



International Propeller Club of the United States

Promoting the Maritime Industry Since 1927

February 2021 Newsletter

Message from the President



It looks like we are beginning to turn the corner on the COVID-19 pandemic. President Biden has said that by the end of May there will be sufficient vaccine available to inoculate every adult in the United States. That's great news! We hope that vaccination progress continues for our international members.

I am hopeful that our Clubs will be able to restart their face-to-face gatherings in the near future. However, many of our Clubs are continuing to hold excellent "virtual events". Just look at the "Around the Clubs" column at the end of this newsletter and you will see that they have been inviting Members of Congress, Port officials, industry leaders, and other prominent speakers to their virtual events.

I suspect that going forward, many Clubs will hold a combination of virtual and in-person events. As an example, hosting a webinar or getting your Member of Congress to join a virtual meeting may continue. But there is nothing that can replace a BBQ, crab, or oyster feast! Personally, I find virtual oysters to be rather bland and tasteless.

Clubs have been doing a great job preparing for the in-person gatherings. I am proud to announce that the Piraeus Club has added 165 new members. The Galveston Club has launched a new web page. The Northern California Club continues to hold 1st class webinars and virtual conferences. Meantime, the International Headquarters has been coordinating the establishment and kick-off meetings of our new Committees on Education, Communications, and Policy. So it is time to prepare for the exciting new voyages that your Club will embark upon. As a member-based organization, we need the support of all of our 6,000 members to be successful and promote the maritime industry globally.

Please reach out and let us know what we can do to help your local Club. The International Office was created to help facilitate the sharing of information between

Headquarters and our Clubs as well as between Clubs. We can all learn from each other to improve our global reach and advocacy.

But until we can meet again in-person, please stay safe.

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SALUTE TO CONGRESS & MARITIME PERSON OF THE YEAR

**Representative Peter DeFazio
Chairman, Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
to be honored at Salute to Congress Event**



The International Propeller Club of the United States announced today that Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will be honored at their annual Salute to Congress virtual event on April 1, 2021.

“Chairman DeFazio has been a leader in the U.S. maritime industry during his time in Congress. Most recently, under his leadership, the Water Resources Development Act of 2020, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2020, and authorization for the Federal Maritime Commission were enacted into law last year,” said Niels Aalund, International President.

“This astounding trifecta will create jobs, improve safety, and improve the ability of shippers to provide important information to the Federal Government.” Aalund continued.

The International Propeller Club Salute to Congress award has been recognizing maritime policy leaders in Congress for 37 years. This award is given to a Member of the Senate or House of Representatives who has contributed to the wellbeing and growth of the U.S. maritime industry.

**Rear Admiral Mark H. Buzby (USN Ret.) to be awarded
Maritime Person of the Year**



The International Propeller Club also announced that Rear Admiral Mark H. Buzby (USN Ret.), the Administrator of the Maritime Administration from 2017 to 2021 will be presented with its Maritime Person of the Year Award during this year's Salute to Congress ceremony.

In making this announcement, Niels Aalund, International President, stated: "Admiral Buzby's leadership of the Maritime Administration during the COVID-19 pandemic greatly helped the U.S. maritime industry. He provided assistance to mariners and shipping companies and listened to their needs during this crisis; helped ensure that maritime workers had the testing and Personal Protective Equipment they needed to be safe; and worked with other Federal agencies to make sure that U.S. mariners were not stranded overseas."

"U.S. maritime workers are a critical link in the international logistics system that provides the goods that Americans need. Without Admiral Buzby's assistance store shelves would have been empty due to a breakdown in our intermodal transportation system," Aalund concluded.

Registration and Sponsorship information for the Salute to Congress and Maritime Person of the Year Event can be found at this link:

[Salute to Congress 2021](#)

Headquarter Happenings!

In spite of still being limited in our contacts with each other, we continue to move forward in many areas:

March 3 we held the first in a series of **free webinars** that the International Headquarters is presenting. This was on Mercy Ships and here is a link to the powerpoint presentation. This was a wonderful presentation to learn about the power of what contributions this program has to helping countries who lack proper care. We learned how the mariners are as important as the doctors and the vast array of opportunities. This program was attended by members around the world as well as our Student Ports.

We encourage all of our Ports to promote these free programs as they become available. Feel free to use these as your program for the month. If you have any suggestions for topics and/or speakers, please contact me at cheryl@propellerclubhq.com.

Our **committees** are beginning to meet to achieve their goals of providing services and growth for all of our clubs and their members. We can only be effective in meeting our

mission if we get the input from you! Spots are still available. The committees listed below are still in need of members to effectively reach their goals. Please review these and contact me and let me know what area you would like to help out or if you have any questions. We have divided these up so that you can concentrate on specific areas and not make it time intensive.

