

## Headlines:

Gulf of Mexico – car carrier adrift;  
USCG – enforcement of immigration laws;  
USCG – reminder re FCC proposal;  
USCG – Marine Transportation Specialist sought;  
House – bill introduced re tsunami detection;  
House – bill introduced re foreign oil spills;  
House – bill introduced re EEZ;  
House – bill introduced re exports to Cuba;  
House – bill introduced re Cuban trade embargo;  
Senate – bill introduced re coastal data integration;  
Senate – bill introduced re foreign oil spills;  
Senate – bill introduced re Sea Grant Colleges;  
IMO – regional piracy agreement expanded;  
Ireland – Seafarers website;  
Singapore – vessels anchored in the port; and  
MREN – Salvage and marine firefighting verification.

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# Bryant's Maritime News

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*Note: This newsletter is one section of the **Bryant's Maritime Consulting** website. Visit the site for more extensive maritime regulatory information. Individual concerns may be addressed by retaining **Dennis Bryant** 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. Save the Earth – it's the only planet with chocolate!*

## **Gulf of Mexico – car carrier adrift**



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that the car carrier Alliance St. Louis is adrift in the Gulf of Mexico following an engine room fire that has now been extinguished. The crew of 20 is safe. A tug is en route. (1/16/17) [<http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2912570/>].

## USCG – enforcement of immigration laws



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that it maintains a robust presence in the Florida Straits, the Caribbean, and the Gulf of Mexico. The service's role in the enforcement of US immigration laws remains unchanged. (1/13/17) [<http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2912286/>].

## USCG – reminder re FCC proposal



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** reminding stakeholders of the proposal of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to end its role as an accounting authority for settling accounts for maritime mobile and maritime mobile-satellite radio services and potential impacts thereof. (1/13/17) [<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2017/01/13/fcc-proposes-to-cease-operating-as-an-accounting-authority-for-settling-accounts-for-maritime-mobile-and-maritime-mobile-satellite-radio-services/>].

## USCG – Marine Transportation Specialist sought



The US Coast Guard posted a **job announcement** stating that it seeks a Marine Transportation Specialist (GS-2101-12) in the Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance, Fishing Vessel Division. The position is advertised to merit promotion candidates and closes on 26 January. (1/11/17) [<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/462317100>]. Note: This item was brought to my attention by my good friend Richard Hiscock of **Off Soundings**.

## House – bill introduced re tsunami detection



Representative Bonamici (D-OR) introduced the **Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act of 2017** (H.R. 312) to authorize and strengthen the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, research, and mitigation program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (1/5/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hr312ih/pdf/BILLS-115hr312ih.pdf>].

### **House – bill introduced re foreign oil spills**



Representative Curbelo (R-FL) introduced a bill (H.R. 468) to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to impose penalties and provide for the recovery of removal costs and damages in connection with certain discharges of oil from foreign offshore units, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (1/12/17).

### **House – bill introduced re EEZ**



Representative Issa (R-CA) introduced a bill (H.R. 475) to designate the exclusive economic zone of the United States as the “Ronald Wilson Reagan Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States”. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (1/11/17).

### **House – bill introduced re exports to Cuba**



Representative Serrano (D-NY) introduced a bill (H.R. 572) to facilitate the export of United States agricultural products to Cuba as authorized by the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, to remove impediments to the export to Cuba of medical devices and medicines, to allow travel to Cuba by United States legal residents, to establish an agricultural export promotion program with respect to Cuba, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (1/13/17).

### **House – bill introduced re Cuban trade embargo**



Representative Serrano (D-NY) introduced a bill (H.R. 574) to lift the trade embargo on Cuba, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (1/13/17).

### **Senate – bill introduced re coastal data integration**



Senator Baldwin (D-WI) introduced a bill (S. 110) to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven

program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (1/11/17).

### Senate – bill introduced re foreign oil spills



Senator Murkowski (R-AK) introduced a bill (S. 125) to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to impose penalties and provide for the recovery of removal costs and damages in connection with certain discharges of oil from foreign offshore units, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (1/11/17).

### Senate – bill introduced re Sea Grant Colleges



Senator Wicker (R-MS) introduced a bill (S. 129) to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (1/11/17).

### IMO – regional piracy agreement expanded



The IMO issued a [news release](#) stating that the Djibouti Code of Conduct regional agreement has been broadened to cover illicit maritime activities than just piracy. The expansion covers activities such as human trafficking and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. (1/13/17) [<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/4-DCOC-widened.aspx>].

### Ireland – Seafarers website



The Irish Department of Transport, Tourism, and Sport established a new [Seafarers](#) website. The website is intended to be a national and international resource of information for seafarers, providing details on career structures and how to obtain necessary qualifications. (1/1/17) [<https://www.seafarers.ie/>].

## Singapore – vessels anchored in the port



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular reminding stakeholders of the requirements relating to vessels at anchor in the Port of Singapore. **Port Marine Circular 2-2017** (1/16/17) [<http://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/port-of-singapore/circulars-and-notices/detail/14e1d15e-7b27-47e3-b27c-3ed121a9652c>].

## MREN – Salvage and marine firefighting verification



In the January 2017 edition of Maritime Reporter and Engineering News, you can find my article entitled "**Salvage and marine firefighting verification**". At the end of 2008, the US Coast Guard finally adopted its salvage and marine firefighting (SMFF) regulations, which have proven to be unnecessarily complicated. Those regulations, which now cover large nontank vessels in addition to tank vessels, place the burden for determining the adequacy of SMFF assets on the vessel owners and operators - an evaluation that they have no capability to accomplish. The Coast Guard is now undertaking a drill program to test and verify the ability of selected vessels and their SMFF resource providers to meet the regulatory requirements. A strong SMFF presence is important to the proper protection of the marine environment. [<http://www.brymar-consulting.com/wp-content/uploads/MREN/MREN170100.pdf>].

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