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House – bill introduced re OCS leasing;
House – bill introduced to ban Atlantic airgun seismic activities;
House – bill introduced re passenger vessel safety;
House – bill introduced to ban OCS drilling;
House – bill introduced re OCS leasing moratorium;
Senate – bill introduced re OCS leasing;
Senate – bill introduced re coral reef ecosystems;
Senate – bill introduced re passenger vessel safety; and
Australia – LNG export controls to be introduced.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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Florence Ebersole Smith Finch (1915-2016)



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** announcing funeral services with full military honors on 29 April in Ithaca, New York for Florence Ebersole Smith Finch (1915-2016). She was born in the Philippines to an American father and a Filipino mother, making her a dual-citizen. At the outbreak of World War II, she worked as a civilian stenographer with the Office of Army Intelligence. After American forces withdrew, she remained in country, didn't acknowledge her American connections, and was hired by the Japanese-controlled Philippine Liquid Fuel Distributing Union. In this position, she helped American prisoners of war and wrote various vouchers to assist the Philippine resistance movement. She was eventually arrested and tortured. For nearly five months she was held in a two-by-four-foot cell and deprived of most subsistence. Freed by American forces in February 1945, she moved to the United States, where she joined the US Coast Guard Women's Reserve (SPARS). Ms. Finch was the first woman to receive the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon. She was also awarded the Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award of the US Government. The Coast Guard facility in Honolulu is named in her honor. (4/27/17) [<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/196ceco>].

White House – offshore energy strategy



President Trump issued an **Executive Order** stating that it is the policy of the United States to encourage energy exploration and production, including on the outer continental shelf. The Secretary of the Interior is directed to give full consideration to revising the schedule of proposed oil and gas lease sales that it includes, but is not limited to, annual lease sales to the maximum extent permitted by law and to develop a streamlined permitting approach for privately funded seismic data research and collection. (4/28/17) [<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/04/28/presidential-executive-order-implementing-america-first-offshore-energy>].

Galveston – disabled tug and barge stabilized



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that a disabled tug and its integrated barge have been stabilized in heavy weather off Galveston. Four tugs and a salvage company participated in the response effort. (4/29/17) [<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/19791df>].

USCG – approval of navigational equipment for ships



The US Coast Guard issued Change 3 to its Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) entitled ‘Approval of Navigation Equipment for Ships. The change adds an approval process (series) for the Bridge Navigational Watch Alarm System (BNWAS) and updates various approval series to reflect the most recent applicable standards, resolutions, and processes. **NVIC 8-01, Change 3** (4/24/17) [https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/nvic/pdf/2001/NVIC_8-01_CH-3.pdf].

USCG – MTS planning



The US Coast Guard issued an internal instruction entitled “Marine Planning to Operate and Maintain the Marine Transportation System (MTS) and Implement National Policy”. The Instruction promulgates Coast Guard policy, roles, and responsibilities in marine planning to carry out statutory requirements, as well as implementation of Executive Orders, such as the National Ocean Policy, and subsequent guidance that may require extraordinary consideration in conjunction with ongoing planning and operations.

COMDTINST 16003.2A (11/18/16)

[https://media.defense.gov/2017/Mar/15/2001716995/-1/-1/0/CI_16003_2A.PDF].

USCG – MODUs



The USCG Outer Continental Shelf National Center of Expertise (OCS NCOE) posted the latest edition of its **Drill Down** newsletter. This edition focuses on mobile offshore drilling units (MODUs). (4/28/17)

[<https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/ocsnceo/docs/Drill%20Down/DRILL%20DOWN%20-%20What%20is%20a%20MODU%2004.27.2017.pdf>].

MERPAC – teleconference on 16 May



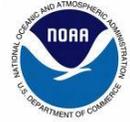
The Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 16 May via teleconference. Topics on the agenda include: military education, training, and assessment; training requirements for master and mate (pilot) of towing vessels; and tankerman PIC restricted to fuel transfers on towing vessels. **82 Fed. Reg. 20367** (5/1/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-05-01/pdf/2017-08755.pdf>].

MARAD – USMMA Sea Year



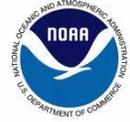
The Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued a notice stating that it seeks public input on methods to improve the prevention of, and response to, sexual harassment, sexual assault, or other inappropriate conduct, as well as methods to improve the shipboard climate during the US Merchant Marine academy (USMMA) Midshipman Sea Year experience. Comments must be received by 30 June. **82 Fed. Reg. 20418** (5/1/17)
[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-05-01/pdf/2017-08685.pdf>].

