

Headlines:

TSAC – teleconference meeting;
BOEM – OCS Scientific Committee;
ITC – marine sonar imaging devices;
San Francisco – wreck found in Golden Gate;
Court – recovery of full costs for false distress report;
Malaysia – theft of marine diesel oil; and
Panama Canal – dredging.

April 24, 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.

TSAC – teleconference meeting



The Towing Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will conduct a teleconference meeting on 4 June to receive taskings related to the report of investigation into the MODU Kulluk grounding incident and to receive reports from seven active TSAC subcommittees, including recommendations for mid-stream LNG refueling of towing vessels. [79 Fed. Reg. 22825](#) (April 24, 2014).

BOEM – OCS Scientific Committee



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) seeks interested and qualified individuals to serve on its Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Scientific Committee. Applications should be submitted within 30 days. [79 Fed. Reg. 22830](#) (April 24, 2014).

ITC – marine sonar imaging devices



The International Trade Commission (ITC) issued a notice stating that it has determined not to review an initial determination issued by the presiding administrative law judge granting the parties' motion to terminate the investigation concerning certain marine sonar imaging devices based on a settlement agreement. [79 Fed. Reg. 22835](#) (April 24, 2014).

San Francisco – wreck found in Golden Gate



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a [news release](#) stating that the wreck of the passenger steamer City of Chester has been located in waters of the Golden Gate. The vessel sank in 1888 following a collision in dense fog. The City of Chester was carrying 90 passengers and remained afloat for six minutes following the collision with the Olympic. Sixteen people died in the casualty. (4/23/14).

Court – recovery of full costs for false distress report



Over a vigorous dissent, a panel of the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit ruled that the US Coast Guard is entitled to recover its full costs, in accordance with its reimbursable standard rates, incurred in responding to a false distress call. In March, 2012, the defendant reported seeing a fishing boat with four persons on board in distress on Lake Erie. The US Coast Guard and Canadian Forces responded and searched without success for 21 hours. Defendant later admitted that his notification was fraudulent and pleaded guilty in federal court to violation of federal law which renders one who makes a false distress call to the Coast Guard liable for all costs the Coast Guard incurs as a result of the individual's actions. The court sentenced the defendant and ordered him to pay restitution to the Coast Guard in the amount of \$277,257.70 and a lesser amount to the Canadian Forces. Defendant appealed, contending that he should only be required to repay the Coast Guard's direct costs, not its overhead expenses. After reviewing the statute, the majority of the court interpreted it to require restitution of the full amount, including overhead. [United States v. Kumar](#), No. 13-3970 (6th Cir., April 22, 2014). *Note: This item was brought to my attention by my good friend Alan Spackman of the [International Association of Drilling Contractors](#).*

Malaysia – theft of marine diesel oil



The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre issued an **Incident Alert** stating that robbers boarded a tanker off Port Klang and, after holding the crew, siphoned about 2,500 metric tonnes of marine diesel fuel into two vessels that came alongside. When the robbers escaped, they took the master, chief officer, and chief engineer (together with their travel documents and personal belongings) with them. The investigation is ongoing. (4/23/14).

Panama Canal – dredging



The Panama Canal Authority issued an advisory stating that the east lane of the Pedro Miguel Locks will be closed on 29 April through 1 May to allow for dredging. Dredging is tentatively scheduled for 9-11 May affecting the west lane. Transit Reservation System Condition 2 will be in effect beginning 26 April. **Advisory 08-2014** (4/21/14).

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

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