Headlines:
USCG – Zukunft relieves Papp as Commandant;
TSA – TWIC program update;
Houston-Galveston – severe weather safety planning;
FMC – congestion surcharges;
USCG – US-build determination letter;
USCG – Temporary Certificates of Documentation;
USCG – Maritime Security Excellence Awards;
MARAD – Marine Highway projects open season;
CGSIC – regional meeting;
Gulf of Mexico – US-Mexico Transboundary Hydrocarbons Agreement leases;
USCG – Marine Safety Engineering newsletter;
House – bill introduced re marine fisheries management;
Singapore Strait – product tanker missing;
India – navigation in vicinity of ODAs; and
Indonesia – incident alert.

June 2, 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. Schrödinger had two cats, calling them a paradox.

USCG – Zukunft relieves Papp as Commandant

The US Coast Guard issued a news release stating that Admiral Paul F. Zukunft has relieved Admiral Bob Papp to become the twenty-fifth Commandant of the US Coast Guard. The Commandant's Direction 2014 has also been posted. (5/30/14).

TSA – TWIC program update

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) issued a notice providing new information relating to the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) process. A temporary delay in the production and delivery of some TWIC cards is being experienced. New TWIC cards produced by the Government Printing Office (GPO) are being produced and issued. These cards have several differences from the previous cards. For the new cards, readers programed to check the TWIC Certificate Revocation List (CRL) must be redirected to the new TWIC Certificate Authority (CA). The pilot phase of the TWIC "One Visit" option has been completed and the option will be added to enrollment centers throughout the summer. (5/30/14).

Houston-Galveston – severe weather safety planning

The USCG Sector Houston-Galveston issued a Marine Safety Information Bulletin regarding severe weather safety planning for all vessels and facilities in the Captain of the Port (COTP) Zone. MSIB 08-14 (5/30/14).

FMC – congestion surcharges

The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a news release stating that it has received numerous informal inquiries to relation to certain congestion surcharges that have been announced in tariff rules. It should be noted that under the Shipping Act of 1984, unless done pursuant to a waiver or exemption, any tariff rule (including surcharges) of a common carrier that results in an increased cost to a shipper may not be effective earlier than 30 days after publication. (5/29/14).

USCG – US-build determination letter

The USCG National Vessel Documentation Center (NMDC) issued a determination letter stating that construction of certain product/chemical tank vessels in a US shipyard with most of the steel plate, flat bar, weld rod, and paint being obtained from a foreign source will not adversely affect the status of the vessels as having been built in the United States. (5/27/14).

USCG – Temporary Certificates of Documentation

The USCG National Vessel Documentation Center (NVDC) issued a notice stating that, starting 2 June, it will reinstitute the issuing of Temporary Certificates of Documentation (TCODs) for recreational vessels. (5/30/14).

USCG – Maritime Security Excellence Awards

The US Coast Guard issued a message announcing the recipients of the Rear Admiral Richard E. Bennis Awards for Excellence in Maritime Security for 2014. ALCOAST 242/14 (5/30/14).

MARAD – Marine Highway projects open season

The Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued a notice stating that open season for Marine Highway project submissions has begun and runs through 30 September 2016. Interested parties are invited to submit Marine Highway project applications for review and consideration. The Marine Highway Program has been expanded to include all of the US domestic marine transportation system. Marine Highway route recommendations will continue to be accepted at any time. 79 Fed. Reg. 31404 (June 2, 2014).

CGSIC – regional meeting

The USCG Navigation Center issued a notice stating that a regional meeting of the US State and Local Government Subcommittee (USSLS) of the Civil GPS Service Interface Committee (CGSIC) will be held in Halethorpe, Maryland on 6 June. Topics on the agenda include GPS operational status and modernization; US space-based PNT policy; international GNSS activities; and climate change. (5/30/14).

Gulf of Mexico – US-Mexico Transboundary Hydrocarbons Agreement leases

The Department of the Interior (DOI) issued a press release stating that the first three oil and gas leases have been awarded for tracts in the Gulf of Mexico subject to the US-Mexico Transboundary Hydrocarbons Agreement. The leased tracts are located in the Alaminos Canyon Area, approximately 170 miles east of Port Isabel, Texas. (5/30/14).

USCG – Marine Safety Engineering Newsletter

The US Coast Guard posted the Spring 2014 edition of the Marine Safety Engineering Newsletter. This edition highlights recent developments including structural failures aboard deep draft vessels and the expansion of OSV operations in the Gulf of Mexico. (5/29/14). *Note: In the previous newsletter, the link was omitted. Mea culpa!*

House – bill introduced re marine fisheries management

Representative Bishop (D-NY) introduced the EEZ Clarification Act (H.R. 4722) to clarify that for purposes of all Federal laws governing marine fisheries management, the landward boundary of the exclusive economic zone between areas south of Montauk, New York, and Point Judith, Rhode Island, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (5/22/14).

Singapore Strait – product tanker missing

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre issued an alert stating that the product tanker Orapin 4 is missing. It departed Singapore with 3.377 metric tonnes of automotive diesel fuel at 1500 on 27 May and was due to arrive in Pontianak, Indonesia at 1300 on 29 May. The last known position of the vessel was in the Singapore Strait 3.64 nm north of Pulau Batam at 1730 on 27 May. Incident Alert 04/2014 (5/30/14).

India – navigation in vicinity of ODAs

The Indian Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) issued a notice providing guidance to vessels navigating in the vicinity of Offshore Development Areas (ODAs) as a means of minimizing risks to platforms located therein. Vessels navigating in an ODA should submit reports and keep their AIS switched on. Notice 4-2014 (5/30/14).

Indonesia – incident alert

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre issued an alert stating that two vessels and one towed barge, all underway at the time, were boarded by groups of four men each within a 24-hour period near the Nipa Anchorage, Indonesia. When the alarm was sounded, the men quickly escaped. No crew members were injured and there is no evidence that the men succeeded in stealing anything. Incident Alert 03/2014 (5/29/14).

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

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