

Headlines:

USCG – boating safety app for smartphones;
USCG – boating safety statistics;
DOJ – shipping company & engineering officers charged;
South China Sea – US Navy patrol;
UFAC – meeting;
House – bill introduced re seismic activities off Florida;
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House – bill introduced re Point Spencer, Alaska;
Senate – bill introduced re port performance measures;
Australia – MH370 search discovers shipwreck; and
UK – MLC 2006 guidance.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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USCG – boating safety app for smartphones



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2504662/>] stating that it will release its first boating safety App Saturday as the kickoff to this year's National Safe Boating Week. The Boating Safety Mobile app was not designed to replace a boater's marine VHF radio, which the Coast Guard strongly recommends all boaters have aboard their vessels. The app was mainly designed to provide additional boating safety resources for mobile device users. The app will be available on the Apple and Google Play online stores. Features of the app include: state boating information; a safety equipment checklist; free boating safety check requests; navigation rules; float plans; and calling features to report pollution or suspicious activity. When location services are enabled, users can

receive the latest weather reports from the closest National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather buoys as well as report the location of a hazard on the water. The app also features an Emergency Assistance button which, with locations services enabled, will call the closest Coast Guard command center. (5/13/15).

USCG – boating safety statistics



The US Coast Guard posted the **2014 Recreational Boating Statistics** [located at <http://www.uscgboating.org/library/accident-statistics/Recreational-Boating-Statistics-2014.pdf>]. The report reveals that there were 610 boating fatalities in the United States during 2014, an increase from 2013 but still the second-lowest number on record. Operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience, excessive speed, and alcohol use ranked as the top five contributing factors in boating accidents. (5/13/15).

DOJ – shipping company & engineering officers charged



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/norwegian-shipping-company-and-engineering-officers-charged-environmental-crimes-and>] stating that Det Stavangerske Dampskibsselskab AS (DSD Shipping) and four engineering officers have been charged with violating the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (APPS), conspiracy, obstruction of justice, and witness tampering in connection with discharges of oily waste water into the sea from the MV Stravanger Blossom and failure to maintain an accurate oil record book regarding those discharges, as well as an accurate garbage record book. An indictment is merely a formal charge and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. (5/13/15).

South China Sea – US Navy patrol



The US Navy issued a **news release** [located at http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=87081] stating that the littoral combat ship USS Fort Worth (LCS 3) completed a week-long routine patrol in international waters and airspace of the South China Sea near the Spratly Islands. There were encounters with multiple Chinese Peoples' Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) warships, during which time the jointly agreed Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES) was utilized. (5/13/15). *Note: Jurisdiction over the Spratly Islands is disputed, particularly by China and the Philippines.*

UFAC – meeting



The Airport and Seaport Inspections User Fee Advisory Committee (UFAC), sponsored by Customs and Border Protection (CBP), will meet in Washington, DC on 2 June. [80 Fed. Reg. 27694](#) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-05-14/pdf/2015-11619.pdf>] (5/14/15).

House – bill introduced re seismic activities off Florida



Representative Murphy (D-FL) introduced a bill (H.R. 2276) to establish a moratorium on oil and gas-related seismic activities off the coastline of the State of Florida, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (5/12/15).

House – bill introduced re seismic activities off Florida



Representative Posey (R-FL) introduced a bill (H.R. 2279) to establish a moratorium on oil and gas-related seismic activities off the coastline of the State of Florida, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (5/12/15).

House – bill introduced re Point Spencer, Alaska



Representative Young (R-AK) introduced a bill (H.R. 2284) to provide for the retention and future use of certain land in Point Spencer, Alaska, to support the mission of the Coast Guard, to convey certain land in Point Spencer to the Bering Straits Native Corporation, to convey certain land in Point Spencer to the State of Alaska, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (5/12/15).

Senate – bill introduced re port performance measures



Senator Thune (R-SD) introduced a bill (S. 1298) to provide nationally consistent measures of performance of the Nation's ports, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Senator Thune issued a [press release](#) [located at <http://www.thune.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press->

releases?ID=865afa6a-6ab6-407c-b28d-41480fab48c8] discussing the measure. (5/12/15).

Australia – MH370 search discovers shipwreck



The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) issued a **media release** [located at <http://www.atsb.gov.au/newsroom/news-items/2015/mh370-search-discovers-shipwreck.aspx>] stating that the ongoing search for the lost Flight MH370 aircraft in the Indian Ocean has led to the discovery of a previously unknown shipwreck, probably from the nineteenth century. (5/13/15).

UK – guidance re MLC 2006



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) posted **guidance** [located at <https://www.gov.uk/mlc-2006-titles-1-to-5-regulations-guidance-and-information>] regarding the five titles of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC 2006) and the regulations applying to UK ships under each title. (5/13/15).

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