

## Headlines:

USCG – MERPAC members sought;  
NOAA – porbeagle shark;  
DOT – TIGER grants of nearly \$500 million;  
FERC – Golden Pass LNG Export Project EIS;  
GAO – Inland Waterways Fuel Tax;  
California – SLC meeting on 9 August;  
California – Sustainable Freight Action Plan; and  
Panama Canal – locks lane outages.

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# Bryant's Maritime Blog

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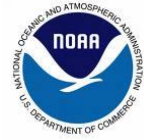
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## **USCG – MERPAC members sought**



The US Coast Guard seeks applications for membership on the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC). Applications should be submitted by 30 September. **81 Fed. Reg. 50533** (8/1/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-08-01/pdf/2016-18112.pdf>].

## NOAA – porbeagle shark



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice stating that it completed a 12-month finding on petitions to list the porbeagle shark as threatened or endangered. The review concluded that such listing is not warranted at this time. **81 Fed. Reg. 50463** (8/1/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-08-01/pdf/2016-18101.pdf>].

## DOT – TIGER grants of nearly \$500 million



The Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a **news release** stating that grants totaling nearly \$500 million are being awarded under the TIGER grant program for transportation improvements, including a number of marine projects. (7/29/16) [<https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-foxx-announces-tiger-awards-nearly-500-million-grants>].

## FERC – Golden Pass LNG Export Project EIS



The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a **news release** stating that a final environmental impact statement (EIS) has been prepared for the proposed Golden Pass LNG Export Project. (7/29/16) [<http://www.ferc.gov/industries/gas/enviro/eis/2016/07-29-16-eis.asp>].

## GAO – Inland Waterways Fuel Tax



The Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report on the Inland Waterways Fuel Tax. The report recommends that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) consult with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to explore options to obtain relevant proprietary data to enhance IRS efforts to ensure compliance with the tax. **GAO-16-682** (7/29/16) [<http://www.gao.gov/assets/680/678760.pdf>].

## California – SLC meeting on 9 August



The California State Lands Commission (SLC) will meet in San Pedro on 9 August. Among the items on the **Agenda** is consideration of adoption of regulations to implement an enforcement and hearing process for the Marine Invasive Species Program. (7/29/16) [<http://www.slc.ca.gov/Meetings/8-9-16/Agenda.htm>].

## California – Sustainable Freight Action Plan



The California Air Resources Board (ARB) issued a **news release** announcing release of the California Sustainable Freight Action Plan. The plan is intended to serve as a blueprint for transforming the state's freight transportation system into one that is environmentally cleaner, more efficient, and economically competitive. (7/29/16) [<http://www.arb.ca.gov/newsrel/newsrelease.php?id=850>].

## Panama Canal – locks lane outages



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory stating that the west lane of the Miraflores Locks will be out of service from 2200, Tuesday, 2 August until 22, Friday, 5 August in order to perform scheduled dry chamber seals repairs on the miter gates. In addition, the west lane of Pedro Miguel Locks will be out of service from 0001 until 1200, Wednesday, 3 August in order to perform the final drive of the miter gates. As a result, Transit Reservation System Condition 2 for the Panamax locks will be in effect from Wednesday, 3 August until Friday, 5 August. **Advisory 39-2016** (7/29/16) [<https://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2016/a-39-2016.pdf>].

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