

## Headlines:

USCG – Great Lakes Pilotage rates;  
USCG – dockside safety issues;  
DOJ – shipping company convicted;  
FMC – meeting on 17 November;  
CMTS – Roundtable on 20 November;  
Senate – bill introduced re offshore drilling;  
Court – arbitration upheld; and  
Singapore – maritime health declaration.

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# 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. Time passes because it consistently gets good marks.*

## USCG –Great Lakes Pilotage rates



The US Coast Guard has extended, through 9 December, the period within which comments on its Great Lakes Pilotage rates 2016 annual review and proposed changes to methodology must be received. **80 Fed. Reg. 69179** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-11-09/pdf/2015-28590.pdf>] (11/9/15). *Note: The previous item on this comment period extension had an erroneous deadline. Oops!*

## USCG – dockside safety issues



The US Coast Guard issued a safety alert reminding port authorities, marine terminal operators, line handlers, and longshoremen of the importance

developing policies and procedures that address potential dockside hazards and minimize the associated risks. Recently, line handlers attached a ship's mooring line to the bumper of a pickup truck for assistance in dealing with the heavy line. As the ship departed, the mooring line was thrown off the bollard, but not disconnected from the truck. As the line was hauled in by the ship's mooring winch, the truck was inadvertently dragged off the pier and into the water.

**Safety Alert 12-15** [located at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg545/alerts/1215.pdf>] (11/10/15).

### **DOJ – shipping company convicted**



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/norwegian-shipping-company-and-engineering-officers-convicted-environmental-crimes-and>] stating that a federal jury in Mobile has convicted a Norwegian shipping company and three engineering officers of obstructing justice, violating the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships, witness tampering, and conspiracy. The defendants were found to have dumped waste oil at sea, used false records, lied to the Coast Guard, and ordered lo ranking crew members to also lie. The shipping company could be fined up to \$500,000 per count, while the three individuals face a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. (11/10/15).

### **FMC – meeting on 17 November**



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.fmc.gov/meeting-11-17-2015/>] stating that the Commissioners will meet on 17 November in Washington, DC. During the open session, they will receive a briefing on the Danish Maritime Forum. During the closed session, they will receive a briefing on the FMC-Transpacific Stabilization Agreement Semi-Annual Meeting and there will be a regulatory review of the Ocean Common Carrier and Marine Terminal Operator Agreements Subject to the 1984 Shipping Act. (11/10/15).

### **CMTS – Roundtable on 20 November**



The Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) posted a **notice** [located at <http://www.cmts.gov/Bulletin.aspx?id=103>] stating that MTS stakeholders are invited to join a CMTS 10th Anniversary Roundtable in Washington, DC on 20 November. Two panels will discuss the origins of the CMTS, accomplishments over the past ten year, and future needs of the MTS. (11/9/15).

## Senate – bill introduced re offshore drilling



Senator Merkley (D-OR) introduced the **Keep It in the Ground Act of 2015** (S. 2238) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114s2238is/pdf/BILLS-114s2238is.pdf>] to prohibit drilling in the outer Continental Shelf, to prohibit coal leases on Federal land, and for other purposes. Senator Merkley issued a **press release** [located at <http://www.merkley.senate.gov/news/press-releases/merkley-introduces-major-new-legislation-to-stop-new-fossil-fuel-leases-on-federal-lands>] explaining the measure. (11/4/15).

## Court – arbitration upheld



In an unpublished decision, the US Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit affirmed the district court order compelling arbitration in conformance with the employment agreement in a dispute between plaintiff mariner and defendants employer and ship operator. **Sierra v. Cruise Line Catering**, No. 14-14940 (11th Cir., November 10, 2015) [located at <http://media.ca11.uscourts.gov/opinions/unpub/files/201414940.pdf>].

## Singapore – maritime health declaration



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular advising that Sierra Leone has been declared free of Ebola virus transmission. Stakeholders are reminded that a Maritime Health Declaration must still be filed for arriving vessels that have been to Ebola affected countries (i.e., Guinea) in the past 21 days. **Port Marine Circular 13-2015** [located at [http://www.mpa.gov.sg/sites/circulars\\_and\\_notices/pdfs/port\\_marine\\_circulars/pc15-13.pdf](http://www.mpa.gov.sg/sites/circulars_and_notices/pdfs/port_marine_circulars/pc15-13.pdf)] (11/11/15).

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

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