

## Headlines:

St. Lawrence Seaway – anchorage grounds proposed;  
USCG – towing vessel initial inspections;  
USCG – testimony re El Faro loss;  
NOAA – right whale DMA off Virginia;  
NTSB – flooding of towing vessel;  
EPA & USACE – ‘waters of the United States’;  
BOEM – Offshore Wind & Maritime Industry Knowledge Exchange;  
UK – Maritime Growth Study Review;  
Malta – unlicensed parker jailed for six months; and  
Ground Hog’s Day – 2 February 2018.

February 2, 2018



# Bryant’s Maritime News

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## **St. Lawrence Seaway – anchorage grounds proposed**



The US Coast Guard proposes to establish two anchorage grounds in the St. Lawrence Seaway: Carleton Island Anchorage and Tibbetts Point Anchorage, both near Cape Vincent, New York. Comments must be received by 3 May. **83 Fed. Reg. 4882** (2/2/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-02-02/pdf/2018-02114.pdf>].

## **USCG – towing vessel initial inspections**



The US Coast Guard issued a **letter** to towing vessel owners and operators encouraging them to contact their local Officer in Charge, Marine

Inspection (OCMI) to schedule inspections of their towing vessels for their initial Certificate of Inspection (COI). (1/29/18)  
[<http://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/TVNCOE/Documents/Default/CGCVCInspectionLtr.pdf?ver=2018-02-01-124449-403>].

### USCG – testimony re El Faro loss



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** summarizing its testimony at the recent Congressional hearing into the loss of the cargo ship El Faro with 33 persons on board. (2/1/18)  
[<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2018/02/01/2-1-2018-summary-of-congressional-testimony-regarding-el-faro-reports/>].

### NOAA – right whale DMA off Virginia



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a **news release** stating that a voluntary right whale speed restriction zone has been established in waters of the Atlantic off Virginia due to an aggregation of critically endangered North Atlantic right whales sighted in the area. Vessels transiting the designated area are requested to transit at 10 knots or less. The Dynamic Management Area (DMA) will remain in effect through 10 February. (1/31/18)  
[[https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/mediacenter/2018/01/31\\_new\\_VA\\_voluntary\\_right\\_whale\\_speed\\_restriction\\_zone.html](https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/mediacenter/2018/01/31_new_VA_voluntary_right_whale_speed_restriction_zone.html)].

### NTSB – flooding of towing vessel



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued the report of its investigation of the flooding of the towing vessel Atlantic Raider in the St. Johns River on 28 October 2016. The vessel suddenly developed a port list while underway. Efforts to correct the list were ineffective; the list increased, water began to flood into the engine room, and the crew chose to intentionally ground the vessel. All three crewmembers disembarked safely. An oil sheen could be seen extending from the vessel. Damage was estimated between \$800,000 and \$1,200,000. The probable cause of the flooding of the towing vessel was a stern hull fracture that allowed ingress of water into the rudder compartment and caused the vessel to sink by the port quarter. Contributing to the accident was flooding through an open door to the engine room. **MAB 18-02** (2/1/18)  
[<https://www.nts.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Reports/MAB1802.pdf>].

## EPA & USACE – ‘waters of the United States’



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a **news release** stating that it and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have finalized a rule adding an applicability date to the 2015 Clean Water Rule. This rule is intended to provide clarity and certainty about which definition of ‘waters of the United States’ is applicable nationwide in response to judicial actions that could result in confusion. The new applicability date will be two years after this final rule is published in the Federal Register. (1/31/18) [<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-army-finalize-waters-united-states-applicability-date>].

## BOEM – Offshore Wind & Maritime Industry Knowledge Exchange



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a **press release** announcing that it will host the Offshore Wind and Maritime Industry Knowledge Exchange on 5-6 March in Linthicum Heights, Maryland. (2/1/18) [<https://www.boem.gov/Offshore-Wind-and-Maritime-Industry-Knowledge-Exchange/>].

## UK – Maritime Growth Study Review



The UK Department for Transport (DfT) posted the **Maritime Growth Study Review**. The Maritime Growth Study was published in 2015 and this is the first review of progress under the study. It shows strong improvement of collaboration between government and industry. There are still concerns, though, including with the general pace of delivery. (2/1/18) [[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/678365/maritime-growth-study-review.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/678365/maritime-growth-study-review.pdf)].

## Malta – unlicensed parker jailed for six months



Transport Malta issued a **news release** stating that the unlicensed parker who was fined €500 on 5 January for his activities in a car park has now been jailed for six months and fined €2,000 for ignoring court orders to stay away from the parking areas. (1/31/18) [<http://www.transport.gov.mt/news/31st-january-2018-unlicensed-parker-jailed-for-6-months-after-ignoring-court-or>].

## Ground Hog's Day – 2 February 2018



February 2 is celebrated as **Ground Hog's Day** throughout the civilized world (i.e., Canada and the United States). On this day, if the ground hog comes out of its burrow and fails to see its shadow, winter will end in six weeks. If, though, the ground hog sees its shadow, then spring will arrive in a month and a half. (2/2/18).

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