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NOAA – members sought for MPAFAC;
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Australia – unintentional lifeboat release;
Singapore – implementing MLC 2006; and
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April 1, 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. Life is short. Don't make the same mistake twice – be original.

FCC – maritime radio equipment



The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) seeks comment regarding a proposed amendment to rules and requirements for technologies used to locate and rescue distressed ships and individuals in distress at sea or on land by providing better and more accurate data to rescue personnel. Among other things, the proposal would require EPIRBs and similar devices to be capable of broadcasting position data when activated. Comments should be submitted by 2 June. [79 Fed. Reg. 18249](https://www.fcc.gov/etools/79-Fed-Reg-18249) (April 1, 2014).

OFAC – Iran sanctions enforcement



The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued a **notice** stating that GAC Shipping (USA), Inc. has agreed to pay \$157,500 to settle potential civil liability for an alleged violation of the Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations. In November 2008, GAC supplied bunker fuel valued at \$513,141 in Paranagua, Brazil for an Iranian vessel carrying an agricultural commodity. (3/31/14).

DOS – Iran sanctions qualifications



The Department of State (DOS) issued a notice stating that it has determined that each of the following purchasers of oil from Iran has qualified under US law for a 180-day exception: Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, and the United Kingdom. **79 Fed. Reg. 18382** (April 1, 2014).

NOAA – draft PEA re IOOS



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice stating that it is seeking comments on the draft programmatic environmental assessment (PEA) of the US Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). Comments should be submitted by 30 April. **79 Fed. Reg. 18281** (April 1, 2014).

NOAA – members sought for MPAFAC



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice stating that it is seeking nominations for membership on the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee (MPAFAC). Nominations must be received by 30 May. **79 Fed. Reg. 18282** (April 1, 2014).

USCG – GPS advisory



The USCG Navigation Center issued an advisory stating that the US Air Force (USAF) is preparing to activate the SVN-49's L-band transmitters. Any users experiencing difficulties with the signal are encouraged to contact the Navigation Center utilizing the worksheet at the following link: <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=gpsUserInput> . (3/31/14).

USN – additional screening measures for base entry



The US Navy issued a **news release** stating that additional screening has been directed of all delivery drivers presenting the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) to gain entry to bases in the Mid-Atlantic Region. The additional screening measures were ordered following the 24 March shooting death of a sailor by a civilian aboard USS Mahan (DDG 72) moored at Naval Station Norfolk. Investigation into circumstances surrounding that incident continues. (3/31/14).

Strait of Hormuz – merchant vessel attacked



The NATO Shipping Centre issued an alert stating that at 11:45 on 30 March a merchant vessel was attacked by one skiff in the Strait of Hormuz. There were six persons on the skiff armed with machine guns. The skiff came within five meters of vessel and fired two shots at the bridge and accommodation area. The vessel set alarm and activated fire hoses. The skiff turned away. The vessel is safe. **Alert 006/14** (3/31/14).

Australia – unintentional lifeboat release



The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) ported the preliminary findings of its ongoing investigation into the unintentional release of a freefall lifeboat from the bulk carrier Aquarosa in the Indian Ocean on 1 March 2014 with serious injury. A ship's engineer entered the ship's freefall lifeboat and topped up the release system hydraulic oil reserves and manually operated the pump to pressurize the system, when the lifeboat suddenly released. Initial analysis indicates the release mechanism was not fully and correctly reset after it was last exercised, allowing the hook to be released when the pump was activated. Analysis also indicates that the two simulation wires, which were designed to hold the lifeboat when the hook was released during a simulation release failed at a load significantly below their rated safe working load. **MO-2014-002** (4/1/14).

Singapore – implementing MLC 2006



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular providing an update on national legislation, coming into effect on 1 April 2014, implementing provisions of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006 relating to the seafarer's employment agreement (SEA), official log book, and medicines and medical equipment. **Shipping Circular 09-2014** (3/31/14).

UK – MAIB business plan



The UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) posted its **Business Plan 2014-15**. (3/31/14).

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

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