Headlines:

OMB – training & manning re MODUs & OSVs; NTSB – sinking of tall ship Bounty; USCG – MMC exam illustrations; Antarctic – USCG opens McMurdo Sound; and Singapore – (another) collision.

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Bryant's Maritime Consulting - 4845 SW 91st Way - Gainesville, FL 32608-8135 - USA

Tel: 1-352-692-5493 – Email: dennis.l.bryant@gmail.com – Internet: http://brymar-consulting.com

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OMB - training & manning re MODUs & OSVs

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) completed its review of RIN 1625-AC10: the draft Coast Guard requirements for training of personnel and manning on mobile offshore drilling units (MODUs) and offshore supply vessels (OSVs) engaged in US outer continental shelf (OCS) activities. (2/7/14).

NTSB – sinking of tall ship Bounty

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued the report of its investigation into the sinking of the tall ship Bounty off Cape Hatteras on 29 October 2012. Three crew members were seriously injured; one crew member died; and the master was never found. Most of the crew members were inexperienced and their complement was smaller than usual. Despite the fact that Bounty took on water even in good conditions and that wood rot had been discovered during the shipyard period, the master gave no order to ensure that all onboard pumps were fully operational. The master was aware that a hurricane had been forecast for the planned voyage. The report found that the probable

cause of the sinking was the master's reckless decision to sail the aging vessel with its inexperienced crew into the path of Hurricane Sandy. $\frac{MAB-14}{03}$ (2/10/14).

USCG - MMC exam illustrations

The USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) issued a notice stating that it has posted all of the approximately 160 deck illustrations and 143 engineering illustrations used in merchant mariner credential (MMC) examinations on its website in an effort to improve its services to mariners and training providers. It has also begun working to create government-owned illustrations to replace those engineering illustrations that cannot be posted because they are copyrighted. (2/10/14).

Antarctic - USCG opens McMurdo Sound

The US Coast Guard issued a news release stating that Polar Star (WAGB 10) successfully completed the breakout of McMurdo Science Station in Antarctica in support of Operation Deep Freeze. By opening a navigable shipping lane through twelve miles of ice (of up to ten feet thick), the US Coast Guard's only polar icebreaker allowed an ice-strengthened tanker and an ice-strengthened freighter to resupply the US scientific mission in Antarctic. There is only on maritime resupply operation during the short Antarctic summer. (2/10/14).

Singapore – (another) collision

The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority issued a news release stating that there has been yet another collision in waters just off the Port of Singapore. On 10 February, the container ship Hammonia Thracium and the chemical tanker Zoey collided in the Singapore Strait. There has been no report of injury, but the container ship sustained damage to a bunker tank and approximately 80 metric tonnes of fuel has been spilled. (2/10/14). Note: This is the third collision off Singapore in a week.

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Dennis L. Bryant

Bryant's Maritime Consulting 4845 SW 91st Way Gainesville, FL 32608-8135 USA

1-352-692-5493 dennis.l.bryant@gmail.com http://brymar-consulting.com

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