

## Headlines:

TSAC – meeting on 13-14 April;  
USCG – CTAC members sought;  
DOJ – proposed consent decree;  
Bering Sea – danger zone disestablished;  
USN – ICEX 2016;  
Arctic Ocean – oil spill tracking study;  
NOAA – wreck of USS Conestoga found;  
St. Lawrence River – “no discharge zone” proposed;  
FMC – Supply Chain Innovation Team;  
Offshore Virginia – wind energy RAP approved;  
House – bill introduced re central Delaware River;  
House – bill introduced re Rivercenter, Philadelphia;  
Court – ‘zone of danger’ and LHWCA; and  
California – biofouling proposal withdrawn.

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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. Gravity waves were found to be hiding behind the dark matter.*

## **TSAC – meeting on 13-14 April**



The Towing Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) and its subcommittees, sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet in New Orleans on 13-14 April. Topics on the agenda include automation equipment; ATB manning and operations; and electronic charting systems. **81 Fed. Reg. 16191** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-25/pdf/2016-06822.pdf>] (3/25/16).

## USCG – CTAC members sought



The US Coast Guard seeks applications for membership on the Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC). Applications should be received by 24 May. **81 Fed. Reg. 16192** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-25/pdf/2016-06749.pdf>] (3/25/16).

## DOJ – proposed consent decree



The Department of Justice (DOJ) seeks comments on its proposed consent decree in the lawsuit entitled United States v. GMR Progress LLC, involving the 2007 oil spill in Puerto Rico from the tanker Genmar Progress. As proposed, the defendants will pay \$2,750,000 for assessment costs and natural resource damages. Comments must be received within 30 days. **81 Fed. Reg. 16216** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-25/pdf/2016-06789.pdf>] (3/25/16).

## Bering Sea – danger zone disestablished



The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued a direct final rule disestablishing the danger zone for the meteorological rocket launching facility near Shemya Island in the Bering Sea. This amendment comes into effect on 24 May unless adverse comment is received by 25 April. **81 Fed. Reg. 16093** [located at ] (3/25/16).

## USN – ICEX 2016



The US Navy issued a **news release** explaining its Ice Exercise (ICEX) 2016) in the Arctic Ocean. (3/24/16) [located at <http://navylive.dodlive.mil/2016/03/23/breaking-the-ice-how-navy-sub-are-bringing-allies-private-organizations-academia-government-together-in-arctic/>].

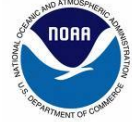
## Arctic Ocean – oil spill tracking study



The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) issued a **press release** stating that a Geo-Referencing Identification Satellite (GRIDSAT)

tag project is being tested at the US Navy's Ice Camp Sargo in the Arctic Ocean. Marking devices are being placed on the ice floe for long-term duration studies to develop techniques to track and respond to any future oil spills in Arctic waters. (3/23/16) [located at <http://www.bsee.gov/BSEE-Newsroom/BSEE-News-Briefs/2016/BSEE-Studies-Arctic-Response-Challenges-at-Ice-Camp/>].

## NOAA – wreck of USS Conestoga found



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a **news release** stating that the wreck of the USS Conestoga (AT54) has been found on the seafloor of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. The Navy tug left San Francisco on 25 March 1921 en route Tutuila, American Samoa with 56 officers and sailors, but no trace of the vessel was found until now. It was the last US Navy ship to be lost in peacetime without a trace until now. (3/23/16) [located at <http://www.noaa.gov/mystery-missing-uss-conestoga-solved>]. *Note: This item was brought to my attention by my good friend Richard Hiscock of **Off Soundings**.*

## St. Lawrence River – “no discharge zone” proposed



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a **news release** stating that it seeks comments regarding whether a “no discharge zone” should be established for New York State waters of the Saint Lawrence River. If established, vessels would be prohibited from dumping sewage in those waters. Comments must be received by 25 April. (3/24/16) [located at <https://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/docf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/880753c7e5b77bc385257f8000525f1c!OpenDocument>].

## FMC – Supply Chain Innovation Team



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a **news release** announcing that its Supply Chain Innovation Team will launch on 3 May. Team meetings will focus on identifying and prioritizing supply chain challenges from a systemic perspective. (3/24/16) [located at [http://www.fmc.gov/supply\\_chain\\_innovation\\_team\\_launch\\_scheduled/](http://www.fmc.gov/supply_chain_innovation_team_launch_scheduled/)].

## Offshore Virginia – wind energy RAP approved



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a **press release** announcing that it has approved Virginia's Offshore Wind Research

Activities Pan (RAP), which calls for installation and operation of two 6-megawatt turbines in federal waters offshore Virginia and associated cabling to shore. (3/24/16) [located at <http://www.boem.gov/press03242016/>].

### House – bill introduced re central Delaware River



Representative Brady (D-PA) introduced a bill (H.R. 4858) to provide a declaration of nonnavigability for the central Delaware River, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (3/23/16).

### House – bill introduced re Rivercenter, Philadelphia



Representative Brady (D-PA) introduced a bill (H.R. 4859) to extend the declaration of nonnavigability in perpetuity for Rivercenter, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (3/23/16).

### Court – ‘zone of danger’ and LHWCA



In an unpublished decision, the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit ruled that the ‘zone of danger’ concept is not applicable to claims brought under the Longshore and Harbor Workers’ Compensation Act (LHWCA). **Ceres Marine Terminal v. DOWCP**, No. 15-1041 (4th Cir., March 24, 2016) [located at <http://www.ca4.uscourts.gov/Opinions/Unpublished/151041.U.pdf>].

### California – biofouling proposal withdrawn



The California State Lands Commission (SLC) issued **notice** stating that it has decided to withdraw the proposed regulations entitled “Article 4.8. Biofouling Management to Minimize the Transfer of Nonindigenous Species from Vessels Operating in California Waters”. The SLC expects to republish proposed regulations and commence a new 45-day comment period in the near future. (3/23/16) [located at [http://www.slc.ca.gov/Laws-Regs/Article4.8/4\\_8\\_Withdrawal\\_letter\\_Final23Mar16.pdf](http://www.slc.ca.gov/Laws-Regs/Article4.8/4_8_Withdrawal_letter_Final23Mar16.pdf)].

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