DOJ – USN Rear Admiral sentenced to prison

The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a news release stating that a US Navy Rear Admiral has been sentenced to 18 months in prison for lying to investigators in an attempt to conceal his 20-year illicit relationship with Leonard Glenn Francis, owner of Glenn Defense Marine Asia (GDMA), the foreign defense contractor at the center of a major bribery and fraud scandal. (5/17/17) [https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/us-navy-admiral-sentenced-prison-lying-federal-investigators-about-his-relationship-foreign]
FMC – meeting on 24 May

The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a news release stating that the Commissioners will meet on 24 May in Washington, DC. During the open session they will receive briefings on the Global Regulatory Summit; the Global Liner Shipping Conference; the 5-Year Strategic Plan and Regulatory Reform Task Force; and the Global Ocean Carrier Alliances. During the closed session, they will receive a staff update on Global Ocean Carrier Alliances. (5/17/17) [https://www.fmc.gov/meeting_5-24-2017/].

DOT & USCG – CGSIC meeting on 25-26 September

The Department of Transportation (DOT) and the US Coast Guard Navigation Center (NAVCEN) will host the 57th meeting of the Civil Global Positioning System Service Interface Committee (CGSIC) on 25-26 September in Portland, Oregon. The meeting is free and open to the public. (5/17/17) [http://www.gps.gov/cgsic/meetings/2017/].

BSEE – evolution of oil spill response

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) issued a press release stating that members of its staff took part in a series of technical demonstrations providing an up-close look at the evolution of oil spill response capabilities over the past 25+ years at the International Oil Spill Conference in Long Beach. (5/17/17) [https://www.bsee.gov/newsroom/latest-news/statements-and-releases/press-releases/technical-demonstration-at-oil-spill].

Senate – USCG authorization bill introduced

Senator Sullivan (R-AK) introduced a bill (S. 1129) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (5/16/17).

House – bill introduced re seismic activity off Florida

Representative Posey (R-FL) introduced a bill (H.R. 2469) to establish a moratorium on oil and gas-related seismic activities off the coastline of the
State of Florida, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (5/16/17).

**House – hearing on Rigs to Reefs Program**

The Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources of the House Committee on Natural Resources conducted a hearing on the Rigs to Reefs Program. Testimony was heard from Mr. David Bump, W&T Offshore; Mr. Frank Russo, GAO; Mr. J. Dale Shively, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; and Mr. Greg Stunz, Texas A&M University. (5/17/17) [http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=401935].

**IMO – Polar Code video**

The IMO issued a news release announcing the availability of a video explaining the new Polar Code and how it enhances the protection of polar environments. (5/16/17) [http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/15-Polar-film.aspx].

**Denmark – regulatory barriers re autonomous ships**

The Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) issued a press release stating that it has invited tenders for an analysis of the regulatory barriers to the development of autonomous ships. Tenders must be received by 29 May. (5/17/17) [http://www.dma.dk/Presse/Nyheder/Sider/Tenders-for-analysis-of-barriers-to-autonomous-ships.aspx].

**New Zealand – implementation of Polar Code**

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