

Headlines:

USCG – S&R decision;
Buzzards Bay – jelly fish;
GAO – critical infrastructure vulnerability assessments;
IMO – subcommittee approval of IGF Code;
ReCAAP – August report;
Canada – Franklin Expedition ship found;
Canada – marine pilots;
New Zealand – coastal navigation safety review;
Panama Canal – third shipment of lock gates; and
UK – ECDIS-induced grounding.

September 16, 2014



Bryant's Maritime News

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Note: This newsletter is one section of the [Bryant's Maritime Consulting](http://www.bryantmaritime.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.

USCG – S&R decision



In a USCG suspension and revocation case, a **Decision & Order** [found at http://www.uscg.mil/alj/decisions/2014/SR-2014-14_Hopper.pdf] was issued by an administrative law judge (ALJ) that a charge of wrongful use of a controlled substance was not proved against the mariner because the Coast Guard could not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the mariner was randomly selected for a drug test by the marine employer. The marine employer used a consortium to conduct the random selection. The consortium relied on a Visual Basic program to make the selection, but was unable to demonstrate how the software actually generated random numbers. (9/10/14).

Buzzards Bay – jelly fish



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) [found at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2242262/>] stating that an oil spill reported in Buzzards Bay turned out, on closer examination, to be a large concentration of jelly fish. (9/13/14).

GAO – critical infrastructure vulnerability assessments



The Government Accountability Office issued a report on vulnerability assessments of critical infrastructure. Among other things, it found that the Coast Guard has implemented the most robust vulnerability assessment program within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), but that coordination of assessments among the various DHS components was lacking and that cybersecurity issues were seldom included in the assessments [GAO-14-507](#) [found at <http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/665788.pdf>] (9/15/14).

IMO – subcommittee approval of IGF Code



The Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) issued a [news release](#) [found at <http://www.dma.dk/news/Sider/Largesteptakentowardsrulesonmoreenvironmentallyfriendlyfuels.aspx>] stating that the recent session of the IMO Subcommittee on the Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC 1) agreed on the Code for the Safety of Ships Using Gases or Other Low Flash-Point Fuels (IGF Code). The draft IGF Code now goes to the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) for consideration. (9/15/14).

ReCAAP – August report



The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre posted its [August report](#) [found at <http://www.recaap.org/Portals/0/docs/Reports/2014/ReCAAP%20ISC%20August%202014%20Report.pdf>] stating that the number of reported incidents of piracy and robbery against ships in Asian waters continues to decline. The majority of incidents involved petty theft, but there was one significant incident involving the siphoning of oil from a pirated tanker. (9/12/14).

Canada – Franklin Expedition ship found



Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued a **news release** [found at <http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2014/09/09/statement-prime-minister-canada-announcing-discovery-one-ill-fated-franklin>] announcing the discovery of one of the ships of the ill-fated Franklin Expedition. The HMS Erebus and the HMS Terror, along with their entire crews, were lost in 1846. The goal of the expedition was to discover the Northwest Passage between the Atlantic and the Pacific through the islands north of North America. The sunken wreck was found by Canada's Victoria Strait Expedition. (9/9/14).

Canada – marine pilots



Transport Canada issued a **news release** [found at <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&crtr.page=10&nid=883059&crtr.tp1D=1>] recognizing the key role of marine pilots in maintaining high levels of marine safety and is supporting the economy. (9/10/14).

New Zealand – coastal navigation safety review



Maritime New Zealand issued a **notice** [found at <http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/Consultation/Coastal-navigation/default.asp>] stating that it is undertaking a review of coastal navigation safety of waters up to twelve nautical miles offshore. Comments should be submitted by 31 March 2015.

Panama Canal – third shipment of lock gates



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued a **press release** [found at <http://www.pancanal.com/eng/pr/press-releases/2014/09/08/pr523.html>] stating that the third shipment of lock gates for the Canal Expansion Project has arrived. Only one shipment remains. The project is now 79% complete. (9/8/14).

UK – ECDIS-induced grounding



The UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) posted the report of its investigation of the grounding of the chemical tanker Ovit on the

Varne Bank in the Dover Strait on 18 September 2013. The investigation revealed that the vessel navigated primarily through use of its electronic chart display and information system (ECDIS). The passage plan, as prepared by an inexperienced and unsupervised junior officer passed directly over the charted bank. The officer of the watch has such poor situational awareness that 19 minutes passed before he was aware that the vessel had grounded. **Report 24-2014** [found at http://www.maib.gov.uk/cms_resources.cfm?file=/OvitReport.pdf] (9/12/14). *Note: One could argue that this grounding was pre-planned, and very well done in that regard. The ECDIS worked perfectly!*

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

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