

Headlines:

North Atlantic – man rescued from hydro pod bubble;
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UFAC – meeting;
FMC – Order of Investigation and Hearing;
NTIA – Arctic region telecommunications assessment;
EC – merger of Chiquita and Fyffes approved;
Singapore – changes to Strategic Goods (Control) regulations; and
UK – cargo stowage and securing.

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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** 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. Drink coffee – make mistakes faster and with more energy.*

North Atlantic – man rescued from hydro pod bubble



Following one of the more unusual marine casualties, the US Coast Guard issued a **news release** [found at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2371574/>] stating that it rescued a man from his hydro pod bubble in the North Atlantic 70 nautical miles off St. Augustine. The man, a marathon runner, was attempting to jog the perimeter of the Bermuda Triangle – from Florida to Bermuda to Puerto Rico and back to Florida . On 1 October, the man refused to heed a Coast Guard warning that his voyage was unsafe. On 4 October, he became disoriented and activated his Personal Locating Beacon (PLB). The hydro pod bubble is a large inflated plastic sphere that can hold a human and some material while floating in the water. It moves by movements of the human walking up the inner surface of the bubble, somewhat like a wheel in a hamster cage. (10/4/14).

US & Vietnam – discussions



The White House issued a [news release](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/10/02/readout-national-security-advisor-susan-e-rice-s-meeting-deputy-prime-mi) [found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/10/02/readout-national-security-advisor-susan-e-rice-s-meeting-deputy-prime-mi>] stating that National Security Advisor Susan Rice met with Vietnam Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh in Washington. They discussed ways to enhance cooperation and several shared interests including maritime security, peacekeeping, and nonproliferation, as well as the need to resolve maritime disputes peacefully and in accordance with international law. (10/2/14).

NTSB – oceanographic research vessel sinking



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued the report of its investigation of the sinking of the oceanographic research vessel Seaprobe in the Gulf of Mexico on 18 January 2013. The probable cause of the flooding and subsequent sinking of the vessel was the decision of the owner to delay making permanent repairs to the starboard-side exhaust trunk and covering six of the vessel's freeing ports, leaving the vessel susceptible to downflooding from boarding seas. Contributing to the casualty was the owner's failure to comply with the vessel's safety management system and mandatory load line regulations. [MAB-14/18](http://www.nts.gov/doclib/reports/2014/MAB1418.pdf) [found at <http://www.nts.gov/doclib/reports/2014/MAB1418.pdf>] (10/3/14).

UFAC – meeting



The Airport and Seaport Inspections User Fee Advisory Committee (UFAC), sponsored by the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), will meet in Washington, DC on 22 October. [79 Fed. Reg. 60180](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-06/pdf/2014-23744.pdf) [found at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-06/pdf/2014-23744.pdf>] (10/6/14).

FMC – Order of Investigation and Hearing



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a notice stating that it has issued an Order of Investigation and hearing with respect to Metro Freight Services, Inc., a licensed and bonded ocean freight forwarder and non-vessel-operating common carrier for alleged violations of the Shipping Act. [79 Fed. Reg. 60161](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-06/pdf/2014-23645.pdf) [found at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-06/pdf/2014-23645.pdf>] (10/6/14).

NTIA – Arctic region telecommunications assessment



The National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA) seeks comments on the current and potential availability of communications services in the Arctic region. Comments must be received by 3 November. *79 Fed. Reg. 59746* [found at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-03/pdf/2014-23517.pdf>] (10/3/14). *Note: This item was brought to my attention by my friend Peter Oppenheimer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).*

EC – merger of Chiquita and Fyffes approved



The European Commission (EC) issued a **press release** [found at http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-1090_en.htm?locale=en] stating that it has approved the merger of Chiquita and Fyffes, subject to conditions, including the release of Maersk from an exclusivity clause. (10/3/14).

Singapore – changes to Strategic Goods (Control) Regulations



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular advising of changes to permit exemptions of the Singapore Strategic Goods (Control) Regulations. **Port Marine Circular 13-2014** [found at http://www.mpa.gov.sg/sites/circulars_and_notices/pdfs/port_marine_circulars/pc14-13.pdf] (10/3/14).

UK – cargo stowage and securing



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) issued information advising industry of the implementation dates for new and existing container ships to comply with provisions of the new Annex 14 of the CSS Code, entitled “Guidance on Providing Safe Working Conditions for Securing of Containers on Deck”. **MIN 491 (M)** [found at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/360421/MIN_491.pdf] (10/2/14).

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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>

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