

## Headlines:

MERPAC – meeting;  
MMMAC – meeting;  
MARAD – anchoring-handling vessels in Beaufort/Chukchi Seas;  
NOAA – Thunder Bay NMS;  
NOAA – staghorn and elkhorn corals;  
DOS – SHC charter renewed;  
SLS – delayed opening;  
CMTS – Federal Arctic MTS Activities Update;  
House – bill introduced re old vessel exemption;  
House – bill introduced re World War II merchant seamen;  
IMO – MSC 93 & MSC 94 resolutions;  
Australia – heavy contact with wharf;  
India – Wreck Removal Convention;  
Panama Canal – February operations; and  
Herald of Free Enterprise – 6 March 1987.

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# Bryant's Maritime News

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## **MERPAC – meeting**



The Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 18-19 March in New Orleans. Topics on the agenda include: utilizing military education, training, and assessment for STCW and USCG certifications; training guidelines for mariners employed aboard vessels subject to the IGF Code; and competency requirements for vessel personnel working within polar regions. **80 Fed. Reg. 12187** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-06/pdf/2015-05368.pdf>] (3/6/15).

## MMMAC – meeting



The Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee (MMMAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 16-17 March in New Orleans. Topics on the agenda include revisions to NVIC 04-08 – Medical and Physical Guidelines for Merchant Mariner Credentials. **80 Fed. Reg. 12188** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-06/pdf/2015-05369.pdf>] (3/6/15).

## MARAD – anchor-handling vessels in Beaufort/Chukchi Seas



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued a notice stating that it has received a request for a determination permitting the use of foreign-flag anchor handling vessels with a minimum ice class A3 for use in the Beaufort Sea or the Chukchi Sea adjacent to Alaska. Owners or operators of qualifying US-flag anchor handling vessels ice class A3 or above must submit nominations on or before 6 April. **80 Fed. Reg. 12256** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-06/pdf/2015-05226.pdf>] (3/6/15).

## NOAA – Thunder Bay NMS



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice stating that the final rule expanding the boundary of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) entered into effect on 3 February 2015. **80 Fed. Reg. 12079** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-06/pdf/2015-05196.pdf>] (3/6/15).

## NOAA – staghorn and elkhorn corals



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice stating that the final Endangered Species Act recovery plan for staghorn and elkhorn corals has been adopted. **80 Fed. Reg. 12146** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-06/pdf/2015-05192.pdf>] (3/6/15).

## DOS – SHC charter renewed



The Department of State (DOS) issued a notice stating that the charter for the Shipping Coordinating Committee (SHC) has been renewed. **80 Fed. Reg. 12245** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-06/pdf/2015-05225.pdf>] (3/6/15).

## SLS – delayed opening



The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System issued a notice stating that opening of the Seaway has been delayed until 2 April. **Seaway Notice 2-2015** [located at <http://www.greatlakes-seaway.com/en/pdf/navigation/notice20150305.pdf>] (3/5/15).

## CMTS – Federal Arctic MTS Activities Update



The Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) posted a **notice** [located at <http://www.cmts.gov/Bulletin.aspx?id=88>] regarding the recent webinar Federal Arctic MTS Activities Update, with links to two of the presentations. (2/24/15).

## House – bill introduced re old vessel exemption



Representative Chabot (R-OH) introduced a bill (H.R. 1248) to amend title 46, United States Code, to exempt old vessels that only operate within inland waterways from the fire-retardant materials requirement if the owners of such vessels make annual structural alterations to at least 10 percent of the areas of the vessels that are not constructed of fire-retardant materials. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (3/4/15).

## House – bill introduced re World War II merchant seamen



Representative Butterfield (D-NC) introduced a bill (H.R. 1288) to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept additional documentation when considering the application for veterans status of an individual who performed service as a coastwise merchant seaman during World War II, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Representative Butterfield issued a **press release** [located at <http://butterfield.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/butterfield-and-jones-introduce-bill-to-make-wwii-merchant-mariners>] explaining the measure. (3/4/15).

## IMO – MSC 93 & MSC 94 resolutions



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular advising of resolutions adopted by the 93rd and 94th sessions of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC). **Shipping Circular 4-2015** (2/26/15) [located at [http://www.mpa.gov.sg/sites/circulars\\_and\\_notices/pdfs/shipping\\_circulars/sc](http://www.mpa.gov.sg/sites/circulars_and_notices/pdfs/shipping_circulars/sc)

[\\_no\\_4\\_of\\_2015.pdf](#)]. *Note: This is a HUGE document, over 600 pages in length.*

### Australia – heavy contact with wharf



The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) issued the report of its investigation into the heavy contact with the wharf in Cape Flattery, Queensland by the bulk carrier Big Glory on 20 November 2014. The primary cause of the casualty was determined to be the lack of situational awareness by the pilot. **MO-2014-014** [located at <http://www.atsb.gov.au/media/5213636/MO-2014-014-Final.pdf>] (3/5/15).

### India – Wreck Removal Convention



The Indian Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) issued a **notice** [located at [http://dgshipping.gov.in/WriteReadData/News/201503050422486219432note2\\_2015\\_nt.pdf](http://dgshipping.gov.in/WriteReadData/News/201503050422486219432note2_2015_nt.pdf)] stating that the Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007, enters into force on 14 April 2015. DGS will commence issuance of certificates of financial security to qualifying Indian ships. (3/4/15).

### Panama Canal – February operations



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory summarizing Canal operations during February. It also contains the schedule of locks maintenance outages for the remainder of the fiscal year. **Advisory 06-2015** [located at <http://www.pan Canal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2015/a-06-2015.pdf>] (3/4/15).

### Herald of Free Enterprise – 6 March 1987



The **HERALD OF FREE ENTERPRISE** was a double-ended ro-ro car and passenger ferry operating between Bruges-Zeebrougge, Belgium and Dover, England. On 6 March 1987, it departed Bruges-Zeebrougge with a crew of 80, carrying 459 passengers, 81 cars, 3 buses, and 47 trucks. Due to a series of mistakes, the bow doors were not closed prior to leaving port. Upon leaving the harbor and while proceeding at over 18 knots, water entered the vehicle deck in large quantities. The free-surface effect of the water impaired stability and led to the capsizing, which occurred in less than one minute. The sinking resulted in 193 deaths. Following the accident and **investigation**, various changes were made to IMO regulations regarding design and operation of ro-ro passenger vessels. The incident was also the impetus for establishment of the UK **Marine Accident Investigation Branch** (MAIB).

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