



## International Propeller Club of the United States

Promoting the Maritime Industry Since 1927

### March 2021 Newsletter

### Message from the President



The Salute to Congress and recognition of our Maritime Person of the Year was a resounding success! We had record participation by members from around the globe and more sponsors from industry and clubs than we have ever had before. All totaled, 183 people tuned in to hear from Congressman Peter DeFazio, Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, when he received his reward. Rear Admiral Mark H. Buzby (USN, Ret.) gave stirring remarks about the importance of the U.S. maritime industry.

These two leaders have greatly contributed to the U.S. and global maritime industry and were clearly deserving of these national awards. Chairman DeFazio spoke of the need to rebuild our maritime industry. He rightly pointed out that it is “about good jobs, about national security”. Last year, Congress enacted the Maritime Transportation System Emergency Relief Program to help pay for the cost of capital projects to protect, repair, reconstruct, or replace equipment and facilities of the U.S. marine transportation that have suffered as the result of an emergency – including the loss of revenues. Chairman DeFazio points out that our ports and maritime industry was basically ignored up to now with respect to funding for COVID-19 relief. He challenged our clubs to help get the support from members of the House and the Senate to fund this MTS Emergency Relief Program in this year’s Appropriations Act.

Rear Admiral Mark Buzby (ISN, Ret.) was recognized as our Maritime Person of the Year for the tremendous leadership he demonstrated in helping the maritime industry respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Admiral Buzby stated the Maritime Administration’s mission is “to foster, promote, and strengthen the maritime industry and the merchant marine”. To that end they had an ongoing series of “fireside chats” with government and industry officials to share information real time so that decisions could be made, shared, and executed quickly. He believes that it showed

how closely the maritime industry can and does work together to accomplish a shared goal.

Our industry has benefitted greatly from the leadership that these two individuals have shown. Chairman DeFazio has laid out a challenge for our organization to help develop the local support necessary to build the infrastructure that the maritime industry so desperately needs. Now it is up to our Clubs and their members to convey that message to your Members of Congress and Senators. It's time to advocate for our industry!

From our popular regional calls we were pleased to learn that many of our clubs are also starting to hold socially distanced events such as golf tournaments and shrimp boils. We are hopeful that more of these events become possible as members get vaccinated and the threat posed by the COVID-19 virus diminishes.

In the meantime –

Please stay safe.

Niels Aalund  
International President  
(281) 687-9499  
niels@wgma.org

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## Begin Advocating for Infrastructure!

The Biden Administration, the leadership of the House of Representatives, and the Senate are beginning to identify scope and priorities for infrastructure legislation. It could include many types of infrastructure, such as broadband internet deployment to rural areas, and other types of infrastructure that are not your typical “bricks and mortar” projects.

This column will focus on more traditional infrastructure projects that may be of benefit to port communities throughout the United States. Global trade has increased to the point that there are challenges to moving cargo through our ports and local communities to their destination. Clearly, additional resources are needed to expedite the movement of freight and passengers through our nation's ports. The challenge is identifying those projects that will accomplish these goals and obtaining funding for the project.

How this will be done by the House, Senate, and Biden Administration is still to be determined. There is some sentiment that including “directed spending” for projects proposed by both Democrats and Republicans can lead to the development of bipartisan legislation because both Democrats and Republicans will have an interest in seeing the legislation enacted into law.

### **House:**

The House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure, under the leadership of Chairman Peter DeFazio, is developing a “formal process” for “requests for highway and

transit project designations”. In the past, these have been commonly referred to as “earmarks”.

According to the [Press Release](#) released by the Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure, they will create a process that “allows more direct Member engagement on critical infrastructure projects that are consistent with State and local infrastructure plans.” Chairman DeFazio stated that “The discretion to fund projects should not be reserved for State or Federal bureaucrats. Elected representatives know the infrastructure needs of their district and should be allowed to identify projects and advocate on behalf of their constituents in legislation.”

According to their announcement, “The Committee will require all Member submissions to include the following information for each project requested:

- “Documentation of whether the project is on the State, Tribal, or territorial transportation improvement program (STIP); and on the metropolitan transportation improvement program (TIP), if applicable
- “Sources of funding for the full share of the cost of the project beyond the amount requested
- “Letter(s) of support from the State department of transportation, or local government, transit agency, or other non-Federal sponsor
- “A description of the process that has been or will be followed to provide an opportunity for public comment on the project
- “Project phase (e.g. Planning, Final Design, Construction)
- “NEPA category of action (e.g. Categorical Exclusion, Environmental Assessment, Environmental Impact Statement)
- “Status of environmental review
- “Whether the project has received Federal funding previously, and if so the source and amount
- “Certification that the Member, their spouse, and other immediate family members do not have a financial interest in the project.”

### **Senate**

In February, the Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works (EPW), under the leadership of Senator Tom Carper (DE) began holding hearings on infrastructure investment. At the February hearing, Chairman Carper stated that “much of our infrastructure is significantly outdated. .... As we work with state and local partners, there must be accountability to ensure that federal funds are invested in well-designed projects that expand equity and lift up our nation as a whole.”

The EPW Committee has asked Senators to share their states’ policy priorities with them so they can develop bipartisan legislation. Their goal is to have this bill reported out of Committee by Memorial Day.

Many Senators are interested in including “designated projects or earmarks”. However, they are waiting to see how Senator McConnell would like to proceed on this legislation.

### **Biden Administration**

The Biden Administration has released the outline for their infrastructure proposal, called the “American Rescue Plan”. This proposal is broad in scope and addresses:

- Modernizing highways, bridges, ports, airports, and transit systems.
- Delivering clean drinking water, a renewed electric grid, and high-speed broadband.
- Building and retrofitting more than 2 million homes and commercial buildings schools and childcare facilities.
- Revitalizing U.S. manufacturing, secure U.S. supply chains, invest in Research & Development, and job training.

