

Headlines:

House – Coast Guard Authorization Act approved;
Court - platform worker is not a seaman;
IMO – summary of MEPC 68;
Tokyo MOU – CIC re STCW hours of rest;
Singapore – concern re Persian Gulf shooting incident;
Singapore – compulsory health declaration; and
MREN – Rising from the ashes.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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House – Coast Guard Authorization Act approved



The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure issued a [news release](http://transportation.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398953) [located at <http://transportation.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398953>] stating that the House of Representatives has approved and sent to the Senate the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 (H.R. 1987). (5/18/15). *Note: This item was brought to my attention by my good friend Denise Krepp, advocate for the US ship recycling industry.*

Court – platform worker is not a seaman



The US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit affirmed dismissal of plaintiff's complaint seeking damages for personal injury under the Jones Act. The court held that where plaintiff was employed by an offshore oil well plugging and abandonment company, incurred the injury while working on an offshore

platform, and performed no duties on a vessel in navigation, he did not qualify as a seaman under the Jones Act. *Alexander v. Express Energy Services*, No. 14-30488 (5th Cir., May 7, 2015) [located at <http://www.ca5.uscourts.gov/opinions/pub/14/14-30488-CVo.pdf>]. *Note: This item was brought to my attention by my good friend Mike Bell of Blank Rome LLP.*

IMO – summary of MEPC 68



The IMO issued a [news release](#) [located at <http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/19-MEPC-ends.aspx#.VV0287lVhBc>] summarizing results of the recent session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 68). Among other things, the environmental provisions of the Polar Code were adopted, as were amendments to MARPOL Annex I regarding tanks for oil residues and extension of the Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA). (5/18/15).

Tokyo MOU – CIC re STCW hours of rest



The Tokyo MOU issued a [press release](#) [located at <http://www.tokyo-mou.org//doc/Press%20Release%20CIC%20results%20-%20STCW%20Hours%20of%20Rest.pdf>] on the results of the recent Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on STCW hours of rest. The CIC questionnaire was completed during 6,392 inspections. A total of 1,589 CIC-related deficiencies were recorded and 16 ships were detained for these deficiencies. The main areas of concern were hours of rest not being properly recorded and watch-keeping personnel without sufficient rest. (5/18/15).

Singapore – concern re Persian Gulf shooting incident



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a [news release](#) [located at http://www.mpa.gov.sg/sites/global_navigation/news_center/mpa_news/mpa_news_detail.page?filename=nr150518.xml] expressing concern about the reported shooting incident on 14 May involving the Singapore-registered tanker Alpine Eternity that took place in international waters. Singapore has requested the Iranian maritime authorities to investigate the incident and prevent future recurrences. As to the 22 March collision involving Alpine Eternity and an oil platform in the Persian Gulf, the incident was promptly reported to the MPA and is under investigation. (5/18/15).

Singapore – compulsory health declaration



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular providing masters with updated guidance regarding compulsory maritime health declarations by vessels that have been to Ebola-affected countries (Guinea and Sierra Leone) in the 21 days previous to expected arrival in Singapore. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared Liberia to be Ebola free. **Port Marine Circular 05-2015** [located at http://www.mpa.gov.sg/sites/circulars_and_notices/pdfs/port_marine_circulars/pc15-05.pdf] (5/14/15)

MREN – Rising from the ashes



In the May 2015 edition of Maritime Reporter and Engineering News, you can find my article entitled **Rising from the ashes** [located at <http://www.brymar-consulting.com/wp-content/uploads/MREN/MREN150500.pdf>]. In the article, I discuss the recent demise of Loran-C and the current total reliance on satellite navigation systems such as GPS for positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT). The General Lighthouse Authorities of the UK and Ireland, though, have moved ahead with enhanced Loran (eLoran) as an augmentation of and backup for satnav. Now, the United States is exploring development of its own eLoran system, with the Department of Transportation seeking public comment and a bill introduced in Congress providing for such a system. It is too early to say for sure that the eLoran phoenix has risen from the ashes of Loran-C, but there are certainly signs of life.

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

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