

Headlines:

DOJ – motion to enter DWH settlement filed;
DOJ – former executive sentenced to 63 months in prison;
Columbia River – grounded bulker suffered significant damage;
USCG – load line exemption;
British Columbia – LNG project conditionally approved;
Panama Canal – draft restrictions effective 18 April; and
UK – MCA changes proposed.

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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.

DOJ – motion to enter DWH settlement filed



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **notice** stating that it has formally moved the court to enter the consent decree that will globally settle the civil claims of the federal government and five Gulf Coast states against BP in the Deepwater Horizon litigation. If the proposed Consent Decree is entered by the Court, BP will pay a Clean Water Act penalty of \$5.5 billion (plus interest), \$8.1 billion in natural resource damages (this includes \$1 billion BP already committed to pay for early restoration), up to an additional \$700 million (some of which is in the form of accrued interest) to address injuries to natural resources that are presently unknown but may come to light in the future and adaptive management, and \$600 million for other claims, including claims under the False Claims Act, royalties, and reimbursement of natural resource damage assessment costs and other expenses due to this incident. (3/22/16) [located at <https://www.justice.gov/enrd/deepwater-horizon>].

DOJ – former executive sentenced to 63 months in prison



The Department of Justice issued a **news release** stating that a former executive of the Singapore-based defense contracting firm Glenn Defense Marine Asia was sentenced to 63 months in prison for his participation in a fraud scheme the over-billed the US Navy by more than \$34 million for ship husbanding services. (3/18/16) [located at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdca/pr/former-executive-defense-contractor-sentenced-63-months-prison-30-million-fraud-scheme>].

Columbia River – grounded bulker suffered significant damage



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that a damage assessment reveals that the bulk carrier Sparna suffered significant hull damage when it grounded in the Columbia River. Examination shows multiple hull fractures, the largest being 25-feet by five-feet, with a visible bolder lodged inside. There are no signs of pollution. Plans call for the bulker to be refloated and moved to port. (3/22/16) [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2800873/>].

USCG – load line exemption



The US Coast Guard issued a Marine Safety Information Bulletin advising that the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 includes a new statutory exclusion from the load line requirement. The amendment permits non-load line vessels to transit up to 15 nautical miles seaward of the baseline between Crystal Bay and Hudson Creek, Florida. **MSIB 06-16** [located at http://www.uscg.mil/msib/docs/006_16_3-22-2016.pdf] (3/22/16).

British Columbia – LNG project conditionally approved



The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency issued a **news release** stating that it has conditionally approved the proposed Woodfibre LNG Project to be located near Squamish, British Columbia. The next steps for the proponent are to obtain approvals and permits, including regulatory authorizations from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Transport Canada. (3/18/16) [located at <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1041579>].

Panama Canal – draft restrictions effective 18 April



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory announcing that, effective 18 April, the maximum authorized transit draft will be set at 11.89 meters (39.0 feet). Vessels loaded to drafts over that limit prior to 21 March may be allowed to transit subject to safety considerations. **Advisory 12-2016** [located at <https://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2016/a-12-2016.pdf>] (3/21/16).

UK – MCA changes proposed



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) issued a **notice** stating that it seeks comments on proposed changes that would reduce the number of Marine Offices from 14 to 10 and would change MCA working practices. Comments must be received by 21 April. (3/22/16) [located at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changing-mca-survey-and-inspection>].

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

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