According to the [Face Sheet: The American Jobs Plan](#), the Biden Administration is calling on Congress “to invest an additional \$17 billion in inland waterways, coastal ports, land ports of entry, and ferries, which are all essential to our nation’s freight.”

**IPCUS ROLE:**

It is vital that the challenges to U.S. marine transportation system, including the land-based infrastructure that supports that industry, be given full support in any infrastructure legislation that is being developed. Therefore, your Club should:

- Meet with our Port officials to understand the infrastructure projects that will best help your port.
- Convey your support of those projects to your area Members of Congress and Senators.
- Request that your Representatives and Senators address your ports needs in any “designated project/earmark” request that they make.
- Follow-up with your Member of Congress and Senators to ensure that these needs are being addressed.

**It is time to begin advocating for infrastructure projects worldwide that support your local maritime industry!**

**Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!**

We cannot say thank you enough. The International Propeller Club Ports are volunteer run organizations. We want to give a huge shout out to all of you who volunteer and serve the Ports and their members with their time, commitment and passion. We would not exist without your dedication.

We are unique in that the International Propeller Club is the **only** organization that represents every aspect of the maritime community. Where else can you network with colleagues and find out about what is happening within the entire maritime community? It is because of this diversity that we rely on our volunteers to share their knowledge and experiences to build stronger organizations, bring education and benefits to all of our members and ensure the future growth of the industry.

We never have too many volunteers. The International headquarters have many committee opportunities. This is an opportunity to put your skills into action. Do you want to expand your network beyond your local Port? If you have skills in social media, education, business development, finance, public relations, mentoring youth about the

opportunities in working in the maritime industry, there is a spot for you to contribute to the industry. If you want to build your leadership skills, there is a spot for you here. Please contact me and let's talk about where you can best put these skills to help others, 703-304-5717 or [Cheryl@propellerclubhq.com](mailto:Cheryl@propellerclubhq.com). I hope to hear from you.

The power of people working together can bring about monumental changes. Please take a few minutes and thank those who are giving of their time to run the clubs and think about becoming part of the team.

### SALUTE TO CONGRESS MARITIME PERSON OF THE YEAR SPONSORS



We would like to give a special thanks to all of those organizations that sponsored this year's virtual Salute to Congress and Maritime Person of the Year Event recognizing Chairman Peter DeFazio and Rear Admiral Mark H. Buzby (USN, Ret.). Without their generous support our organization would not exist. This year's sponsors were:

#### GOLD

American Maritime Congress  
American Maritime Officers Service  
American President Lines  
Crowley Maritime  
Jones Walker  
Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association  
Masters, Mates & Pilots Union  
Seafarers International Union

American Maritime Officers  
American Maritime Partnership  
American Roll-on Roll-off Carrier  
Ingram Barge Company  
Kirby Corporation  
Maritime Institute (MIRAID)  
Pasha Hawaii  
Transportation Institute

#### SILVER

American Waterways Operators  
Association of Ship Brokers & Agents (USA)

**Federal Pilots of Louisiana  
Fisherman's Finest  
K & L Gates  
Lake Carriers Association  
West Gulf Maritime Association**

### **CLUB SPONSORS**

**Propeller Club of Baltimore\*  
Propeller Club of Cleveland  
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Propeller Club of Los Angeles / Long Beach  
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Propeller Club of New Orleans  
Propeller Club of Paducah  
Propeller Club of Tacoma  
Propeller Club of Tampa  
Propeller Club of Washington DC**

## **Water Resources Development Act of 2020 Implementation**

The Army Corps of Engineers is seeking public input regarding the implementation of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020. The Corps will be holding focus sessions including webinars and teleconferences. This is a great opportunity for our members and their Clubs to be heard on many critical issues before they are implemented!

The Federal Register notice can be found at this link:

[WRDA 2020 Corps Notice](#)

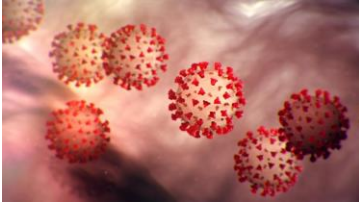
To submit your comments, click on this link:

[WRDA 2020 Comments](#)

**Deadline: May 8, 2021**

### **On Deck**

## **COVID-19 & Crew Change**



### **Tokyo MOU – interim guidance re COVID-19**

On March 1, the Tokyo MOU issued [interim guidance](#) relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance can be found at this link: [Tokyo MOU – COVID guidance](#)

### **FMC – vaccinations urged for maritime workforce**

On March 3, the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a [statement](#) stating that Commissioners Maffei and Bentzel sent

letters to the Governors of major port states urging them to prioritize the vaccination of the maritime workforce to protect the Nation's supply chain. The statement can be viewed at this link: [Maffei/Bentzel – COVID](#)

### **EMSA – COVID-19 impact on shipping**

On March 12, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) issued a [report](#) on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on shipping. The report can be downloaded at this link: [EMSA – COVID Rpt.](#)

### **Canada – entrance into Canada for crew change**

On March 4, Transport Canada issued [updated guidance](#) regarding entrance of crew members into Canada for purposes of crew change. The guidance can be viewed at his link: [Canada crew change guidance](#)

### **USCG – COVID-19 crew change issues**

On March 17, The Coast Guard issued a Marine Safety Information Bulletin ([MSIB 04-21](#)) concerning COVID-19 crew change issues. The bulleting can be viewed at his link: [MSIB – Crew Change](#)

### **UK – COVID-19 conditional exemption for seafarers**

On March 15, the UK Department for Transport (DfT) issued a [notice](#) stating, among other things, that seafarers, masters, inspectors, and surveyors of ships are conditionally exempt from UK travel restrictions based on the COVID-19 pandemic. The notice can be found at this link: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): jobs that qualify for travel exemptions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

### **IMO – crew change crisis continues**

On March 19, the IMO issued a [news release](#) stating that the crew change crisis is far from over and issues around vaccination need to be resolved. The release can be found at his link: [IMO – Crew Change – Mar 2021](#)

