

Headlines:

St. Lawrence Seaway – vessel aground;
Texas – barge collision;
USCG – avoiding marine mammals;
DON – ROD for Hawaii-Southern California training & testing;
House – bill introduced re LNG exports;
House – bill introduced re Ocean Energy Safety Institute;
Washington – pollution penalties;
Antarctic – Russian ship remains beset; and
UK – fire on ferry in North Sea.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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Note: This newsletter is one section of the [Bryant's Maritime Consulting](http://brymar-consulting.com) website. Visit the site for more extensive maritime regulatory information. Individual concerns may be addressed by retaining [Dennis Bryant](mailto:dennis.l.bryant@gmail.com) directly. Much of the highlighted text in this newsletter constitutes links to Internet sites providing more detailed information. Links on this page may be in PDF format, requiring use of Adobe Acrobat Reader. Comments on these postings are encouraged and may be made by email to the editor or by going to the blog page on the website and clicking the envelope that appears at the end of each posting. Be aware that the daily newsletter is a single posting, even though it contains a number of individual items. May all your mistakes be original.

St. Lawrence Seaway – vessel aground



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that the 656-foot MV Orsula is aground in the St. Lawrence Seaway near Tibbetts Point, New York. There have been no reports of injuries, flooding, or pollution. A diving survey revealed that most of the hull is aground and the propeller has incurred significant damage. Salvage operations are underway. The incident is under investigation. This portion of the Seaway is scheduled to close at midnight Monday. (12/28/13).

Texas – barge collision



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that two barges collided in the Intracoastal Waterway in the vicinity of Siever's Cove on the

Bolivar Peninsula. The barges were being pushed by separate tugs. The CBC 7026 had approximately 945,000 gallons of crude oil, while the TTI-150 had approximately 1,500 tons of calcium chloride. There were no reports of injury or pollution. The incident is under investigation. (12/23/13).

USCG – avoiding marine mammals



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) reminding masters and the boating public to maintain a safe distance from marine mammals. Humpback whale season in the Hawaiian Islands extends from November to May, with the peak period occurring between January and March. The whales come to the Hawaiian Islands to mate, calve, and nurse their young, returning to Alaskan waters during the summer. It is a violation of federal law to take or harass a marine mammal. (12/27/13).

DON – ROD for Hawaii-Southern California training & testing



The Department of the Navy (DON) issued a notice announcing the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Hawaii-Southern California training and testing program. [78 Fed. Reg. 79413](#) (December 30, 2013).

House – bill introduced re LNG exports



Representative Poe (R-TX) introduced the [Export American Natural Gas Act of 2013](#) (H.R. 3760) to provide for the expedited approval by the Secretary of Energy of liquefied natural gas exports, and for other purposes. (12/12/13).

House – bill introduced re Ocean Energy Safety Institute



Representative Holt (D-NJ) introduced the [Ocean Energy Safety and Technology Improvement Act of 2013](#) (H.R. 3780) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish an Ocean Energy Safety Institute, to promote the use of best available and safest offshore drilling technologies, and for other purposes. (12/16/13).

Washington – pollution penalties



The Washington Department of Ecology issued a **news release** stating that it issued \$283,166 in penalties during the third quarter. Two of the penalties were maritime in nature. A tug and barge company was assessed a \$16,500 penalty for an oil spill caused by overfilling a tank on a barge. A service company was assessed a \$1,000 penalty for spilling hydraulic oil while servicing and testing a barge. (12/23/13).

Antarctic – Russian ship remains beset



The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) issued a **media release** providing an update on efforts to extricate the Russian passenger vessel Akademik Shokalskiy, currently beset in thick ice off the coast of Antarctica about 1,500 nautical miles south of Hobart. The Chinese research vessel Xue Long (Snow Dragon) is nearby but unable to break through the intervening ice. The Australian vessel Aurora Australis is expected to arrive on Sunday evening. A **second media release** states that the Chinese vessel remains nearby and that the Australian vessel continues its approach. **Another media release** reports that weather continues to impede rescue of the Russian vessel. (12/30/13).

UK – fire on ferry in North Sea



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) issued a **press notice** stating that six crew members and a passenger have been airlifted to hospital after a fire on board the ferry MS King Seaways in the North Sea. The fire has been extinguished. The ferry was carrying 946 passengers and 127 crew. (12/29/13).

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