

Headlines:

USCG – DGPS site status;
BOEM – Beaufort Sea drilling proposal;
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Senate – bill introduced re pipeline spills;
Senate – bill introduced re travel to Cuba;
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Court – OPA 90 overrides Robins Dry Dock;
Court – Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;
ReCAAP – May report;
Panama Canal – May operations; and
UK – maritime passenger rights.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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USCG – DGPS site status



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** announcing that the five differential global positioning system (DGPS) sites operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are being decommissioned. The forty DGPS sites remotely monitored by the Coast Guard remain in operation. (6/9/17)
[<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2017/06/12/692017-differential-global-positioning-system-dgps-site-decommissioning/>].

BOEM – Beaufort Sea drilling proposal



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a [press release](#) stating that it received a proposal from Eni US Operating Company to drill from a pre-existing gravel island in the Beaufort Sea. Comments regarding the environmental assessment must be submitted within ten days. Comments on the exploration plan must be submitted within 21 days. (6/12/17) [<https://www.boem.gov/press06122017/>].

Senate – bill introduced re Atlantic seismic activity



Senator Booker (D-NJ) introduced the [Atlantic Seismic Airgun Protection Act](#) (S. 1263) 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. (5/25/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s1263is/pdf/BILLS-115s1263is.pdf>].

Senate – bill introduced re pipeline spills



Senator Stabenow (D-MI) introduced the [Pipeline Safety Act of 2017](#) (S. 1269) to require the Office of Pipeline Safety to consult with the Environmental Protection Agency or the Coast Guard in the event the Federal on-scene coordinator has concerns about the ability of a pipeline operator to respond to a worst case discharge. Senator Stabenow issued a [news release](#) explaining the measure. (5/25/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s1269is/pdf/BILLS-115s1269is.pdf>].

Senate – bill introduced re travel to Cuba



Senator Flake (R-AZ) introduced the [Freedom for Americans to Travel to Cuba Act of 2017](#) (S. 1287) to allow United States citizens and legal residents to travel between the United States and Cuba. Senator Flake issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure. (5/25/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s1287is/pdf/BILLS-115s1287is.pdf>].

House – bill introduced re marine debris



Representative Young (R-AK) introduced the **Save Our Seas Act of 2017** (H.R. 2748) to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris, and for other purposes. (5/25/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hr2748ih/pdf/BILLS-115hr2748ih.pdf>].

Court – OPA 90 overrides Robins Dry Dock



In a case of first impression, the US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled that the contribution provision of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) prevails over the Robins Dry Dock rule so as to allow the responsible party in an oil spill to obtain contribution for pure economic damages from another tortfeasor. Two towboats and their flotillas of barges collided and oil was spilled into the Mississippi River. The owner of one towboat was named by the Coast Guard as the responsible party. That owner paid for the response effort and then sought contribution from the owner of the other towboat. The second owner contended that, since only economic damages were involved, the Robins Dry Dock rule barred a suit for contribution. The court ruled that the statute is clear in allowing contribution between tortfeasors. **Settoon Towing v. Marquette Transportation**, No. 16-30459 (5th Cir., June 9, 2017) [<http://www.ca5.uscourts.gov/opinions/pub/16/16-30459-CVo.pdf>].

Court – Federal Rules of Civil Procedure



The US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit reversed and remanded an award of summary judgment in favor of defendant ship owner in a seaman personal injury suit based on a procedural error by the district court, which had relied on an outdated version of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. **Lee v. Offshore Logistical and Transport**, No. 16-31049 (5th Cir., June 9, 2017) [<http://www.ca5.uscourts.gov/opinions/pub/16/16-31049-CVo.pdf>].

ReCAAP – May report



The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre posted its report for **May 2017**. A total of six actual incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships were reported during the month. (6/12/17)

[http://www.recaap.org/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/Download.aspx?Command=Core_Download&EntryId=521&PortalId=0&TabId=78].

Panama Canal – May operations



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory summarizing Canal operations during May. It also includes the schedule of locks maintenance outages for the remainder of the fiscal year. **Advisory 18-2017** (6/7/17) [<https://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2017/a-18-2017.pdf>].

UK – maritime passenger rights



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) posted **guidance** concerning maritime passenger rights. (6/12/17) [<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/maritime-passenger-rights>].

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