### **USCG – COVID-19 guidance for MTS**

On March 23, the US Coast Guard has published [Change 1 to Marine Safety Information Bulletin \(MSIB\) 02-21](#) to provide updated guidance on the requirement for wearing masks on commercial vessels in Executive Order (13998) issued by the President on January 21, 2021. Change-1 to this MSIB reflects the inclusion of sea ports, provides additional on applicability for mask information wear in the marine transportation system and includes links to [Coast Guard](#) and [CDC Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) pages. The Bulletin can be viewed at this link: [MSIB – masks – March](#)

### **UK – minimizing COVID-19 risks**

On March 26, the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) issued an updated Marine Information Note ([MIN 616, Amend 5](#)) providing revised guidance on minimizing the risks of COVID-19). The note can be viewed at this link: [MCA COVID guidance](#)

### **USCG – mask use FAQ for mariners**

On March 29, the US Coast Guard posted a set of Frequently Asked Questions ([FAQs](#)) regarding the maritime application of the CDC Guidance on face mask use. The FAQs can be viewed at this link: [\[CDC Mask Order FAQ \(uscg.mil\)\]](#)

### **UNCTAD – facilitating crew change and repatriation**

On March 2, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) posted an article regarding crew repatriation during COVID. The article can be viewed at this link: [Facilitating crew changes and repatriation of seafarers during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.](#)



### **IMO – vaccines for maritime workers**

On March 26, the IMO issued a [news release](#) stating that the heads of five UN organizations have called for maritime and air transport workers to be prioritized for COVID-19 vaccination, given their key role in supporting global trade and mobility, which is essential for a sustainable socio-economic recovery. The release can be viewed at this link: [Seafarers and aircrew need priority COVID-19 vaccination \(imo.org\)](#)

## **OFFSHORE WIND**

### **BOEM – Vineyard Winds FEIS**

On March 3, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a notice stating that it is resuming the preparation of a final environmental impact statement (FEIS) for the Construction and Operations Plan (COP) submitted by Vineyard Wind LLC (Vineyard Wind) concerning the construction and operation of an 800-megawatt wind energy facility offshore Massachusetts (Vineyard Wind 1 Project or Project). The Federal Register notice can be viewed at this link: [86 Fed. Reg. 12494](#)

### **DOI – Vineyard Wind environmental analysis**

On March 8, the Department of the Interior (DOI) issued a [press release](#) announcing that the environmental analysis of the proposed Vineyard Wind I offshore wind project has been completed. Vineyard Wind is proposing what is expected to be the first project developed in their lease area, an 800-megawatt wind energy project offshore Massachusetts. The proposed project would be located approximately 12 nautical miles offshore Martha's Vineyard and 12 nautical miles offshore Nantucket in the northern portion of Vineyard Wind's lease area. If approved, it would be the first commercial scale offshore wind project in the United States. The release can be viewed at this link: [Interior Completes Environmental Review for Offshore Wind Project | U.S. Department of the Interior \(doi.gov\)](#)

### **CRS – offshore permitting for wind energy**

On March 8, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) of the Library of Congress issued an updated [report](#) on offshore permitting for wind energy. The Report can be viewed at this link: [CRS – offshore wind- Mar 2021](#)

### **BOEM – Vineyard Wind FEIS**

On March 11, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) posted the four volumes of the Final Environmental Impact Statement ([FEIS](#)) for the Vineyard Wind project. The FEIS can be viewed at this link: [Vineyard Wind | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management \(boem.gov\)](#)

### **BOEM – offshore wind energy sector**

On March 18, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) posted a [video](#) concerning the offshore wind energy sector and the role of BOEM. The video can be viewed at this link: [BOEM Renewable Energy Whiteboard | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#)

### **White House – jump-starting offshore wind energy projects**

On March 29, the White House issued a [fact sheet](#) concerning the jump-starting of offshore wind energy projects to create jobs. The fact sheet can be viewed at this link: [FACT SHEET: Biden Administration Jumpstarts Offshore Wind Energy Projects to Create Jobs | The White House](#)

### **DOC, DOE & DOI – offshore wind power initiative**

On March 29, the Department of Commerce (DOC) issued a [news release](#) stating that it, along with the Departments of Interior and Energy, are announcing a shared goal to deploy 30 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind in the United States by 2030, while protecting biodiversity and promoting ocean co-use. Meeting this target will trigger more than \$12 billion per year in capital investment in projects on both US coasts, create tens of thousands of good-paying, union jobs, with more than 44,000 workers employed in offshore wind by 2030 and nearly 33,000 additional jobs in communities supported by offshore wind activity. It will also generate enough power to meet the demand of more than 10 million American homes



for a year and avoid 78 million metric tons of CO2 emissions. The release can be viewed at this link: [U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo Announces Efforts to Advance Offshore Wind Power Generation | U.S. Department of Commerce](#)

#### **New Jersey – offshore wind farm EIS**

On March 30, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the review of a construction and operations plan (COP) submitted by Ocean Wind, LLC, (Ocean Wind). The COP proposes the construction and operation of a wind energy facility offshore New Jersey with export cables connecting to the onshore electric grid in Ocean and Cape May Counties, New Jersey. Virtual public meetings will be held on April 13, 15, and 20, Written comments must be received by 29 April. The Federal Register notice can be viewed at this link: [86 Fed. Reg. 16630](#)

#### **NOAA – data sharing with offshore wind developer**

On March 29, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a [news release](#) announcing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Ørsted Wind Power North America LLC, an offshore wind development company, to share physical and biological data in Ørsted-leased waters subject to US jurisdiction. The MOA is the first of its kind between an offshore wind developer and NOAA and it paves the way for similar data-sharing agreements with other developers. The news release can be viewed at this link: [NOAA signs data-share agreement with offshore wind energy company | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)

