Headlines:

USCG - BWM reporting and recordkeeping;

USCG – CDC barge reporting requirements;

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USCG - MEDMAC members sought;

Senate – funding sought for Great Lakes icebreaker;

Court – personal jurisdiction;

New Zealand – MNZ annual report;

UK – IMO assembly; and

UK – National Contingency Plan.

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USCG - BWM reporting and recordkeeping

The US Coast Guard promulgated a final rule amending the ballast water management (BWM) reporting and recordkeeping requirements. Effective 22 February 2016, vessels with ballast tanks operating exclusively on voyages between ports or places within a single Captain of the Port Zone must submit an annual report of their BWM practices. The ballast water report form is being simplified and streamlined. The amendment will also allow most vessels to submit ballast water reports after arrival at a port or place of desination. 80 Fed. Reg. 73105 [located at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-11-24/pdf/2015-29848.pdf] (11/24/15).

USCG – CDC barge reporting requirements

The US Coast Guard issued a notice stating that it intends to allow part of the stay of reporting requirements for barges loaded with certain dangerous cargoes (CDCs) on the inland rivers of the Eighth Coast Guard District to expire as scheduled on 31 December 2015. 80 Fed. Reg. 73156 [located at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-11-24/pdf/2015-29714.pdf] (11/24/15).

<u>USCG – MEDMAC response re NVIC 04-08 revision</u>

The US Coast Guard issued a notice announcing the availability of the Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee (MEDMAC) response to Task Statement 1, "Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular 04-08 Revision Working Group". 80 Fed. Reg. 73199 [located at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-11-24/pdf/2015-29837.pdf] (11/24/15).

USCG - MEDMAC members sought

The US Coast Guard seeks applications for membership on the Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee (MEDMAC). Applications should be received by 25 January 2016. 80 Fed. Reg. 73198 [located at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-11-24/pdf/2015-29836.pdf] (11/24/15).

Senate – funding sought for Great Lakes icebreaker

Senator Gary peters (D-MI) issued a press release [located at http://www.peters.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/peters-stabenow-urge-funding-for-great-lakes-heavy-icebreaker] stating that he and Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) sent a letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Homeland Security calling for robust funding in the fiscal year 2016 appropriations legislation for the Coast Guard to design and build a new heavy icebreaker for the Great Lakes region. (11/20/15).

Court – personal jurisdiction

The US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit reversed a judgment of garnishment against related companies that owed monies to defendant shipyard that had been successfully sued by former employees for human trafficking, false imprisonment, and forced labor. The appellate court ruled that the district court

erroneously concluded that it had personal jurisdiction over the garnishees when it failed to apply the relevant state law (Texas). Licea v. Curacao Drydock, No. 14-20619 (5th Cir., November 23, 2015) [located at http://www.ca5.uscourts.gov/opinions/pub/14/14-20619-CVo.pdf].

New Zealand - MNZ Annual Report

Maritime New Zealand released its Annual Report 2014-2015 [located at http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/Publications-and-forms/Maritime-NZ-corporate-publications/MNZ-annual-report-2014-2015.pdf]. The report discusses, among other things, strategic goals such as ensuring that regulations are relevant and robust and that compliance practices are risk-focused. (11/23/15).

UK - IMO Assembly

The UK Department for Transport (DfT) posted the speech [located at https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-29th-assembly-of-the-international-maritime-organization] delivered by Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport Robert Goodwill, MP at the opening of the 29th Assembly of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London. (11/23/15).

UK – National Contingency Plan

The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) issued the National Contingency Plan (NCP) [located at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/fil e/478676/1501120_NCP.pdf]. The NCP provides a strategic overview for responses to marine pollution from shipping and offshore installations. (11/20/15).

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

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