

Headlines:

DOJ – offshore facility operator charged;
NTSB – engine room fire;
NMIO – maritime information sharing exercise;
Senate – Coast Guard Authorization Act;
California – SLC Strategic Plan;
India – Multimodal Transport Operator;
Panama Canal – Booking Condition 1;
Panama Canal – sill reinforcement work; and
Singapore – High Risk Area revision.

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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. Plan to be spontaneous.*

DOJ – offshore facility operator charged



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.justice.gov/usao-edla/pr/oil-company-charged-multiple-felonies-related-violations-offshore-oil-production-safety>] stating that Energy Resource Technology GOM, LLC has been charged with two felony counts of violating the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act and two felony counts of violating the Clean Water Act related to conduct on its offshore oil production facilities in the Gulf of Mexico. (11/30/15).

NTSB – engine room fire



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued a Marine Accident Brief (MAB) regarding the 31 October 2014 engine room fire on board

the towing vessel Dennis Hendrix on the Mississippi River near Baton Rouge. The probable cause of the fire was a catastrophic failure of the starboard main engine resulting from loose bolts on the number 5 cylinder rod while the engine was operating at a high load condition. **MAB 15-22** [located at <http://www.nts.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Reports/MAB1522.pdf>] (12/2/15).

NMIO – maritime information sharing exercise



The National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office (NMIO) issued a **news release** [located at http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=92248] stating that it sponsored a three-day Operational Value Added Assessment (OVAA) exercise with thirteen participating and support organizations in Chesapeake Bay centered on discovering the value of holistically shared maritime sensor data and improve maritime information sharing. (12/2/15).

Senate – Coast Guard Authorization Act



The **Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015** (S. 1611) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114s1611rs/pdf/BILLS-114s1611rs.pdf>] has been reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation and is now available for consideration on the Senate floor. The measure includes authorization for funding for design and preacquisition activities of a new polar icebreaker, as well as a major revision to the ballast water management program. (11/30/15).

California – SLC Strategic Plan



The California State Lands Commission (SLC) posted the final **draft Strategic Plan** [located at <http://www.slc.ca.gov/About/Docs/StrategicPlan.pdf>]. This draft is tentatively scheduled to be considered for adoption by the Commission at its next scheduled meeting in Sacramento on 18 December. Comments on the draft must be received by 15 December. (12/1/15).

India – Multimodal Transport Operator



The Indian Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) issued a revamped procedure for filing of applications for registration/renewal as a Multimodal

Transport Operator (MTO). **DGS Circular 01-2015** [located at http://dgshipping.gov.in/WriteReadData/News/201511300353102368345dgscir1_2015_mto.pdf] (11/30/15).

Panama Canal – Booking Condition 1



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory announcing that it has suspended the modifications to Booking Condition 1 because the current backlog and waiting time for transiting vessels has returned to normal levels. **Advisory 37-2015** [located at <https://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2015/a-37-2015.pdf>] (11/30/15).

Panama Canal – sill reinforcement work



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued a **press release** [located at <https://www.pancanal.com/eng/pr/press-releases/2015/12/01/pr567.html>] stating that the main contractor for design and construction of the Third Set of Locks project informs that work to reinforce the sills in the new locks will be completed in January 2016. The contractor has not yet identified a date for completion of the new locks project, but is working to reduce the impact on the delivery date. The project is currently 95% complete. (12/1/15).

Singapore – High Risk Area revision



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular highlighting a recent amendment to the Best Management Practices (BMP) to deter piracy and armed robbery against ships by adopting, effective 1 December 2015, a revised definition of the High Risk Area (HRA). **Shipping Circular 28-2015** [located at http://www.mpa.gov.sg/sites/port_and_shipping/circulars_and_notices/shipping_circulars_detail.page?filename=sc15-28.xml] (11/30/15).

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

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