

Headlines:

FMC – NY/NJ equipment agreement rejected;
DOT – Beyond Traffic 2045;
EPA & DOD – uniform national discharge standards;
MARAD – America’s Marine Highway Program;
NOAA – Arctic Marine Mammal Disaster Response Guidelines;
NOAA – NSGAB nominations sought;
House – bill introduced re WWII merchant mariner benefits;
Senate – bill introduced re ocean & coastal ecosystems;
Paris MOU – vessel detention review procedure;
ReCAAP – weekly report; and
Panama Canal – December operations.

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Bryant’s Maritime News

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FMC – NY/NJ equipment agreement rejected



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a **news release** stating that the Commissioners have rejected the “Port of New York/New Jersey Equipment Optimization Discussion Agreement for failing to meet the clear and definite disclosure standard required by law. (1/9/17)
[<http://www.fmc.gov/NR17-01/>].

DOT – Beyond Traffic 2045



Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx issued a [press release](#) announcing availability of the [Beyond Traffic 2045](#) report highlighting transportation challenges the United States will face over the next three decades. (1/9/17) [<https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/secretary-foxx-releases-beyond-traffic-2045-final-report-future-transportation>].

EPA & DOD – uniform national discharge standards



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Defense (DOD) promulgated a final rule establishing discharge performance standards for eleven discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel of the Armed Forces into the navigable waters of the United States. The rule enters into effect on 10 February. [82 Fed. Reg. 3173](#) (1/11/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-01-11/pdf/2017-00153.pdf>].

MARAD – America’s Marine Highway Program



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) proposes to revise the portion of the Code of Federal Regulations relating to America’s Marine Highway Program (AMHP) (46 CFR Part 393). Comments must be received by 13 March. [82 Fed. Reg. 3250](#) (1/11/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-01-11/pdf/2017-00249.pdf>].

NOAA – Arctic Marine Mammal Disaster Response Guidelines



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice stating that it has prepared the draft Arctic Marine Mammal Disaster Response Guidelines. Comments must be submitted by 13 March. [82 Fed. Reg. 3293](#) (1/11/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-01-11/pdf/2017-00308.pdf>].

NOAA – NSGAB nominations sought



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice stating that it seeks nominations for membership on the National

Sea Grant Advisory Board (NSGAB). Applications must be sent by 1 March. **82 Fed. Reg. 3290** (1/11/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-01-11/pdf/2017-00465.pdf>].

House – bill introduced re WWII merchant mariner benefits



Representative Al Green (D-TX) introduced the **Honoring Our World War II Merchant Marine Veterans Act of 2017** (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. (1/3/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hr154ih/pdf/BILLS-115hr154ih.pdf>].

Senate – bill introduced re ocean & coastal ecosystems



Senator Nelson (D-FL) introduced a bill (S. 74) to improve the ability of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Coast Guard, and coastal States to sustain healthy ocean and coastal ecosystems by maintaining and sustaining their capabilities relating to oil spill preparedness, prevention, response, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (1/9/17).

Paris MOU – vessel detention review procedure



The Paris MOU posted a **notice** reminding owners and operators of vessels that have been detained by a Paris MOU member state and who decline to use the national appeal procedure, that they have the option of filing a complaint with the flag state or recognized organization. The flag state or recognized organization may then ask the port state for reconsideration. If the flag state or recognized organization disagrees with the outcome of the investigation, a request for review may be sent to the Paris MOU Secretariat. To complete the detention review procedure and include the outcome in the 2016 Paris MOU Annual Report, cases concerning detentions in 2016 shall be submitted before 15 February. (1/10/17) [<https://www.parismou.org/deadline-submission-2016-detention-review-cases>].

ReCAAP – weekly report



The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre issued a **Weekly Report** for the period 3-9 January. Of the three reports received during the week of attempted incidents, one incident occurred in November 2016. (1/10/17) [http://www.recaap.org/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/Download.aspx?Command=Core_Download&EntryId=468&PortalId=0&TabId=78].

Panama Canal – December operations



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory summarizing Canal operations during December. It also includes the schedule of locks maintenance outages for the remainder of the fiscal year. **Advisory 02-2017** (1/6/17) [<https://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2017/a-02-2017.pdf>].

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