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OMB – shale gas extraction waste water;  
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House – bill introduced to prohibit OCS drilling;  
Panama Canal – reinforced sill successfully tested;  
Singapore – foreign certificates of competency; and  
UK & Ireland – Innovation in Maritime Navigation.

February 16, 2016



# 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. Planck's Constant isn't.*

## **OMB – inspection of towing vessels**



The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has received for review the draft final rule for **Inspection of Towing Vessels** [located at <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=201510&RIN=1625-AB06>]. (2/12/16). *Note: OMB review can take four months or longer. In 2004, Congress authorized the US Coast Guard to inspect towing vessels. The process has dragged on slowly since then, but we may soon be reaching the end of the long, long tunnel.*

## OMB – shale gas extraction waste water



After nine months, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has completed its review of the US Coast Guard proposed policy regarding carriage of conditionally permitted shale gas extraction waste water in bulk. (2/12/16)

## USCG – updated engine exam illustrations



The USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) issued a **notice** [located at <http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/announcements/pdfs/Updated%20Engine%20Illustrations.pdf>] announcing the availability of 30 new or revised engine examination illustrations. (2/4/16).

## Rhode Island Sound – temporary safety zone proposed



The US Coast Guard proposes to establish a temporary safety zone on waters of Rhode Island Sound around each of five locations where the Block Island Wind Farm wind turbine generator towers will be installed. Comment on the proposal must be received by 17 March. **81 Fed. Reg. 7718** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-02-16/pdf/2016-03091.pdf>] (2/16/16).

## DOE – LNG export authorization sought



The Department of Energy (DOE) issued a notice stating that it received an application from Flint Hills Resources, LP seeking authorization to export liquefied natural gas (LNG) in approved ISO IMO7-TVAC-ASME LNG containers transported on ocean-going carriers. Comments on the proposal must be received by 18 April. **81 Fed. Reg. 7776** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-02-16/pdf/2016-03093.pdf>] (2/16/16).

## DOE – ConocoPhillips authorized to export LNG



The Department of Energy (DOE) issued an **Order** [located at <http://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2016/02/f29/ord3784.pdf>] granting

authorization to ConocoPhillips Alaska to export liquefied natural gas (LNG) by vessel from the Kenia LNG Facility in Alaska. (2/8/16).

### St. Lawrence Seaway – opening for 2016 navigation season



The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System issued a notice stating that the Welland Canal is scheduled to open for the 2016 navigation season on 21 March and the Montreal/Lake Ontario Section of the Seaway is scheduled to open on 23 March. **Notice 1-2016** [located at <http://www.greatlakes-seaway.com/en/pdf/navigation/notice20160212.pdf>] (2/12/16).

### DHS – Zika virus response plan



The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a news release regarding its Zika virus **Response Plan** [located at <http://www.dhs.gov/news/2016/02/11/zika-virus-dhs-response-plan>]. The response effort includes, among other things, that Customs and Border Protection (CBP) personnel will observe all travelers entering the United States at all ports of entry, including sea ports, for overt signs of illness. (2/11/16).

### MARAD – advisory re Zika virus



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued an advisory regarding the Zika virus. It encourages mariners calling in ports of the infected areas to focus on preventing mosquito bites and to remain aware of updates regarding this evolving health threat. **Advisory 2016-01** [located at <http://www.marad.dot.gov/newsroom/advisory/2016/marad-advisory-2016-01-zika-virus-2/>] (2/10/16).

### Senate – cruise ship voyage investigation sought



Senator Bill Nelson (D-OH) issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.billnelson.senate.gov/newsroom/news/us-senator-calls-for-investigation-of-cruise-ship-in-storm>] stating that he has called on the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) to investigate the voyage of the Royal Caribbean cruise ship that ran into high winds and rough seas in the North Atlantic recently. (2/8/16).

## House – bill introduced to prohibit OCS drilling



Delegate Norton (D-DC) introduced a bill (H.R. 4535) to prohibit drilling in the outer Continental Shelf, to prohibit coal leases on Federal land, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (2/11/16).

## Panama Canal – reinforced sill successfully tested



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued a [press release](https://www.pancanal.com/eng/pr/press-releases/2016/02/14/pr574.html) [located at <https://www.pancanal.com/eng/pr/press-releases/2016/02/14/pr574.html>] announcing that testing of the reinforcements in sill #3 of the new Cocoli Locks has been successfully completed. (2/14/16).

## Singapore – foreign certificates of competency



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular with an updated list of foreign administrations whose certificates of competency for seafarers are accepted by Singapore. [Shipping Circular 2-2016](http://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/port-of-singapore/circulars-and-notices/detail/79a5648b-58ea-4da3-a76c-d79f69698443) [located at <http://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/port-of-singapore/circulars-and-notices/detail/79a5648b-58ea-4da3-a76c-d79f69698443>] (1/5/16).

## UK & Ireland – Innovation in Maritime Navigation



Trinity House issued a [news release](http://www.trinityhouse.co.uk/news_info/press_releases/2016/innovation_in_maritime_navigation_event_at_trinity_house_2_march_2016.html) [located at [http://www.trinityhouse.co.uk/news\\_info/press\\_releases/2016/innovation\\_in\\_maritime\\_navigation\\_event\\_at\\_trinity\\_house\\_2\\_march\\_2016.html](http://www.trinityhouse.co.uk/news_info/press_releases/2016/innovation_in_maritime_navigation_event_at_trinity_house_2_march_2016.html)] stating that the General Lighthouse Authorities of the UK and Ireland will hold the Innovation in Maritime Navigation event in London on 2 March to explore the mix of technologies for future maritime navigation in 2030 and beyond and to identify potential complements to GNSS. (1/28/16).

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