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Panama Canal – expansion project 83% complete;
UK – investigation of fishing vessel-chemical tanker collision;
UK – launch of maritime growth study; and
MREN – Quarantine and isolation.

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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 – Executive Order re Crimea



President Obama issued Executive Order 13685 blocking property of certain persons and prohibiting certain transactions with respect to the Crimea region of Ukraine. The order, effective immediately, basically halts all economic activity by US persons with or related to Crimea. [79 Fed. Reg. 77357](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-24/pdf/2014-30323.pdf) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-24/pdf/2014-30323.pdf>] (12/24/14).

SHC – meeting on 14 January



The Shipping Coordinating Committee (SHC), sponsored by the Department of State (DOS), will meet in Washington, DC on 14 January 2015 to prepare for the upcoming session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR 2). Topics on the agenda include: IBC Code amendments; PSC guidelines under the BWM Convention; and the impact of black carbon emissions on the Arctic. **79 Fed. Reg. 77591** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-24/pdf/2014-30236.pdf>] (12/24/14).

CEQ – interagency guidelines re water projects



The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) issued a notice stating that the **Interagency Guidelines** on Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies will enter into effect on 15 June 2015. **79 Fed. Reg. 77460** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-24/pdf/2014-30170.pdf>] (12/24/14).

EPA & USCG – Royal Caribbean pollution control agreement



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a **news release** [located at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/docf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/140e20804c87970f85257db70065f822!OpenDocument>] stating that the agreement involving it, the US Coast Guard, and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines has been extended and expanded. The agreement allows the cruise line to continue its research program to develop and install exhaust gas scrubber systems on its ships and expands the program from six ships to 19 ships. (12/23/14).

TSA – TWIC fee to be reduced



The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) issued a **notice** [located at <http://www.tsa.gov/stakeholders/transportation-worker-identification-credential-twic%C2%AE>] stating that, effective 1 February 2015, the TWIC fee will be reduced to \$128.00. This is a \$1.75 reduction due to lowered FBI fingerprint processing charges. (12/23/14).

Court – injunction may not be avoided by using third party



In a 51-page decision, the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that a party against which an injunction has been issued barring certain conduct may be found in contempt for having a third party engage in the prohibited conduct. In the instant case, defendant aggressive environmental advocacy group was enjoined from coming within 500 yards of plaintiff's whaling and fueling vessels on the open sea. Adopting what it called a 'separation strategy', defendant ceded control of its campaign to foreign affiliates, which then undertook the same aggressive action. Plaintiff brought action to have defendant found to be in contempt. The court agreed with the plaintiff, ordering payment of legal fees and damages. It referred to the district court a request for punitive sanctions.

Institute of Cetacean Research v. Sea Shepard Conservation Society, No. 12-35266 (9th Cir., December 19, 2014) [located at <http://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2014/12/19/1235266.pdf>].

Note: This decision may be read in conjunction with the shorter unpublished decision by the same court included in my previous newsletter.

IMO – lower sulphur limits for ECAs



The IMO issued a [news release](http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/44-ECA-sulphur.aspx#.VJmrtsAAA) [located at <http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/44-ECA-sulphur.aspx#.VJmrtsAAA>] reminding stakeholders that the lower sulphur fuel requirements in emission control areas (ECAs) enter into effect on 1 January 2015. The ECAs consist of the Baltic Sea area; the North Sea area; the North American area; and the US Caribbean Sea area. (12/23/14).

California – ocean-going vessel fuel regulation



As a reminder to owners, operators, and masters of ships calling in California, I am republishing a notice from the California Air Resources Board (ARB) regarding compliance with the California Ocean-Going Vessel Fuel Regulation during the ARB sunset review process. There are technical differences between the California requirements and the requirements of the lower sulfur limits of the North American ECA which come into effect on 1 January 2015. Until such time as the ARB regulation is formally repealed, it will continue to be enforced. As explained in the notice, vessel operators may request authorization for an alternative compliance exemption. [Marine Notice 2014-1](http://www.arb.ca.gov/ports/marinevess/documents/marinenote_2014_1.pdf) [located at http://www.arb.ca.gov/ports/marinevess/documents/marinenote_2014_1.pdf] (August 2014).

Panama Canal – expansion project 83% complete



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued a [press release](http://www.pancanal.com/eng/pr/press-releases/2014/12/19/pr536.html) [located at <http://www.pancanal.com/eng/pr/press-releases/2014/12/19/pr536.html>] stating that the Canal Expansion Project is now 83% complete. (12/19/14).

UK – investigation of fishing vessel-chemical tanker collision



The UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) issued a [notice](http://www.maib.gov.uk/latest_news/margriet_orakai_new_investigation.cfm) [located at http://www.maib.gov.uk/latest_news/margriet_orakai_new_investigation.cfm] stating that it has commenced an investigation into the collision in the North Sea between a fishing vessel and the chemical tanker Orakai. There were no injuries, but both vessels sustained damage and some of the fishing vessel's fuel oil entered the water. (12/23/14).

UK – launch of maritime growth study



The UK Department for Transport (DfT) posted the [speech](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/maritime-growth-study-keeping-the-uk-competitive-in-a-global-market) [located at <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/maritime-growth-study-keeping-the-uk-competitive-in-a-global-market>] delivered by The Right Honorable John Hayes MP launching the maritime growth study, which will assess the UK maritime industry and identify options for making it more competitive. (12/19/14).

MREN – Quarantine and isolation



In the December 2014 edition of [Maritime Reporter & Engineering News](http://www.brymar-consulting.com/wp-content/uploads/MREN/MREN141200.pdf), you can find my article on [Quarantine and isolation](http://www.brymar-consulting.com/wp-content/uploads/MREN/MREN141200.pdf) [located at <http://www.brymar-consulting.com/wp-content/uploads/MREN/MREN141200.pdf>]. In the article is discuss how the US Coast Guard and other port state control administrations are dealing with the challenges posed by Ebola and other communicable diseases. (12/23/14).

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

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