Communications Committee, Goals:

Duties: Recommend and implement methods of communication and programs of public relations which will, in its judgment, best promote the maritime and allied industries and the purposes and objectives of the national headquarters and its Ports. This includes traditional press, IPC website, and social media.

- Increase the name recognition of IPC.
- Increase the awareness by individuals in the maritime industry of the activities of IPC to promote the maritime industry.
- Develop communications strategy using traditional press, the IPC website, and social media to achieve the goals established by the Committee.
- Identify emerging technologies to help achieve the goals established by the Committee.
- Support a Website Users Group to continue to provide assistance in the defining the purpose, design and implementation of a website for Ports.
- Examine new ways to create communities within IPC for leaders and members across the world to share information between Ports and National Headquarters.

Education Committee Goals:

Duties: The education committee is responsible for the educational programs and other educational opportunities to provide to members and the maritime community at large.

- Develop programming for maritime education and training for Elementary schools (such as Adopt-a-Ship) and Secondary schools. This may include topics such as lifesaving, safety, logistics, domestic and international shipping, port operations, welding and other industrial skills, and other educational programming designed to foster the knowledge or skills needed to enter the maritime industry.
- Provide assistance helping schools develop the training materials to accomplish the goals of this Committee.
- Encouraging local Clubs to provide financial assistance for training materials, maritime field trips, and other maritime educational initiatives
- Develop continuing-education and training webinar programs for Port leaders and members of the IPC.

Maritime Policy Committee Goals:

Duties: Shall advise the President, the board of Directors and staff on matters of broad, general policy for the maritime industry.

- Develop programs to be presented at the Annual Conference to be conducted in conjunction with the International Convention of the International Propeller Club of the United States. This conference may be a virtual conference and include an electronic publication with papers prepared by maritime industry participants.
- Shall consider and recommend appropriate positions to be taken by the IPC in implementation of its objectives. Such positions may include positions on existing or proposed legislation or regulations; shall represent matters of major significance to the maritime industry and allied industries; and shall include suggested action to be taken by the Officers, Committees, Ports and Members.
- Provide, at least quarterly, reports to headquarters regarding maritime policy and other maritime transportation issues that can be shared in our newsletter and social media.
- Recommend and assist in initiatives that the IPC can take to promote the maritime industry.
- To review, as needed, the existing resolutions to either amend or dissolve the resolution.

The Maritime Promotion Committee has 2 Subcommittees – Unites States and International.

The U.S. Subcommittee of the IPCUS Maritime Policy Committee is beginning to take shape.

The goal of the U.S. Maritime Policy Subcommittee is to provide our members with a clear understanding of the regulatory and legislative issues that are important to the various sectors of the U.S. maritime industry by sharing information with our strategic partners and improve the effectiveness of our advocacy program. So far, we have had a great turnout including representatives of:

- American Association of Port Authorities
- American Maritime Partnership
- American Waterways Operators
- Passenger Vessel Association
- Shipbuilding Council of America
- USA Maritime

Similarly, a Subcommittee on International Maritime Policy will be comprised members from clubs around the world. This Subcommittee would focus on regulatory and policy issues, for example, in Europe and help IPCUS develop an advocacy program in Europe.

Sponsorship and Financial Resources Committee

Duties: This committee is responsible for review and modification of the current sponsorship opportunities and growing list of potential sponsors as well as other revenue generating activities that they may recommend.

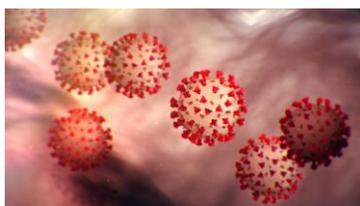
Goals:

- Review current sponsorship opportunities and benefits and provide modifications to include website sponsorship.

- Gather a list of current sponsors and provide potential new sponsors.
- Develop a marketing plan to attract sponsors.
- Develop other initiatives that will generate income for the IPC.

Our **annual conference** will be held virtually in October and plans are underway. In addition, we are planning on a second conference mid-year. Please consider having a voice in these programs. **We are a team and Together We Can Achieve More!**

ON DECK



COVID-19

USCG – COVID-19 safety requirements

On February 1, the US Coast Guard issued a Marine Information Safety Bulletin ([MSIB 02-21](#)) concerning COVID-19 safety requirements on public maritime vessels. President Biden issued Executive Order 13998, entitled Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel, that requires masks be worn on

all “public maritime vessels, including ferries” to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued order, Requirement for Persons to Wear Masks while on Transportation Hubs, 29JAN2021, requires all persons travelling on all commercial vessels to wear a mask. The Safety Bulletin can be viewed at this link: [MSIB-02-21-Mask-Requirement.pdf \(uscg.mil\)](#)

FMC – maritime worker vaccinations urged

On January 29, the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) posted a [bulletin](#) stating that Commissioners Maffei and Bentzel [sent a letter](#) to President Biden and other Administration officials reiterating the importance of vaccinating the maritime workforce. The letter can be viewed at this link: [Maffei-Bentzel COVID-19 letter](#).

