

Headlines:

St. Lawrence Seaway – bulk carrier refloated;
FMC – Chairman’s Earth Day Award;
House – bill introduced re Sea Grant College Program;
House – bill introduced re use of dispersants;
Court – FTCA equitable tolling;
Canada – offshore helicopter operations;
Hong Kong – use of clean fuels; and
Ireland – programming of GPS-enabled EPIRBs.

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

St. Lawrence Seaway – bulk carrier refloated



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2495866/>] stating that the bulk carrier that grounded in the St. Lawrence Seaway has been refloated and the Seaway has been reopened to navigation. Investigation of the casualty continues. (4/22/15).

Seattle – spill preparedness conference



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2496534/>] stating that it and the Washington Department of Ecology will host on 20-21 May in Seattle a spill preparedness conference addressing, among other things, remote oil sensing technology, sinking oils, software tools, and best practices. (5/22/15).

FMC – Chairman’s Earth Day Award



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a [news release](#) [located at <http://www.fmc.gov/NR15-05/>] stating that the Chairman’s Earth Day Award has been presented to Crowley Maritime Corporation in recognition of its broad commitment to active environmental efforts across its lines of business. (4/21/15).

House – bill introduced re Se Grant College Program



Representative Lawrence (D-MI) introduced a bill (H.R. 1900) to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (4/21/15).

House – bill introduced re use of dispersants



Representative Nadler (D-NY) introduced a bill (H.R. 1922) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to the use of dispersants, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (4/21/15).

Court – FTCA equitable tolling



In a 5-4 decision, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the filing deadlines in the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) are subject to equitable tolling. The FTCA provides that a claim must be presented to the appropriate federal agency for administrative review within two years after the claim accrues and that the claim must be filed in federal court within six months of the agency’s denial. [United States v. Kwai Fun Wong](#), No. 13-1074 (April 22, 2015) [located at http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/14pdf/13-1074_09m1.pdf]. *Note: While the instant case was not maritime in nature, maritime-related claims are not infrequently brought under the FTCA.*

Canada – offshore helicopter operations



Transport Canada issued a [news release](#) [located at <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=965769>] announcing the coming into force of amendments to the Canadian Aviation Regulations that will enhance the safety of offshore helicopter operations in Canada. Among other things, the amendments will prohibit offshore helicopter operations when weather or water conditions make ditching in the water unsafe. (4/22/15).

Hong Kong – use of clean fuels



The Hong Kong Marine Department issued a notice advising that the requirement to use clean fuels while berthing in Hong Kong will take effect on 1 July. **Marine Notice 56-2015** [located at <http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/notices/pdf/mdn15056.pdf>] (4/21/15).

Ireland – programming of GPS-enabled EPIRBs



The Irish Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport issued a notice reminding mariners that all GPS EPIRBs should be programmed with Standard Location Protocol with the Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) number of the vessel. **Marine Notice 13-2015** [located at http://www.dttas.ie/sites/default/files/MN13of2015_ProgrammingofGPSenableDEPIRBs.pdf] (4/21/15).

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

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