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Australia – preliminary report on grounding;
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India – report on allision; and
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May 26, 2015



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. Never trust atoms – they make up everything.*

White House – National Maritime Day



President Obama issued a Proclamation designating 22 May 2015 as National Maritime Day, honoring the women and men who take to the seas to boost the US economy and uphold the values we cherish. **80 Fed. Reg. 30125** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-05-26/pdf/2015-12845.pdf>] (5/26/15).

MARAD – Merchant Marine Awards & Flags Program



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued a notice of its revised policy for issuance of Merchant Marine medals, decorations, citations, and the donation or loan of Merchant Marine flags. **80 Fed. Reg. 29384** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-05-21/pdf/2015-12088.pdf>] (5/21/15).

MARAD – funding for emissions reductions



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued a **news release** [located at http://www.marad.dot.gov/newsroom/news_release/2015/marad-announces-funding-for-air-emissions-alternative-energy-projects/] announcing up to \$1.3 million in federal funding through cooperative agreements for projects supporting vessel emissions reductions and alternative energy use. (5/22/15).

Washington – Higher Volume Port Area proposed



The US Coast Guard proposes redefining the boundaries of the existing higher volume port area in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound by replacing a reference to Port Angeles with a reference to Cape Flattery. Comments on the proposal must be received by 20 August. **80 Fed. Reg. 29582** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-05-22/pdf/2015-11760.pdf>] (5/22/15).

Great Lakes – RNAs & safety zones



The US Coast Guard proposes to amend its Great Lakes Regulated Navigation Areas regulations to include two new safety zones to close designated waters for recreational ice fishers and three Regulated Navigation Areas (RNAs) to manage vessel traffic in ice-prone waterways. Further, the coast Guard proposes to redefine (without substantive change) the three existing RNAs as

safety zones. Comments on the proposal must be received by 6 July. **80 Fed. Reg. 29589** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-05-22/pdf/2015-11804.pdf>] (5/22/15).

USCG – Great Lakes Pilotage Rates



The US Coast Guard amended its 26 February 2015 final rule regarding Great Lakes Pilotage Rates to advance the effective date from 1 August to 2 June. **80 Fed. Reg. 29975** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-05-26/pdf/2015-12734.pdf>] (5/26/15).

Gulf of Mexico – platform fire suppressed



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2518626/>] stating that the fire on the platform in the Gulf of Mexico near Breton Island has been suppressed. The crew was safely evacuated. There have been no reports of injury. The small oil sheen previously reported has dissipated. The incident is under investigation. (5/23/15).

Bellingham – safety zone enforcement



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2518910/>] stated that it enforcing a safety zone around the support vessel Arctic Challenger in Bellingham, Washington. An activist who had secured himself to the vessel's anchor chain was removed at his request. Four people were cited for violation of the safety zone and the voyages of two vessels were terminated for not having required safety gear. (5/24/15).

BSEE – supervisor sentenced for false BOP report



The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) issued a **press release** [located at <http://www.bsee.gov/BSEE-Newsroom/BSEE-News-Briefs/2015/Houston-Man-Sentenced-for-Providing-False--Statements-In-Relation-To-Blowout-Preventer---Testing-On-Oil-Platform-In-Gulf-Of-Mexico/>] stating that an offshore well site supervisor was sentenced to one year probation and forty hours of community service for presenting a fabricated blowout preventer (BOP) pressure test chart to BSEE inspectors. (5/21/15).

St. Lawrence Seaway – hands-free mooring



The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System issued a **press release** [located at <http://www.greatlakes-seaway.com/en/news/press-releases/pr20150522.html>] stating that it will receive the Promising Innovation in Transport award from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for developing the world's first Hands-Free Mooring (HFM) system for ships transiting its locks. The HFM system employs vacuum pads mounted on vertical rails to secure the ship during the lockage process, tracking the ship as it is raised or lowered, while keeping it at a fixed distance from the lock wall. (5/22/15).

