish to reiterate my distaste for the invention of convoluted names for legislative bills so as to fit an acronym.

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

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