

Headlines:

Lower Mississippi – reopened to one-way traffic;
USCG – Zika virus precautions;
CTAC – meeting on 1-3 March;
DOI – NISC members sought;
House – hearing re USCG cutter acquisition;
Court – fraudulently obtained SPTT licenses; and
Australia – Large Yacht Code.

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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. Planck's Constant isn't.

Lower Mississippi – reopened to one-way traffic



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2778606/) [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2778606/>] stating that the Lower Mississippi River between mile marker 50 and mile marker 52 has been reopened to one-way traffic following the 28 January breakaway of 22 barges. Three deep-draft vessels sustained damages after they were hit by the loose barges. The incident is under investigation. (2/3/16).

USCG – Zika virus precautions



The US Coast Guard issued a Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) regarding precautions that may be taken with regard to the Zika virus. Preventive measures to avoid mosquito bites include avoiding or limiting outdoor activities one hour before and after dusk and dawn (when mosquitos are most

active), covering exposed skin, and using insect repellent. **MSIB 01-16** [located at http://www.uscg.mil/msib/docs/OO1_16_2-3-2016.pdf] (2/3/16).

CTAC – meeting on 1-3 March



The Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet in Houston on 1-3 March. Topics on the agenda include: response and carriage requirements for oil-like substances; safety standards for design of vessels carrying natural gas or using natural gas as fuel; and safety standards for ship-to-ship transfer of hazardous material outside of the baseline. **81 Fed. Reg. 6028** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-02-04/pdf/2016-02126.pdf>] (2/4/16).

DOI – NISC members sought



The Department of the Interior (DOI) issued a notice stating that it seeks interested individuals for membership on the National Invasive Species Council (NISC). Nominations must be sent by 18 February. **81 Fed. Reg. 6037** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-02-04/pdf/2016-02192.pdf>] (2/4/16).

House – hearing re USCG cutter acquisition programs



The Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure conducted a hearing on **The Status of Coast Guard Cutter Acquisition Programs** [located at <http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=399668>]. Testimony was received from Rear Admiral Joseph Vojvodich, USCG; Ms. Michele Mackin, Government Accountability Office; and Mr. Ronald O'Rourke, Congressional Research Office. (2/3/16).

Court – fraudulently-obtained SPTT licenses



The US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit ruled that the district court misapplied the public disclosure bar to a Foreign Claims Act (FCA) action brought by a relator against several US companies and several Korean nationals. The relator asserted that the Korean nationals, acting through the US companies that they formed improperly obtained from the US Coast Guard (USCG) various

South Pacific Tuna Treaty (SPTT) fishing licenses by falsely claiming that the companies were controlled by US citizens and that their fishing vessels were commanded by US captains. **Moore & Co. v. Majestic Blue Fisheries, LLC**, No. 14-4292 (3rd Cir., February 2, 2016) [located at <http://www2.ca3.uscourts.gov/opinarch/144292p.pdf>]. *Note: The case is interesting, at least to me, more for the alleged frauds perpetrated on the USCG than for the intricacies of the FCA.*

Australia – Large Yacht Code



The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) issued a **media release** [located at http://www.amsa.gov.au/media/media-releases/2016/documents/feb/03012016_AMSA_Media_Release_%20Super_Yacht_MO52.pdf] stating that it will adopt the Large Yacht (LY3) Code for super yachts and training vessels of 24 meters or more in length. (2/3/16).

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

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