## **CONGRESS**

#### **Senate – bill introduced re Great Lakes icebreaking**

On March 3, Senator Baldwin (D-WI) introduced S. 576) a bill to amend title 14, United States Code, to require the Coast Guard to conduct icebreaking operations in the Great Lakes to minimize commercial disruption in the winter months, and for other purposes. The text of this legislation can be found at this link: [S576IS](#)

#### **House – bill introduced re Great Lakes icebreaking**

On March 3, Representative Gallagher (R-WI) introduced H.R. 1561 a bill to amend title 14, United States Code, to require the Coast Guard to conduct icebreaking operations in the Great Lakes to minimize commercial disruption in the winter months, and for other purposes. Rep. Gallagher issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure which can be found at this link: [Gallagher Introduces Bill to Strengthen Great Lakes Winter Commerce | Congressman Mike Gallagher \(house.gov\)](#) The text of the legislation is the same as S. 576, introduced by Senator Baldwin (above).

#### **House – bill introduced re LNG import/export**

On March 3, Representative Johnson (R-OH) introduced H. R 1575 a bill to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas. The text of this legislation is not yet available.

#### **Senate – bill introduced re Alaska cruises**

On March 4, Senator Murkowski (R-AK) introduced S. 593, a bill 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, and for other purposes. If enacted, this bill would make the Passenger Vessel Services Act of 1886 (which is similar to the Jones Act) unenforceable for the period specified in the bill. . The text of this legislation is available at this link: [S593IS](#) Senator Murkowski also issued a Press Release that can be found at this link: [Murkowski, Sullivan Introduce Legislation to Help Alaska Cruise Season \(senate.gov\)](#)

#### **Senate – bill introduced re transportation alternatives**

On March 5, Senator Cardin (D-MD) introduced S. 614, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve the transportation alternatives program, and for other purposes. The text of S. 614 can be found at this link: [S614IS](#)

#### **Senate – bill introduced re daylight saving time**

On March 9, Senator Rubio (R-FL) introduced S. 623, the “Sunshine Protection Act, a bill to make daylight saving time permanent, and for other purposes. The text of S. 623 can be found at this link: [S623IS](#)

#### **House – bill introduced re OCS Lands Act**

On March 9, Delegate Gonzalez-Colon (R-PR) introduced H.R. 1689, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to apply to territories of the United States, to establish offshore wind lease sale requirements, to provide dedicated funding for coral reef conservation, and for other purposes. The text of H.R. 1689 is not yet available.

#### **Senate – bill introduced re small port dredging**

On March 10, Senator Paul (R-KY) introduced S. 666 a bill to modify the criteria used by the Corps of Engineers to dredge small ports. The text of S. 666 is available at this link: [S666IS](#).

#### **Senate & House– bills introduced re use of US-flag vessels for petroleum exports**

On March 11, Senator Wicker (R-MS) introduced S. 707, and Representative Garamendi (D-CA) introduced the same legislation to require a certain percentage of natural gas and crude oil exports be transported on United States-built and United States-flag vessels, and for other purposes. The text of this legislation is available at this link: [S707IS](#). However, they issued a Press Release that can be found at this link: [Garamendi Release](#) and [Wicker Release](#)

#### **House – bill introduced re National Lighthouse Museum**

On March 11, Representative Malliotaskis (R-NY) introduced H.R. 1839, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to grant a Federal charter to the National Lighthouse Museum Official. The text of this bill is not yet available.

#### **House – bill introduced re USCG Commandant**

On March 23, Representative Crist (D-FL) introduced H.R. 2136, to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the membership of the Commandant of the Coast Guard on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Representative Crist issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure that can be found at this link: [Crist, Palazzo Introduce Bill to Promote Coast Guard Commandant to Joint Chiefs | U.S. Representative Charlie Crist \(house.gov\)](#). The text of this legislation is not yet available.



## **U.S. COAST GUARD**

#### **USCG – SMSs for US passenger vessels**

On March 1, the Coast Guard issued a correction to the advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) published in the Federal Register of January 15, 2021, seeking public comment on the potential use of Safety Management Systems (SMSs) to improve safety and reduce marine casualties on board U.S.-flagged

passenger vessels. The corrected ANPRM can be found at this link: [86 Fed. Reg. 11913](#)

#### **USCG – Port State Information Exchange**

On March 1, the USCG Outer Continental Shelf National Center of Expertise (OCSNCOE) released its latest issue of “[Drill Down](#)” to discuss the USCG’s Port State Information Exchange (PSIX) system as a tool to assist owner/operators (O/O) with the management of their fleet by using the information available in PSIX. The publican can be found at this link: [Drill Down No. 15: PSIX, 30Apr2020 \(uscg.mil\)](#)

#### **USCG – Great Lakes Pilotage rates**

On March 12, the Coast Guard promulgated a final rule stating that, in accordance with the Great Lakes Pilotage Act of 1960, it is establishing new base pilotage rates for the 2021 shipping season. The final rule results in a 7-percent net increase in pilotage costs compared to the 2020 season. The rule enters into effect on 12 April. The Federal Register notice can be found at this link: [86 Fed. Reg. 14184](#)  
**USCG – GLPAC members sought**

On March 22, the Coast Guard published a notice that it is requesting nominations for persons interested in serving as members of the Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee (GLPAC). Applications must be received by 21 May. The Federal Register notice can be found at this link: [86 Fed. Reg. 15226](#)

#### **USCG – ACP Single Supplement**

On March 11, the Coast Guard promulgated the Alternate Compliance Program (ACP) [Single Supplement](#), replacing the individual ACP supplements for the various recognized organizations (ROs). The supplement captures those requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) not embodied in RO rules or international conventions. The supplement can be found at this link: [U.S. Supplement 3.11.2021.pdf \(uscg.mil\)](#)