USCG – implementation of mask mandate in MTS

On February 8, 2021, the US Coast Guard issued a [bulletin](#) providing guidance regarding implementation of the mask mandate in the maritime transportation system. The bulletin can be viewed at this link: [Implementation of the Mask Mandate in the Maritime Transportation System – Coast Guard Maritime Commons Blog](#)

House – hearing re COVID-19 pandemic

On February 9, 2021, the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure conducted a [hearing](#) on the State of the US Maritime Industry: Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The hearing can be viewed at this link: [CG&MT Hearing- COVID-19](#)

Senate – bill introduced re COVID-19 testing

On February 8, 2021, Senator Blumenthal (D-CT) introduced S. 303 to require the Secretary of Transportation to support the efforts of State and local governments to provide for priority testing of certain transportation workers with respect to COVID-19 and require the owners and operators of equipment and facilities used by passenger or freight transportation employers to clean, disinfect, and sanitize that equipment and provide personal protective equipment to certain employees, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Senator Blumenthal issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure.

EMSA – COVID-19’s impact on shipping

On February 12, the European Maritime Safety Administration (EMSA) issued a [report](#) on COVID-19’s impact on shipping. The report can be viewed at this link: [EMSA COVID-19 Report](#)

Singapore – 100,000 crew changes

On February 15, 2021, the Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a [news release](#) stating that, to date, since the COVID-19 restrictions began MPA has facilitated 100,000 sign-on and sign-off crew of all nationalities from ships of different flags involving more than 5,000 companies and 6,700 ships. The Press Release can be viewed at this link: [SMPA Release – Crew Change](#)

Cyprus – crew change procedures

On February 14, 2021, the Cyprus Shipping Ministry issued a [circular](#) regarding crew change procedures in Cyprus ports. The circular can be viewed at this link: [Cyprus Crew Change Circular](#)

Canada – cruise ships banned for one year

On February 4, 2021, Transport Canada issued a [news release](#) stating that cruise ships and recreational vessels are banned from operating in Canadian waters until 28 February 2022 due to the threat presented by COVID-19. The Release can be viewed at this link: [TC – Cruise Ship Ban](#) Legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Congress to address the impact of this action on cruise ships operating between Seattle and Alaska.

Panama – conditional extension of seafarer employment agreement

On January 21, 2021, the Panama Ship Registry issued an updated Merchant Marine Notice ([MMN-03/2020](#)) regarding Coronavirus and Seafarers employment agreement and Certificates. In light of conditions resulting from COVID-19, conditional extension of such agreements and certificates is authorized on a case-by-case basis. The notice can be viewed at this link: [Panama MMN Covid](#)

UNITED STATES



Congress

Senate – bill introduced re amphibious passenger vessels

On January 27, 2021, Senator Hawley (R-MO) introduced S.62 to implement recommendations related to the safety of amphibious passenger vessels, and for other purposes. The text of the bill can be read at this link: [S62IS](#)

Senate – bill introduced re harmful algal blooms

On January 27, 2021, Senator Rubio (R-FL) introduced S.66 to require the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia to develop a plan for reducing, mitigating, and controlling harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in South Florida, and for other purposes. The text of this bill can be read at this link: [S66IS](#)

House – bill introduced re coastal resiliency grants

On February 1, 2021, Delegate Plaskett (D-VI) introduced H.R. 660 to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a grant program to benefit coastal habitats, resiliency, and the economy, and for other purposes. The text of this bill can be viewed at this link: [HR660IH](#)

Senate – bill introduced re oceanographic data collection

On January 28, 2021, Senator Whitehouse (D-RI) introduced S. 140 to improve data collection and monitoring of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts, and for other purposes. The text of the bill is not yet available.

