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MARAD – security alert re Aden, Yemen;
MARAD – VISA program enrollment;
DOE – application to export LNG from Texas City;
DOE – application to export LNG from Quintana Island;
NOAA – recent minke whale deaths unusual;
St. Lawrence Seaway – wharfage charges;
House – hearing on El Faro reports and USCG health records;
New York – offshore wind master plan;
IMO – World Maritime Day 2018; and
Ireland – port reception facilities.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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*Note: This newsletter is one section of the **Bryant's Maritime Consulting** website. Visit the site for more extensive maritime regulatory information. Individual concerns may be addressed by retaining **Dennis Bryant** directly. Much of the highlighted text in this newsletter constitutes links to Internet sites providing more detailed information. Links on this page may be in PDF format. Comments on these postings are encouraged and may be made by email to the editor or by going to the blog page on the website and clicking the envelope that appears at the end of each posting. Be aware that the daily newsletter is a single posting, even though it contains a number of individual items. Whatever hits the fan is not evenly distributed.*

MARAD – security alert re Aden, Yemen



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) posted a maritime security alert for waters in the vicinity of Aden, Yemen. A potential maritime threat has been reported in Aden, Yemen, in the vicinity of 12-79.11N 044-96.29W, on January 29, 2018. It has not been confirmed. The nature of the threat is intensified fighting/insurgent activity in the city of Aden within the past 48 hours. The Port of Aden reportedly remains open and is operating normally at this time. Exercise caution when transiting this area. **Alert 2018-002A** (1/30/18) [<https://www.marad.dot.gov/msci/alert/2018/2018-002a-insurgency-port-of-aden-yemen/>].

MARAD – VISA program enrollment



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued a notice announcing that it is changing the open season enrollment procedures for US-flag vessel operators wishing to enroll their vessels in the Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA) program. Vessel operators may now enroll at any time. **83 Fed. Reg. 4552** (1/31/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-01-31/pdf/2018-01851.pdf>].

DOE – application to export LNG from Texas City



The Department of Energy (DOE) issued a notice stating that it received an application from Galveston Bay LNG, LLC requesting authorization to export domestically produced liquefied natural gas (LNG) from a proposed facility to be located in Texas City. Comments must be received by 2 April. **83 Fed. Reg. 4473** (1/31/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-01-31/pdf/2018-01895.pdf>].

DOE – application to export LNG from Quintana Island



The Department of Energy (DOE) issued a notice stating that it received an application from Freeport FLNG Expansion, LP requesting authorization to export additional domestically produced liquefied natural gas (LNG) from a facility located on Quintana Island. Comments must be received by 2 March. **83 Fed. Reg. 4475** (1/31/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-01-31/pdf/2018-01896.pdf>].

NOAA – recent minke whale deaths unusual



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a **news release** stating that it considers the recent deaths of minke whales on the Atlantic coast to be an unusual mortality event, triggering a focused, expert investigation. (1/30/18) [<http://www.noaa.gov/media-advisory/noaa-declares-deaths-of-minke-whales-on-atlantic-coast-unusual-mortality-event>].

St. Lawrence Seaway – wharfage charges



The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System issued a **news release** stating that the St. Lawrence Seaway Wharfage and Storage Charges will increase 1% for the 2018 navigation season. Also, the maximum charge on a measurement basis has been reduced in 2018. (1/30/18)
[<http://www.greatlakes-seaway.com/en/news/customer-advisories/advisories/ca20180129.html>].

House – hearing on El Faro reports & USCG health records



The Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure conducted a **hearing** on “Examination of Reports on the EL FARO Marine Casualty and Coast Guard’s Electronic Health Records”. Testimony was received from RADM John Nadeau, USCG; the Honorable Earl Weener, NTSB; RADM Erica Schwartz, USCG; RADM Michel Haycock, USCG; and Mr. David Powner, GAO. Background materials consisted of the USCG El Faro **Action Plan**; the NTSB **synopsis** re El Faro casualty; and the GAO **report** on Coast Guard health records. (1/30/18)
[<https://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=402127>].

New York – offshore wind master plan



The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) issued a **news release** announcing release of the New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan. The plan is intended to guide the development of 2.4 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030. There will be a commitment of \$15 million to train the local workforce needed to build offshore wind and develop port infrastructure. (1/29/18)
[<https://www.nysERDA.ny.gov/About/Newsroom/2018-Announcements/2018-01-29-Governor-Cuomo-Releases-First-in-the-Nation-Offshore-Wind-Master-Plan>].

IMO – World Maritime Day 2018



The IMO issued a **notice** stating that the theme this year for World Maritime Day is “IMO 70: Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future” commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Convention establishing the organization. In March, a ceremony will be held at IMO Headquarters to mark the date the IMO Convention was adopted. The annual Day of the Seafarer will be on 25 June. (1/30/18)

[<http://www.imo.org/en/About/Events/WorldMaritimeDay/Pages/WMD-2018.aspx>].

Ireland – port reception facilities



The Irish Department of Transport, Tourism, and Sport issued a notice stating that it seeks comments on the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on port reception facilities for delivery of waste from ships. Comments should be received by 12 February. **Marine Notice 5-2018** (1/29/18)

[<http://www.dttas.ie/sites/default/files/MN%2005%20of%202018%20Port%20Reception%20facilities.pdf>].

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