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Arctic Council – oil pollution prevention;
Australia – carbon tax abolished;
Malta – ISO certification;
UK – seafarers’ employment agreements; and
UK – MAIB annual report.

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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. All other things being equal never happens.*

National Sea Grant Advisory Board – meeting



The National Sea Grant Advisory Board, sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), will meet in Silver Spring on 19 August to discuss and approve the draft Advisory Board report to Congress on the state of Sea Grant. **79 Fed. Reg. 41989** (July 18, 2014).

Coral Reef Task Force – meeting



The US Coral Reef Task Force, sponsored by the Department of the Interior, will meet in Maui on 8-13 September. [79 Fed. Reg. 42030](#) (July 18, 2014).

NOAA – Gray’s Reef NMS regulations



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) promulgated a final rule updating the regulations and management plan for Gray’s Reef National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). The amendments come into effect on 18 August. [79 Fed. Reg. 41879](#) (July 18, 2014).

DOS – Special Representative for the Arctic



The Department of State (DOS) issued a [press release](#) stating that Secretary Kerry has appointed Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr., USCG (ret) as the US Special Representative for the Arctic. (7/16/14).

USCG – seeking marine investigator



The US Coast Guard posted a [job announcement](#) stating that it seeks qualified applicants for the position of marine investigator (GS-1801-13) in New Orleans. Applications must be received by 29 July. (7/15/14).

USCG, USACE & NOAA – AIS Users Forum



The US Coast Guard issued an [announcement](#) stating that, together with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), it will conduct an AIS Users Forum in Paducah, Kentucky on 29 July to learn about waterway users’ technology practices, capabilities, and preferences. (7/17/14).

USCG – replacement parts for emergency equipment



The US Coast Guard issued a [Lessons Learned](#) reminding mariners to use only the proper replacement parts for emergency equipment. (7/9/14).

USCG – failure of seemingly minor items



The US Coast Guard issued a **Lessons Learned** reminding mariners that failure of seemingly minor items can sometimes create a catastrophe. (7/9/14).

Offshore New Jersey – proposed sale of wind energy leases



The Department of the Interior (DOI) issued a **press release** announcing the proposed sale of leases for nearly 344,000 acres offshore New Jersey for commercial wind energy development. (7/17/14).

OMB – review of proposed DWP rule



The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a **notice** stating that it has received for review from the US Coast Guard a proposed rule regarding deepwater ports (DWPs). The proposed revisions would provide additional information, clarify existing regulations, provide additional regulatory flexibility, and add new requirements to ensure safety. (7/17/14). *Note: OMB review generally takes four months.*

Court – spill responders' right to OSLTF compensation



The US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled that the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) provides the exclusive source of law for an action involving a responsible party's liability for removal costs governed by OPA. In the instant case, defendant barge owner was determined to be a responsible party with regard to the release of oil from the barge DM 932 following a collision with the MV Tintomara in the Mississippi River on 23 July 2008. When the defendant did not fully pay the claims of third party defendant spill responders within the required 90 days, they sought and obtained payment from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF), which then brought suit against defendant to recover the amounts paid. Defendant contended that the spill responders failed to provide adequate documentation for the amounts billed to and paid out of the OSLTF. The court held that the responsible party does not have a cause of action against spill responders who exercised their statutory right to file claims with the OSLTF after the responsible party failed to timely pay their claims. **US v American Commercial Lines**, No. 13-30358 (5th Cir., July 16, 2014).

Arctic Council – oil pollution prevention



The Arctic Council issued a [news release](#) stating that its Task Force on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Prevention met in Ottawa on 12-13 June. The Task Force is developing the Arctic Council Action Plan for Oil Pollution Prevention. (7/10/14).

Australia – carbon tax abolished



Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott issued a [media release](#) stating that Parliament has abolished the carbon tax which, among other things, applied to bunker fuel purchased in Australia for domestic voyages. (7/17/14).

Malta – ISO certification



Transport Malta issued a [press release](#) stating that its Merchant Shipping Directorate has been successfully certified and registered as having in place an ISO 9001:2008 quality management system. (7/17/14).

UK – seafarers' employment agreements



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) issued a [Marine Guidance Note](#) providing direction on compliance with the requirement in the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC 2006) regarding seafarers' employment agreements. (7/17/14).

UK – MAIB annual report



The UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) posted its [Annual Report 2013](#) and supporting documents. (7/17/14).

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

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