

## Headlines:

USCG – deferred enforcement of new STCW requirements;  
USCG – policy letter re SPV inspection;  
USACE – nationwide permits;  
Gulf of Mexico – platform fire extinguished;  
EPA - \$2 million awarded for clean diesel projects;  
House – bill introduced re WWII merchant mariner benefits;  
House – bill introduced re liens on fishing permits;  
China – energy-efficient ship operation course; and  
Panama Canal – locks lane outage.

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# Bryant's Maritime News

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## **USCG – deferred enforcement of new STCW requirements**



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** stating that it will follow the IMO recommendation calling for port state control (PSC) authorities to take a pragmatic and practical approach to enforcement of the 2010 amendments to the STCW Convention regarding seafarer certification. This deferred enforcement until 1 July is appropriate because training institutions are having difficulty in training all the seafarers for updated requirements. (1/5/17)  
[<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2017/01/05/us-will-follow-imo-recommendation-for-enforcement-of-stcw-2010-amendments-transitional-provisions/>].

## USCG – policy letter re SPV inspection



The US Coast Guard issued a policy letter providing guidance concerning risk-based decision making (RBDM) for small passenger vessel (SPV) annual inspection activity. **CG-CVC Policy Letter 16-05** (1/5/17) [[https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgcvc/cvc/policy/policy\\_letters/CVC/CG-CVC\\_pol16-05.pdf](https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgcvc/cvc/policy/policy_letters/CVC/CG-CVC_pol16-05.pdf)].

## USACE – nationwide permits



The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) promulgated a final rule reissuing 50 existing nationwide permits (NWP), general conditions, and definitions, with some modifications. The USACE is also issuing two new NWPs and one new general condition. The rule enters into effect on 19 March. **82 Fed. Reg. 1860** (1/6/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-01-06/pdf/2016-31355.pdf>].

## Gulf of Mexico – platform fire extinguished



The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) issued a **press release** stating that the fire on the oil production platform in the Gulf of Mexico has been extinguished. The four persons onboard safely evacuated by liferaft. Production has been shut down. The incident is under investigation. (1/5/17) [<https://www.bsee.gov/newsroom/latest-news/statements-and-releases/press-releases/bsee-responds-to-platform-fire-in-the>].

## EPA – \$2 million awarded for clean diesel projects



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a **news release** stating that nearly \$2 million has been awarded to fund clean diesel projects in Connecticut and Massachusetts, including vessel re-powering projects in both states. (1/4/17) [<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-nearly-2-million-fund-clean-diesel-projects-connecticut-and-massachusetts>].

## House – bill introduced re WWII merchant mariner benefits



Representative Al Green (D-TX) introduced a bill (H.R. 154) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (1/3/17).

## House – bill introduced re liens on fishing permits



Representative Young (R-AK) introduced a bill (H.R. 234) to provide limitations on maritime liens on fishing permits, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (1/3/17).

## China – energy-efficient ship operation course



The Chinese Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) issued a **news release** stating that a new energy-efficient ship operation course, developed under IMO's GloMEEP project, will help maritime training institutes to deliver IMO's Model Course 4.05 to seafarers. It consists of a series of lectures, interactive exercises and videos to enhance the learning experience and ensure there are properly trained crews who can contribute to efficient shipping. (1/5/17) [<http://en.msa.gov.cn/index.php?m=content&c=index&a=show&catid=343&id=193>].

## Panama Canal – locks lane outage



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory stating that the east lane of Gatun Locks will be out of service from 2000, 9 January through 2000, 12 January. Transit Reservation System Condition 2 will be in effect from 10 January through 12 January. **Advisory 01-2017** (1/4/17) [<https://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2017/a-01-2017.pdf>].

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