

Headlines:

Aegean Sea – response to grounded vessel;
 New Hampshire – bridge allision;
 DOJ – liner companies to settle False Claims Act allegations;
 SLSDC – tariff of tolls;
 TRB-CMTS conference – call for papers;
 OFAC – sanctions symposium;
 House – bill introduced re USMMA Board of Visitors;
 House – bill introduced re natural gas exports;
 House – bill introduced re exportation of natural gas;
 Senate – bill introduced re exportation of natural gas;
 Senate – bill introduced re vessel incidental discharges;
 Senate – bill introduced re LNG exports from Alaska;
 EU – maritime security strategy;
 Australia – fatal accident involving pressure vessel;
 Australia – in-transit fumigation of ship cargo;
 Ireland – Dublin Bay e-nav project;
 New Zealand – American skipper fined; and
 Panama Canal – February operations summary.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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Aegean Sea – response to grounded vessel



The US Navy issued a **news release** stating that the Hellenic Coast Guard and USS Bataan (LHD 5) responded to a distress call from a grounded Turkish vessel in the Aegean Sea. A Navy rescue swimmer recovered two Turkish mariners, who were taken to Bataan for medical treatment. (3/8/14).

New Hampshire – bridge allision



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that a 600-foot double hull tanker carrying ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel allided with the fender of the Memorial Bridge in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The bridge fender was damaged. There were no reports of injury or pollution. The incident is under investigation. (3/8/14).

DOJ – liner companies to settle False Claims Act allegations



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** stating that Sea Star Line LLC and Horizon Lines LLC have agreed to resolve allegations that they violated the False Claims Act by fixing the price of government cargo contracts between the continental United States and Puerto Rico. Under the settlement agreements, Sea Star Line has agreed to pay \$1.9 million and Horizon Lines has agreed to pay \$1.5 million. (3/7/14).

SLSDC – tariff of tolls



The Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC), in agreement with the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC), promulgated a final rule setting forth the tariff of tolls assessed on all commodities and vessels transiting facilities operated by the two entities. The rule comes into effect immediately. **79 Fed. Reg. 13252** (March 10, 2014).

TRB-CMTS conference – call for papers



The deadline for **Call for Papers** for the upcoming Transportation Research Board (TRB) – Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) conference “Innovative Technologies for a Resilient Marine Transportation System” has been extended to 14 March. The TRB-CMTS conference will be held on 24-26 June in Washington, DC. (3/7/14).

OFAC – sanctions symposium



The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued a **bulletin** stating that it will host the OFAC Sanctions Symposium on 8 April in Washington, DC. The symposium will provide a comprehensive review of OFAC and current US economic sanctions. (3/7/14).

House – bill introduced re USMMA Board of Visitors



Representative Grimm (R-NY) introduced the [U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Board of Visitors Enhancement Act](#) (H.R. 4144) to amend the provisions of title 46, United States Code, related to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (3/4/14).

House – bill introduced re natural gas exports



Representative Poe (R-TX) introduced the [Fight Russian Energy Exploitation \(FREE\) Act](#) (H.R. 4155) to authorize natural gas exports to certain foreign countries, and for other purposes. (3/5/14).

House – bill introduced re exportation of natural gas



Representative Gardner (R-CO) introduced a bill (H.R. 6) to provide for expedited approval of exportation of natural gas to World Trade Organization countries, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Representative Gardner issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure. (3/6/14).

Senate – bill introduced re exportation of natural gas



Senator Markey (D-MA) introduced a bill (S. 2088) to amend the Natural Gas Act with respect to the exportation of natural gas, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Senator Markey issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure. (3/6/14).

Senate – bill introduced re vessel incidental discharges



Senator Begich (D-AK) introduced a bill (S. 2094) to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel. (3/6/14). Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Senator Begich issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure.

Senate – bill introduced re LNG exports from Alaska



Senator Begich (D-AK) introduced a bill (S. 2096) to amend the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act of 2004 to provide for the authorization of liquefied natural gas terminals and related facilities necessary for the export of Alaska natural gas, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Senator Begich issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure. (3/6/14).

EU – maritime security strategy



The European Union (EU) issued a [press release](#) stating that a joint communication has been adopted on the elements for an EU maritime security strategy. (3/6/14).

Australia – fatal accident involving pressure vessel



The Australian Maritime Safety Administration (AMSA) issued a notice drawing attention to a recent fatal incident on board a foreign vessel in Australian waters. The fatality occurred when the observation glass of a main compressed air receiver drainage pot failed catastrophically while a ship's engineer was draining accumulated water (condensate from the ship's main air reservoir). Investigation found that the ship's main air receiver drainage pots were not fit for purpose, having been modified during the ship's construction and the revised design was never submitted for approval. [Marine Notice 05/2014](#) (3/7/14).

Australia – in-transit fumigation of ship cargo



The Australian Maritime Safety Administration (AMSA) issued a notice reminding stakeholders of requirements applicable to in-transit fumigation of ship cargoes. [Marine Notice 06/2014](#) (3/7/14).

Ireland – Dublin Bay e-nav project



The Commissioners of Irish Lights (CIL) posted the first in a series of newsletters regarding electronic navigation. This issue focuses on the Dublin Bay Digital Diamond Demonstration Project. Among other things, the project will test wi-fi coverage over Dublin Bay, the feasibility of ranging mode using AIS

base stations, and a smart-phone app that transmits AIS data via wi-fi. [e-Nav News](#) (3/7/14).

New Zealand – American skipper fined



Maritime New Zealand issued a [media release](#) stating that the American skipper of a 17-meter vessel on a round-the-world cruise has been ordered to pay \$3000 after snagging a recreational fishing vessel's anchor line and dragging the fishing vessel and its occupants through the water on Auckland Harbour on 11 January. The skipper sailed through a group of recreational fishing vessels rather than taking a longer route to the marina. (3/7/14).

Panama Canal – February operations summary



The Panama Canal Authority issued an advisory summarizing Canal operations during February. It also includes the schedule of locks maintenance outages for the remainder of the fiscal year. [Advisory 4-2014](#) (3/7/14).

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