

## Headlines:

CSB – DWH casualty report;  
DOS – World Ocean Assessment review;  
MARAD – Masonville DMCF FEIS;  
FMC – keynote address re LNG bunkering;  
USCG & NTSB – Texas City Y investigation;  
USCG – hurricane contingency plans;  
GAO – port cybersecurity challenges;  
Australia – SAR helicopter operations;  
Panama Canal – neopanamax; and  
UK – tug crewman lost overboard.

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# Bryant's Maritime News

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## CSB – DWH casualty report



The Chemical Safety Board issued its two-volume **draft report** on the Deepwater Horizon casualty. The report finds that the blowout preventer failed to shut off the flow of high-pressure oil and gas because drill pipe buckled for reasons the offshore drilling industry remains largely unaware of. The report also discusses two instances of miswiring of the blowout preventer and two backup battery failures. Among other things, it recommends that the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) require drilling companies to more effectively manage technical, operational, and organizational safety-critical elements to further reduce the risk of major accidents. (6/5/14).

## DOS – World Ocean Assessment review



The Department of State (DOS) issued a notice stating that it seeks interested experts to review the draft World Ocean Assessment. [79 Fed. Reg. 32804](#) (June 6, 2014).

## MARAD – Masonville DMCF FEIS



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued a notice stating that it is adopting the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) May 2007 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and subsequent Record of Decision (ROD) for the Masonville Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF) proposed by the Maryland Port Administration (MPA). Comments on this adoption must be received by 7 July. [79 Fed. Reg. 32811](#) (June 6, 2014).

## FMC – keynote address re LNG bunkering



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) posted Commissioner Doyle's [keynote address](#) to the LNG Bunkering North America conference, held in Vancouver, British Columbia. (6/4/14).

## USCG & NTSB – Texas City Y investigation



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that investigators from it and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) concluded the formal hearing portion of the investigation into the 22 March Texas City Y collision and subsequent oil spill. Investigators heard from the captains of both the Miss Susan and the Summer Wind, as well as the captain of another vessel in the vicinity, a representative of the Houston Pilots, and personnel from the Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Center in Houston. (6/5/14).

## USCG – hurricane contingency plans



With assistance from some long-suffering readers, I have again updated my list of US Coast Guard [Hurricane & Heavy Weather Contingency Plans](#). This version includes the latest revisions to the plans for Sectors Honolulu, Jacksonville, and Southeastern New England. If any reader learns of a more recent version of such a contingency plan for any USCG Sector, please advise so that my list can be kept current. (6/5/14).

## GAO – port cybersecurity challenges



The Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued its report on cybersecurity challenges facing US ports. It recommends that the US Coast Guard conduct a broad-based risk assessment that fully addresses cyber-security threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences and use this assessment to inform its maritime security guidance. It further recommends that the Coast Guard determine whether the maritime sector coordinating councils should be reestablished to share information with non-federal stakeholders. Finally, the report recommends that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) develop procedures to consult with cybersecurity experts for assistance in reviewing port security grant proposals and use the results to inform its grant guidance. [GAO-14-459](#) (6/5/14).

## Australia – SAR helicopter operations



The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) issued a [media release](#) stating that it hosted the inaugural Search and Rescue (SAR) Helicopter Operations Workshop in Launceston. Non-federal helicopters are frequently involved in SAR operations and it is important that those operators are familiar with issues such as distress beacons, air and surface operations, accident site safety, and ship medical evacuations. (6/5/14).

## Panama Canal – neopanamax



The Panama Canal Authority issued an advisory summarizing canal operations during May. It also includes a schedule of locks maintenance outages for the remainder of the fiscal year. Note use of the term “neopanamax” to describe vessels too large for the current locks but able to utilize the new locks of the Canal Expansion Project. [Advisory 14-2014](#) (6/3/14).

## UK – tug crewman lost overboard



The UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) issued the report of its investigation of the loss of a crewman overboard from the tug Endurance near Beachy Head on 5 February 2013. The crewman fell while attempting to cross to an unmanned motor cruiser with a replacement towline after the original towline had parted. The skipper’s efforts to recover the crewman were unsuccessful. The investigation identified that the attempt to reconnect the towline was a desperate and ill-considered measure brought about by use of poor towing practices, a disregard of weather forecasts, and a lack of planning, risk assessment, and emergency preparedness. [Report 13-2014](#) (6/5/14).

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