House – bill introduced re NTSB safety recommendations

On January 28, 2021, Representative Brownley (D-CA) introduced H.R. 509, the Coast Guard Safety and Accountability Act to amend title 14, United States Code, to ensure that the Commandant of the Coast Guard responds to safety recommendations by the National Transportation Safety Board. The text of this bill can be viewed at this link: [HR509IH](#)

House – bill introduced re National Multimodal Freight Network

On January 28, 2021, Representative Brownley (D-CA) introduced H.R. 511 to amend title 49, United States Code, to include a revenue metric in the port network components to better achieve the policy goals of the National Multimodal Freight Network. The text of this bill can be viewed at this link:

[HR511IH](#) Representative Brownley issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure that can be viewed at this link: [Brownley Introduces Legislative Package to Support Transportation and Infrastructure - Congresswoman Julia Brownley \(house.gov\)](#)

House – bill introduced re OCS failure reporting

On January 28, 2021, Representative McEachin (D-VA) introduced H.R. 570 to require operators of offshore oil and gas facilities to report failures of critical systems to the Secretary of Interior, and for other purposes. The text of this bill can be viewed at this link: [HR570IH](#)

House – bill introduced re aquaculture workers

On January 28, 2021, Representative Young (R-AK) introduced H.R. 628 to amend title 46, United States Code, to exclude certain aquaculture workers from treatment as seamen for the purpose of liability in the event of injury or death, and for other purposes. The text of this bill can be viewed at this link: [HR628IH](#)

House – bill introduced re fishing permit liens

On January 28, Representative Young (R-AK) introduced H.R. 632 to provide limitations on maritime liens on fishing permits, and for other purposes. The text of this bill can be viewed at this link: [HR632IH](#)

Senate – bill introduced re mass evacuation grants

On February 24, 2021, Senator Markey (D-MA) introduced S. 430 to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program for projects to strengthen and protect vulnerable infrastructure used during mass evacuations, and for other purposes. The text of this bill is not yet available.

House – bill introduced re Alaska cruise ships

On February 24, 2021, Representative Young (R-AK) introduced a H.R. 1318 to restrict the imposition by the Secretary of Homeland Security of fines, penalties, duties, or tariffs applicable only to coastwise voyages, or prohibit otherwise qualified non-United States citizens from serving as crew, on specified vessels transporting passengers between the State of Washington and the State of Alaska, to address a Canadian cruise ship ban and the extraordinary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Alaskan communities. The text of this bill is not yet available. However, Representative Young issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure. The text of that Release is available at this link: [Congressman Don Young Stands Up for Alaska's Tourism Industry, Introduces Legislation Allowing the 2021 Cruise Season to Safely Commence | Congressman Don Young \(house.gov\)](#)

House – bill introduced re maritime workforce training

On February 11, 2021, Representative Garcia (D-TX) introduced H.R. 987 to establish a grant program for domestic maritime workforce training and education, and for other purposes. The text of this bill is not yet available. However, Representative Garcia issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure. The Release is available at this link: [HR987PR](#)

House – bill introduced re offshore wind training

On February 11, 2021, Representative Keating (D-MA) introduced H.R. 998 to establish an offshore wind career training grant program, and for other purposes. The text of this bill is not yet available. Official text of the bill is not yet available.

House – bill introduced re Deepwater Port Act

On February 18, 2021, Representative Young (R-AK) introduced H.R. 1189 to amend the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 to permit the construction of deepwater ports in Federal water adjacent to certain coastal States that do not have an active Coastal Zone Management Program. The text of this bill is not yet available.

Library of Congress Reports

CRS – Changes in the Arctic

On February 1, 2021, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) posted an [updated report](#) entitled Changes in the Arctic. The Department of Defense (DOD) and the Coast Guard are devoting increased attention to the Arctic in their planning and operations. The Report can be viewed at this link: [Changes in the Arctic: Background and Issues for Congress](#)

CRS – South China Sea Disputes

On February 2, 2021, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) issued a [report](#) on the South China Sea Disputes regarding sovereignty over areas in the South China Sea. The report can be viewed at this link: [South China Sea Disputes: Background and U.S. Policy \(congress.gov\)](#)

CRS – USCG Waterways Commerce Cutter Program

On February 11, 2021, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) issued an [updated report](#) regarding the USCG Waterways Commerce Cutter Program. The report can be viewed at this link: [RPT: WCCP](#)



Coast Guard

USCG – CMTS webinar on COVID-19 vaccines

On February 17, 2021, the US Coast Guard issued a [bulletin](#) stating that, on 3 March, the [U.S. Committee on the Marine Transportation System](#) (CMTS) [COVID-19 Working Group](#) (C-19 WG) is hosting a working group webinar on COVID-19 vaccines for the marine transportation system workforce. The bulletin can be

viewed at this link: [CMTS COVID-19 Webinar](#)

USCG – recreational vessel COD extended to 5 years

On February 17, 2021, the US Coast Guard issued a [bulletin](#) reminding stakeholders that, on February 18, 2021, the final rule extending the validity of a recreational vessel endorsement on a Certificate of Documentation (COD) from 1 to 5 years goes into effect. The bulleting can be viewed at this link: [Final Rule: Certificate of Documentation-5 Year Renewal Fees – Coast Guard Maritime Commons Blog](#)

