

## Headlines:

USCG – to the polar rescue;  
USACE – GL-MR Interbasin Study;  
DON – sunken military craft;  
SLSDC – Advisory Board meeting;  
MARAD – enhancing maritime freight transportation;  
Senate – bill introduced re Iranian sanctions;  
Court – Carmack Amendment and sealed containers;  
IMO – amendments to maritime conventions;  
IMO – Goal- Based Standards for construction;  
Antarctic – rescue operation completed; and  
Ireland – AIS functionality on ATON;

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# Bryant's Maritime News

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## USCG – to the polar rescue



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that its icebreaker USCGC Polar Star is being diverted to assist the Russian passenger vessel Akademik Shokalskiy and the Chinese research vessel Xue Long (Snow Dragon) beset off the coast of Antarctica about 1,500 miles south of Tasmania. The decision to divert was made following requests from the governments of Russia, China, and Australia. The Polar Star is significantly more ice-capable than the two stranded vessels, designed specifically for operation in heavy polar ice, and is one of the most powerful non-nuclear icebreakers in the world. (1/4/14).

## USACE – GL-MR Interbasin Study



The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued a notice stating that it seeks comments on the Great Lakes-Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) Report. Public meetings will be held in Chicago (9 January); Milwaukee (13 January); Cleveland (16 January); Ann Arbor (21 January); Traverse City (23 January); Bloomington (27 January); and Alton (30 January). Written comments should be submitted by 3 March. [79 Fed. Reg. 647](#) (January 6, 2014).

## DON – sunken military craft



The US Navy proposes to amend the guidelines for permitting archeological investigations and other investigations directed at sunken military craft and terrestrial military craft under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Navy. Comments on the proposal should be submitted by 7 March. [79 Fed. Reg. 620](#) (January 6, 2014).

## SLSDC – Advisory Board meeting



The Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) issued a notice stating that its Advisory Board will meet on 22 January in Washington, DC. [79 Fed. Reg. 702](#) (January 6, 2014).

## MARAD – enhancing maritime freight transportation



The Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a [news release](#) highlighting efforts of the Maritime Administration (MARAD) to enhance the national maritime freight transportation system. (1/3/14).

## Senate – bill introduced re Iranian sanctions



Senator Menendez (D-NJ) introduced the [Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act of 2013](#) (S. 1881) to expand sanctions imposed with respect to Iran and to impose additional sanctions with respect to Iran, and for other purposes. Senator Menendez issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure. (12/19/13). *Note: A long-suffering reader advised me that the earlier press release had been replaced by the one linked here.*

## Court – Carmack Amendment and sealed containers



The US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled that acknowledgement by a carrier of receipt of goods in “apparent good order”, without more, is insufficient to support summary judgment in favor of a shipper in a suit brought under the Carmack Amendment. In the instant case, plaintiff shipper entered into an arrangement with defendant carrier of carriage of 11,490 boxes of Christmas lights in shipping containers via ocean freighter and other modes from Lazaro Cardenas, Mexico to Laredo via Long Beach. Defendant carrier submitted forms acknowledging receipt of the containerized cargo in apparent good order. When defendant carrier opened the containers in Long Beach for reloading, it was determined that 1,912 boxes of Christmas lights were missing. When notified of the shortage, plaintiff shipper brought suit against defendant carrier for the loss. The district court granted summary judgment to plaintiff shipper based on the receipts issued by defendant carrier. The appellate court reversed and remanded the case for further proceedings, noting that when the receipts were issued defendant carrier had no way to determine the actual contents of the containers. **Distribuidora Mari Jose, SA v. Transmarine, Inc.**, No. 13-40147 (5th Cir., December 30, 2013).

## IMO – amendments to maritime conventions



The IMO issued a **news release** reminding owners, operators, and masters of the various amendments to international maritime conventions that entered into force on 1 January 2014. (1/2/14).

## IMO – Goal-Based Standards for construction



The IMO issued a news release stating that IMO audit teams will shortly be established to verify consistency with the new Goal-Based Standards (GBS) for construction rules for bulk carriers and oil tankers of classification societies that act as recognized organizations (ROs), following the receipt of requests for verification by the 31 December 2013 deadline. (1/3/14).

## Antarctic – rescue operation continues



The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) issued a **media release** stating that the rescue operation from the Russian passenger vessel Akademik Shokalskiy, beset off the coast of Antarctica, has been completed with the transfer by helicopter of all 52 passengers to the Australian polar research

vessel Aurora Australis. The 22 crew members of the Russian vessel will remain on board while it is beset. A **second media release** states that the Aurora Australis has been asked to remain nearby as the Chinese vessel Xue Long (Snow Dragon) is also beset. A third media release states that neither the Russian vessel nor the Chinese vessel is in distress. Therefore, the Aurora Australis has been released from its tasking. A **third media release** states that the AMSA requested that the US Coast Guard make the icebreaker USCGC Polar Star available to assist the stranded vessel and that the Coast Guard has approved the request. (1/5/14).

### **Ireland – AIS functionality on ATON**



The Commissioners of Irish Lights issued a **notice** advising that it is rolling out AIS functionality on a number of aids to navigation (ATONs) through 2015. (1/1/14).

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