

Headlines:

White House – Coast Guard Auth Act signed into law;
USCG – operations regarding Cuba;
USN – Tortuga CO and XO relieved;
NOAA – sea level rise to cause coastal flooding;
USACE – closing Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock to navigation;
California – biofouling management;
EC – maritime security strategy;
Denmark – pilotage market efficiency;
New Zealand – interim report on MV Rena grounding; and
UK – proposed amendments to MLC 2006.

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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. Better to light one candle than curse your flashlight.

White House – Coast Guard Authorization Act signed into law



The White House issued a [statement](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/12/18/statement-press-secretary-hr-669-hr-1067-hr-1204-hr-1206-hr-1281-hr-1378) [located at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/12/18/statement-press-secretary-hr-669-hr-1067-hr-1204-hr-1206-hr-1281-hr-1378>] saying that President Obama signed into law a number of bills, including [S. 2444](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-113s2444enr/pdf/BILLS-113s2444enr.pdf) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-113s2444enr/pdf/BILLS-113s2444enr.pdf>], the "Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014," which authorizes fiscal year 2015 appropriations and amends laws related to the Coast Guard; authorizes fiscal year 2015 appropriations for the Federal Maritime Commission; and amends various other maritime-related provisions of law.

USCG – operations regarding Cuba



The US Coast Guard issued a [statement](http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2437730/) [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2437730/>] advising that the Administration's policy changes regarding Cuba have not impacted Coast Guard missions and operations in the southeastern United States. The Coast Guard strongly discourages attempts to illegally enter the United States by taking to the sea. These trips are extremely dangerous. Individuals located at sea may be returned to Cuba. (12/18/14).

USN – Tortuga CO and XO relieved



The US Navy issued a [news release](http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=84935) [located at http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=84935] stating that the commanding officer and executive officer of USS Tortuga (LSD 46) have been relieved of their duties due to loss of confidence in their ability to safely operate and navigate their ship and their credibility to lead the crew. On 6 October, while en route to her scheduled anchorage off the coast of Virginia, Tortuga made contact with Thimble Shoals buoy (1TS). The allision caused the buoy to become adrift as well as over \$2.5 million damage to the ship. (12/16/14).

NOAA – sea level rise to cause coastal flooding



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a [news release](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2014/20141218_sealevelrise.html) [located at http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2014/20141218_sealevelrise.html] reporting that a new NOAA study finds that by 2050 a majority of US coastal areas are likely to be threatened by 30 or more days of flooding each year due to dramatically accelerating impacts from sea level rise. (12/18/14).

USACE – closing Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock to navigation



The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued a notice stating that it will close the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock to navigation by 10 June 2015. The draft environmental assessment for this action will be available for public comment through 23 January 2015. [79 Fed. Reg. 75794](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-19/pdf/2014-29716.pdf) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-19/pdf/2014-29716.pdf>] (12/19/14).

California – biofouling management



The California State Lands Commission (SLC) seeks comments on **draft regulations** [located at http://www.slc.ca.gov/Division_Pages/MFD/Proposed_Regulatory_Actions/Informal%20Comment%20Period/DRAFT%20-%20ARTICLE%204.8.pdf] regarding biofouling management. Comments must be submitted by 31 December. (11/13/14).

EC – maritime security strategy



The European Commission (EC) posted a series of Questions and Answers (Q&A) for the EU Maritime Security Strategy and Action Plan. (12/18/14).

Denmark – pilotage market efficiency



The Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.dma.dk/news/Sider/Newmeasuresforamoreefficientpilotagemarket.aspx>] stating that, on 1 January 2015, it is launching a number of measures to make the pilotage market more efficient and provide for increased competition in the pilotage area. (12/18/14).

New Zealand – interim report on MV Rena grounding



The New Zealand Transport Accident Investigation Commission (TAIC) posted the interim factual report of its investigation into the grounding of the containership MV Rena on Astrolabe Reef on 5 October 2011. The report contains no conclusions or recommendations. **Marine Inquiry 11-204** [located at <http://www.taic.org.nz/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=100%2bnlsp%2fBQ%3d&tabid=87&language=en-US>]. The TAIC issued a separate document titled **Occurrence Report Details** [located at [http://www.taic.org.nz/ReportsandSafetyRecs/MarineReports/tabid/87/ctl/Detail/mid/484/InvNumber/2011-204/Page/0/language/en-US/Default.aspx?SkinSrc=\[G\]skins/taicMarine/skin_marine](http://www.taic.org.nz/ReportsandSafetyRecs/MarineReports/tabid/87/ctl/Detail/mid/484/InvNumber/2011-204/Page/0/language/en-US/Default.aspx?SkinSrc=[G]skins/taicMarine/skin_marine)] stating, among other things, that the ship's manager did not exercise sufficient oversight of the ship's safety management system and that an independent audit found that the Philippines' maritime education, training, and certification system did not meet STCW Convention standards. (12/18/14).

UK – proposed amendments to MLC 2006



The UK issued a Marine Information Note providing information on proposed amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 relating to abandonment of seafarers and claims for compensation in the event of a seafarer's death or long term disability due to an operational injury, illness, or hazard. [MIN 497 \(M\)](#) [located at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/387522/MIN_497_MLC_Amendments.pdf] (12/16/14).

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

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