USCG – small passenger vessel inspection checklists

On February 4, 2021, the US Coast Guard issued inspection checklists (short and long versions) for T-Boats (small passenger vessels under 100 gross tons) and K-Boats (small passenger vessels carrying more than 150 passengers or with overnight accommodations for more than 49 passengers). The lists can be viewed at these links:

[T-Boat \(short\)](#)

[T-Boat \(long\)](#)

[K-Boat \(short\)](#)

[K-Boat \(long\)](#)

USCG – Towing Vessel website update

The Coast Guard's Towing Vessel National Center of Expertise [TVNCOE website](#) has been streamlined and updated to enhance user friendliness and maximize access to towing vessel related guidance and requirements. Updates include the addition of a [Security](#) section to [TugSafe Central](#), the online hub for Subchapter M, as well as new links to the Commercial Vessel Compliance website to ensure the latest guidance on all Coast Guard inspected vessel fleets. In addition, electronic copies of Coast Guard/TPO quarterly meeting minutes are now available on the [TPO webpage](#).

USCG – CSNCOE newsletter

On February 9, 2021, the Coast Guard's Cruise Ship National Center of Expertise (CSNCOE) posted the [winter edition](#) of its newsletter, renamed the Cruise Ship Round Turn. Among other topics, this edition addresses the CDC Conditional Sail Order. The newsletter can be viewed at this link: [Issue 24 Winter 2021 Edition.pdf \(uscg.mil\)](#)

USCG – SMFF Core GSA updates completed

On February 12, 2021, the US Coast Guard issued a [notice](#) stating that updates of the Salvage and Marine Firefighting (SMFF) Core Geographic Specific Appendices (GSAs) have been completed. Vessel owners/operators must revise their vessel response plans (VRPs) to reflect the current date and revision number of their contracted SMFF resource provider's accepted core GSAs. The notice can be viewed at this link: [SMFF Core GSA Updates Completed \(govdelivery.com\)](https://www.govdelivery.com)

USCG – OCSNCOE website update

The Coast Guard's Outer Continental Shelf National Center of Expertise (OCSNCOE) website has been updated both on the [Homepage](#) and on [Drill Down](#).

OMB – review of USCG proposal completed

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) completed its review of the US Coast Guard [proposal](#) for clarification of certain mariner training requirements. (2/8/21) [[View Rule \(reginfo.gov\)](#)].



National Transportation Safety Board

NTSB – sinking of FV Miss Annie

On January 28, 2021, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued the [report](#) of its investigation of the 19 December 2019 sinking of the fishing vessel Miss Annie. The probable cause of the Miss Annie stranding and subsequent loss was the vessel striking an unmarked wreck, whose position had shifted from its previous known position and was yet to be charted or announced in the notice to mariners. The report can be viewed at this link: [NTSB - Miss Annie](#)

NTSB – allision with mooring dolphin

On February 3, 2021, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued the [report](#) of its investigation of the December 15, 2019 allision of the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) carrier Levant with the mooring dolphin at the Petrogas Ferndale Wharf in Ferndale, Washington. The probable cause of the allision was the pilot's approach with excessive speed and at too steep an angle, resulting from the pilot's and bridge team's poor bridge resource management. The report can be viewed at this link: [NTSB - Levant](#)

NTSB – Most Wanted List

On February 2 2021, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued a [news release](#) announcing its intent to hold a public board meeting March 9, 2021, 9:30 a.m. (EST) to finalize its 2021 – 2022 Most Wanted List of Transportation Safety Improvements. The Press Release can be viewed at this link: [NTSB - Most Wanted - Press Release](#)

NTSB – towing vessel engine room fire

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued the [report](#) of its investigation of the 8 October 2019 engine room fire on the towing vessel Susan Lynn. The probable cause of the fire was a catastrophic engine failure resulting in an oil reservoir breach and an ensuing fire initiated by ejected lube oil igniting off a hot surface. Contributing to the extent of the fire were the open engine room doors and the unsecured fuel shutoff valves. The report can be viewed at this link: [NTSB - Susan Lynn](#)

NTSB – towing vessel engine room fire

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued the [report](#) of its investigation of the 26 February 2020 engine room fire on the towing vessel City of Cleveland. The probable cause of the fire was the catastrophic failure and crankcase breach of the port main engine resulting from the failure of a connecting rod assembly. Contributing to the severity of damage to the vessel was the lack of a fixed fire-extinguishing system for the engine room, as well as the loss of electrical power to the single fire pump. The report can be viewed at this link: [NTSB - City of Cleveland](#)

