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House – Consolidated Appropriations Act;
House – hearing re maritime transportation regulation;
Senate – bill introduced to ban Arctic Ocean drilling;
Senate – bill introduced to ban Atlantic coast drilling;
House – bill introduced re oil spill preparedness;
House – bill introduced to ban Atlantic coast drilling; and
House – bill introduced re maritime workforce training.

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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. 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. I don't need anger management; I need people to stop pissing me off.*

Jacksonville – proposed offshore anchorage



The US Coast Guard proposes to establish a new offshore anchorage area approximately seven nautical miles northeast of the St. Johns River inlet off Jacksonville. Comments on the proposal must be received by 5 June. **82 Fed. Reg. 20859** (5/4/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-05-04/pdf/2017-09036.pdf>].

USCG – MODU regulatory compliance options



The USCG Outer Continental Shelf National Center of Expertise (OCS NCOE) posted a new edition of its **Drill Down** newsletter discussing the regulatory compliance options available to foreign mobile offshore drilling units (MODUs) operating in US waters. (5/3/17)
[<https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/ocsncoe/docs/Drill%20Down/DRILL%20DOWN%20-%20MODU%20Compliance%20Options%2005.03.2017.pdf>].

USCG – port and facility compliance summary



The USCG Office of Port and Facility Compliance (CG-FAC) posted its **2016 Year in Review**. The review summarizes its implementation and enforcement of maritime safety, security, and stewardship regulations and policies as regards US ports and facilities. (5/3/17)
[https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg544/docs/Year_in_Review_2016_Final.pdf].

OMB – waters of the United States



The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a **notice** stating that it has received for review from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the proposed recodification of preexisting rules concerning the definition of ‘waters of the United States’. (5/2/17)
[<https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eoReviewSearch;jsessionid=B822448D29DE005F8447F3A06E8CD988>]. *Note: OMB review averages about four months.*

House – Consolidated Appropriations Act



The Rules Committee of the House of Representatives posted the text of the **Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017**. Among many other things, the measure provides \$7 billion for US Coast Guard operating expenses; \$1.37 billion for USCG acquisition, construction, and improvements; \$100 million for Port Security Grants; and (in the US Navy budget) \$150 million for continued work on polar icebreakers. The 1,665-page bill is to be approved by Congress and signed into law later this week. (5/3/17)
[<https://rules.house.gov/sites/republicans.rules.house.gov/files/115/OMNI/CPR T-115-HPRT-RU00-SAHR244-AMNT.pdf>].

House – hearing re maritime transportation regulation



The Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure conducted a **hearing** regarding maritime transportation regulatory issues. Testimony was heard from, among others, Rear Admiral **Paul F. Thomas**, USCG and the Honorable **Michael A. Khouri**, FMC. (5/3/17)
[<https://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=401345>].

Senate – bill introduced to ban Arctic Ocean drilling



Senator Merkley (D-OR) introduced a bill (S. 991) to prohibit drilling in the Arctic Ocean. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Senator Merkley issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (5/1/17)
[<https://www.merkley.senate.gov/news/press-releases/merkley-re-introduces-bill-to-stop-arctic-ocean-drilling>].

Senate – bill introduced to ban Atlantic coast drilling



Senator Menendez (D-NJ) introduced a bill (S. 999) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, North Atlantic, and Straits of Florida planning areas. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Senator Menendez issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (5/1/17) [<https://www.menendez.senate.gov/news-and-events/press/video-menendez-booker-pallone-reintroduce-coast-act-in-response-to-trump-executive-order-to-expand-offshore-drilling>].

House – bill introduced re oil spill preparedness



Representative Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) introduced a bill (H.R. 2261) 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. (5/1/17).

House – bill introduced to ban Atlantic coast drilling



Representative Pallone (D-NJ) introduced a bill (H.R. 2271) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, North Atlantic, and Straits of Florida planning areas. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (5/1/17).

House – bill introduced re maritime workforce training



Representative Gene Green (D-TX) introduced a bill (H. R. 2286) to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to designate certain entities as centers of excellence for domestic maritime workforce training and education, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Representative Green issued a [news release](#) explaining the measure. (5/2/17) [<https://green.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-green-wittman-introduce-domestic-maritime-centers-excellence-act>].

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