

## Headlines:

Mediterranean – USN SEALS board rogue tanker;  
Houston – ship-barge collision;  
FMC – Medrano Express;  
EPA – suspension and debarment of BP lifted;  
USCG – revisions to MSM, Vol. III;  
NTSB – seeking marine engineering accident investigator;  
FERC – Freeport LNG DEIS;  
Senate – bill introduced re Coast Guard capabilities in Arctic;  
Court – forum non conveniens; and  
St. Patrick’s Day – green beer all around.

March 17, 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. A boiled egg first thing in the morning is hard to beat.*

## **Mediterranean – USN SEALS board rogue tanker**



The Department of Defense (DOD) issued a **news release** stating that American forces boarded and took control of the stateless commercial tanker MORNING GLORY in international waters of the Mediterranean southeast of Cyprus. The boarding was executed by a team of US Navy SEALS at the request of the Libyan and Cypriot governments. The tanker is carrying a crude oil belonging to the Libyan government and illicitly obtained from the Libyan port of As-Sidra after the vessel was seized earlier this month by three armed Libyans. A team of sailors from the USS Stout (DDG 55) is navigating the tanker to a port in Libya. (3/17/14). *Note: This item was first brought to my attention by my good friend Larry Brennan of [Wilson Elser](http://www.wilsonelser.com).*

## Houston – ship-barge collision



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that a collision occurred in the Houston Ship Channel between the cargo ship Genius Star VII and a barge. The ship is loaded with grain. The barge is carrying 840,000 gallons of #6 fuel oil. Both vessels were damaged, but are in stable condition. There were no reports of injury or pollution. The incident is under investigation. (3/15/14).

## FMC – Medrano Express



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a [Consumer Alert](#) stating that it revoked the ocean transportation intermediary (OTI) license of Transporte Medrano, Inc. d/b/a Medrano Express on 25 July 2013. If you were a customer of Medrano Express and your cargo has not been delivered and if you can provide the original invoice for the invoice numbers listed in the table attached to the Consumer Alert, it is requested that you contact the FMC no later than 20 March. (3/14/14).

## EPA – suspension and debarment of BP lifted



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a [news release](#) stating that it executed an [agreement](#) with BP resolving all suspension and debarment actions against BP that barred the company from doing business with the federal government following the company's guilty plea in the Deepwater Horizon disaster of April 2010. (3/13/14).

## USCG – revisions to MSM, Vol. III



The US Coast Guard seeks comments on draft revisions to the Marine Safety Manual (MSM, Volume III, Marine Industry Personnel. The volume has been revised to incorporate the 2010 amendments to the STCW Convention and to address public comments received from the initial solicitation as well as input from the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC). Comments should be submitted by 16 May. [79 Fed. Reg. 14714](#) (March 17, 2014).

## NTSB – seeking marine engineering accident investigator



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) posted a **Job Announcement** seeking qualified applicants for the position of Marine Engineering Accident Investigator. Applications must be received by 31 March. (3/14/14). *Note: This item was first brought to my attention by my good friend Richard Hiscock of [Off Soundings](#).*

## FERC – Freeport LNG DEIS



The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a **press release** stating that it seeks comments on the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) on the Phase II Modification and Liquefaction Projects proposed for the Freeport LNG Terminal in Texas. If constructed, this facility would have the capacity to export 13.2 million tons of LNG per year. Comments on the DEIS must be received by 5 May. (3/14/14).

## Senate – bill introduced re Coast Guard capabilities in Arctic



Senator Begich (D-AK) introduced a bill (S. 2131) to amend the statutory authorities of the Coast Guard to strengthen Coast Guard prevention and response capabilities in the Arctic, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (3/13/14).

## Court – forum non conveniens



In an unpublished decision, the US Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit affirmed the dismissal of a foreign seaman's complaint against his Bahamian employer because defendant employer lacked a base of operations in the United States. The record showed that the vessel on which plaintiff suffered his injury flies the Honduran flag, that defendant employer's principal place of business is in the Bahamas, that defendant employer's business activities in the United States are minimal, and that plaintiff signed the operative shipping articles in the Bahamas. **Vasquez v. YII Shipping Company**, No. 12-16395 (11th Cir., March 14, 2014).

## St. Patrick's Day – green beer all around



Monday is celebrated as **St. Patrick's Day**, in memory of the priest **Saint Patrick** (circa AD 385-461) who chased all the lawyers (oops, I meant snakes) out of Ireland. Drink some green beer and be Irish, at least for a day. **Erin Go Bragh!**

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If you have questions regarding the above items, please contact the editor:

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