NTSB – towing vessel allision with bridge

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued the [report](#) of its investigation of the 15 March 2020 allision of the tow of the towing vessel Cooperative Spirit with the Hale Boggs Memorial Bridge at mile 121.6 of the Lower Mississippi River. The probable cause of the allision was the pilot not effectively compensating for the strong current while navigating a turn and approaching the bridge in high-water conditions. [NTSB - Cooperative Spirit](#)



Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

BOEM – Vineyard Wind environmental review

On February 3, 2021, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a [press release](#) stating that it intends to resume the environmental review of Vineyard Wind’s proposed offshore wind project. The Press Release can be viewed at this link: [BOEM Press Release - Vinyard Wind](#)

BOEM – South Fork Wind Farm

On February 8, 2021, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) launched the South Fork Wind Farm (off NY/RI) Virtual Meeting [website](#). The South Fork website can be found at this link: [BOEM – South Fork Website](#)

BOEM – first wave energy lease issued

On February 16, 2021, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a [press release](#) announcing issuance of a lease for the first wave energy research project in federal waters 6 miles off the coast of Oregon. The BOEM Press Release of this wave site can be found at this link: [BOEM Press Release - Oregon wave test site](#)

Other notices

DOS – meeting on 29 April re IMO MSC 103

On February 1, 2021, the Department of State will conduct a public meeting of the Shipping Coordination Committee on Thursday, April 29, 2021, by way of teleconference in order to prepare for the upcoming session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 103). The Federal Register notice of this meeting can be found at this link: [DOS – SCC meeting notice](#)

DOS – meeting on 11 March re IMO PPR 8

On February 10, 2021, the Department of State (DOS) issued a notice stating that a public meeting by way of teleconference will be held on 11 March. The primary purpose of the meeting is to prepare for the eighth session of the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR 8). Topics on the agenda include biofouling; Arctic black carbon emissions; heavy fuel oil in Arctic waters; and sewage treatment plants. The Federal Register notice of this meeting can be found at this link: [DOS – IMO MSC meeting](#)

FMC – December activity report

On January 29, 2021, the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) posted its December 2020 Activity Report which can be found at this link: [FMC Activity Rpt – Dec 2020](#)

FMC – Commissioner calls for limited exception to PVSA

On February 10, 2021, Commissioner Louis E. Sola of the FMC issued a [statement](#) encouraging both the Biden administration and Congress to quickly review the impact on the Alaskan economy of the Canadian ban on cruise ships and consider a limited exception to the Passenger Vessel Services Act (PVSA) while simultaneously engaging the Canadian government on the diplomatic front to address this particular problem. Commissioner Sola’s statement can be viewed at this link: [Sota Statement – PVSA](#)

FMC – Chairman Khouri Letter regarding misdeclared hazardous cargoes.

On February 12, 2021, Michael A. Khouri, Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) posted a copy of his recent [Letter to the Editor](#) of Lloyd's List regarding misdeclared hazardous cargoes. Chairman Khouri's letter can be read at this link: [Khouri letter – hazardous cargoes](#)

St. Lawrence Seaway – 2021 Navigation Season

On February 16, 2021, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System issued a [notice](#) announcing that the opening of the 2021 navigation season is scheduled to take place on the following dates: Welland Canal: March 19, 2021 and Montreal / Lake Ontario Section: March 22, 2021. The notice can be viewed at this link: [GL-STSS – 2021 Opening notice](#)

St. Lawrence Seaway – wharfage charges

On February 23, 2021, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System issued a [news release](#) stating that the St. Lawrence Seaway Wharfage and Storage Charges have been increased by 2% for the 2021 navigation season. Effective with the commencement of the 2021 navigation season. The release can be viewed at this link: [St. Lawrence wharfage charges for 2021](#)

St. Lawrence Seaway – 2% toll increase for 2021

On February 23, 2021, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System issued a [news release](#) stating that the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) announced a toll rate increase of 2.0% for the 2021 navigation season. The [new revised tariff](#) is available on the Seaway website. The release can be viewed at this link: [SLSMC Release – toll increase](#)

NOAA – 304 SARSAT rescues in 2020

On January 28, 2021, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a [news release](#) stating that its satellite fleet played a pivotal role in rescuing 304 people from potentially life-threatening situations throughout the United States and its surrounding waters in 2020 through other capabilities that fly on these satellites. Of the 304 U.S. rescues last year, 217 were water rescues, 12 were from aviation incidents and 75 were from events on land. Florida had the most SARSAT rescues with 67, followed by Alaska with 29. The record for the most SARSAT U.S. rescues in one year was set in 2019, with 421. The news release can be viewed at this link: [NOAA - SARSAT Rescues in 2020](#)

