Headlines:
FMC – class action complaint filed;
PHMSA – oil spill response planning workshop;
Arctic waters – cable-laying operation;
NASA – Arctic sea ice extent at record low;
CRS – USN IW & CT operations; and
Indian Ocean – weapons cache found on dhow.

March 30, 2016

Bryant's Maritime News

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Note: This newsletter is one section of the Bryant's Maritime Consulting website. Visit the site for more extensive maritime regulatory information. Individual concerns may be addressed by retaining Dennis Bryant 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.

FMC – class action complaint filed

The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a notice stating that a complaint has been filed seeking a class action by US car buyers against ocean car carrier companies. The complaint seeks damages for the alleged higher costs of motor vehicles transported by the carrier as a result of their participation in a combination and conspiracy to suppress and eliminate completion in that market thereby raising costs paid by purchasers of those motor vehicles. 81 Fed. Reg. 17714 [located at https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-30/pdf/2016-07105.pdf] (3/30/16).

PHMSA – oil spill response planning workshop

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) issued a notice stating that it will host an oil spill response planning workshop on 12 April in Washington, DC. The purpose of the workshop is to

gather ideas for harmonizing PHMSA's regulations with other agencies and discuss practical ways regulated entities can better plan and prepare for an oil spill. 81 Fed. Reg. 17765 [located at https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-30/pdf/2016-07096.pdf] (3/30/16).

Arctic waters – cable-laying operation

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice stating that it received an application for an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to take marine mammals, by harassment, incidental to a subsea cable-laying operation in state and federal waters of the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort seas. Comments on the application must be received by 29 April. 81 Fed. Reg. 17666 [located at https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-30/pdf/2016-07109.pdf] (3/30/16).

NASA – Arctic sea ice extent at record low

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) issued a news release stating that Arctic sea ice appears to have reached a record low wintertime maximum for the second year in a row. On 24 March 2016, Arctic sea ice extent peaked at 5,607 million square miles, a new record since satellite records were started in 1979. It is slightly smaller than the 2015 record. The thirteen smallest maximum extents on the satellite record have happened in the last thirteen years. (3/28/16) [located at http://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2016/2016-arctic-sea-ice-wintertime-extent-hits-another-record-low].

CRS – USN IW & CT operations

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) issued its report on US Navy Irregular Warfare (IW) and Counterterrorism (CT) Operations. Among other things, the report discusses the Navy's cooperation with the US Coast Guard and with foreign navies in IW and CT activities. RS22373 (3/25/16) [located at http://fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/RS22373.pdf].

Indian Ocean – weapons cache found on dhow

The Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) issued a news release stating that the French warship FS Provence discovered and seized a large weapons

cache following the boarding of a dhow in the northern Indian Ocean. The weapons included several hundred AK-47 assault rifles, machine guns, and anti-tank weapons. (3/29/16) [located at https://combinedmaritimeforces.com/2016/03/28/french-ship-provence-seizes-large-weapons-cache/].

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