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USCG distant water tuna fleet vessels;  
USCG – submittal of ISM Code Clause 3.1 reports;  
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California – e-Navigation conference;  
Australia – icebreaker departs Antarctic;  
Panama Canal – Expansion Program website; and  
UK – charity fined for operating unauthorized passenger vessel.

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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. Every new beginning begins with a tenuous first step.*

## **Louisiana – Houma Navigation Canal safety zone**



The US Coast Guard has established a temporary safety zone on the Houma Navigation Canal from mile marker 35.5 to 36.5 and in the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) from mile marker 59.0 to 60.0 west of Harvey Locks, bank to bank, during completion of construction and repair work on the HWY 661 Swing Bridge, Terrebonne Parish. The restrictions will be enforced intermittently as necessary to protect persons and property. The rule remains in effect through 1 July. [79 Fed. Reg. 3105](#) (January 17, 2014).

## DOI – DWH Early Restoration Plan



The Department of the Interior (DOI) has extended, through 19 February, the period within which to submit comments on the Deepwater Horizon oil spill draft Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Draft Early Restoration Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. **79 Fed. Reg. 3220** (January 17, 2014).

## USCG – marine casualty reporting



The US Coast Guard seeks comments on draft guidance in the form of a Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) entitled “**Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 4 Marine Casualty Reporting Procedures Guide with Associated Standard interpretations**”. Comments should be submitted by 14 April. **79 Fed. Reg. 2466** (January 14, 2014).

## USCG – distant water tuna fleet vessels



The US Coast Guard seeks comments on CG-CVC Policy Letter 13-04, **Distant Water Tuna Fleet (DWTF) Vessels Manning Exemption Guidance**. Comments should be submitted by 13 February. **79 Fed. Reg. 2464** (January 14, 2014). *Note: This new policy letter supersedes CG-543 Policy Letter 11-05 of May 18, 2011.*

## USCG – submittal of ISM Code Clause 3.1 reports



The US Coast Guard posted a Marine Safety Information Bulletin providing clarification on the procedure to be followed when submitting reports regarding US flag vessels to the Coast Guard in accordance with Clause 3.1 of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code in cases where the entity that is responsible for operation of the vessel is other than the owner. **MSIB 003-14** (1/16/14).

## NTSB – Most Wanted List



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued its **Most Wanted List** for 2014. Among the ten most wanted improvements in

transportation safety were advances in passenger vessel safety and the elimination of distractions in transportation. (1/16/14).

### St. Lawrence Seaway – 2013 navigation season tonnage lower



GREAT LAKES ST. LAWRENCE  
SEAWAY SYSTEM

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System issued a **news release** stating that Seaway tonnage for the 2013 navigation season amounted to 37 million tonnes, some 5.3% lower than 2012. While there was a 12% increase in liquid bulk shipments, break-bulk and dry bulk cargoes were down 20% and 12% respectively. (1/16/14).

### Court – wrongful death



The US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit reversed and remanded a district court order granting summary judgment in favor of a waterfront facility operator who was sued for negligent wrongful death by the widow of a fisherman who fell and drowned after slipping from an obviously hazardous place on a pier while attempting to return to the commercial fishing vessel on which he was working. The appellate court concluded that the record contains too many disputes of fact and too many disputed inferences to sustain the summary judgment. **Cracchiolo v. Eastern Fisheries**, No. 12-2174 (1st Cir., January 15, 2014).

### California – e-Navigation conference



The California Maritime Academy, together with the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) and the Danish Maritime Authority, is hosting the **e-Navigation Underway 2014 North America Conference** in Vallejo on 3-4 April.

### Australia – icebreaker departs Antarctic



The Australian Antarctic Division issued a **media release** stating that the icebreaker Aurora Australis has departed Casey research station in Antarctica en route Tasmania. The icebreaker is carrying the 52 passengers rescued from the Akademik Shokalskiy when it was beset. Arrival is expected on 22 January. (1/15/14).

## Panama Canal – Expansion Program website



The Panama Canal Authority has established the new website **Canal Expansion** dedicated to its Expansion Program. The site includes Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), news, press releases, photographs, selected documents, and a summary of the components of the program. (1/16/14).

## UK – charity fined for operating unauthorized passenger vessel



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) issued a **press notice** stating that a charity has been assessed £3,330 in fines and costs after pleading guilty to operating a passenger vessel in London without a valid Passenger Certificate. The barge Beauchamp, capable of carrying up to 80 passengers, was operated as a floating classroom for children and could also be hired for events such as parties and weddings. (1/16/14).

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