DOT – applicants sought for infrastructure grants

On February 17, 2021, the Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a [news release](#) announcing that it is seeking applicants for the FY 2021 round of the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) discretionary grant program to fund transportation projects of national and regional significance that are in line with the Biden Administration's principles for national infrastructure projects that result in good-paying jobs, improve safety, apply transformative technology, and explicitly address climate change and racial equity. The funding available for this year's grants totals approximately \$889 million. The Press Release can be viewed at this link: [DOT - Infrastructure Grants Press Release](#)

COAC – meeting on 17 March

On February 21, 2021, the Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC) will hold its quarterly meeting on 17 March via webinar. The Federal Register notice of this meeting can be found at this link: [86 Fed. Reg. 10330](#)

White House – entry of US vessels into Cuban waters

On February 2, 2021, President Biden issued a [notice](#) continuing the national emergency declaration prohibiting the unauthorized entry of any United States-registered vessel into Cuban territorial waters. President Biden's letter can be found at this link: [White House – vessel movements & Cuba](#)

DHS – preparedness grant funding

On February 25, 2021, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a [press release](#) announcing funding opportunities for preparedness grants. The Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) is funded at the \$100 million level. The DHS Release can be found at this link: [DHS Release – Preparedness Grants](#)

International



IMO – year of action for seafarers

On February 16, 2021, the IMO issued a [news release](#) stating that the World Maritime Theme for 2021 is dedicated to seafarers, highlighting their central role in the future of shipping. The Release can be viewed at this link: [IMO Release – Action for Seafarers](#)

IMO – Neptune Declaration

On February 4, 2021, the IMO issued a [news release](#) stating that IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim has welcomed the industry-led [Neptune Declaration](#), which calls for seafarers to be designated as key workers and for cooperation to end the crew change crisis, which is not only putting seafarers in a desperate situation but also threatening the safety of shipping and world trade. The IMO Release can be viewed at this link: [IMO Release - crew change crisis](#)

IMO – sulphur limit transition smooth

On January 28, 2021, the IMO issued a [news release](#) stating that, on 1 January 2020, new reduced limits on sulphur in fuel oil brought about a 70% cut in total sulphur oxide emissions from shipping, ushering in a new era of cleaner air in ports and coastal areas by using less polluting fuels. The Release can be viewed at this link: [IMO Release – Sulphur Oxide](#)

Malta – injury during tank cleaning

On February 23, 2021, Transport Malta issued the [report](#) of its investigation of the 17 February 2020 incident on the oil/chemical tanker Sichem Manila at the Tarragona anchorage, Spain. The Marine Safety Investigation Unit (MSIU) concluded that the cause of the valve block failure was either a high-pressure stream of water or a water hammer effect, acting on the corroded mild steel securing bolts of the valve block. The Report can be viewed at this link: [TM – Sichem Manila Report](#)

Malta – crew member injury

On February 2, 2021, Transport Malta issued the Safety Investigation [report](#) of its investigation of the 4 February 2020 incident on the vehicle carrier Titania in which a crew member was seriously injured while operating the vessel's onboard lathe. The report can be viewed at this link: [TM Report – Tatania](#)

Malta – fatality in pumproom

On February 2, 2021, Transport Malta issued the [report](#) of its investigation of the fatality on the pumproom of the oil tanker Valtamed while at anchor off Turkey on 3 February 2020 awaiting berthing instructions. The report can be viewed at this link: [Malta Report – Valtamed](#)

Malta – fatal man overboard incident

On February 2, 2021, Transport Malta issued the [report](#) of its investigation of the 5 February 2020 fatal man overboard incident involving the bosun on board the bulk carrier Navios Amitie. The bosun fell into the sea while rigging a combination pilot ladder. The report can be viewed at this link: [Malta Report – Navios Amitie](#)

UK – engine failure and fire

On February 22, 2021, the UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) issued the [report](#) of its investigation of the 16 April 2018 incident on the ro-ro cargo vessel Finlandia Seaways off Lowestoft. The vessel suffered a catastrophic main engine failure that caused serious structural damage to the engine and a fire in the engine room. The vessel's third engineer, who was on duty in the engine room at the time, suffered serious smoke-related lung, kidney, and eye injuries during his escape. The report can be viewed at this link: [MAIB – Finlandia Seaways Report](#)

UK – offshore SAR courses

On February 25, 2021, the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) posted various safety courses for the offshore oil, gas, and renewable energy industries. The course information can be found at this link: [MCA Safety Courses](#)

