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Miami – limited services at REC;
Pensacola – seaplane landing zone;
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DOS – Special Representative for the Arctic Region;
NTSB – marine fatalities declined in 2012;
Honolulu – fuel-cell system to power docked vessels;
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Australia – confidential safety reporting scheme;
UK – fatal accident on cruise ship;
General Order on Port and Starboard – 18 February 1846; and
Motor lifeboat CG 36500 – rescue of 18 February 1952.

February 18, 2014



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.

Miami – limited services at REC



The USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) issued an **announcement** stating that Regional Exam Center (REC) Miami suffered some minor damage when the fire sprinkler system activated. No records were lost, but the REC will only be open for testing purposes on Tuesday and Wednesday. It expects to be fully operational on Thursday, 20 February. (2/14/14). *Note: This item was first brought to my attention by my good friend Sean Stokes of [Oceaneering International](http://www.oceaneering.com).*

Pensacola – seaplane landing zone



The US Coast Guard proposes to establish a temporary safety zone on waters of Bayou Grande, Pensacola, Florida for one day between 21 April and 4 May for the planned landing of a seaplane with a wingspan of 200 feet. The safety zone will be in effect during the landing and transit of the aircraft to the Naval Air Museum. Comments on the proposal should be submitted by 5 March. [79 Fed. Reg. 9118](#) (February 18, 2014).

USACE – GL-MR Interbasin Study



The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is extending, through 31 March, the period within which to submit comments on the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study. [79 Fed. Reg. 9183](#) (February 18, 2014).

DOS – Special Representative for the Arctic Region



The Department of State (DOS) issued a [news release](#) stating that it will establish the post of Special Representative for the Arctic Region, a high-level official of statute who will play a critical role in advancing American interests in the Arctic Region. This action will elevate our attention and effort to keep up with the opportunities and consequences presented by the Arctic's rapid transformation. [Senator Begich](#) (D-AK) and [Senator Murkowski](#) (R-AK) each issued press releases commenting on the decision. (2/14/14).

NTSB – marine fatalities declined in 2012



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued a [news release](#) stating that deaths related to marine transportation declined in 2012 as compared to the previous year. Aviation and pipeline deaths also decreased, while highway and rail fatalities rose. Of the 706 marine deaths in 2012, 651 occurred in recreational boating. There were 803 marine deaths in 2011. (2/14/14).

Honolulu – fuel-cell system to power docked vessels



The Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a [news release](#) stating that the Maritime Administration (MARAD) is providing \$700,000 to

support construction of the first of its kind portable fuel-cell system to help power vessel on-board systems pier side while docked in the Port of Honolulu. (2/13/14).

USCG & USN – Oceania Maritime Security Initiative



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that the Oceania Maritime Security Initiative has been completed. The Initiative is a joint mission with the US Navy to enforce fisheries laws and enhance regional security in the Oceania region. (2/14/14).

Guam – Japanese fishing vessel aground



The US Navy issued a **news release** stating that it is working with other federal agencies and the responsible party to assess and respond to potential environmental impacts due to the grounding of the Japanese commercial fishing vessel Daiki Maru in outer Apra Harbor on 13 February. (2/14/14).

ReCAAP – report for January 2014



The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre issued its **Report for January 2014**. No reports of piracy were received. There were six reports of armed robbery against ships, a reduction from the same period for the previous four years. (2/14/14).

Australia – confidential safety reporting scheme



The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) is initiating a marine confidential reporting scheme – **REPCON**. It allows any person who has a marine safety concern to confidentially report it to the ATSB. Protection of the reporter's identity and any individual referred to in the report is a primary element of the scheme. Any person may report a reportable safety concern, but anonymous reports will not be accepted. (2/14/14).

UK – fatal accident on cruise ship



The UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) issued a **notice** stating that the United Kingdom has declared itself to be a “substantially interested state” with regard to the 14 February fatal accident involving a British passenger on board the Bahamas-flag cruise ship Marco Polo. The incident

occurred outside UK waters. As a result of its declaration, the UK will be kept informed of the progress of the investigation. (2/17/14).

General Order on Port and Starboard – 18 February 1846



On 18 February 1846, Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft issued the following General Order: "It having been repeatedly represented to the Department, that confusion arises from the use of the words 'Larboard' and 'Starboard', in consequence of the similarity of sound, the word 'Port' is hereafter to be substituted for 'Larboard'."

Motor lifeboat CG 36500 – rescue of 18 February 1952



The US Coast Guard motor lifeboat 36500 is the only one of the many hundreds that were built between the 1930s and the 1950s to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. On 18 February 1952, during a severe winter storm off Cape Cod, two T-2 tankers, SS Fort Mercer and SS Pendleton, suffered separate massive material failures and both broke in half. The Coast Guard learned of the SS Fort Mercer casualty and dispatched a cutter and a motor lifeboat. Several hours later, the two halves of the hull of SS Pendleton were observed. The CG 36500 was dispatched with a crew of four volunteers: BM1 Bernard "Bernie" Webber, ENG3 Andrew "Andy" Fitzgerald, SN Irving "Ervin" Maske, and SN Richard Livesey. The survivors of SS Fort Mercer were rescued and brought ashore in trying conditions, but in typical Coast Guard fashion. The bow section of SS Pendleton, with the master and seven crewmembers, eventually sank with no survivors. The stern section, with 32 crewmembers, remained afloat. BM1 Webber maneuvered the CG 36500 alongside and took the crewmembers on board, despite the horrendous seas and the fact that the motor lifeboat was rated for a maximum of twelve persons. The stern section of SS Pendleton sank minutes after the last crewmember got off. BM1 Webber returned slowly and carefully to the Chatham Station, delivering the survivors to an amazed group of local residents, fishermen, and fellow Coast Guardsmen on the pier. Later that year, BM1 Webber and the other three Coast Guardsmen from the CG 36500 were awarded the Coast Guard Gold Medal for Valor, its highest award. Motor lifeboat CG 36500 continued on active duty until stricken from the rolls in 1968. The four brave men are now deceased. The lifeboat, though, has been fully restored and is lovingly maintained by the Orleans Historical Society at Rock Harbor in Orleans, Massachusetts, not far from where it served in Chatham in 1952.

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