

Headlines:

St. Lawrence Seaway – cruise ship hits lock wall;
BSEE – Arctic drilling equipment tested;
BSEE – SEMS accreditation body recognized;
Court – salvage arbitration award upheld;
EU – Crimean port calls prohibited;
EU, US & China – meeting re maritime transport; and
ReCAAP – robberies in Straits of Malacca & Singapore.

June 19, 2015



Bryant's Maritime News

Bryant's Maritime Consulting - 4845 SW 91st Way - Gainesville, FL 32608-8135 - USA

Tel: 1-352-692-5493 – Email: dennis.l.bryant@gmail.com – Internet: <http://brymar-consulting.com>

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.

St. Lawrence Seaway – cruise ship hits lock wall



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2549282/) [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2549282/>] stating that the cruise ship Saint Laurent hit a wall in the Eisenhower Lock of the Saint Lawrence Seaway in Massena, New York. The vessel remains in the lock, where the water has been drained, while response crews remove injured passengers. The casualty is under investigation. (6/18/15). *Note: Unofficial reports indicate that 17 passengers suffered injury.*

BSEE – Arctic drilling equipment tested



The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) issued a [press release](http://www.bsee.gov/BSEE-Newsroom/BSEE-News-Briefs/2015/BSEE-Oversees-Testing-of-Shell-Arctic-Drilling-Well-Containment-Equipment/) [located at <http://www.bsee.gov/BSEE-Newsroom/BSEE-News-Briefs/2015/BSEE-Oversees-Testing-of-Shell-Arctic-Drilling-Well-Containment-Equipment/>] stating that testing to Shell's proposed Arctic-ready capping stack

system was recently tested successfully in Puget Sound for compliance with federal safety standards. BSEE is currently reviewing Shell's request for authorization to drill two exploratory wells in the Chukchi Sea. (6/18/15).

BSEE – SEMS accreditation body recognized



The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) issued a **notice** [located at <http://www.bsee.gov/BSEE-Newsroom/BSEE-News-Briefs/2015/BSEE-Issues-ITL,-Approves-First-SEMS-Audit-Service-Provider/>] stating that it has recognized the Center for Offshore Safety as an Accreditation Body for purposes of qualifying Audit Service Providers under the Safety and Environmental Management Systems (SEMS) program. (6/18/15).

Court – salvage arbitration award upheld



The US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit upheld a maritime arbitral award for salvage of a yacht. Plaintiff had entered into a salvage contract regarding the yacht with defendant salvor. After the salvage was completed and a bill presented, plaintiff attempted to rescind the contract, claiming that he had signed the contract under duress. The contract included provision for binding arbitration. After the arbitration proceedings started, plaintiff filed suit, seeking a preliminary injunction against arbitration and a declaration that the contract was invalid because it was entered into under duress. The district court stayed the case pending outcome of the arbitration. The arbitration panel found in favor of defendant salvor. The district court confirmed the award and plaintiff appealed. The appellate court ruled that plaintiff erred in failing to challenge the validity of the arbitration clause in his complaint or at any time before the conclusion of the arbitration proceedings. **Farnsworth v. Towboat Nantucket Sound**, No. 14-1903 (1st Cir., June 17, 2015) [located at <http://media.ca1.uscourts.gov/pdf.opinions/14-1903P-01A.pdf>].

EU – Crimean port calls prohibited



The Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.dma.dk/news/Sider/CruiseshipsprohibitedfromcallingattheCrimeanpeninsula.aspx>] stating that included among the economic sanctions adopted by the European Union (EU) relating to the Ukrainian situation is a prohibition against cruise ships calling at any port on the Crimean peninsula. (6/18/15).

EU, US & China – meeting re maritime transport



The European Commission (EC) issued a **press release** [located at http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-15-5226_en.htm?locale=en] stating that representatives of EC's Directorate-General for Competition, the US Federal Maritime Commission, and the People's Republic of China Ministry of Transport met in Brussels to discuss antitrust and regulatory issues in maritime transport. (6/18/15).

ReCAAP – robberies in Straits of Malacca & Singapore



The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre issued an **Incident Alert** [located at [http://www.recaap.org/Portals/0/docs/Latest%20IA/2015/06-15%20Incidents%20in%20SOMS%20\(17%20Jun%2015\).pdf](http://www.recaap.org/Portals/0/docs/Latest%20IA/2015/06-15%20Incidents%20in%20SOMS%20(17%20Jun%2015).pdf)] regarding the boarding by robbers of three separate vessels within an interval of three hours on 17 June while those vessels were underway eastbound in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. The perpetrators were all sighted in the engine rooms of the vessels, apparently seeking spare parts. (6/18/15).

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

Dennis L. Bryant

Bryant's Maritime Consulting
4845 SW 91st Way
Gainesville, FL 32608-8135
USA

1-352-692-5493
dennis.l.bryant@gmail.com

<http://brymar-consulting.com>

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