

Headlines:

White House – incidental discharge moratorium extension;
DOI – OCS oil and gas lease sales;
MARAD – America’s Marine Highway Program; and
GAO – offshore seismic surveys.

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Bryant’s Maritime News

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White House – incidental discharge moratorium extension



President Trump signed into law [S. 2273](#), which extends to January 19, 2018 the moratorium on the requirement for Clean Water Act permitting of incidental discharges from certain vessels. (1/3/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s2273cps/pdf/BILLS-115s2273cps.pdf>].

DOI – OCS oil and gas lease sales



The Department of the Interior (DOI) issued a [press release](#) stating that it plans to propose opening 90% of the US outer continental shelf (OCS) to oil and gas lease sales. (1/4/18) [<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-zinke-announces-plan-unleashing-americas-offshore-oil-and-gas-potential>].

MARAD – America’s Marine Highway Program



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued a notice soliciting applications for awards under the America’s Marine Highway Program (AMHP). Five million dollars is available this year. Applications must be received by 2 March. **83 Fed. Reg. 694** (1/5/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-01-05/pdf/2018-00033.pdf>].

GAO – offshore seismic surveys



The Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report on offshore seismic surveys. It notes that parties wishing to conduct such surveys in the US outer continental shelf (OCS) must apply for and obtain a permit from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). Incidental take permits may also be required from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The report found that neither NMFS nor FWS maintain records of how long it takes to process applications for incidental take permits. Thus, there is no way to determine whether such reviews are timely. **GAO-18-60** (1/4/18) [<https://www.gao.gov/assets/690/688893.pdf>].

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