

## Headlines:

NTSB – maritime video safety alert;  
USCG – Qualified Assessor program;  
Court – jury charge re specific order; and  
Panama Canal – JIT flexibility.

September 9, 2014



# Bryant's Maritime News

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*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. I'm just a visitor from the twentieth century.*

## **NTSB – maritime video safety alert**



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has released its first-ever **maritime video safety alert** [found on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RojYhWqEVPE&feature=youtu.be> ] addressing the hazards associated with passengers congregating or standing in stairwells during docking or undocking of ferries. (9/8/14).

## **USCG – Qualified Assessor program**



The USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) issued an **announcement** [found at [http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/announcements/pdfs/qa\\_bulletin\\_6-19-2014.pdf](http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/announcements/pdfs/qa_bulletin_6-19-2014.pdf) ] discussing the procedure used to apply for designation as a Qualified Assessor. (9/3/14).

## Court – jury charge re specific order



In a 5-4 decision, the majority of the Texas Supreme Court affirmed the trial court's rejection of a last minute objection by the vessel owner's counsel to a jury charge offered by the injured seaman's counsel in a Jones Act case tried in state court with a jury. The jury charge related to the specific order rule that if a seaman is injured while following a specific order, then the damage award is not to be reduced for any contributory negligence of the seaman. **King Fisher Marine Service v. Tamez** [found at <http://www.supreme.courts.state.tx.us/historical/2014/aug/130103.pdf> ], No. 13-0103 (Texas, August 29, 2014). A vigorous **dissenting opinion** [found at <http://www.supreme.courts.state.tx.us/historical/2014/aug/130103d.pdf> ] was also filed. *Note: This matter was brought to my attention by my good friend Keith Heard of Burke & Parsons.*

## Panama Canal – JIT flexibility



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory announcing modifications to the Just-in-Time (JIT) Transit Service intended to increase flexibility. **Advisory 21-2014** [found at <http://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2014/a-21-2014.pdf> ] (9/5/14).

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

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