

Headlines:

USCG – El Faro investigation;

CDC – Zika virus web site;

EC – places of refuge;

Panama Canal – sunken wreck in Atlantic Outer Anchorage; and

Establishment of US Coast Guard – 28 January 1915.

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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. One must never blatantly assume the existence of right triangles.

USCG – El Faro investigation



The US Coast Guard issued a [media advisory](http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2778590/) [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2778590/>] stating that it will conduct a public Marine Board of Investigation hearing into the loss of the steam ship El Faro and the 33 persons on board. The hearing will open on 16 February in Jacksonville. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), which is conducting its own investigation, will fully participate in the USCG hearings. (1/26/16).

CDC – Zika virus web site



The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has established a web site concerning the [Zika virus](http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html) [located at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html>]. The site explains the common symptoms, prevention recommendations, treatment, and current Zika-affected areas. It also includes recommendations for pregnant women. (1/26/16).

EC – places of refuge



The European Commission (EC) posted the **Joint Declaration** [located at <http://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/maritime/news/doc/2016-01-27-lessons-learned-flaminia/declaration.pdf>] on the **EU Operational Guidelines on Places of Refuge** [located at <http://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/maritime/digital-services/doc/por-operational-guidelines.pdf>]. These guidelines, prepared with the participation of competent authorities and industry stakeholders, followed the response to the casualty involving the MSC Flaminia in July 2012. The guidelines are not mandatory, but are intended to support a more uniform application of underlying legal provisions. (1/27/16). *Note: These guidelines represent a significant step forward, but will only be utilized in actual casualties if coastal nations engage in exercises beforehand to gain familiarity with the procedures.*

Panama Canal – sunken wreck in Atlantic Outer Anchorage



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory stating that the general cargo ship Alita sank in the Atlantic Outer Anchorage. The wreck, which is just below the surface, has been marked. **Advisory 03-2016** [located at <https://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2016/a-03-2016.pdf>] (1/23/16).

Establishment of US Coast Guard – 28 January 1915



The United States Coast Guard was created by **Act of Congress** on 28 January 1915, when the Life-Saving Service was combined with the Revenue-Cutter Service. From the beginning, the Coast Guard constituted part of the military forces of the United States. It operated (at that time) under the Treasury Department in time of peace and as part of the Navy in time of war or when the President shall so direct. *Semper Paratus!*

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

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