#### **USCG – daytime distress signals**

On March 15, the Coast Guard posted a [bulletin](#) regarding two recent studies examining daytime distress signals and enhanced person-in-the-water detection. The bulletin can be found at this link: [Coast Guard R&D releases studies examining daytime distress signals and enhanced person-in-the water detection – Coast Guard Maritime Commons Blog](#)



## **Maritime Administration**

#### **MARAD – port infrastructure development funding**

On March 29, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued a [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (NOFO) encouraging states and port authorities to apply for \$230 million in discretionary grant funding for port and intermodal-related projects through the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP). Applications must be received by 30 July. The announcement can be found at this link: [U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Funding Availability for Port Infrastructure Development](#)

[Program | MARAD \(dot.gov\)](#)

#### **MARAD – GPS interference**

On March 19, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) posted an [Advisory](#) stating that multiple instances of significant GPS interference have been reported worldwide in the maritime domain. This interference is resulting in lost or inaccurate GPS signals affecting bridge navigation, GPS-based timing, and communications equipment. Satellite communications equipment may also be impacted. Over the last six months, areas from which multiple instances have been reported include the eastern and central Mediterranean Sea, the Persian Gulf, and in the vicinity of the Suez Canal. The U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center (NAVCEN) web page, [go.usa.gov/xs6xa](#), contains a chronological list of recently reported GPS problems. The advisory can be found at this link: [2021-004-Various-GPS Interference | MARAD \(dot.gov\)](#)

## **Library of Congress – Congressional Research Service (CRS)**

#### **CRS – LWHCA application for worker compensation**

On March 3, the CRS issued an [updated report](#) on the application of the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act (LHWCA) to compensation for certain private sector maritime workers. The report can be found at this link: [R41506 \(congress.gov\)](#)

### **CRS – Navy unmanned vessels**

On March 17, the CRS issued a [report](#) on Navy large unmanned surface and undersea vehicles. The report can be found at this link: [Navy Large Unmanned Surface and Undersea Vehicles: Background and Issues for Congress](#)

### **CRS – USACE FY2021 appropriations**

On March 24, the CRS issued a [report](#) on FY2021 appropriations for the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The report can be found at this link: [Army Corps of Engineers: FY2021 Appropriations \(congress.gov\)](#)



## **National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)**

### **NTSB – contact of barge with lock sill**

On March 9, the NTSB issued the [report](#) of its investigation of the contact of the Savage Mariner tow with the Jamie Whitten Lock on September 8, 2019. The probable cause of the incident was the tow moving out of position in the lock chamber while locking down when the crew did not effectively monitor and maintain the vessel's position during its descent, resulting in the aft barge becoming hung on the upper gate miter sill. The NTSB report can be found at this link: [Contact of Savage Voyager Tow with Jamie Whitten Lock & Dam \(ntsb.gov\)](#)

### **NTSB – towing vessel flooding during unmonitored water transfer**

On March 23, the NTSB issued the [report](#) of its investigation of the May 17, 2020 flooding of the towing vessel Alton St. Amant. The probable cause of the flooding of the towing vessel was the absence of shipyard pre-inspection and monitoring procedures for water transfer, which resulted in potable water tanks overflowing through their open access hatches during an unmonitored transfer. This NTSB report can be found at this link: [Flooding of Towing Vessel Alton St. Amant \(ntsb.gov\)](#)

### **NTSB – 2019 collision between LPG carrier and tank barge**

On March 30, the NTSB issued the [report](#) of its investigation of the 10 May 2019 collision between the liquefied propane gas carrier Genesis River and the tank barge 30015T in the Houston Ship Channel. The probable cause of the collision was the decision of the LPG carrier's pilot to transit at sea speed, out of maneuvering mode, which increased the hydrodynamic effects of the channel banks, reduced his ability to maintain control of the vessel after meeting another deep-draft vessel, and resulted in the vessel's sheering across the channel toward the tow. This NTSB report can be found at this link: [Collision between Liquefied Gas Carrier Genesis River and Voyager Tow, Houston Ship Channel, Upper Galveston Bay, Texas; May 10, 2019 \(ntsb.gov\)](#)



## **Federal Maritime Commission**

### **FMC – efforts to resume Alaska cruises**

On March 3, the FMC released the [statement](#) of Commissioner Louis E. Sola commending the bipartisan efforts to address resumption of cruises to Alaska. The statement can be found at this link: [Statement of Commissioner Sola: Commending the Bipartisan Efforts to Address Resumption of Cruises to Alaska - Federal Maritime Commission - Federal Maritime Commission \(fmc.gov\)](#)

### **FMC – impact of cruise ship shutdown in Pacific**

On March 17, the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a [news release](#) stating that Commissioner Louis E. Sola released "[Economic Impact of COVID-19 on the Cruise Industry on California, Hawaii, and the Pacific.](#)" the latest in a series of interim reports being issued as part of the ongoing Fact Finding 30 investigation he is conducting. The Interim Report can be found at this link: [Fact Finding 30 Interim](#)

[Report Issued Examining Impacts to CA, HI, and U.S. Pacific Territories - Federal Maritime Commission - Federal Maritime Commission \(fmc.gov\)](#)]. Commissioner Sola also released a [statement](#) discussing the cruise ship shutdown more generally that can be found at this link: [Statement by Commissioner Louis E. Sola on the One Year Anniversary of the Cessation of Cruise Activity from U.S. Ports - Federal Maritime Commission - Federal Maritime Commission \(fmc.gov\)](#)

#### **FMC – Commissioner Maffei designated Chairman**

On March 30, the FMC issued a [news release](#) stating that Commissioner Daniel B. Maffei has been designated as the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission. The designation was made by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. on March 29, 2021. Chairman Maffei is a sitting member of the FMC and replaces Michael A. Khouri in the role of Chairman. The release can be found at this link: [Daniel B. Maffei Designated as the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission - Federal Maritime Commission - Federal Maritime Commission \(fmc.gov\)](#)