NOAA – Sustained National Climate Assessment



The Advisory Committee for the Sustained National Climate Assessment, sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), will meet via conference call on 15 May. **82 Fed. Reg. 20318** (5/1/17)
[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-05-01/pdf/2017-08758.pdf>].

NOAA – members sought for advisory councils



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice stating that it seeks applications for membership on various advisory committees. The committees consist of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (NMSAC); the Gray's Reef NMSAC; the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMSAC; the Monitor NMSAC; the Monterey Bay NMSAC; the NMSAC of American Samoa; the Stellwagen Bank NMSAC; and the Northwester Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council. Applications must be received by 31 May. **82 Fed. Reg. 20320** (5/1/17)
[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-05-01/pdf/2017-06711.pdf>].

BSEE – integrity management of offshore assets



The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) issued a **press release** stating that, on 5 May, it will host an international standards workshop in Houston to discuss integrity management of offshore assets, including mooring systems. (4/28/17)
[<https://www.bsee.gov/newsroom/latest-news/statements-and-releases/press-releases/integrity-management-of-offshore-assets>].

House – hearing on maritime transportation regulatory issues



The Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will conduct a hearing on 3 May entitled '**Maritime Transportation Regulatory Issues**'. (4/28/17) [<https://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=401345>].

House – bill introduced to ban OCS drilling



Representative Huffman (D-CA) introduced a bill (H.R. 2242) to prohibit drilling in the outer Continental Shelf, to prohibit coal leases on Federal land, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (4/28/17).

House – bill introduced re OCS leasing moratorium



Representative Sanford (R-SC) introduced a bill (H.R. 2252) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to place a ten-year moratorium on oil and gas preleasing, leasing, and related activities on the Outer Continental Shelf in the North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Straits of Florida planning areas and in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Representative Sanford issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (4/28/17) [<https://sanford.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/sanford-introduces-coastal-economies-protection-act>].

House – bill introduced re OCS leasing



Representative Brat (R-VA) introduced the **Outer Continental Shelf Energy Access Now (OCEAN) Act** (H.R. 2157) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to limit the authority of the President to withdraw areas from oil and gas leasing, and for other purposes. Representative Brat issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (4/26/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hr2157ih/pdf/BILLS-115hr2157ih.pdf>].

House – bill introduced to ban Atlantic seismic airgun activities



Representative Beyer (D-VA) introduced the **Atlantic Seismic Airgun Protection Act** (H.R. 2158) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit oil-, gas-, and methane hydrate-related seismic activities in the North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Straits of Florida planning areas of the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes. (4/26/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hr2158ih/pdf/BILLS-115hr2158ih.pdf>].

House – bill introduced re passenger vessel safety



Representative Matsui (D-CA) introduced the **Cruise Passenger Protection Act** (H.R. 2173) to improve passenger vessel security and safety, and for other purposes. Representative Matsui issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (4/26/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hr2173ih/pdf/BILLS-115hr2173ih.pdf>].

Senate – bill introduced re OCS leasing



Senator Cassidy (R-LA) introduced a bill (S. 956) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to limit the authority of the President to withdraw areas from oil and gas leasing, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Senator Cassidy issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (4/27/17) [<https://www.cassidy.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cassidy-kennedy-introduces-legislation-supporting-offshore-drilling>].

Senate – bill introduced re coral reef ecosystems



Senator Hirono (D-HI) introduced a bill (S. 958) to authorize Federal agencies to establish prize competitions for innovation or adaptation management development relating to coral reef ecosystems, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Senator Hirono issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (4/27/17) [<https://www.hirono.senate.gov/press-releases/hirono-hanabusa-introduce-legislation-to-spur-innovative-research-for-coral-reef-conservation>].

Senate – bill introduced re passenger vessel safety



Senator Blumenthal (D-CT) introduced a bill (S. 965) to improve passenger vessel security and safety, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Senator Blumenthal issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure. (4/27/17)
[<https://www.blumenthal.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/blumenthal-and-himes-introduce-bicameral-legislation-to-strengthen-cruise-passenger-safety-laws>].

Australia – LNG export controls to be introduced



Australian Prime Minister Turnbull issued a [media release](#) stating that his government is introducing the Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism which will give the government the power to impose export controls on companies when there is a shortfall of gas supply in the domestic market. (4/27/17) [<https://www.pm.gov.au/media/2017-04-27/delivering-affordable-gas-all-australians>].

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