

Headlines:

USCG – Great Lakes Pilotage rates;
USCG – Foreign Passenger Vessel Examiner Course;
DOJ – proposed settlement under OPA;
BOEM – oil spill financial responsibility inflation adjustment;
BSEE – civil penalty inflation adjustment;
DOS – meeting on 13 February re NCSR 5;
USN – USS Fitzgerald/USS McCain accountability actions;
House – hearing on US flag maritime industry;
Senate – bill introduced re drilling off Florida coast;
Senate – bill introduced re drilling off New England coast;
House – bill introduced re leasing in Gulf of Mexico;
House – bill introduced re drilling off New England coast;
Court – erotic service provider litigation;
EC – Polish incentives for shipyards; and
New Zealand – laser speed guns.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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USCG – Great Lakes Pilotage rates



The US Coast Guard proposes new base rates and surcharges for Great Lakes Pilotage for the 2018 shipping season. Comments must be submitted by 20 February. **83 Fed. Reg. 2581** (1/18/18)
[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-01-18/pdf/2018-00811.pdf>].

USCG – Foreign Passenger Vessel Examiner Course



The US Coast Guard posted a **bulletin** stating that the Cruise Ship National Center of Expertise (CSNCOE) Foreign Passenger Vessel Examiner Course will be offered three times during 2018, with the first course scheduled on 3-10 February. In addition to USCG personnel, stakeholders from the following industry segments are invited: cruise line representatives; ship officers; class society surveyors and managers; foreign flag administration representatives; other government agencies; and manufacturers. (1/17/18)

[<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2018/01/17/1-17-2018-cruise-ship-national-center-of-expertise-foreign-passenger-vessel-examiner-course/>].

DOJ – proposed settlement under OPA



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a notice stating that a proposed settlement agreement has been reached with the former operator of the motor vessel Fortune Epoch regarding liability under the Oil Pollution Act for a November 2004 incident. Comments on the proposal must be submitted within 30 days. **83 Fed. Reg. 2675** (1/18/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-01-18/pdf/2018-00811.pdf>].

BOEM – oil spill financial responsibility inflation adjustment



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) promulgated a final rule adjusting for inflation the oil spill financial responsibility limit of liability for offshore facilities. The changes enter into effect on 20 February. **83 Fed. Reg. 2540** (1/18/18)

[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-01-18/pdf/2018-00798.pdf>].

BSEE – civil penalty inflation adjustment



The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) promulgated a final rule adjusting for inflation the civil monetary penalties regarding oil and gas and sulphur operations on the outer continental shelf (OCS). The changes enter into effect immediately. **83 Fed. Reg. 2538** (1/18/18)

[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-01-18/pdf/2018-00798.pdf>].

DOS – meeting on 13 February re NCSR 5



The Department of State (DOS) issued a notice stating that a meeting will be held on 13 February in Arlington, Virginia to prepare for the upcoming session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communication, and Search and Rescue (NCSR 5). Topics to be addressed include harmonized display of navigation information and revised performance standards for EPIRBs operating on 406 MHz. **83 Fed. Reg. 2712** (1/18/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-01-18/pdf/2018-00795.pdf>].

USN – USS Fitzgerald/USN McCain accountability actions



The US Navy issued a **statement** on accountability actions it plans to take regarding the 2017 collisions involving USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain. Courts-martial charges have been preferred against five officers in the two ships at the time of the collisions, including both former commanding officers. (1/16/18) [http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=104024].

House – hearing on US flag maritime industry



The Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee conducted a **hearing** titled “The State of the U.S. Flag Maritime Industry”. Testimony was received from RADM John Nadeau, USCG; RADM Mark Buzby (USN ret), MARAD; Mr. Matt Woodruff, American Maritime Partnership; Mr. Eric Ebeling, USA Maritime; Mr. Aaron Smith, Offshore Marine Service Association; Mr. Matthew Paxton, Shipbuilders Council of America; and Mr. Bill Van Loo, Marine Engineers Beneficial Association. (1/17/18) [<https://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=402105>].

Senate – bill introduced re drilling off Florida coast



Senator Nelson (D-FL) introduced the **Florida Coastal Protection Act** (S. 2292) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit oil and gas preleasing, leasing, and related activities in certain areas of the Outer Continental Shelf off the coast of Florida, and for other purposes. Senator Nelson issued a

news release explaining the measure. (1/10/18)
[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s2292is/pdf/BILLS-115s2292is.pdf>].

Senate – bill introduced re drilling off New England coast



Senator Whitehouse (D-RI) introduced the **New England Coastal Protection Act** (S. 2298) to prohibit oil and gas leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf off the coast of New England. Senator Whitehouse issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (1/11/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s2298is/pdf/BILLS-115s2298is.pdf>].

House – bill introduced re leasing in Gulf of Mexico



Representative Francis Rooney (R-FL) introduced the **Protecting and Securing Florida's Coastline Act of 2018** (H.R. 4770) to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to permanently extend the moratorium on leasing in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico. Representative Rooney issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (1/11/18)
[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hr4770ih/pdf/BILLS-115hr4770ih.pdf>].

House – bill introduced re leasing off New England coast



Representative Cicilline (D-RI) introduced the **New England Coastal Protection Act** (H.R. 4774) to prohibit oil and gas leasing on the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of New England. Representative Cicilline issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (1/11/18)
[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hr4774ih/pdf/BILLS-115hr4774ih.pdf>].

Court – erotic service provider litigation



The US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed the District Court's dismissal of plaintiff's challenge to the constitutionality of the law that criminalizes the commercial exchange of sexual activity. **Erotic Service Provider Legal Education and Research Project v. Gascon**, No. 16-15927 (9th Cir., January

17, 2018) [<http://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2018/01/17/16-15927.pdf>]. *Note: While not directly a maritime case, it is important in its own way.*

EC – Polish incentives for shipyards



The European Commission (EC) issued a **press release** stating that it has approved Polish investment aid to small and medium-sized enterprises in the shipbuilding sector, but it also states that the EC has opened an investigation into Polish tax incentives for shipyards. (1/15/18) [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-242_en.htm].

New Zealand – laser speed guns



Maritime New Zealand issued a **media release** stating that it has commenced a trial use of laser guns to determine the speed of watercraft. Initial efforts in Marlborough show that “compliance with speed rules is not great”. (1/16/18) [<https://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/public/news/media-releases-2018/20180116a.asp>].

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