

Headlines:

DOJ – shipyard labor contractors fined \$857,868;
DOJ – unlawful trafficking and smuggling of shark fins;
BOEM – Beaufort Sea EIS;
Offshore Massachusetts – wind energy lease auction;
California – restricted area name change;
Senate – bill introduced re Arctic Research Commission;
Senate – bill introduced re Arctic shipping;
House – bill introduced re amphibious passenger vessels; and
Panama Canal – 5,000th neopanamax transit.

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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. The proposal is all very well in practice, but it will never work in theory.*

DOJ – shipyard labor contractors fined \$857,868



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** stating that it has received a court order yesterday awarding the United States \$857,868 in civil penalties, along with other relief, in the Department's immigration-related employment discrimination lawsuit against Louisiana-based Technical Marine Maintenance Texas LLC (TMMTX), which provides contract shipyard labor, and Gulf Coast Workforce LLC (GCW), a related company. The court previously found that the companies violated the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) by discriminating against workers based on their citizenship status during the employment eligibility verification process. (12/11/18)
[<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/court-orders-857868-penalties-against-technical-marine-maintenance-texas-and-gulf-coast>].

DOJ – unlawful trafficking and smuggling of shark fins



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** stating that the owner and officers of a Japanese-flagged fishing vessel were charged in federal court yesterday with aiding and abetting the trafficking and smuggling of 962 shark fins into and out of Hawaii. (12/12/18)

[<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/owner-and-officers-japanese-fishing-vessel-charged-unlawful-trafficking-and-smuggling-shark>].

BOEM – Beaufort Sea EIS



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a **press release** stating that the comment period for the Beaufort Sea EIS has been extended to 4 January 2019. Public meetings will be held at Utqiagvik [Barrow] (December 17); Nuiqsut (December 18); and Kaktovik (December 19). (12/11/18) [<https://www.boem.gov/note12112018/>].

Offshore Massachusetts – wind energy lease auction



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a **press release** reminding stakeholders that the auction for commercial wind energy leasing offshore Massachusetts will commence at 0900, Thursday, 13 December. (12/12/18) [<https://www.boem.gov/note12122018/>].

California – restricted area name change



The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) promulgated a direct final rule changing the name of a restricted area in Suisun Bay from 'Suisun Bay at Naval Weapons Station, Concord; restricted area' to 'Military Ocean Terminal Concord (MOTCO); restricted area'. The change enters into effect on 11 February 2019. [83 Fed. Reg. 64024](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-12-13/pdf/2018-27031.pdf) (12/13/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-12-13/pdf/2018-27031.pdf>].

Senate – bill introduced re Arctic Research Commission



Senator Murkowski (R-AK) introduced a bill (S. 3739) to amend the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 to modify the membership of the Arctic Research Commission, to establish an Arctic Executive Steering Committee, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (12/11/18).

Senate – bill introduced re Arctic shipping



Senator Murkowski (R-AK) introduced a bill (S. 3740) to establish a congressionally chartered seaway development corporation in the Arctic, consistent with customary international law, with the intention of uniting Arctic nations in a cooperative Arctic shipping union, where voluntary collective maritime shipping fees will help fund the infrastructural and environmental demands of safe and reliable shipping in the region. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (12/11/18).

House – bill introduced re amphibious passenger vessels



Representative Carson (D-IN) introduced a bill (H.R. 7256) to implement recommendations related to the safety of amphibious passenger vessels, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (12/11/18).

Panama Canal – 5,000th neopanamax transit



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued a **press release** stating that the 5,000th neopanamax vessel passed through the expanded Canal. (12/11/18) [<https://www.pancanal.com/eng/pr/press-releases/2018/12/10/pr664.html>].

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