

Headlines:

USN – Strategic Readiness Review;
House – bill introduced re natural gas imports/exports;
House – bill introduced re small natural gas imports/exports;
GAO – commercial fishing vessels;
Washington – Maritime Blue;
Singapore - \$12 million for LNG bunkering; and
Loss of tanker Argo Merchant – 15 December 1976.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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USN – Strategic Readiness Review



The US Navy issued a **news release** announcing completion of its Strategic Readiness Review. The review recommends that the Navy: (1) reestablish readiness as a priority; (2) match supply and demand; (3) establish clear command and control relationships; and (4) become a true learning organization. (12/14/17)

[http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=103763].

House – bill introduced re natural gas imports/exports



Representative Johnson (R-OH) introduced the **Unlocking Our Domestic LNG Potential Act** (H.R. 4605) to repeal restrictions on the export and

import of natural gas. Representative Johnson issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure. (12/11/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hr4605ih/pdf/BILLS-115hr4605ih.pdf>].

House – bill introduced re small natural gas imports/exports



Representative Johnson (R-OH) introduced the [Ensuring Small Scale LNG Certainty and Access Act](#) (H.R. 4606) to provide that applications under the Natural Gas Act for the importation or exportation of small volumes of natural gas shall be granted without modification or delay. Representative Johnson issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure. (12/11/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hr4606ih/pdf/BILLS-115hr4606ih.pdf>].

GAO – commercial fishing vessels



The Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report on the classification of commercial fishing vessels. The report recommends that the Coast Guard work with the National Marine Fisheries Service and other federal agencies to collect reliable data on the number of active US commercial fishing vessels. It also recommends that the Coast Guard develop regulations or guidance to address questions concerning the classification and the alternative-to-classification approaches to the design, construction, and maintenance of fishing vessels. [GAO-18-16](#) (12/14/17) [<http://www.gao.gov/assets/690/689005.pdf>].

Washington – Maritime Blue



The Washington Department of Commerce issued a [news release](#) stating that its new Maritime Innovation Advisory Council has been tasked to devise a statewide strategy to develop maritime business, technology, and practices that grow a sustainable future, contributing to ecological health, thriving communities, and economic growth. (12/11/17) [<http://www.commerce.wa.gov/news-releases/charting-washington-states-course-nations-sustainable-maritime-industry-2050/>].

Singapore – \$12 million for LNG bunkering



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a **news release** stating that it is injecting an additional S\$12 million to promote LNG bunkering in Singapore. (12/14/17)

[<https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/media-centre/news-releases/detail/a8d7e216-381c-48df-a9ea-bd5e28a78e9f>].

Loss of tanker *Argo Merchant* – 15 December 1976



On 15 December 1976, the oil tanker *Argo Merchant* grounded on Middle Rip Shoal in international waters approximately 25 nautical miles southeast of Nantucket Island. The tanker was en route from Venezuela to Boston carrying 7.7 million gallons of No. 6 fuel oil. The US Government refused to grant permission for the jettisoning of cargo in an attempt to lighten the ship. On 21 December, the *Argo Merchant* broke into two pieces, spilling all of its cargo and bunkers. The Coast Guard sank the bow of the ship with gunfire. The prevailing wind and current carried the oil offshore and away from rich fishing grounds nearby. The spill was the largest in US history to that date. Publicity surrounding the casualty resulted in Congress adopting the Port and Tanker Safety Act of 1978, giving the Coast Guard increased authority to inspect and regulate tank vessels, foreign and domestic, operating in US waters.

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