

Headlines:

NAVSAC – meeting 18-19 February;
NOAA – Flower Garden Banks NMS;
MARAD – Port Ambrose DWP;
USCG – documentation & tonnage;
NTSB – transportation deaths during 2013;
Denmark – security for wreck removal;
Panama Canal – replacement of ECDS; and
UK – reduction in light dues.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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*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. Soon after a new safety device is invented, innovative mariners develop a work-around.*

NAVSAC – meeting 18-19 February



The Navigation Safety Advisory Committee (NAVSAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 18-19 February in Oakland. Topics on the agenda include: e-navigation strategy; the Future of Navigation initiative; modernization of Marine Safety Information systems; AIS aids to navigation; and navigation interests in marine planning. **80 Fed. Reg. 5770** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-02-03/pdf/2015-01961.pdf>] (2/3/15).

NOAA – Flower Garden Banks NMS



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice stating that it has initiated a review of Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) boundaries. Public scoping meetings will be held in New Orleans (3 March); Houston (5 March); and Galveston (11 March). Written

comments should be submitted by 6 April. **80 Fed. Reg. 5699** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-02-03/pdf/2015-01949.pdf>] (2/3/15).

MARAD – Port Ambrose DWP



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) has extended, through 16 March, the period within which to submit comments on the Port Ambrose Deepwater Port (DWP) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). **80 Fed. Reg. 5883** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-02-03/pdf/2015-02085.pdf>] (2/3/15).

USCG – documentation & tonnage



The USCG Marine Safety Center (MSC) posted a **brochure** [located at http://www.uscg.mil/hq/msc/tonnage/docs/Brochure_Documentation_and_Tonnage.pdf] providing a concise explanation regarding documentation and tonnage of smaller commercial vessels. (1/30/15).

NTSB – transportation deaths during 2013



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued a **press release** [located at <http://www.nts.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/PR20150202.aspx>] stating that in 2013 there was a slight drop in transportation fatalities. Marine deaths dropped from 711 to 615, with the vast majority of these deaths (560) occurring in the recreational boating sector. (2/2/15).

Denmark – security for wreck removal



The Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.dma.dk/news/Sider/RemovalofwrecksConventionsetsnewspringtimecourse.aspx>] reminding ship owners and operators that the Convention on the Removal of Wrecks enters into effect in April. Covered ships of 20 GT or above must have insurance or other financial security to cover the costs of wreck removal. Covered ships of 300 GT or above must carry a certificate on board certifying that they have the required insurance/financial security. Owners and operators should make appropriate arrangements early so that security is in place by April. (2/2/15).

Panama Canal – replacement of EDCS



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory stating that on 5 February it is commencing the process of replacing its Electronic Data Collection System (EDCS) with the Maritime Service Portal to provide improved service and security. Clients should finalize the required test, including an updated user profile, prior to 20 February. **Advisory 04-2015** [located at <http://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2015/a-04-2015.pdf>] (1/30/15).

UK – reduction in light dues



The UK Department for Trade (DfT) issued a **news release** [located at <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/light-dues-2015-to-2016>] stating that, due to continued cost-control measures, light dues are being reduced, effective on 1 April, to 39p per net registered tonne from the current 40p. (2/2/15).

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

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