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EC – probe of Belgian & French ports; and
ReCAAP – incidents down by 64%.

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Bryant’s Maritime News

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USCG – Commandant’s Mid-Term Report



Admiral Paul F. Zukunft, Commandant, US Coast Guard issued his **Mid-Term Report**. The report highlights some of the Coast Guard’s recent accomplishments while outlining the way ahead within the service’s strategic priorities, as well as the three principles of its organizational focus: service to nation, duty to peoples, and commitment to excellence. (7/9/16) [<https://www.uscg.mil/seniorleadership/DOCS/midterm.pdf>].

USCG NMC – QA requirements



The USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) issued a **notice** regarding merchant mariner certification Qualified Assessor (QA) requirements, particularly with respect to STCW competence. (7/7/16) [https://www.uscg.mil/nmc/announcements/pdfs/qa_requirements_notice.pdf].

USCG – use of autopilots by tankers



The US Coast Guard proposes to permit tankers with automatic pilot systems that meet certain international standards to operate using those systems in waters subject to certain shipping safety fairway or traffic separation scheme controls. Comments on the proposal must be submitted by 11 October. **81 Fed. Reg. 44817** (7/11/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-07-11/pdf/2016-15791.pdf>].

MERPAC – meeting on 2-4 August



A working group of the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 2-4 August in Great Lakes, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting is to evaluate utilizing military education, training, and assessment to satisfy national and STCW credential requirements. **81 Fed. Reg. 44888** (7/11/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-07-11/pdf/2016-16332.pdf>].

COAC – meeting on 27 July



The Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC), sponsored by the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), will meet in Boston in 27 July. Topics on the agenda include the Air, Ocean, and Rail Manifest Pilots and trade facilitation. **81 Fed. Reg. 44889** (7/11/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-07-11/pdf/2016-16359.pdf>].

NOAA – T/B DBL 152 oil spill damage assessment



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice stating that a Final Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (Final DARP/EA) had been prepared that addresses natural resource injuries and resource service losses resulting from the November 11, 2005 tank barge (T/B) DBL 152 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. **81 Fed. Reg. 44839** (7/11/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-07-11/pdf/2016-16357.pdf>].

Senate – bill introduced re OCS administration



Senator Cassidy (R-LA) introduced the **American Energy and Conservation Act of 2016** (S. 3110) to provide for reforms of the administration of the outer Continental Shelf of the United States, to provide for the development of geothermal, solar, and wind energy on public land, and for other purposes. Senator Cassidy issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (6/29/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114S3110pcs/pdf/BILLS-114S3110pcs.pdf>].

House – bill introduced re maritime security assistance



Representative Ruiz (D-CA) introduced a bill (H.R. 5678) to authorize assistance and training to increase maritime security and domain awareness of foreign countries bordering the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, or the Mediterranean Sea in order to deter and counter illicit smuggling and related maritime activity by Iran, including illicit Iranian weapons shipments. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (7/7/16).

GAO – maritime cargo security programs



The Government Accountability Office (GAO) posted a report of its testimony at the recent hearing on maritime nuclear smuggling issues. The GAO testimony focused on cargo security issues, identifying progress regarding risk assessments and partnerships with foreign governments. [GAO-16-790T](#) (7/7/16) [<http://www.gao.gov/assets/680/678249.pdf>].

Court – inadequate EIS



The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit reversed the district court award of summary judgment in favor of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) regarding its action approving a permit for construction and operation of the Cape Wind project in Nantucket Sound. The appellate court ruled that the BOEM environmental impact statement (EIS) did not comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and that the incidental take statement did not comply with the requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). [Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility v. Hopper](#), No. 14-5301 (D.C. Cir., July 5, 2016) [[https://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/internet/opinions.nsf/9E052DE574BD496C85257FE700503890/\\$file/14-5301-1622978.pdf](https://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/internet/opinions.nsf/9E052DE574BD496C85257FE700503890/$file/14-5301-1622978.pdf)].

Court – interlocutory decision not appealable



The US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that an interlocutory decision of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in a dispute between a labor union and a maritime employer is not subject to appeal due to its lack of finality. [Pacific Maritime Association v. NLRB](#), No. 13-35818 (9th Cir., July 8, 2016) [<http://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2016/07/08/13-35818.pdf>].

EC – liner shipping price transparency



The European Commission (EC) issued a [press release](#) stating that it has adopted a decision that renders legally binding the commitments offered by fourteen container liner shipping companies to increase price transparency for customers and reduce the likelihood of coordinating prices. (7/7/16) [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2446_en.htm?locale=en].

EC – probe of Belgian & French ports



The European Commission (EC) issued a **press release** stating that it has opened in-depth probes to check if corporate tax exemptions granted under Belgian and French law to ports' economic activities are in line with EU state aid rules and whether they give companies in a certain sector an advantage over competitors in other Member States. (7/8/16) [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2451_en.htm?locale=en].

ReCAAP – incidents down by 64%



The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre issued a **summary** of incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asian waters for the period January through June 2016. There has been a significant reduction (64%) in reported incidents compared to the previous five years. (7/8/16) [http://www.recaap.org/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/Download.aspx?Command=Core_Download&EntryId=449&PortalId=0&TabId=78].

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

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