

Headlines:

MARAD – MTSNAC meeting postponed;
USCG – implementation of STCW amendments;
USCG & OSHA – commercial diving casualty reporting requirements;
DOE – Cameron conditionally authorized to export LNG;
BSEE – burning oil in ice cavity research;
House – bill introduced re chemical spills;
House – bill introduced re fishing safety training;
Canada – new lifeboats for Coast Guard;
India – safe manning levels;
Singapore – navigational safety; and
Sinking of SS Marine Electric – 12 February 1983.

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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. Don't underestimate yourself – others will do that for you.

MARAD – MTSNAC meeting postponed



Due to the impending winter storm that is forecast for the Mid-Atlantic region on Wednesday and Thursday of this week, the Maritime Administration has decided to postpone the meeting of the Marine Transportation System National Advisory Council (MTSNAC), scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2014. This decision was made with regard to the safety and convenience of those who were traveling to Washington from all sections of the country. The meeting will be rescheduled for a later date. (2/11/14).

USCG – implementation of STCW amendments



The US Coast Guard posted a [presentation](#) on its implementation of the amendments to the STCW Convention. (2/11/14).

USCG & OSHA – commercial diving casualty reporting requirements



The US Coast Guard, in cooperation with the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), issued a Marine Safety Information Bulletin regarding when casualties related to commercial diving are required to be reported to either or both of the two agencies. [MSIB 004-14](#) (2/11/14).

DOE – Cameron conditionally authorized to export LNG



The Department of Energy (DOE) issued a [news release](#) stating that it has conditionally authorized Cameron LNG, LLC to export domestically produced liquefied natural gas (LNG) to countries that do not have a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United States from the Cameron LNG Terminal in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. (2/11/14).

BSEE – burning oil in ice cavity research



The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) issued a [press release](#) stating that its Oil Spill Response Research (OSRR) program has completed its review of a new research project on burning oil in ice cavities. The research has led to the discovery that the average burning rate is greater in an ice cavity than in a similarly-sized vessel or a pan. (2/11/14).

House – bill introduced re chemical spills



Representative Capito (R-WV) introduced a bill (H.R. 4024) to protect navigable waters from contamination by chemical storage facilities, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Representative Capito issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure. (2/10/14).

House – bill introduced re fishing safety training



Representative Keating (D-MA) introduced a bill (H.R. 4025) to amend title 46, United States Code, to reauthorize and amend the Fishing Safety Training Grant Program and the Fishing Safety Research Grant Program, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (2/10/14).

Canada – new lifeboats for Coast Guard



Fisheries and Oceans Canada issued a [news release](#) stating that the Government of Canada has issued a Request for Information (RFI) to seek industry feedback on the next generation of Coast Guard lifeboats. The small vessels program includes 18 to 21 new vessels for the Canadian Coast Guard fleet. (2/10/14).

India – safe manning levels



The Indian Directorate General of Shipping issued a circular concerning propulsion power for calculating vessel safe manning levels on the engineering side. [Engineering Circular 01/2014](#) (2/11/14).

Singapore – navigational safety



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a [news release](#) stating that, following three recent collisions, it is conducting investigations to determine the causes and to determine if there were any systemic issues that need to be addressed. In addition, it has begun an outreach program to the shipping community to reinforce the importance of safety of navigation and it will promulgate circulars emphasizing the importance of navigational safety and maintaining vigilance while navigating. (2/11/14).

Sinking of SS Marine Electric – 12 February 1983



The SS Marine Electric sank during a storm in the North Atlantic on 12 February 1983. Of the 34 crew members on board, three survived, but only after enduring 90 minutes in extremely cold water. The ship had passed all required inspections and surveys, but the subsequent [USCG Marine Casualty Report](#) revealed the inspections and surveys to have been perfunctory. As a result, inspection standards were drastically improved. In addition, carriage of survival suits became mandatory for ships on winter routes

and the Coast Guard rescue swimmer program was initiated. The circumstances are detailed in Robert Frump's book "Until the Sea Shall Free Them".

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