

Headlines:

NTSB – report on Houston Ship Channel collision;
NOAA – Arctic waters survey;
USCG – seafarers' access to maritime facilities;
Paris MOU – 2014 Performance Lists; and
Australia – prosecutions for illegal garbage disposal.

June 11, 2015



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. Those who don't study history may lose the opportunity to make original mistakes.

NTSB – report on Houston Ship Channel collision



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued a [synopsis](#) [located at http://www.nts.gov/news/events/Documents/2015_Houston_BMG_DCA14F_M008_Abstract.pdf] of its investigation of the collision between the bulk carrier Summer Wind and the Miss Susan tow in the Houston Ship Channel on 22 March 2014. Visibility was restricted due to fog. The bulk carrier was in bound with a pilot on board and traveling at full-ahead speed. The towboat, transiting east on the Intracoastal Waterway where it crosses the Houston Ship Channel, was pushing two 300-foot-long tank barges loaded with fuel oil. The collision resulted in a fuel oil spill from one of the barges, with two crewmembers of the towboat incurring minor injuries related to fuel vapor inhalation. The probable cause of the collision was the decision of the towboat captain to attempt to cross the Houston Ship Channel ahead of the bulk carrier, thereby impeding the passage of the bulk carrier, which could transit only within the confines of the channel. (6/10/15).

NOAA – Arctic waters survey



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2015/20150608-noaa-deploys-survey-ships-for-arctic-charting-projects.html>] stating that the survey ships Rainier and Fairweather are being deployed to the Arctic to gather data for updated charts of the northern Bering Sea and the Chukchi Sea. (6/8/15).

USCG – seafarers’ access to maritime facilities



The US Coast Guard published a correction to its 27 May 2015 proposal concerning seafarers’ access to maritime facilities to clarify that comments on the proposal must be received by 27 July. **80 Fed. Reg. 32512** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-06-09/pdf/C1-2015-12657.pdf>] (6/09/15).

Paris MOU – 2014 Performance Lists



The Paris MOU posted its **2014 Performance Lists** of flag states and recognized organizations [located at <https://www.parismou.org/system/files/Performance%20lists%202014%20WGB%20%26%20RO.pdf>], also known as the White, Grey, and Black (WGB) List. It is based on the total number of inspections and detentions over a three-year rolling period for flags with at least 30 inspections in the period. (6/8/15).

Australia – prosecutions for illegal garbage disposal



The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) issued a **media release** [located at <http://www.amsa.gov.au/media/documents/10062015-AMSA-Media-Release-Prosecutions.pdf>] stating that the owners and masters of two cargo vessels were fined for illegal discharge of garbage within the Great Barrier Reef. (6/10/15).

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

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