

Headlines:

Mississippi River – moving security zone;
PHMSA – transport of radioactive material;
National Sea Grant Advisory Board – meeting;
FMC – meeting 11 February;
DOJ – former Navy contracting office arrested;
USCG – OCS Inspector Course;
Senate – hearing on vessel discharge regulations;
Senate – hearing on US ports;
CRS – USCG polar icebreaker modernization; and
New Zealand – temporary pause in RENA salvage.

February 5, 2015



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.*

Mississippi River – moving security zone



The US Coast Guard promulgated an interim rule establishing a moving security zone around vessels being escorted on waters of the Lower Mississippi River between mile markers 90.0 and 106.0, effective through 1 July. Comments on the regulation should be submitted by 9 March. **80 Fed. Reg. 6448** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-02-05/pdf/2015-02322.pdf>] (2/5/15).

PHMSA – transport of radioactive material



The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) will conduct a public meeting on issues or problems concerning requirements in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Regulations for the Safe

Transport of Radioactive Material (SSR-6). The meeting will be held in Washington, DC on 24 February. **80 Fed. Reg. 6567** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-02-05/pdf/2015-02222.pdf>] (2/5/15).

National Sea Grant Advisory Board – meeting



The National Sea Grant Advisory Board, sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), will meet in Washington, DC on 2-3 March. **80 Fed. Reg. 6500** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-02-05/pdf/2015-02339.pdf>] (2/5/15).

FMC – meeting 11 February



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a **notice** [located at <http://www.fmc.gov/meeting-2-11-2015/>] stating that the Commissioners will meet in Washington, DC on 11 February. During the open session, they will receive briefings on the FMC Continuity of Operations Plan and the FMC information technology upgrade. During the closed session, they will receive a briefing on the LA/LB Port Infrastructure and Environmental Programs Cooperative Working Agreement. (2/4/15).

DOJ – former Navy contracting officer arrested



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/former-supervisory-contracting-officer-arrested-navy-bribery-scandal>] stating that a former senior Navy contracting officer has been arrested for conspiracy to commit bribery in connection with his alleged role in a scheme to steer contracts and benefits to Glenn Defense Marine Asia, a defense contracting firm headquartered in Singapore. (2/3/15).

USCG – OCS Inspector Course



The US Coast Guard issued a **notice** [located at <http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2015/02/04/242015-new-outer-continental-shelf-course-for-coast-guard-marine-inspectors/>] stating that its Outer Continental Shelf National Center of Expertize is developing the Outer Continental Shelf Inspector Course for Coast Guard marine inspectors. (2/4/15).

Senate – hearing on vessel discharge regulations



The Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation conducted a **hearing** [located at

http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=3d96309e-7f98-445b-9fdf-9483e042cd5e&ContentType_id=14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_id=b06c39af-e033-4cba-9221-de668ca1978a] entitled “The Impacts of Vessel Discharge Regulations on our Shipping and Fishing Industries”. Testimony was heard from Mr. James Farley, Kirby Offshore Marine; Mr. James Weakley, Lake Carriers Association; Ms. Claudia Copeland, Congressional Research Service; and Captain Robert Zales, National Association of Charter Boat Operators. (2/4/15).

Senate – hearing on US ports



The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation issued a **press release** [located at

http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=PressReleases&ContentRecord_id=475f46ff-aabo-4651-8379-61b188739b3d&ContentType_id=77eb43da-aa94-497d-a73f-5c951ff72372&Group_id=4b968841-f3e8-49da-a529-7b18e32fd69d] stating that the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security on 10 February will hold a hearing entitled “Keeping Goods Moving”. The hearing will focus on the US supply chain, particularly the importance of efficiently functioning ports. (2/4/15).

CRS – USCG polar icebreaker modernization



The Congressional Research Service (CRS) issued a report to Congress on Coast Guard polar icebreaker modernization. **RL34391** [located at <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/weapons/RL34391.pdf>] (1/9/15).

New Zealand – temporary pause in RENA salvage



Maritime New Zealand issued a **media release** [located at <http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/news/media-releases-2014/20150204a.asp>] stating that it has allowed a temporary pause in RENA salvage activities pending resolution of the owner’s resource consent application to leave portions of the wreck in place subject to conditions. (2/4/15).

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

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