## **Great Lakes**

#### **St. Lawrence Seaway – maximum permissible draft**

On March 11, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System issued a [Seaway Notice](#) stating that, effective April 1, 2021 and until further notice, the maximum permissible draft in the Montreal-Lake Ontario section will be 80.8 dm (26’-6”) for all vessels. The notice can be found at this link: [SEAWAY NOTICE NO. 9 - 2021 \(greatlakes-seaway.com\)](#)

#### **St Lawrence Seaway – screening & access to Canadian locks**

On March 11, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System issued a [Seaway Notice](#) regarding screening and access to Canadian locks. The notice can be found at this link: [SEAWAY NOTICE NO. 13 – 2021 \(greatlakes-seaway.com\)](#)

#### **St. Lawrence Seaway – commencement of 2021 Navigation Season**

On March 22, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System issued a [news release](#) announcing commencement of the 2021 Navigation Season. The news release can be found at this link: [gls\\_pr20210322.pdf \(greatlakes-seaway.com\)](#)

#### **GLS – Seaway Regulations and Rules**

On March 23, the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS) and the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) of Canada, under international agreement, jointly publish and presently administer the St. Lawrence Seaway Regulations and Rules (Practices and Procedures in Canada) in their respective jurisdictions. Under agreement with the SLSMC, the GLS is amending the joint regulations by updating the Regulations and Rules in various categories. The changes update the following sections of the Regulations and Rules: Interpretations; Condition of Vessels; Seaway Navigation; Dangerous Cargo; and Schedule II. These changes are to clarify existing requirements in the regulations. In addition, Congress renamed the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) as the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS) as part of the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act, signed into law on December 27, 2020. The joint regulations are being amended to reflect the name change. The Federal Register notice of these rules can be found at this link: [86 Fed. Reg. 15411](#)

#### **St. Lawrence Seaway – Tariff of Tolls**

On March 24, the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS) and the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) of Canada, under international agreement, jointly publish and presently administer the St. Lawrence Seaway Tariff of Tolls in their respective jurisdictions. The Tariff sets forth the level of tolls assessed on all commodities and vessels transiting the facilities operated by the GLS and the SLSMC. The GLS is revising its regulations to reflect the fees and charges levied by the SLSMC in Canada starting in the 2021 navigation season, which are effective only in Canada. An amendment to increase the minimum charge per lock for those vessels that are not pleasure craft or subject in Canada to tolls under items 1 and 2 of the Tariff for full or partial transit of the Seaway will apply in the US. The Federal Register notice of these tariffs can be found at this link: [86 Fed. Reg. 15585](#)



## Zero Emissions & Green House Gases

### IMO – Green Voyage 2050

On March 5, the IMO issued a [news release](#) stating that it and Norway are supporting States to implement energy efficiency measures and explore opportunities for low carbon shipping. Eleven States from across the globe are partnering in the International Maritime Organization (IMO)-Norway GreenVoyage2050 Project, which is supporting the path to decarbonization in the shipping sector, in line with the [IMO Initial Strategy](#) on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from shipping (IMO Initial GHG Strategy). Through the IMO Initial GHG Strategy, IMO Member States have pledged to cut annual greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping by at least half by 2050, compared with their level in 2008, and work towards phasing out GHG emissions from shipping entirely as soon as possible in this century. The news release can be found at this link: [GreenVoyage2050: States accelerate action to decarbonize shipping \(imo.org\)](#)

### IMO – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Study

On March 23, the IMO posted a summary of its fourth [Greenhouse Gas Emissions Study](#). The greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions – including carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), expressed in CO<sub>2</sub>e – of total shipping (international, domestic and fishing) have increased from 977 million tonnes in 2012 to 1,076 million tonnes in 2018 (9.6% increase). In 2012, 962 million tonnes were CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, while in 2018 this amount grew 9.3% to 1,056 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The share of shipping emissions in global anthropogenic emissions has increased from 2.76% in 2012 to 2.89% in 2018. The summary may be found at this link: [Fourth IMO GHG Study 2020\\_Executive Summary.pdf](#)

### UK – £20 million green shipbuilding fund

On March 22, the UK Department for Transport (DfT) issued a [news release](#) announcing that the government has invested £20 million to develop innovative zero emission vessels and clean port infrastructure. The news release can be found at this link: [£20 million fund to propel green shipbuilding launched - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

### EEA – waterborne transport GHG emissions

On March 24, the European Environment Agency (EEA) has made available a [new study](#) showing a clear hierarchy of passenger and freight transport modes, in terms of their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Rail and waterborne transport have the lowest emissions per kilometre and unit transported, while aviation and road transport emit significantly more. Alongside shifting to rail and waterborne transport, improving the GHG efficiency of all motorised forms of transport remains an important objective. Moreover, monitoring their GHG efficiency on a regular basis would support these efforts. The study is available at this link: [Rail and waterborne — best for low-carbon motorised transport — European Environment Agency \(europa.eu\)](#)

## International Organizations

### IMO – gender equality and leadership

On March 9, the IMO issued a [news release](#) concerning gender equality and leadership in a COVID-19 maritime world. The news release can be found at this link: [Gender equality and leadership in a COVID-19 maritime world \(imo.org\)](#)

### IMO – A Fair Future for Seafarers

On March 16, the IMO issued a [news release](#) announcing that the 2021 Day of the Seafarer campaign is calling for a fair future for seafarers. The campaign will discuss issues that will still be relevant to seafarers after the pandemic, such as fair treatment of seafarers, fair working conditions, fair training, fair safety, etc. The news release can be found at this link: [Day of Seafarer 2021 \(imo.org\)](#)



### **IMO – Maritime Single Window pilot project**

On March 18, the IMO issued a [news release](#) stating that it has issued a call for expressions of interest from countries with a medium-sized port to take part in a pilot project to establish an efficient digitalized system for electronic exchange of information in ports for ship clearance. The "Single Window for Facilitation of Trade (SWiFT) Project" will develop a system in a pilot port to allow electronic submission, through one single portal, of all information required by various Government agencies when a ship calls at a port. The news release can be found at this link: [Digital ship clearance project seeks pilot port \(imo.org\)](#)

