

## Headlines:

USCG – preemption assessment;  
MARAD – National Maritime Strategy Symposium;  
DHS – Jeh Johnson sworn in as Secretary;  
NTSB – report on SF Bay allision;  
DOD – Unmanned Systems Integrated Roadmap;  
Court – DWH ruling re causation of business economic loss;  
CGPCS – newsletter;  
Antarctic – update on beset passenger ship;  
Australia – Under Keel Clearance Management system;  
Australia – sound navigational practices;  
Suez Canal – escort and imposed tugboats;  
Suez Canal – vessels entering “W” Area at Suez Outer Anchorage;  
Ireland – Merchant Shipping (Registration) Bill 2013; and  
US & Mexico – Transboundary Hydrocarbons Agreement.

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# Bryant's Maritime News

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## **USCG – preemption assessment**



The US Coast Guard proposes to issue a rule containing its assessment framework for, and restating its position regarding, the federalism implications of regulations issued under the authority of various statutes within Titles 33 and 46 of the United States Code. Comments on the proposal should be submitted by 27 March 2014. **78 Fed. Reg. 79241** (December 27, 2013).

## MARAD – National Maritime Strategy Symposium



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued a notice stating that its National Maritime Strategy Symposium will be held in Washington, DC on 16 January 2014. The deadline to register to attend and/or to speak is 8 January. [78 Fed. Reg. 79071](#) (December 27, 2013).

## DHS – Jeh Johnson sworn in as Secretary



The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a [news release](#) stating that Jeh Johnson has been officially sworn in as the fourth Secretary of Homeland Security. Prior to joining DHS, Secretary Johnson served as General Counsel for the Department of Defense. (12/23/13).

## NTSB – report on SF Bay allision



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) posted the Marine Accident Brief regarding the allision of the tanker Overseas Reymar with the fendering system of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge's Echo tower on 7 January 2013. There were no injuries and no pollution. Visibility was impeded by fog. The pilot's passage plan called for transiting through the bridge's CD span, but he changed plans as the vessel approached the bridge when he determined that the CD span's RACON was inoperative. The probable cause of the allision was the pilot's decision to alter course from the CD span to the DE span without sufficient time to avoid alliding with the Echo tower and the master's failure to properly oversee the pilot by engaging in a telephone conversation during a critical point in the transit. [MAB-13/18](#) (12/24/13).

## DOD – Unmanned Systems Integrated Roadmap



The Department of Defense (DOD) issued a [news release](#) stating that it has sent to Congress its Unmanned Systems Integrated Roadmap, charting how unmanned systems (aerial, marine, and ground) will fit into the defense of the nation over the next 25 years. (12/23/13).

## Court – DWH ruling re causation of business economic loss



The US District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana issued an Order and Reasons responding to remand by the appellate court of business economic loss issues relating to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The first part of the ruling is specific to the terms of the settlement agreement. The second part of the ruling addresses causation and holds that BP is judicially estopped from arguing that the settlement agreement is not the exclusive means for determining whether a business economic loss is as a result of the DWH incident. **In re DWH Oil Spill**, MDL 2179 (E.D.La., December 24, 2013).

## CGPCS – newsletter



The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) posted its **Newsletter** for the fourth quarter of 2013. It discusses the organization of the five CGPCS thematic working groups and notes that there has not been a successful piracy attack on a commercial vessel off the Horn of Africa in more than a year and a half and pirates no longer control a single hijacked vessel. (12/24/13).

## Antarctic – update on beset passenger ship



The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) issued a **media release** stating that two icebreaking vessels are now within 20 nautical miles of the beset Russian passenger ship Akademik Shokalskiy off the coast of Antarctica 1,500 nautical miles south of Hobart. All 74 persons onboard the passenger ship are safe. (12/27/13).

## Australia – Under Keel Clearance Management system



The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) issued a Marine Notice reminding stakeholders that, effective 1 January 2014, all coastal pilots transiting ships through the Prince of Wales Channel, the Gannet Passage, or the Varzin Passage in the Torres Strait will use the Under Keel Clearance Management (UKCM) system. **Notice 20-2013** (12/23/13).

## Australia – sound navigational practices



The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) issued a Marine Notice reaffirming navigational practices that should be followed by masters and

navigating officers of ships in Australian waters including, but not limited to, voyage planning and use of appropriate nautical charts. **Notice 21-2013** (12/23/13).

### **Suez Canal – escort and imposed tugboats**



The Suez Canal Authority issued a circular regarding on hire values for escort and imposed tugboats, effective 1 January 2014. **Circular 7-2013** (12/26/13).

### **Suez Canal – vessels entering “W” Area at Suez Outer Anchorage**



The Suez Canal Authority issued a circular regarding measures applicable to vessels entering “W” Area at the Suez Outer Anchorage, effective 1 January 2014. **Circular 6-2013** (12/26/13).

### **Ireland – Merchant Shipping (Registration) Bill 2013**



The Irish Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport issued a **press release** announcing publication of the Merchant Shipping (Registration) Bill 2013, providing the basis for introduction of an updated and modernized ship registration system in Ireland. (12/23/13).

### **US & Mexico – Transboundary Hydrocarbons Agreement**



The Department of the Interior (DOI) issued a **press release** stating that the US-Mexico Transboundary Hydrocarbons Agreement has been enacted. The agreement establishes a framework for US and Mexican oil companies to jointly develop transboundary reservoirs and opens up resources in the Western Gap. (12/23/13).

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