

Headlines:

Puget Sound – safety zones and RNA;
DOS – Iranian sanctions update;
DOE – application to export natural gas;
MARAD – natural gas pilot demonstration project;
FMC – Pacific Ports Agreement clears review;
NRC – Arctic Matter webinar;
NOAA – Gulf of Mexico recovery effort;
DOJ – USN officer pleads guilty to bribery;
House – hearing on USCG missions;
Singapore – advisory re Yemen;
Singapore – atmospheric testing for enclosed spaces; and
Texas City disaster – 16 April 1947.

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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. I welcome any criticism that you have so long as it does not affect me.

Puget Sound – safety zones and RNA



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2492030/>] stating that temporary safety zones have been established on waters of Puget Sound around Arctic drilling and support vessels and a regulated navigation area (RNA) has been established on waters of Elliott Bay for use as a Voluntary First Amendment Area to ensure safety for all waterway users. (4/15/15).

DOS – Iranian sanctions update



The Department of State (DOS) issued a notice updating information concerning economic sanctions relating to Iran. **80 Fed. Reg. 20552** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-04-16/pdf/2015-08774.pdf>] (4/16/15).

DOE – application to export natural gas



The Department of Energy (DOE) issued a notice stating that it received an application from Bear head LNG requesting authorization to export domestically produced natural gas via pipeline to Canada for liquefaction and further export. Comments on the application must be received by 15 June. **80 Fed. Reg. 20482** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-04-16/pdf/2015-08760.pdf>] (4/16/15).

MARAD – natural gas pilot demonstration project



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) posted a **Grant Opportunity** [located at <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId%3D275685>] for natural gas pilot demonstration projects. The agency seeks proposals for projects that focus on vessel propulsion projects for conversion to natural gas in an effort to measure in situ change in criteria pollutant emissions and greenhouse gas emissions before and after the conversion. An estimated \$900,000 has been established for the program. Applications must be received by 7 May. (4/7/15).

FMC – Pacific Ports Agreement clears review



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.fmc.gov/NR15-04/>] stating that the Commissioners have voted to allow the Pacific Ports Operational Improvements Agreement to become effective on 17 April. (4/15/15).

NRC – Arctic Matters webinar



The National Academies Press issued an **announcement** [located at <http://us4.campaign-archive1.com/?u=eaea39b6442dc4e0d08e6aa4a&id=5b14ebda59&e=5629efob84>] stating that the National Research Council (NRC) will host a webinar on 17

April on “Arctic Matters – The Global Connection to Changes in the Arctic”.
(4/15/15).

NOAA – Gulf of Mexico recovery effort



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) posted a **news release** [located at http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/wp-content/uploads/joint-statement-FINAL4_14_15.pdf] regarding the cooperative long-term effort to restore the waters of the Gulf of Mexico following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. (4/15/15).

DOJ – USN officer pleads guilty to bribery



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/us-navy-officer-pleads-guilty-selling-classified-ship-schedules-part-expanding-navy-bribery>] stating that a lieutenant commander in the US Navy pleaded guilty in federal court to bribery charges for providing classified Navy ship schedules and other internal Navy information to an executive of a defense contracting firm. He is the eighth individual to plead guilty in this expanding probe. (4/15/15).

House – hearing on USCG missions



The Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure conducted a hearing on “**An Overview of the U.S. Coast Guard’s Missions**” [located at <http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=398767>]. Testimony was received from **VADM Charles Michel, USCG** [located at <http://transportation.house.gov/uploadedfiles/2015-04-15-michel.pdf>].

Singapore – advisory re Yemen



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular advising owners, operators, and masters to avoid having their vessels call at ports in Yemen due to the deteriorated security situation. **Shipping Circular 9-2015** [located at http://www.mpa.gov.sg/sites/circulars_and_notices/pdfs/shipping_circulars/sc_no_9_of_2015.pdf] (4/15/15).

Singapore – atmospheric testing for enclosed spaces



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular stating that, effective 1 July 2015, it is implementing for Singapore-flagged ships subject to SOLAS the revised Regulation XI-1/17 on atmospheric testing instruments for enclosed spaces. [Shipping Circular 8-2015](http://www.mpa.gov.sg/sites/circulars_and_notices/pdfs/shipping_circulars/sc_no_8_of_2015.pdf) [located at http://www.mpa.gov.sg/sites/circulars_and_notices/pdfs/shipping_circulars/sc_no_8_of_2015.pdf] (4/6/15).

Texas City disaster – 16 April 1947



On 16 April 1947, in the port of [Texas City, Texas](#), the freighter GRANDCAMP, with a cargo of ammonium nitrate, small arms ammunition, machinery, and sisal twine, caught fire. The fire quickly spread to the nearby freighter HIGH FLYER, loaded with ammonium nitrate and sulfur. When the two ships exploded, it largely flattened the harbor area. It is estimated that over 600 people died in the explosion and fires (exact numbers were unattainable due to the extent of damage). The [US Coast Guard investigation](#) of the casualty determined that the fire was initiated by unauthorized smoking in the cargo hold of the GRANDCAMP. It recommended, among other things, that regulations for carriage of dangerous goods be revised. Litigation ensuing from this tragedy ultimately resulted in enactment of the Federal Torts Claims Act (FTCA).

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

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