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Panama Canal – conceptual agreement with contractor; and
Protection Against Piracy Act – 3 March 1819.

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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. A boiled egg first thing in the morning is hard to beat.*

DOT – Infrastructure Investment grant funding



The Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a notice stating announcing availability of funding and requests for applications for grant funding under the National Infrastructure Investment program. Due to the similarity of this program with the previous Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program, that term will continue to be used for this new

program. Applications for grants must be submitted by 28 April. [79 Fed. Reg. 11854](#) (March 3, 2014).

FERC – FLNG facility application



The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a notice stating that it received an application from Excelerate Liquefaction Solutions, LLC for authority to site, construct, and operate a floating liquefied natural gas (FLNG) unit and related facilities near the Port of Port Lavaca-Point Comfort, Texas. Comments on the application must be submitted by 17 March. [79 Fed. Reg. 11775](#) (March 3, 2014).

TSAC – meeting



The Towing Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet in New Orleans on 20 March. Topics on the agenda include manning of inspected towing vessels; midstream refueling of gas-powered towing vessels, and improvement of Coast Guard marine casualty reporting. [79 Fed. Reg. 11806](#) (March 3, 2014).

USCG – Proceedings



The US Coast Guard posted the Winter 2013-14 edition of the [Proceedings](#) of the Marine Safety & Security Council. This edition focuses on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), including the players, prevention, response, and emerging issues. (2/28/14).

USCG – IMO e-newsletter



The US Coast Guard posted its [IMO e-newsletter](#) for winter 2014. This issue recaps the recent IMO Assembly session, as well as other recent activities of the International Maritime Organization. (2/28/14).

TSA – TWIC Reader QTL



The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) posted an updated version of its [TWIC Reader Qualified Technology List](#) (QTL). (2/21/14).

St. Lawrence Seaway – ballast water management report



GREAT LAKES-ST. LAWRENCE
SEAWAY SYSTEM

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System posted the **2013 Summary of Great Lakes Seaway Ballast Water Management Report**. The report was compiled by the Great Lakes Seaway Ballast Water Working Group, consisting of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation, Transport Canada, and the US Coast Guard. The working group's mission is to harmonize ballast water management efforts among the group members. During 2013, 100% of the ships bound for the Great Lakes from outside the EEZ received a ballast tank exam. Vessels that had not conducted a ballast water exchange or flush were required to either retain the ballast water and residuals on board, treat the ballast water in an environmentally sound and approved manner, or return to sea to conduct a ballast water exchange. (2/28/14).

EPA – Bristol Bay fishery analysis



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a **news release** stating that it is initiating a process under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (aka Clean Water Act) to identify appropriate options to protect the sockeye salmon fishery in Bristol Bay, Alaska from potentially deleterious impacts of the Pebble Mine, a proposed open pit copper mine. A permit must be issued by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) before work on the Pebble Mine can commence. The USACE may not issue a permit until the EPA review has been completed. (2/28/14).

USN – USS Somerset commissioned



The US Navy issued a **news release** stating that the amphibious transport dock ship USS Somerset (LPD 25) was commissioned during a formal ceremony at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia. The ship is named in honor of the heroic actions of the 40 crew and passengers of United Flight 93 and their tremendous courage against terrorists on 11 September 2001. Due to their collective sacrifice, the plane crashed in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, rather than the intended target. (3/1/14).

House – hearing on maritime transportation regulations



On 4 March, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will

conduct a hearing entitled “**Maritime Transportation Regulations: Impacts on Safety, Security, Jobs and the Environment, Part II**”. (2/28/14).

House – bill introduced to establish Maritime Goods Movement User Fee



Representative McDermott (D-WA) introduced a bill (H.R. 4105) to establish a Maritime Goods Movement User Fee and provide grants for international maritime cargo improvements and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Representative McDermott issued a **press release** explaining the bill. (2/27/14).

IMO – safe ship operations in the Arctic



The IMO issued a **news release** stating that it hosted a workshop on safe ship operation in the Arctic Ocean. The workshop was a collaboration with the Arctic Options: Holistic Integration for Arctic Coastal-Marine Sustainability Project, funded by the US National Science Foundation, and the Arctic Climate Change, Economy, and Society (ACCESS) Project, funded by the European Commission. (2/28/14).

India – bilateral recognition of COCs



The Indian Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) issued a **notice** stating that bilateral recognition of Certificates of Competency (COCs) has been accorded with respect to: the United Kingdom, Iran, Italy, and Malaysia. (2/27/14).

Ireland & UK – feedback on aids to navigation



The Commissioners of Irish Lights (CIL) issued a **press release** stating that the General Lighthouse Authorities (GLAs) are seeking public comment on the usefulness and usability of existing aids to navigation provided by the GLAs. Comments should be submitted by 31 March. (2/10/14).

Panama Canal – conceptual agreement with contractor



The Panama Canal Authority issued a **press release** stating that a conceptual agreement with the contractor for the new locks project has been reached subject to documentation, review, and final signature. Among other

things, the conceptual agreement provides that construction of the third set of locks is to be completed by December 2015. (2/27/14).

Protection Against Piracy Act – 3 March 1819



The U.S. Congress enacted into law a statute to protect the commerce of the United States and punish the crime of piracy. Among other things, it authorized the use of public armed vessels (the US Navy and the US Revenue Cutter Service), with suitable instructions to the commanders thereof, in protecting merchant vessels of the United States and their crews from piratical aggressions and depredations. It also authorized merchant vessels to oppose and defend against aggression by a private armed vessel. Any person convicted of piracy as defined by the law of nations was to be punished with death. **3 Stat. 510** (March 3, 1819).

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