NOAA – Gulf restoration projects proposed



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a **news release** [located at http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2015/TC_NewsRelease_PhaseIV_FINAL.pdf] stating that comment is sought on ten proposed early restoration Gulf projects. Public meetings will be held in Pensacola (2 June); Mobile (3 June); Long Beach (4 June); Belle Chasse (8 June); Galveston (10 June); and Corpus Christi (11 June). Written comments must be received by 19 June. (5/20/15).

NTSB – parasailing safety



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued a **press release** [located at <http://www.nts.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/PR20150522.aspx>] stating that it produced a video on parasailing safety showing what to look for when choosing a parasailing operator and tips for inspecting equipment. (5/22/15).

House –USCG authorization bill approved



The House of Representatives approved and sent to the Senate the **Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015** (H.R. 1987) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114hr1987eh/pdf/BILLS-114hr1987eh.pdf>] to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, and for other purposes. (5/18/15).

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.

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).

Senate – bill introduced authorizing polar icebreakers



Senator Cantwell (D-WA) introduced the Icebreaker Recapitalization Act (S. 1386) to provide multiyear procurement authority for the procurement of up to six polar icebreakers to be owned and operated by the Coast Guard. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Senator Cantwell issued a [press release](#) [located at <http://www.cantwell.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=05ceob3a-54c1-4548-b9da-a850a9d7f69f>] explaining the measure. (5/19/15).

Senate – bill introduced re recreational vessels



Senator Schumer (D-NY) introduced a bill (S. 1464) to require all recreational vessels to have and to post passenger capacity limits and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (5/22/15).

IMO – Day of the Seafarer



The IMO will mark 25 June 2015 as the fifth annual [Day of the Seafarer](#), celebrating the unsung heroes of shipping across the globe. This year's theme is #CareerAtSea to help address the predicted shortage of seafarers and officers by promoting and highlighting the positive benefits of choosing a career at sea.

Australia – qualifications for crews of commercial motor yachts



The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) issued a [media release](#) [located at http://www.amsa.gov.au/media/documents/18052015_New_Yacht_qual.pdf] stating that it is preparing new qualifications for crews of commercial motor yachts, similar to those existing in the United Kingdom. (5/20/15).

Australia – preliminary report on grounding



The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) posted the preliminary report of its investigation of the grounding of the container ship Maersk Garonne in Fremantle on 28 February 2015. Preliminary information

indicates that the ship's bridge crew had not been directly and actively engaged in the pilotage and was broadly unaware of the pilotage plan. **MO-2015-002** [located at <http://www.atsb.gov.au/media/5302244/MO-2015-002-PRELIMINARY.pdf>] (2/21/15).

India – carriage of fuel oil as cargo by OSVs



The Indian Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) issued a **circular** [located at <http://dgshipping.gov.in/WriteReadData/News/201505210205304825331Corrigendum1toEngineeringCircularNo4of2013.pdf>] providing clarification on the carriage of fuel oil as cargo by offshore supply vessels (OSVs). (5/21/15).

India – report on allision



The Indian Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) issued a **circular** [located at http://dgshipping.gov.in/WriteReadData/News/201505220241447124929CasualtyCircularno_2.pdf] summarizing an investigation into an allision of a bulk carrier with an anchored tanker at the port approaches of a port on the east coast of India. While maneuvering to pick up a pilot in reduced visibility the bulk carrier allided with an unlit anchored tanker. The most proximate cause of the incident was the poor lookout on the bulk carrier. Other factors included the anchored tanker not being lit; port control failing to advise of the unlit tanker; and the pilot failing to advise the bulk carrier of the danger. (5/20/15).

UK – high speed and squat lead to allision



The UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) issued the report of its investigation of the contact made by the passenger ferry Barfleur with the chain of the chain ferry Bramble Bush Bay in Poole on 16 July 2014. Investigation revealed that the contact with the chain was the result of the passenger ferry's high speed and track line, coupled with the low height of tide and the resulting squat. **Report 11-2015** [located at https://assets.digital.cabinet-office.gov.uk/media/555c5c5fe5274a74ca00000b/MAIBInvReport11_2015.pdf] (2/21/15).

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