

Headlines:

White House – National Defense Transportation Day and National Transportation Week;
California – weather buoy replaced;
House – bill introduced re recreational boating;
Senate – maritime dispute in South China Sea;
Senate – access to cruise ship inspection information;
Australia – fatal fall from pilot ladder;
UK – anchor dragging and grounding; and
American culture – the ultimate non-lethal weapon.

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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. Everyone has a right to be stupid, but some abuse the privilege.*

White House – National Defense Transportation Day and National Transportation Week



President Obama issued a **Proclamation** designating 16 May as National Defense Transportation Day and 11-17 May as National Transportation Week, recognizing, among other things, the importance of preparing America's ports and waterways to handle the new generation of ships. (5/9/14).

California – weather buoy replaced



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that it and the National oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) coordinated replacement of the faulty weather buoy in the Pacific Ocean 25 miles west of Half

Moon Bay. The weather buoy weighs 3,500 pounds, rises eighteen above the surface, and is nine feet wide. It measures and reports in real time wind speed, air and water temperatures, barometric pressure, and wave height and period. (5/8/14).

House – bill introduced re recreational boating



Representative Israel (D-NY) introduced a bill (H.R. 4642) to require all recreational vessels to have and post passenger capacity limits, to amend title 46, United States Code, to authorize States to enter into contracts for the provision of boating safety education services under State recreational boating safety programs, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (4/9/14).

Senate – maritime dispute in South China Sea



Senator Menendez (D-NJ) issued a [press release](#) stating that a bipartisan group of Senators called recent actions by Chinese ships in the South China Sea 'deeply troubling' and urged their colleagues to pass [Senate Resolution 412](#) reaffirming support of the US government for freedom of navigation in the Asia-Pacific region and for the peaceful diplomatic resolution of outstanding territorial and maritime disputes. (5/9/14).

Senate – access to cruise ship inspection information



Senator Blumenthal (D-CT) issued a [press release](#) stating that he and Senators Rockefeller and Markey sent a letter to the Commandant of the Coast Guard proposing that the Coast Guard post on the internet the results of its cruise ship inspections. (5/9/14).

Australia – fatal fall from pilot ladder



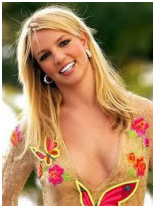
The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) issued the report of its investigation of a fatal fall from the pilot ladder on the bulk carrier Atlantic Princess at Whyalla, South Australia on 3 July 2013. A company representative was visiting the ship, which was anchored offshore. The pilot ladder, which was properly rigged, was the only available means for boarding. The individual, who was not experienced in use of a pilot ladder, slipped from the ladder and fell onto the deck of the pilot boat, incurring fatal injuries. [MO-2013-007](#) (5/9/14).

UK – anchor dragging and grounding



The UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) issued the report of its investigation of the anchor dragging and grounding of the ro/pax ferry Stena Alegria at Karlskrona, Sweden on 28 October 2013. Investigation revealed that the master had decided to anchor in winds forecast to increase to the assumed maximum design limit of its anchoring equipment without making a full assessment of the consequent risks. The wind speed rose to above that forecast, causing the vessel to drag its anchor. Measures aimed at arresting the vessel's drift failed to prevent the vessel from running aground. [Report 12-2014 \(5/9/14\)](#).

American culture – the ultimate non-lethal weapon



There are unconfirmed reports that the Royal Navy is broadcasting recordings of Britney Spears in an effort to deter Somali pirates in the Indian Ocean. This reminds me that about twenty years ago, some McDonald's restaurants allegedly played Frank Sinatra songs over their exterior speakers to deter long-term parking by teenagers. In December 1989, when the United States invaded Panama to oust General Manuel Noriega, the General took refuge in the Vatican Embassy. The invading forces set up loudspeakers around the Embassy, continuously playing American rock-and-roll music. General Noriega surrendered after a few days. The lesson – American culture is all powerful.

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

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