### **ILO – Compendium of Maritime Labour Instruments**

On February 10, the International Labour Organization (ILO) issued a revised edition of its [booklet](#) containing three Conventions relating to the maritime sector and several documents relevant to their implementation: the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC, 2006); the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention, (Revised), 2003, as amended (No. 185); and the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007. The booklet can be found at this link: [wcms\\_770091.pdf \(ilo.org\)](#)

### **Tokyo MOU – remote PSC inspections**

On March 9, the Tokyo MOU issued a [press release](#) providing guidance on remote port state control (PSC) inspections. The release can be found at this link: [TOKYO MOU SECRETARIAT \(tokyo-mou.org\)](#)

### **UK – noise and vibration on ships**

On March 15, the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (CGA) issued a Marine Information Note ([MIN 588 \(M+F\)](#)) addressing Codes of Practice for controlling risks due to noise and vibration on ships. The notice can be found at this link: [MIN 588 Amendment 1 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

### **UK – incorporation of Polar Code**

On March 17, the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) issued a [notice](#) stating that it seeks comments on its proposal to incorporate into domestic regulations the requirements of the Polar Code for ships operating in polar waters. Comments must be received by 12 May. The notice can be found at this link: [Implementation of the international code for ships operating in polar waters \(Polar Code\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

### **UK – carriage of AEDs**

On March 24, the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) issued a Marine Guidance Note ([MGN 297 \(M\)](#)) regarding the carriage of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) on ships. The notice can be found at this link: [Microsoft Word - MGN 297 Amended 5.doc \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Gibraltar – ship prosecuted for oil spill**

On March 5, the Government of Gibraltar issued a [press release](#) stating that Gibraltar Port Authority has observed with satisfaction the successful prosecution of the AM GHENT for the recent oil spill which occurred in BGTW. It must be noted that £20,000 fine set by the Magistrate today is in addition to the payment of £1.5 million pound security bond by the vessel owners' through their P&I Club, as surety to cover all the oil spill clean-up expenses that may be incurred by the Gibraltar Government and which was a prerequisite for the vessel to be allowed to depart Gibraltar. The press release can be found at this link: [AM GHENT Prosecution - 201/2021 \(gibraltar.gov.gi\)](#)

## **Other Announcements**

### **USACE – input sought re WRDA 2020**

On March 8, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued a notice seeking input from stakeholders and other interested parties regarding any provisions in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020. Virtual meetings will be held on March 16, 23, and 30 and on April 6 and 13. Written comments must be received by 7 May. The Federal Register notice can be found at this link: [86 Fed. Reg. 13346](#)

### **GAO – intermodal chassis**

On March 8, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a [report](#) on How Intermodal Chassis Are Made Available and the Federal Government's Oversight Role. The report can be found at this link: [GAO-21-315R, Commercial Shipping: Information on How Intermodal Chassis Are Made Available and the Federal Government's Oversight Role](#)

#### **DOJ – more guilty pleas in USCG licensing test cheating**

On March 8, the Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a [news release](#) stating that three more individuals have pleaded guilty to involvement in the scheme to cheat on testing for Coast Guard merchant mariner licensing tests administered in New Orleans. Eighteen individuals previously pleaded guilty. The press release can be found at this link: [Former Mariner Admits To Facilitating Bribes, Two Others Plead Guilty, In Coast Guard Test-Fixing Scheme | USAO-EDLA | Department of Justice](#)

#### **DOS – meeting on 6 April re IMO NCSR 8**

On March 10, the Department of State (DOS) will conduct a virtual public meeting on 6 April to prepare for the upcoming session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communication, and Search and Rescue (NCSR 8). Topics on the agenda include GMDSS modernization and places of refuge. The Federal Register notice can be found at this link: [86 Fed. Reg. 13785](#)

#### **BEA – annual survey of foreign ocean carriers**

On March 10, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Department of Commerce, issued a reminder that it is conducting the mandatory survey titled Annual Survey of Foreign Ocean Carriers' Expenses in the United States (BE-29). The data collected on the BE-29 survey are needed to measure U.S. trade in transport services and to analyze the impact of U.S. trade on the U.S. and foreign economies. The Federal Register notice can be found at this link: [86 Fed. Reg. 13690](#)

#### **BEA – quarterly survey of ocean freight revenues/expenses**

On March 10, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Department of Commerce, issued a reminder that it is conducting the mandatory survey titled Quarterly Survey of Ocean Freight Revenues and Foreign Expenses of U.S. Carriers (BE-30). The data collected on the BE-30 survey are needed to measure U.S. trade in transport services and to analyze the impact of U.S. trade on the U.S. and foreign economies. The Federal Register notice can be found at this link: [86 Fed. Reg. 13688](#)

#### **NA – Gulf Research Program funding opportunities**

On March 11, the National Academies has established the [Gulf Research Program](#) (GRP) to better understand the ocean systems of the Gulf of Mexico. The GRP is announcing funding opportunities to assist in this effort. A description of this program can be found at this link: [Understanding Gulf Ocean Systems | National Academies](#)

#### **MACOSH – virtual meeting on 30 March**

On March 15, the Maritime Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (MACOSH), sponsored by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), will meet March 30, 2021, by teleconference and WebEx. The workgroups will discuss protecting workers when working in confined spaces, the role of shipyard competent persons, reefer safety, the update/expansion of OSHA maritime safety training, and the protection of workers from heat stress and hydrogen sulfide. The tentative agenda for the full Committee will include an update from OSHA's Office of the Assistant Secretary and reports from the Longshoring and Shipyard workgroups. The Federal Register notice of this meeting can be found at this link: [86 Fed. Reg. 14344](#)

