

Headlines:

USCG – safety alert re vibration-induced abrasion;
USCG – Mariner Safety Week;
OMB – TWIC card reader requirements;
OSHA – alliance to protect shipyard workers;
House – hearing on maritime transportation safety;
Court – DWH consent decree approved;
Court – choice of law and maritime lien;
New Zealand – RENA statutory notices withdrawn;
Panama Canal – draft restrictions; and
Panama Canal – BAPLIE filing requirements for container vessels.

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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. