

Headlines:

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DOJ – shipping company and engineers charged;
DOJ – mariner sentenced for negligent operation;
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Canada – lack of experience in ice-covered waters;
Panama Canal – filling of new locks;
Panama Canal – preparing for LNG carrier transits;
UK – safe manning & watchkeeping; and
Passenger vessel General Slocum fire – 15 June 1904.

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

Houston-Galveston – Port Condition X-RAY



Due to the forecast of tropical cyclone activity, the US Coast Guard has established Port Condition X-RAY for all ports within the Sector Houston-Galveston area of responsibility. **MSIB 12-15** (6/15/15). *Note: This item was brought to my attention by my good friend Niels Aalund of the **West Gulf Maritime Association**.*

DOJ – shipping company and engineers 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-second-indictment-environmental>] stating that the operator of the tanker Stavanger Blossom and four engineering officers have been charged in the Western District of Louisiana with violation of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (APPS) and obstruction of justice. The indictment alleges that oily waste water was dumped directly overboard, that fraudulent entries were made in the oil record book (ORB), and the hiding of evidence. The news release also states that the operator and engineers were previously indicted in the Southern District of Alabama with a seven-count indictment charging related conduct. (6/12/15).

DOJ – mariner sentenced for negligent operation



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.justice.gov/usao-sdal/pr/bosarge-sentenced-negligent-operation-vessel>] stating that a tug and tow grounded in Bayou St. John in Alabama on 2 June 2014. Following a US Coast Guard investigation, the pilot (mate) was charged with negligent operations and interfering with safe operations. He admitted being under the influence of his prescription medication as well as medication prescribed for another individual. He was sentenced to one year of probation. (3/24/15)

Bellingham – protesters arrested



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2544546/>] stating that two environmental advocates who had secured themselves to the anchor chain of the barge American Trader have been removed from the chain and placed under arrest by local police in Bellingham, Washington. The Coast Guard intends to issue a notice regarding their violation of the applicable safety zone. (6/12/15). *Note: The barge has been chartered by Shell to support operations in the Chukchi Sea.*

USCG – Marine Safety Engineering newsletter



The US Coast Guard posted the Spring 2015 edition of its **Marine Safety Engineering** newsletter [located at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg52/docs/2015spring.pdf>]. This edition includes articles concerning, among other things, energy resistance; OSV operations; marine well containment vessels; and dynamic positioning system testing. (6/11/15).

Savannah River – safety zone



The US Coast Guard promulgated a rule establishing a temporary safety zone on the Savannah River in the vicinity of Buoy 52A for purposes of the salvage and recovery of CSS Georgi and the recovery and transit of unexploded ordnance. The safety \zone will remain in effect through 1 October. **80 Fed. Reg. 34058** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-06-15/pdf/2015-14637.pdf>] (6/15/15).

NOAA – Cordell Bank & Farallones NMSs



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice stating that the expansion of the boundaries of the Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries (the latter now known as Greater Farallones NMS) entered into effect on 9 June, following a 45-day period for Congressional review. **80 Fed. Reg. 34047** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-06-15/pdf/2015-14639.pdf>] (6/15/15).

DOD – Law of War Manual



The Department of Defense (DOD) issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=129036>] it has finalized the DOD Law of Warfare Manual. This manual includes provisions addressing, among other things, the crews of merchant vessels, humane treatment of shipwrecked persons, treatment of rescue craft, and naval warfare generally. (6/12/15).

House – bill introduced re hydrographic services



Representative Young (R-AK) introduced a bill (H.R. 2743) to reauthorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (6/11/15).

House – bill introduced re ICOOS



Representative Young (R-AK) introduced a bill (H.R. 2744) to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (6/11/15).

House – bill introduced re ocean acidification



Representative Farr (D-CA) introduced a bill (H.R. 2717) to modify the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Representative Farr issued a [press release](#) [located at <http://farr.house.gov/index.php/newsroom/press-releases/1171-bipartisan-bill-introduced-to-combat-growing-threat-of-ocean-acidification>] explaining the measure. (6/10/15).

House – bill introduced re navigable waters



Representative Thornberry (R-TX) introduced the [Federal Regulatory Certainty for Water Act](#) (H.R. 2705) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114hr2705ih/pdf/BILLS-114hr2705ih.pdf>] to clarify the definition of navigable waters, and for other purposes. (6/9/15). *Note: This is a correction to the previous newsletter item. Mea culpa.*

Canada – lack of experience in ice-covered waters



The Canadian Transportation Safety Board (TSB) issued the report of its investigation of the 14 March 2014 grounding of the bulk carrier John I off the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador. The vessel was operating in ice-covered waters. The sea chest clogged with ice, causing the engine to overheat and resulting in a loss of power, which led to the grounding. The root cause of the

incident was the crew's lack of experience in operating in ice-covered waters. **Marine Investigation Report M14A0051** [located at <http://www.tsb.gc.ca/eng/rappports-reports/marine/2014/m14a0051/m14a0051.pdf>] (6/9/15).

Panama Canal – filling of new locks



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued a **press release** [located at <http://www.pancanal.com/eng/pr/press-releases/2015/06/11/pr550.html>] it has begun the process of filling the lower chamber of its new Atlantic locks. The process will take approximately five days, allowing for testing of the new lock gates. As of the end of May, the overall Expansion Project stood at 89.8% complete. (6/11/15).

Panama Canal – preparing for LNG carrier transits



The US Coast Guard issued a **notice** stating that representatives from the USCG Liquefied Gas Carrier National Center of Expertise (LGC NCOE) and the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) conducted exchange visits to help prepare the Canal for its first liquefied natural gas (LNG) carrier transits once the Canal expansion project is complete. (6/12/15).

UK – safe manning and watchkeeping



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) posted a Merchant Shipping Notice regarding requirements for safe manning and watchkeeping. **MSN 1868 (M)** [located at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/434699/MSN1868.pdf] (6/12/15).

Passenger vessel *General Slocum* fire – 15 June 1904



On 15 June 1904, the excursion steamer *General Slocum* caught fire while operating on the East River in New York City. More than 1,000 passengers and crew lost their lives. It was one of the worst maritime disasters in US history.

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

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