#### **NSF – Arctic Research Plan**

On March 9, the National Science Foundation (NSF) published a notice seeking comments on the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC) [draft Arctic Research Plan: 2022–2026](#). Comments must be received by 11 June. The Federal Register notice can be found at this link: [86 Fed. Reg. 13588](#)

#### **MEDMAC – virtual meeting on 19 April**

On March 29, the National Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee (MEDMAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet via teleconference on 19 April to discuss matters relating to medical

certification determinations for issuance of licenses, certificates of registry, and merchant mariners' documents, medical standards and guidelines for the physical qualifications of operators of commercial vessels, medical examiner education, and medical research. The Federal Register notice can be viewed at this link: [6426 86 Fed. Reg. 16379](#)

## Around the Clubs

### U.S. Clubs

#### Port Canaveral Club

On March 3, the Port Canaveral Club held a meeting at which Rear Admiral Wayne E. Justice (USCG Ret.), the Chairman of the Canaveral Port Authority Board of Commissioners, spoke on the economic impact of COVID-19 on the port as well as recent milestones achieved in ongoing projects.

On March 4, the Port Canaveral Club announced that they are now accepting applications for graduating Brevard High School Students who will be continuing their education in the maritime field. There will be one \$2,500 recurring scholarship and three \$1,000 scholarships awarded. Applicants must have at least a 2.75 GPA and submit a 250-500-word essay outlining their education and career goals and how they relate to the maritime industry.



#### Charleston Club

On March 4, the Charleston Club held their 2021 Oyster Roast. It was FREE to their members – but was limited to the first 175 members that registered.



#### Jacksonville Club

On March 30, the Jacksonville Club partnered with the Navy League to host their annual event honoring the Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville Sailor of the Year, and the Customs & Border Protection, Area Port of Jacksonville, Officer of the Year.

#### Los Angeles / Long Beach Club

On March 11, the Los Angeles / Long Beach Club received a presentation from Jim MacLellan on "Trading with the World: Past, Present, & Future Markets for the Ports of Los Angeles & Long Beach". On March 25, the Los Angeles / Long Beach Club received an update from Bill Mongelluzzo, a Senior Editor at the Journal of Commerce, on the upcoming TPM 2021 Conference.



#### Narragansett Bay Club

On March 24, the Narragansett Bay Club held an "Industry Updates Webinar" featuring a panel of speakers providing updates on their respective sectors of the maritime industry including from the Coast Guard, the President of the Rhode Island Fast Ferry & Atlantic Wind Transfers; the Providence Working Waterfront Alliance, and General Dynamics Electric Boat.

The Narragansett Bay Club also sent out a Press Release applauding the confirmation of Gina Raimondo as the Secretary of Commerce under the Biden Administration. She pointed out that Secretary Raimondo has contributed

greatly to the local maritime industry during her time as Governor. The complete Press Release can be found at this link: [NB Club Release – Sec. Raimondo](#)

### **New Orleans Club**

On March 11, the New Orleans Club held a modified version of their annual golf tournament. Social distancing restrictions kept them from having their 19<sup>th</sup> Hole Buffet but they were able to provide lunch and refreshments while members enjoyed their afternoon of golf.

### **New York/ New Jersey Club**

The New York / New Jersey Club has been sending out a series of articles regarding the maritime industry including on topics such as “the rise of the wind ships”



### **Northern California Club**

On March 16, the Northern California Club held a Zoom meeting at which Mike Jacobs, the Vice President & General Counsel of the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association spoke on the “Analysis of Howard Terminal EIR and How the Maritime Community Can Respond”.



### **Seattle Club**

On March 17, the Seattle Club held an event “Celebrating Powerful Women in Maritime”. The had a presentation by Ilya R. Espino de Marotta, the Deputy Administrator of the Panama Canal Authority, who was in charge of all engineering and managed the construction contracts for the Panama Canal Expansion Program.



### **Tacoma Club**

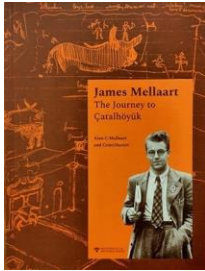
On March 16, the Tacoma Club held a general meeting featuring the Washington Secretary of State Kim Wyman. They were also briefed by the Port of Tacoma on the Tideflats Subarea plan.

The Tacoma Club also worked with their local Sea Scout organization to work on the drydocking of the scouts ship, the Charles N. Curtis.

### **Tampa Club**

On March 11, the Tampa Club held a small VIP Awards Ceremony which was streamed to their other members. Three awards were given: a leadership skills award, the Member of the year award, and the Maritime Person of the Year Award. They also published a newsletter keeping their members up-to-date on their activities and these awardees. The newsletter can be found at this link: [Tampa Mar 2021 Newsletter](#)

## **International Clubs**



### **Istanbul Club**

On March 4, the Istanbul Club held a virtual meeting at which a presentation **titled** “An Archaeological Journey To Çatalhöyük” was given by Alan Mellaart and Professor Emma Baysal.

### **Le Havre Club**

The Le Havre Club has been helping students at the French Maritime Academy (ENSM) and maritime law students at the University of Le Havre. The Le Havre Club has provided financial assistance for these law students to compete in the International Maritime Arbitration Competition (IMRAM).



### **Monaco Club**

On March 18, the Monaco club held a webinar on the threat of piracy, armed robbery, and kidnapping for ransom in the Gulf of Guinea. The speaker was Hans Tino Hansen, the CEO of Risk Intelligence.



### **Point a Pitre, Guadeloupe Club**

On March 11, the Point a Pitre Club on Guadeloupe held a dinner at which Kevin Way, from our student port in Nantes, France was able to attend while participating in an engineering internship program in Guadeloupe!

John Cullather  
Executive Vice President  
[john@propellerclubhq.com](mailto:john@propellerclubhq.com)

Cheryl Rothbart  
Associate Executive Director  
[cheryl@propellerclubhq.com](mailto:cheryl@propellerclubhq.com)

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International Propeller Club | [Website](#)

