

Headlines:

US & China – UUV returned;
CBP – Centers of Excellence & Expertise;
Port Arthur – LNG facility application;
EC – Italian freight transport scheme upheld; and
New Zealand – racing yacht nears landfall.

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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. The biggest lie I tell myself is: "I don't need to write that down – I'll remember it."

US & China – UUV returned



The Department of Defense (DOD) issued a [news release](#) stating that a Chinese's People's Liberation Army-Navy (PLAN) vessel returned a USN Ocean Glider unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV) to the USS Mustin (DDG 89) in international waters near the location where it had been unlawfully seized. The US will continue to investigate the events and address them with the Chinese. (12/19/16) [<http://www.defense.gov/News/News-Releases/News-Release-View/Article/1034224/statement-by-pentagon-press-secretary-peter-cook-on-return-of-us-navy-uuv>].

CBP – Centers of Excellence and Expertise



The US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issued an interim rule establishing its Centers of Excellence and Expertise as a permanent organizational component of the agency and transitioning certain trade functions

to the Centers. The rule also amends the definition for port directors to distinguish their functions from those of the Center directors. The changes enter into effect on 19 January. Comments must be received by 19 January. **81 Fed. Reg. 92978** (12/20/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-20/pdf/2016-29719.pdf>].

Port Arthur – LNG facility application



The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a notice stating that it received an application from Port Arthur LNG, LLC for authorization to construct and operate a liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facility. Comments on the application must be received by 3 January. **81 Fed. Reg. 92809** (12/20/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-20/pdf/2016-30550.pdf>].

EC – Italian freight transport scheme upheld



The European Commission (EC) issued a **press release** stating that it has found two Italian public support schemes to encourage a shift of freight transport from road to rail and to sea to be in line with EU state aid rules. (12/19/16) [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-4461_en.htm].

New Zealand – racing yacht nears landfall



Maritime New Zealand issued a **media release** stating that the racing yacht Le Souffle du Nord is heading for Bluff, NZ after incurring severe damage when it struck a floating object (suspected to be a shipping container) in the Tasman Sea. The yacht's hull was split by the impact, which occurred during the Vendee Globe nonstop round the world race. (12/20/16) [<http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/public/news/media-releases-2016/20161220b.asp>].

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