

Headlines:

USCG – electronic charts & pubs;
USCG – NMC user fee webpage update;
USCG Zika virus precautions update;
Tacoma – vessel detained for safety violations;
USCG – LNG & alternative fuels;
FERC – Elba Liquefaction EA;
CBP – quarterly interest rates;
NTSB – collision near Waterproof;
California – marine invasive species;
Ireland – unlicensed electronic navigation systems;
Panama Canal – sill reinforcement completed;
UK – amendments to MARPOL Annex VI; and
UK – maintenance failure led to deck collapse.

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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.

USCG – electronic charts & pubs



The US Coast Guard posted a Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) providing USCG marine inspectors and the maritime industry with uniform guidance regarding what the Coast Guard policy regarding use of electronic charts and publications in lieu of paper charts, maps, and publications. [NVIC 01-16](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/nvic/pdf/2016/NVIC_01-16_electronic_charts_and_publications.pdf) [located at http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/nvic/pdf/2016/NVIC_01-16_electronic_charts_and_publications.pdf] (2/3/16).

USCG – NMC user fee webpage update



The USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) issued an **announcement** [located at http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/announcements/pdfs/pay%20gov_user_fee_updates_020516.pdf] stating that a significant update has been made to the Merchant Mariner User Fee Payment webpage, intended to streamline and simplify the fee payment process. (2/5/16).

USCG – Zika virus precautions update



The US Coast Guard posted a second amended Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) regarding Zika virus precautions, reflecting the changing nature of the understanding of this situation. This change advises that the virus may be spread via blood transfusions and sexual contact, in addition to mosquito bites. **MSIB 01-16, Change 2** [located at http://www.uscg.mil/msib/docs/001_16_2-5-2016.pdf] (2/5/16).

Tacoma – vessel detained for safety violations



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2784146/>] stating that it has detained the container ship Westwood Robson in the Port of Tacoma after significant safety violations were observed on board. (2/5/16).

USCG – LNG & alternative fuels



The US Coast Guard posted a **notice** summarizing the remarks of Captain John Mauer, commanding officer, USCG Marine Safety Center (MSC), delivered at the Liquefied Natural Gas and Alternative Fuels Symposium – Regulation and Practical Application. His remarks focused on the MSC's role in the review of LNG fuel and cargo systems installed on new US-flag ships and barges. (2/5/16).

FERC – Elba Liquefaction EA



The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) posted a **notice** [located at <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/gas/enviro/eis/2016/02-05-16-ea.asp>] stating that an environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared for the liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities proposed by Elba Liquefaction Company,

LLC to be located at the existing LNG terminal in Chatham County, Georgia. Comments on the EA must be received by 7 March. (2/5/16).

CBP – quarterly interest rates



The US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issued a notice stating that, for the calendar quarter beginning 1 January 2016, the interest rate for overpayments is 2% for corporations and 3% for non-corporations and for underpayments is 3% for both. **81 Fed. Reg. 6526** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-02-08/pdf/2016-02402.pdf>] (2/8/16).

NTSB – collision near Waterproof



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued the report of its investigation of the 18 July 2014 collision of the towing vessel Riley Elizabeth and its barge tow with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) barge plant on the Lower Mississippi River near Waterproof, Louisiana. The probable cause of the incident was the incomplete information provided by the USACE about the extent of its obstruction of the waterway and the failure of the mate on the towing vessel to determine the extent of that obstruction before starting the turn at Kempe Bend. The report also identified the need for expanded use by the USACE of AIS features to mark the waterway. **MAR 15-03** [located at <http://www.nts.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Reports/MAR1503.pdf>] (12/16/15). *Note: This is a belated item on my part, brought to my attention by a long-suffering reader.*

California – marine invasive species



The California State Lands Commission (SLC) issued a **notice** [located at <http://www.slc.ca.gov/Laws-Regs/Proposed-MISP4-9.html>] stating that it is proposing regulatory amendments to Article 4.9, Marine Invasive Species Act – Enforcement and Hearing Process. Comments must be received by 23 March. (2/5/16).

Ireland – unlicensed electronic navigation systems



The Irish Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport issued a **Marine Notice** [located at <http://www.dttas.ie/sites/default/files/MNO4of2016.pdf>] reminding mariners of the risks inherent in use of unlicensed electronic navigation systems. Installation

and use of such systems on-board commercial vessels may invalidate the vessel's certification. (2/4/16).

Panama Canal – sill reinforcement completed



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued a **press release** [located at <https://www.pancanal.com/eng/pr/press-releases/2016/02/04/pr572.html>] stating that reinforcement of the sills in the new Panama Canal locks has been completed. The expansion program is over 96% complete and inauguration is expected in the second quarter of 2016. (2/4/16).

UK – amendments to MARPOL Annex VI



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) posted a **Marine Information Note** [located at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/498140/MIN_519.pdf] reminding stakeholders of the recent effective date of amendments to MARPOL Annex VI, Chapter 3. (2/5/16).

UK – maintenance failure led to deck collapse



The UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) posted the report of its investigation of the collapse of a mezzanine deck on board the ro-ro passenger very St Helen on 18 July 2014 at the Isle of Wight. Fortunately, there were only minor injuries. The deck collapsed when one of its steel lifting ropes parted. The lifting rope parted because it had not been routinely lubricated and the mezzanine deck had not been properly maintained. These deficiencies had been reported as non-conformities during safety inspections, but management had taken no action related thereto. **Report 1-2016** [located at <https://www.gov.uk/maib-reports/collapse-of-a-mezzanine-deck-on-board-ro-ro-passenger-ferry-st-helen>] (2/4/16).

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

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