

Headlines:

Houston – Meritorious Public Service Awards;
USCG – batteries for commercial vessels;
USCG – International Ice Patrol today;
Greenland – polar icecap melting;
Senate – bill introduced re hiring freeze;
House – resolution introduced re Arctic OCS drilling;
Court – ambiguous marine insurance policy;
Panama Canal – January operations; and
Panama Canal – monthly tonnage record.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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Houston – Meritorious Public Service Awards



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that USCG Meritorious Public Service Awards have been presented to G&H Towing, the Houston Pilots, and the Port of Houston Fire Department. On 6 September 2016, the hull of the tanker Aframax River was punctured, sparking a fire of the ship's bunkers. G&H Towing and the Houston Pilots moved the tanker to a less dangerous location, where the Port of Houston firefighters extinguished the blaze. (2/12/17)

[<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/186d2d8>].

USCG – batteries for commercial vessels



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** discussing new battery chemistries for commercial vessels. (2/10/17)
[<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2017/02/10/2102017-new-battery-chemistries-for-commercial-vessels/>].

USCG – International Ice Patrol today



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** describing activities of the International Ice Patrol (IIP) today. (2/10/17)
[<http://coastguard.dodlive.mil/2017/02/international-ice-patrol-today/>].

Greenland – polar icecap melting



The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) issued a **news release** stating that its Oceans Melting Greenland (OMG) project is revealing new details about thinning of the Greenland polar icecap. Data shows that in the coastal regions, the icecap is melting from below in some places due to it coming into contact with warmer ocean waters. (2/10/17)
[<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/jpl/nasa-uci-reveal-new-details-of-greenland-ice-loss>].

Senate – bill introduced re hiring freeze



Senator Schatz (D-HI) introduced a bill (**S. 250**) to prohibit any hiring freeze from affecting any Department of Defense position at, or in support of, a public shipyard. (2/1/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s250is/pdf/BILLS-115s250is.pdf>].

House – resolution introduced re Arctic OCS drilling



Representative Young (R-AK) introduced a resolution (**H.J. Res. 70**) disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of the Interior regarding requirements for exploratory drilling on the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf. (2/9/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hjres70ih/pdf/BILLS-115hjres70ih.pdf>].

Court – ambiguous marine insurance policy



In an unpublished decision, the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit ruled that the marine insurance policy between plaintiff barge owner and defendant insurer was ambiguous as regards the obligation of the insurer to pay investigation and defense costs after its \$5 million indemnity limit had been reached. As a consequence, the district court's entry of partial summary judgment in favor of plaintiff barge owner was vacated and the matter remanded for further proceedings. **American Commercial Lines v. WQIS**, No. 16-91-cv(L) (2nd Cir., February 10, 2017)

[http://www.ca2.uscourts.gov/decisions/isysquery/afe68coc-4642-4019-a6cd-b4f9bf6d3faa/1/doc/16-91_so.pdf#xml=http://www.ca2.uscourts.gov/decisions/isysquery/afe68coc-4642-4019-a6cd-b4f9bf6d3faa/1/hilite/].

Panama Canal – January operations



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory summarizing Canal operations for January. It also contains the schedule of locks maintenance outages for the remainder of the fiscal year. **Advisory 05-2017** (2/9/17) [<https://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2017/a-05-2017.pdf>].

Panama Canal – monthly tonnage record



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued a **press release** stating that the Canal set a new monthly tonnage record in January of 36.1 million Panama Canal tons. (2/6/17) [<https://www.pancanal.com/eng/pr/press-releases/2017/02/06/pr616.html>].

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