

Headlines:

Lower Mississippi River – three-ship collision;
USCG – DWTF manning exemptions;
DHS OIG – USCG insider threat risks;
House – bill introduced re eLoran;
House – bill introduced re USCG commemorative coin;
House – bill introduced re foreign offshore units; and
GAO – USCG rotational crew risks.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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Lower Mississippi River – three-ship collision



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2487870/) [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2487870/>] stating that it is responding to a three-ship collision and oil spill on the Lower Mississippi River near Convent, Louisiana. The bulk carrier Privocean broke free from its mooring. It drifted downstream, striking the moored towing vessel Texas. It continued downstream, striking the tank ship Bravo, which was offloading crude oil. The Bravo crew was able to complete emergency shutdown procedures before it was broken from its mooring and connection points. Privocean was able to get underway and is anchored at mile marker 162. Bravo is now anchored nearby. It is taking on water in its ballast tanks, its propeller is fouled, and the crew is responding to a 126-gallon oil spill on deck. Texas is currently stable, but the crew has been taken to hospital for evaluation. The facility arms have been secured, but not before approximately 420 gallons of crude oil were spilled into the river. Response personnel are on scene. The river is currently closed between mile markers 154 and 163. The incident is under investigation. (4/6/15).

USCG – DWTF manning exemptions



The US Coast Guard issued a notice announcing the availability of an updated policy letter entitled “Distant Water Tuna Fleet (DWTF) Vessels Manning Exemption Guidance”. The revised policy guidance enters into effect on 1 May. **80 Fed. Reg. 18643** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-04-07/pdf/2015-07939.pdf>] (4/7/15).

DHS OIG – USCG insider threat risks



The Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General (DHS OIG) issued a report stating that the US Coast Guard has taken a number of steps to address insider threats, but that challenges remain. In particular, the report recommends that software be utilized to protect against unauthorized removal of sensitive information; that stronger physical security controls be implemented; and insider threat security awareness training be provided to all USCG members and employees. **OIG-15-55** (4/6/15).

House – bill introduced re eLoran



Representative Garamendi (D-CA) introduced the **National Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Resiliency and Security Act of 2015** (H.R. 1678) to require the Secretary of Defense to establish a backup for the global positioning system, and for other purposes. Representative Garamendi issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (3/27/15).

House – bill introduced re USCG commemorative coin



Representative Courtney (D-CT) introduced a bill (**H.R. 1683**) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the United States Coast Guard. (3/26/15).

House – bill introduced re foreign offshore units



Representative Curbelo (R-FL) introduced the **Foreign Spill Protection Act of 2015** (H.R. 1684) to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to impose penalties and provide for the recovery of removal costs and damages in connection with certain discharges of oil from

foreign offshore units, and for other purposes. Representative Curbelo issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure. (3/26/15).

GAO – USCG rotational crew risks



The Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report stating that the US Coast Guard take action to address risks involved in adoption of the crew rotation concept (CRC) for its National Security Cutters (NSC). The Coast Guard plans to increase the days away from home port (DAFHP) from 185 to 230 days per year, but various mitigating action must be adopted to minimize inherent risks. [GAO-15-195](#) [located at <http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/668894.pdf>] (4/6/15).

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