

Headlines:

Jacksonville – PORTS dedicated;
FMC – notification of OTI licensing activity;
FMC – SAG petition for exemption;
House – hearing on US Arctic policy;
House – bill introduced re Vietnam era merchant mariners;
Senate – bill introduced re export of natural gas;
EU – EMSA funding;
ReCAAP – half-yearly report;
Hong Kong – dark smoke prohibition;
UK – emergency response plans for OREIs; and
Eastland sinking – 24 July 1915.

July 24, 2014



Bryant's Maritime News

Bryant's Maritime Consulting - 4845 SW 91st Way - Gainesville, FL 32608-8135 - USA

Tel: 1-352-692-5493 – Email: dennis.l.bryant@gmail.com – Internet: <http://brymar-consulting.com>

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. All other things being equal never happens.

Jacksonville – PORTS dedicated



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a **news release** stating that the PORTS real-time data system for the Port of Jacksonville has been dedicated. The Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System provides access to information on water levels, currents, meteorological conditions, and under-bridge clearance via the internet. (7/23/14).

FMC – notification of OTI licensing activity



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) promulgated a direct final rule updating its business processes for providing public notification of ocean transportation intermediary (OTI) license applications, revocations, and suspensions. The rule will come into effect on 22 September unless significant adverse comment is received by 22 August. [79 Fed. Reg. 42986](#) (July 24, 2014).

FMC – SAG petition for exemption



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a notice stating that it has received a petition from the United Arab Shipping Company (SAG) for an exemption from the controlled carrier provision of the Shipping Act of 1984 so that it can reduce its tariff rates, charges, classifications, rules, or regulations effective upon publication. SAG is owned jointly by the governments of the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Iraq, the State of Qatar, and the State of Kuwait. The Kingdom of Qatar has recently acquired majority ownership of SAG, triggering the controlled carrier issue. Comments on the petition must be received by 8 August. [79 Fed. Reg. 43044](#) (July 24, 2014).

House – hearing on US Arctic policy



The Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure conducted a hearing on “[Implementing U.S. Policy in the Arctic](#)”. Testimony was heard from: VADM Peter V. Neffenger, USCG; RADM Jonathan White, NOAA; Ambassador David Bolton, Department of State; Mr. Dave Westerholm, NOAA; Dr. Kelly Falkner, NSF; and Ed Fogels, State of Alaska.

House – bill introduced re Vietnam Era merchant mariners



Representative Bishop (D-GA) introduced a bill ([H.R. 5112](#)) to provide eligibility for veterans benefits for individuals who served in the United States merchant marine in the Southeast Asia theater of operations during the Vietnam Era. (7/15/14).

Senate – bill introduced re export of natural gas



Senator Hoeven (R-ND) introduced a bill (S. 2638) to amend the Natural Gas Act to provide certainty with respect to the timing of Department of Energy decisions to approve or deny applications to export natural gas. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (7/22/14).

EU – EMSA funding



The Council of the European Union issued a [press release](#) stating that it adopted a regulation to finance the actions of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) in the field of response to marine pollution caused by ships and oil and gas installations in the years 2014 to 2020. The financial envelope for these tasks for the stated period will be €160.5 million expressed in current prices. (7/23/14).

ReCAAP – half-yearly report



The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre posted its [Half-Yearly Report](#) for the period 1 January through 30 June 2014. A total of 73 incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships were reported in Asia during the period, of which 18 were piracy incidents and 55 were armed robbery incidents, the lowest for this period as compared to 2010-2013. Except for incidents involving the siphoning of fuel/oil from product/oil tankers, the overall significance level of incidents during this period has stabilized. (7/23/14).

Hong Kong – dark smoke prohibition



The Hong Kong Marine Department issued a notice stating that, with immediate effect, it is an offense for any vessel in the waters of Hong Kong to emit dark smoke for three minutes or more continuously at any one time. In case of contravention, the owner, agent, and master each commits an offense and is liable for a fine of HK\$25,000 for a first offense and to a fine of HK\$50,000 for any subsequent conviction. [Notice 92-2014](#) (7/23/14). *WOW!*

UK – emergency response plans for OREIs



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) issued a [notice](#) providing updated requirements for emergency response cooperation plans and

requirements for emergency response and SAR helicopter operations relating to offshore renewable energy installations (OREIs). (7/23/14).

Eastland sinking – 24 July 1915



On 24 July 1915, the passenger vessel **EASTLAND** capsized and sank at its dock on Lake Michigan in Chicago. Of the approximately 2,600 persons on board, 844 drowned. It remains the largest loss of life from a single shipwreck in the history of the Great Lakes. The ship was launched in 1903 and immediately acquired a reputation for being tender. It was top-heavy, with the center of gravity being too high, particularly when a large number of passengers congregated on the top deck. On the fatal date, the Western Electric Company had chartered the EASTLAND and two other passenger vessels to take employees and their families to a picnic in Michigan City. Legislation resulting from the Titanic disaster had recently been enacted requiring the EASTLAND and other passenger ships to install new (and heavier) lifeboats, further exacerbating its listing problem. At about 7:15 in the morning, shortly before the ship was due to get underway, it began to list to port. Despite desperate efforts by the crew to ballast the vessel, it lurched onto its side and sank at the pier. The company president and three senior company officers were indicted for manslaughter, but never tried. Legislation was later adopted mandating improvements to vessel stability.

Join our mailing list



If you are not receiving our almost daily electronic newsletter and would like have it sent directly to your email inbox, please right-click the box below and provide your email address.

Join Our Mailing List!



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

Dennis L. Bryant

Bryant's Maritime Consulting
4845 SW 91st Way
Gainesville, FL 32608-8135

USA

1-352-692-5493

dennis.l.bryant@gmail.com

<http://brymar-consulting.com>

© Dennis L. Bryant – July 2014



Redistribution permitted with attribution