

Headlines:

Lower Mississippi – barge breakaway;
NOAA – Southern Resident Killer Whales;
Court – fortuitous loss; and
St. Lawrence River - grounding.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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Lower Mississippi – barge breakaway



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2779266/) [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2779266/>] stating that it has closed the Lower Mississippi River between mile markers 490 and 503 due to a barge breakaway near Greenville. The towboat Big J.O. struck the river bank, causing four empty barges and two barges loaded with urea ammonium nitrate to break loose. One of the loaded barges is reportedly sinking. Four barges have been secured. The incident is under investigation. (1/25/16).

NOAA – Southern Resident Killer Whales



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued a notice stating that it has initiated a five-year review of the Southern Resident Killer Whale under the Endangered Species Act. Comments must be received by 25 April. [81 Fed. Reg. 4264](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-01-26/pdf/2016-01400.pdf) [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-01-26/pdf/2016-01400.pdf>] (1/26/16).

Court – fortuitous loss



In an unpublished decision, the US Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit held that a marine insured in a fortuitous loss case has a “not particularly onerous” burden of proof where the vessel is covered by an all-risk policy. The court did vacate the lower court’s summary judgment award for further proceedings on the applicability of the policy’s exclusions. [Great Lakes Reinsurance v Kan-Do, Inc.](#), No. 15-11939 (11th Cir., January 25, 2016) [located at <http://media.ca11.uscourts.gov/opinions/unpub/files/201511939.pdf>].

St. Lawrence River – grounding



The Canadian Transport Safety Board (TSB) issued a [media release](#) [located at <http://www.tsb.gc.ca/eng/medias-media/deploiement-deploiement/marine/2016/20160122.asp>] stating that a team of investigators has been deployed to assess the grounding of the container ship MSC Monica in the St. Lawrence River near Deschaillons-sur-Saint-Laurent, Quebec. (1/22/16). *Note: Unofficial reports indicate that the grounding was the result of a steering casualty, there were no injuries or pollution, and that the vessel has been refloated.*

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

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