

## Headlines:

Suez Canal – incidents on transiting vessels;  
ICJ – whaling in the Antarctic not scientific;  
Gulf of Mexico – emergency disconnect of offshore facility;  
MARAD – War Risk Insurance;  
FWS – ANS Task Force meeting;  
MARAD – Renewable Diesel for Marine Application;  
FMC – cruise passengers affected by Texas oil spill;  
St. Lawrence Seaway – navigation season opens; and  
UK – sleep-induced grounding leads to hefty fine.

March 31, 2014



# 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.*

## **Suez Canal – incidents on transiting vessels**



The US Navy Maritime Liaison Office, Manama, Bahrain issued a Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) advising that reports have been received of incidents occurring on vessels transiting the Suez Canal allegedly in retaliation for Suez Canal Port Authority employees not receiving cigarettes from the crew. It is recommended that additional steps be taken by transiting vessels to minimize the risk of such incidents and to assist in prosecuting perpetrators when such an incident does occur. **MSIB 04-14** (3/28/14).

## **ICJ – whaling in the Antarctic not scientific**



The International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that whaling as conducted by Japan in the Antarctic does not comport with the requirements of

scientific whaling under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. Among other things, the Court has ordered that Japan revoke any extant authorization, permit, or license to kill, take, or treat whales in **Whaling in the Antarctic (Australia v. Japan)**, (ICJ, 31 March 2014).

### **Gulf of Mexico – emergency disconnect of offshore facility**



The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) issued a **press release** stating that it is responding to a report of an emergency disconnect and production shut-in onboard the Helix Producer 1 located in the Gulf of Mexico approximately 100 miles southwest of Houma, Louisiana. The shutdown was triggered by an electrical blackout on the offshore facility. Electrical power has since been restored. There were no injuries. Less than one gallon of hydrocarbon was released during the disconnect. (3/28/14).

### **MARAD – War Risk Insurance**



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued a final rule making non-substantive changes to the War Risk Insurance regulations. The changes come into effect on 30 April. **79 Fed. Reg. 17896** (March 31, 2014).

### **FWS – ANS Task Force meeting**



The Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force, sponsored by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), will meet on 7-8 May in Arlington, Virginia. Topics on the agenda include Quagga Zebra Action Plan update, ballast water research, and fracking as an AIS pathway. **79 Fed. Reg. 18053** (March 31, 2014).

### **MARAD – Renewable Diesel for Marine Application**



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) belatedly posted its report: **Renewable Diesel for Marine Application**. The study compared the operational and performance differences in a test vessel's use of ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD) versus a 67/33 blend of USLD and Amyris Renewable Diesel (ARD), which is derived from sugar. No significant differences were found between the test vessel's use of neat ULSD and the blend in terms of engine performance, fuel economy, air emissions, engine vibration, underwater radiated noise, and effect on the engine itself. (8/30/13).

## FMC – cruise passengers affected by Texas oil spill



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a **news release** stating that the cruise lines impacted by the Houston Ship Channel oil spill have made arrangements for refunds and reimbursements for affected passengers. (3/28/14).

## St. Lawrence Seaway – navigation season opens



The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System issued a **press release** stating that the Seaway's 56<sup>th</sup> navigation season opened on 28 March with the passage of the Algoma Equinox through Lock 3 of the Welland Canal. (3/28/14).

## UK – sleep-induced grounding leads to hefty fine



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) issued a **press notice** stating that the owner of a coasting ship which grounded in an environmentally sensitive area in the Farne Islands off the Northumberland coast has been ordered to pay nearly £73,000 in fines and costs after its crew failed to keep a proper lookout. The officer of the navigation watch had fallen asleep before the grounding. (3/28/14).

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