

Headlines:

USCG – postdating of MMCs;
USCG – change in merchant mariner appeal process;
BOEM – limit of liability for offshore facilities;
FEMA – FY 2014 PSGP;
New York – ship-pilot boat collision;
USCG – owner fined for improper manning;
NTSB – cruise ship conference;
EPA – SmartWay Transportation Partnership;
India – standards applicable to FPSOs/FSUs; and
Vernal equinox – 20 March 2014.

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

USCG – postdating of MMCs



The USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) issued a **notice** regarding the postdating of merchant mariner credentials (MMCs). Effective 24 March, the NMC, in appropriate cases of renewal of an MMC, will place an issue date on the MMC that is up to eight months in the future. (3/19/14).

USCG – change in merchant mariner appeal process



The USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) issued a **notice** stating that, effective 24 March, merchant mariners may submit an appeal of an NMC reconsideration decision directly to the Director of Inspections and Compliance

(CG-5PC) at Coast Guard Headquarters. Currently, appeals are sent via the NMC. The appeals must be submitted in writing within 30 days after the decision or action being appealed was rendered and must contain a description of the decision or action being appealed and the reasons why the decision or action should be set aside. (3/19/14).

BOEM – limit of liability for offshore facilities



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a revised proposal regarding the limit of liability for offshore facilities under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90). The proposal would increase the limit based on adjustments to the consumer price index. It would also add a new subpart G to the BOEM regulations to establish a methodology to periodically raise the limit of liability in the future. Comments on the revised proposal should be submitted by 25 April. [79 Fed. Reg. 15275](#) (March 19, 2014).

FEMA – FY 2014 PSGP



The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued an [Announcement](#) stating that it is now accepting applications for funds under the FY 2014 Port Security Grant Program (PSGP). The estimated total funding this year is \$100 million. Applications must be received by 23 May. General [Grant Guidance](#) has also been issued. (3/18/14).

New York – ship-pilot boat collision



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that a 984-foot container ship and a New York Pilot boat collided near the Ambrose Pilot Station off Sandy Hook. One crewman from the pilot boat suffered serious injuries, while three others incurred minor injuries. The incident is under investigation. (3/18/14).

USCG – owner fined for improper manning



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that the owner of US-flag distant water tuna fishing vessels has been fined for manning some of its vessels with foreign personnel who did not possess proper licenses. (3/18/14).

NTSB – cruise ship conference



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) posted the [Agenda](#) for the 25-26 March conference “Cruise Ships: Examining Safety, Operations, and Oversight”.

EPA – SmartWay Transportation Partnership



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a [news release](#) stating that it is expanding its SmartWay Transportation Partnership initiative to include the inland barge industry. SmartWay helps businesses move more goods more miles with lower emissions and less energy by helping accelerate the availability, adoption, and market penetration of advanced fuel efficient technologies and operational practices in the freight supply chain, while lowering costs and improving environmental performance. (3/19/14).

India – standards applicable to FPSOs/FSUs



The Indian Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) issued an order notifying stakeholders of the application of safety, security, and environmental protection provisions to Indian FPSOs/FSUs and to non-Indian FPSOs/FSUs while operating in Indian waters. [DGS Order 2-2014](#) (2/18/14).

Vernal equinox – 20 March 2014



If things were sufficiently quiet (specifically at 1657 UTC, 20 March 2014), you may have heard the crash when the sun tripped over the equator as it slipped north. This marked the commencement of spring in the Northern Hemisphere and the commencement of autumn in the Southern Hemisphere.

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

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