

Headlines:

Cuba & US – MOU re navigation safety;
Columbia River – bulker aground;
USCG – conditions of entry re Cuba removed;
Nantucket Sound – PARS;
NBSAC – meeting on 21-23 April;
USCG – NBSAC members sought;
BOEM – OCS sand, gravel, and shell resources;
Offshore California – wind energy potential;
USCG/USN/BSEE – in-situ burn test;
St. Lawrence Seaway – opening of 2016 navigation season;
China – prohibited discharges;
Panama Canal – employee training;
UK – EMF exposure consultation; and
QUEEN OF THE NORTH grounding – 22 March 2006.

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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. Gravity waves were found to be hiding behind the dark matter.

Cuba & US – MOU re navigation safety



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a [news release](#) stating that Cuba and the United States have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to improve maritime navigation safety and related areas of mutual interest to protect lives and property at sea. (3/21/16) [located at <http://www.noaa.gov/us-cuba-agree-efforts-improve-maritime-navigation-safety>].

Columbia River – bulker aground



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that the bulk carrier Spama grounded in the Columbia River near Cathlamet, Washington. The situation is stable and there have been no reports of injury or pollution. (3/21/16) [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2800289/>].

USCG – conditions of entry re Cuba removed



The US Coast Guard issued a notice stating that it has removed the Conditions of Entry on vessels arriving from Cuba. Following a comprehensive assessment, the Coast Guard has determined that Cuba meets the ISPS Code requirements and has effective security measures in its ports. [81 Fed. Reg. 15326](#) [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-22/pdf/2016-06431.pdf>] (3/22/16).

Nantucket Sound – PARS



The US Coast Guard issued a notice stating that it is conducting a Port Access Route Study (PARS) to determine whether it should revise existing regulations to improve navigation safety in Nantucket Sound due to factors such as increased vessel traffic, changing vessel traffic patterns, weather conditions, and navigational difficulty. Comments must be received by 20 June. [81 Fed. Reg. 15327](#) [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-22/pdf/2016-06424.pdf>] (3/22/16).

NBSAC – meeting on 21-23 April



The National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC) and its subcommittees, sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 21-23 April in Arlington, Virginia. [81 Fed. Reg. 15324](#) [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-22/pdf/2016-06426.pdf>] (3/22/16).

USCG – NBSAC members sought



The US Coast Guard seeks applicants for membership on the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC). Applications should be received by 23 May. [81 Fed. Reg. 15326](#) [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-22/pdf/2016-06427.pdf>] (3/22/16).

BOEM – OCS sand, gravel, and shell resources



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) proposes to adopt regulations regarding use of outer continental shelf (OCS) sand, gravel, and shell resources for shore protection, beach restoration, or coastal wetlands restoration projects by federal, state, or local government agencies, or use in construction projects authorized by or funded in whole or in part by the federal government. Comments on the proposal must be submitted by 23 May. **81 Fed. Reg. 15190** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-22/pdf/2016-06163.pdf>] (3/22/16).

Offshore California – wind energy potential



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a **notice** regarding potential wind energy activities offshore California. (3/21/16) [located at <http://www.boem.gov/California/>].

USCG/USN/BSEE – in-situ burn test



The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) issued a **press release** stating that an in-situ burn test was conducted at the Joint Maritime Test Detachment in Mobile. The USCG-USN-BSEE effort was conducted to find gaps in current knowledge of in-situ burn techniques. (3/21/16) [located at <http://www.bsee.gov/BSEE-Newsroom/BSEE-News-Briefs/2016/BSEE-Assists-in-Opening-Oil-Spill-Response-Test-Burn-Tank/>].

St. Lawrence Seaway – opening of 2016 navigation season



The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System issued a **press release** announcing the opening of the 2016 navigation season. (3/21/16) [located at <http://www.greatlakes-seaway.com/en/news/press-releases/pr20160321.html>].

China – prohibited discharges



The Chinese Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) issued a **news release** stating that, with effect from 1 May, discharges into the Chinese inland waters of noxious liquid substances and residue (including ballast water, washwater, etc. containing same); incinerator waste; oil spill dispersants; ship garbage; and ship building and repairing waste are prohibited. [located at

<http://en.msa.gov.cn/index.php?m=content&c=index&a=show&catid=343&id=176>].

Panama Canal – employee training



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued a **press release** stating that training is being provided to its employees regarding operation of the new locks system. (3/17/16) [located at <https://www.pancanal.com/eng/pr/press-releases/2016/03/17/pr576.html>].

UK – EMF exposure consultation



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) issued a **notice** stating that it has opened a consultation on implementation of an EU directive regarding exposure of workers to electromagnetic fields (EMF). Comments must be received by 6 May. (3/14/16) [located at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/electromagnetic-fields-emf-on-merchant-and-fishing-vessels>].

QUEEN OF THE NORTH grounding and sinking – 22 March 2006



The ro-ro ferry **Queen of the North** operated on the Inside Passage between Port Hardy, Vancouver Island and Prince Rupert, near the Alaskan border. On the evening of 21 March 2006, Queen of the North departed Prince Rupert with 59 passengers and 42 crew members for what was expected to be a routine voyage to Port Hardy. Just south of Prince Rupert, the route enters Grenville Channel between the mainland on the port side and Pitt Island and then Farrant Island on the starboard side. Grenville Channel is 72 kilometers (45 miles) in length and almost straight as an arrow. Exiting Grenville Channel, the route enters Wright Sound and turns to port, avoiding Gil Island dead ahead, and moving on to the next channel. At approximately 0021 on the morning of 22 March 2006, Queen of the North inexplicitly missed the turn exiting Grenville Channel. It continued on for 14 minutes after it should have changed course, transiting four nautical miles, and grounded at cruising speed (17.5 knots) off Gil Island. Although heavily damaged, the ferry remained afloat for about one hour. Fishing and recreational vessels from nearby Hartley Bay arrived quickly to assist as people evacuated onto the lifeboats. Various Canadian Coast Guard vessels were also dispatched. Due to the shock and confusion, along with the inclement weather, no accurate list of the evacuees was compiled during this process. It was only later that officials determined that two of the passengers were unaccounted for. They have never been found and are presumed to have died as a result of the grounding and sinking. The ferry was not equipped with a voyage data recorder

(VDR), so conversations on the bridge were not recorded. There were two persons on the bridge at the time: the fourth officer and the helmsman. The second officer was on duty, but down below in the officers' lounge at the time. In its investigation, the TSB recommended that large Canadian passenger ferries be required to install VDRs and that those ferries conduct regular fire and boat drills, including passenger counts. Those remedial measures have now been instituted.

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

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