

Headlines:

White House – economic sanctions re Venezuela;
Houston Ship Channel – closed due to MTBE spill;
Seattle – icebreaker Polar Star returns;
TSAC – meeting;
SHC – meeting;
FWS – Hawaiian monk seal;
IMO – unsafe mixed migration by sea; and
IMO – Making Waves.

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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. Stupidity is a gift of God, but I try to not misuse it.

White House – economic sanctions re Venezuela



President Obama issued an **Executive Order** [located at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/03/09/executive-order-declaration-national-emergency-respect-venezuela>] declaring a national emergency with respect to Venezuela. Among other things, the Executive Order freezes the property and interests in property of persons listed in the accompanying **Annex** [located at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/03/09/fact-sheet-venezuela-executive-order>] or later determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to be, among other things, a current or former official of the Government of Venezuela. (3/9/15). *Note: Currently it is unclear what impact, if any, this action will have on [Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. \(PDVSA\)](http://www.pdvsa.com) or its US subsidiary [CITGO](http://www.citgo.com).*

Houston Ship Channel – closed due to MTBE spill



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2475958/>] stating that it closed the Houston Ship Channel between Light 86 and the Fred Hartman Bridge due to the discharge of MTBE from the chemical tanker Carla Maersk following its collision with the bulk carrier Conti Peridot. A unified command has been established to oversee the response. The casualty is under investigation. (3/9/15).

Seattle – icebreaker Polar Star returns



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2475326/>] stating that the USCG icebreaker Polar Star has returned to its homeport of Seattle following its Antarctic deployment, including the rescue of a fishing vessel with 26 crew members that was beset in Antarctic ice. The primary goal of the deployment was Operation Deep Freeze 2015 to support the resupply of the US Antarctic Program's McMurdo Station, which was also successfully accomplished. Deployment of Polar Star, which is the nation's only operational heavy icebreaker, lasted 101 days. (3/9/15).

TSAC – meeting



The Towing Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 25-26 March in Louisville. Topics on the agenda include automation equipment; towing equipment; drug testing procedures; and marine casualty reporting. [80 Fed. Reg. 12645](#) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-10/pdf/2015-05490.pdf>] (3/10/15).

SHC – meeting



The Shipping Coordinating Committee (SHC), sponsored by the Department of State (DOS), will meet on 3 April in Washington, DC to prepare for the upcoming session of the IMO Legal Committee. Topics on the agenda include fair treatment of seafarers and piracy. [80 Fed. Reg. 12697](#) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-10/pdf/2015-05241.pdf>] (3/10/15).

FWS – Hawaiian monk seal



The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) promulgated a final rule amending its taxonomy and nomenclature of the Hawaiian monk seal to conform to that of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). **80 Fed. Reg. 12566** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-10/pdf/2015-05330.pdf>] (3/10/15).

IMO – unsafe mixed migration by sea



The IMO issued **news release** [located at <http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/HotTopics/seamigration/Pages/default.aspx>] stating that a High-Level Meeting to Address Unsafe Mixed Migration by Sea was held at IMO Headquarters on 4-5 March to facilitate dialogue and promote enhanced cooperation and harmonization between United Nations agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, Governments, and the shipping industry. Estimates indicate that since January 2014, at least 348,000 people have risked sea journeys in search of asylum or migration. More than 207,000 people crossed the Mediterranean Sea in 2014. (3/6/15).

IMO – Making Waves



The IMO released the video “**Making Waves: Women leaders in the maritime world**” on YouTube [located at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmVoRJR1AcE>] to promote the advancement of women in shipping and in support of International Women’s Day 2015. (3/9/15).

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

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