

Headlines:

MARAD – VISA open season;
MARAD – VISA table-top exercise;
MARAD – META Program Forum;
Court – obstruction conviction dismissed; and
IMO – Mr. Ki-tack Lim elected as Secretary-General.

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Bryant's Maritime Blog

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Note: This blog 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 clicking the envelope that appears at the end of each posting. Be aware that the daily blog entry is a single posting, even though it contains a number of individual items. Miscellaneous maritime topics are briefly discussed in my [Maritime Musings](#) blog. My train of thought left the station without me.

MARAD – VISA open season



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued a notice announcing that the opens season for fiscal year 2016 applications for participation in the Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA) program will run through 31 July. **80 Fed. Reg. 37730** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-07-01/pdf/2015-16179.pdf>] (7/1/15).

MARAD – VISA table-top exercise



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued a notice stating that on 2-3 June, it and the US Transportation Command co-hosted the 2015 Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA) Joint Planning Advisory Group (JPAG) table-top exercise at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. **80 Fed. Reg. 37729** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-07-01/pdf/2015-16178.pdf>] (7/1/15).

MARAD – META Program Forum



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued a notice announcing that, in cooperation with the Maryland Environmental Resources center, it will hold an open forum to solicit individual input to the agency's Maritime Environmental and Technical Assistance (META) Program. The forum will be held in Linthicum Heights, Maryland on 22 July. [80 Fed. Reg. 37729](#) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-07-01/pdf/2015-16180.pdf>] (7/1/15).

Court – obstruction conviction dismissed



The US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit affirmed the district court's dismissal of the criminal conviction of a former BP employee due to juror misconduct. The former employee had been convicted of obstruction of justice. During juror deliberation, the jury forewoman overheard a conversation in a courthouse elevator that other BP employees involved in the Deepwater Horizon oil spill were being prosecuted. She told the other jurors that this made her even more convinced that the defendant was guilty. [United States v. Mix](#), No. 14-30837 (5th Cir., June 30, 2015) [located at <http://www.ca5.uscourts.gov/opinions/pub/14/14-30837-CR0.pdf>].

IMO – Mr. Ki-tack Lim elected as Secretary-General



The IMO issued a [news release](#) [located at <http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/30-SG-election.aspx>] stating that Mr. Ki-tack Lim of the Republic of Korea has been elected to serve as the next IMO Secretary-General with effect from 1 January 2016. (6/30/15).

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

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