

Headlines:

DOD – USAF aircraft transferred to USCG;
FERC – Elba Liquefaction Project;
Senate – importance of Jones Act;
Court – duty of independent contractors;
IMO – Polar Code environmental chapter;
Hong Kong – compensation for plastic pellet spill;
Mexico & US – spill response seminar;
UK – yacht grounding; and
UK – refining and fuel import sectors.

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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. Life is short. Don't make the same mistake twice – be original.*

DOD – USAF aircraft transferred to USCG



The Department of Defense (DOD) issued a **news release** stating that 14 brand-new C-27J Spartan medium-range aircraft have been transferred from the US Air Force to the US Coast Guard. Budget cuts required the Air Force to cancel its acquisition program. (4/9/14). *Note: The Spartan is basically a two-engine version of the C-130. It is manufactured in Italy with engines and systems of the Lockheed Martin C-130J Super Hercules.*

FERC – Elba Liquefaction Project



The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a notice stating that it received an application from Elba Liquefaction Company, LLC for authorization to construct and operate the Elba Liquefaction Project at its

terminal on Elba Island, Chatham County, Georgia. Comments on the application should be submitted within 90 days. [79 Fed. Reg. 19895](#) (April 10, 2014).

Senate – importance of Jones Act



Senator Landrieu (D-LA) issued a [press release](#) highlighting the importance of the Jones Act to the economy of Louisiana. (4/8/14).

Court – duty of independent contractors



In an unpublished decision, the US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled that an independent contractor conducting operations on a drilling platform owes no duty to the employee of another independent contractor that it does not supervise. [McCarroll v. Wood Group](#), No. 13-30891 (5th Cir., April 9, 2014).

IMO – Polar Code environmental chapter



The Danish Maritime Authority issued a [news release](#) stating that the IMO Marine Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC) decided that the environmental chapter of the draft Polar Code is to apply to the same ships as the individual chapters of the MARPOL Convention. (4/8/14).

Hong Kong – compensation for plastic pellet spill



The Hong Kong Marine Department issued a [press release](#) stating that the Government has entered into a settlement agreement with concerned parties to compensate the Government for costs incurred in cleaning up the massive spill of polypropylene plastic pellets from a cargo vessel during typhoon Vicente in July 2012. (4/9/14).

Mexico & US – spill response seminar



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that it and the Mexican Navy held a seminar in South Padre Island, Texas to update the MEXUSGULF spill response plan for a future coordinated response to a spill in the Gulf of Mexico that could impact both countries. (4/9/14).

UK – yacht grounding



The UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) issued the **report** of its investigation of the grounding of the privately owned motor yacht Isamar on the Grand écueil d'Olmeto shoal, Corsica on 17 August 2013. Investigation revealed that the master was not using the radar and was relying on an outdated electronic chart system set on a six-mile scale. At that scale, the charted shoal was not visible, but would have been visible at a lower scale. The master also did not isolate the damaged area of the vessel by closing the watertight doors. (4/9/14).

UK – refining and fuel import sectors



The UK Department of Energy & Climate Change issued its report entitled “**Review of the Refining and Fuel Import Sectors in the UK**”. Changes in the sector over recent decades have resulted in closure of several refineries and a steady transition from domestic production to imports to meet UK demand. Government policy regarding these changes involves a partnership approach with industry, addressing market distortions and regulatory burden. (4/9/14).

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

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