UK – Exercise Celtic Deep report

On February 9, 2021, the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) issued a [report](#) on the Exercise CELTIC DEEP, held over the 21st and 22nd October 2020, to test the national contingency plan for

marine pollution from shipping and offshore installations (NCP). Government departments, local authorities, the shipping industry and their contractors were all tested in their response to a major shipping incident resulting in offshore and onshore pollution. The report can be viewed at this link: [MCA – Report Oil Spill exercise](#)

Australia – shipping cartel prosecution

On February 5, 2021, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) issued a [media release](#) stating that Norwegian-based global shipping company Wallenius Wilhelmsen Ocean AS (WVO) has been convicted of criminal cartel conduct and ordered by the Federal Court to pay a fine of \$24 million, in a case prosecuted by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP) for a total of \$83.5 million in fines. The release can be viewed at this link: [ACCC release – Willenius Wilhelmsen](#)

Around the Clubs

Northern California Club

On February 2, the Northern California Club heard from Jim McKenna, president of the Pacific Marine Association (PMA) on the impact of COVID-19 on the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, including 13 deaths and 855 cases afflicting longshore workers. (Add photo)

On February 23, the Northern California Club welcomed Lars Jensen of SeaIntelligence Consulting who spoke on the trends in the Trans-Pacific Container Freight industry and advice for Agricultural Exporters.



Los Angeles – Long Beach Club

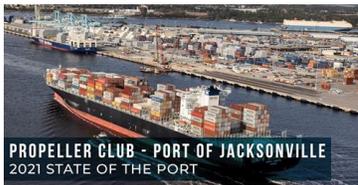
On February 18, the LA/LB Club heard from David Arsenault, President of the Club and President of GSC Logistics on the “State of the Industry: A Year Like No Other, and What is Ahead for 2021”.

On February 24, the LA/LB Club heard from Bryan Brandes, Director of Maritime for the Port of Oakland.



Washington, DC Club

On February 25, the Washington, DC Club heard from Capt. Michael Rodriguez (USN Ret), former Deputy Administrator of the Maritime Administration on how the Biden Administration Team reviewed the Maritime Administration and the Federal Maritime Commission.



Jacksonville Club

On February 23, at a Jacksonville Club meeting, Jamie C. Shelton (JAXPORT Board Chairman) and Eric Green (JAXPORT CEO) unveiled the new Strategic Master Plan for the Jacksonville Port Authority.



Manatee

On February 25, the Manatee Club heard a Virtual State of the Port presentation from Carlos Buqueras, the Executive Director of Port Manatee.

Savannah

On February 11, the Savannah Club held a ZOOM members meeting. Their guest speaker was Dr. Lawton C. Davis, Health Director, Georgia Department of Health. There were advised to follow the “3W’s” Wear your mask. Wash your hands. Watch your distance.

Narragansett Bay

The Narragansett Bay Club released a Press Release thanking President Biden and the Senate for confirming their (now) former Governor Gina Raimondo as Secretary of Commerce. Their release pointed out the infrastructure investments made under the Governor as well as her support for the maritime industry. Governor Raimondo was the Club’s Person of the Year in 2018. Their Press Release can be found at this link: [NB Press Release - Raimondo](#)

Houston

The Houston Club awarded 4 scholarships to students at San Jacinto College and Texas Southern University.

Norfolk

Students at the Nauticus’ Sail Academy, which is supported by the Norfolk Club, helped turn marine debris and trash into art. These sculptures will be a part of a travelling exhibit by National Geographic titled “Planet or Plastic”.

Seattle

On February 24, the Seattle Club held a panel discussion on “What Every Marine Employer Needs to Know About Longshore Coverage.



Tacoma

On February 16, the Tacoma Club held a virtual meeting at which U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer (D-WA) spoke. Congressman Kilmer serves on the House Committee on Appropriations.

Piraeus

The Piraeus Club held a welcoming event for their **165 new members** – which makes their Club the 2nd largest club in our organization. International President Niels Aalund joined the meeting virtually from Houston, TX.

Monaco

On February 18, the Monaco Club held a webinar at which Bob Sanguinetto, CEO of the UK Chamber of Shipping spoke on “Seizing the green opportunities for UK shipping”.



London

On February 25, the London Club held a ZOOM meeting at which Maria Dixon, the CEO of ISM Shipping Solutions made a presentation on “Flag States, Survival during the time of COVID”.



Nantes Saint-Nazaire

On February 15, the Nantes Saint-Nazaire Club visited the French Maritime Academy, also known as the French Merchant Marine Academy, to celebrate the relationship between the school and the Student Port Club at the Academy and the school. The Nantes Saint-Nazaire Student Port was founded in 1987 and was the first student club outside of the United States.

Be safe - and here's to a Great 2021

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