

Headlines:

DOD – destruction of Syrian chemical weapons at sea;
Gulf of Mexico – search for missing crew member;
USCG – Polar Star now headed for McMurdo Sound;
USCG – LNF as Fuel seminar;
DHS – unified regulatory agenda;
Antarctic – ships have broken free of the ice;
India – approved insurance companies; and
Panama Canal – commitment to Expansion Program.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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*Note: This newsletter is one section of the **Bryant's Maritime Consulting** website. Visit the site for more extensive maritime regulatory information. Individual concerns may be addressed by retaining **Dennis Bryant** 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. Every new beginning begins with a tenuous first step.*

DOD – destruction of Syrian chemical weapons at sea



The Department of Defense (DOD) issued a **news release** stating that 64 specialists from the Army's Edgewood Chemical Biological Center are expected to depart for the Mediterranean in about two weeks aboard the vessel Cape Ray to destroy chemical weapons from Syria. The ship operates under the supervision of the Maritime Administration (MARAD) and the Military Sealift Command (MSC). (1/3/14).

Gulf of Mexico – search for missing crew member



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that it is searching for a crew member missing from a tanker in the Gulf of Mexico. The tanker was anchored five miles south of Southwest Pass, near the mouth of the Mississippi

River when it was determined that the crew member was missing. No life jackets were reported missing from the tanker. (1/7/14).

USCG – Polar Star now headed for McMurdo Sound



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that the icebreaker USCGC Polar Star has stood down from its Antarctic rescue mission. The Russian and Chinese vessels that had been beset for days were able to break free when the wind shifted and created openings in the ice. The Polar Star will now transit to McMurdo Sound for Operation Deep Freeze. (1/7/14).

USCG – LNG as Fuel seminar



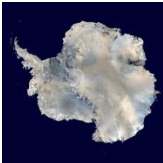
The US Coast Guard and Philips Publishing Group are co-sponsoring the seminar [LNG as Fuel](#), on 29 January in Seattle. The seminar will explore the next steps in developing a compliance framework for use of liquefied natural gas (LNG) as a marine fuel source. (1/7/14).

DHS – unified regulatory agenda



The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) posted the unified agenda of regulatory and deregulatory projects for itself and its components. [79 Fed. Reg. 1169](#) (January 7, 2014). *Note: Yesterday's newsletter included a link to the regulatory agenda of another federal agency. Oops.*

Antarctic – ships have broken free of ice



The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) issued a [media release](#) stating that the Russian passenger vessel Akademik Shokalskiy and the Chinese research vessel Xue Long (Snow Dragon) are making slow progress through the polar ice following a shift in the wind. The US icebreaker Polar Star will continue in their direction until it is clear that the vessels are no longer in danger. A [second media release](#) states that the vessels have broken free of the ice and are no longer in need of assistance. The US icebreaker Polar Star has been released and will now continue on its original mission to McMurdo Sound. (1/8/14).

India – approved insurance companies



The Indian Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) issued a **notice** updating that list of non-IG insurance companies for entry of ships into ports, anchorages, and offshore facilities. (1/3/14).

Panama Canal – commitment to Expansion Program



The Panama Canal Authority issued an advisory reaffirming its commitment to success completion of the Expansion Program. To date, the Expansion Program has an overall completion rate of 72% and the new locks project, which is one component of the Expansion Program, is 65% complete. The project is expected to be open to commercial transits by mid-2015. **Advisory 2-2014** (1/3/14).

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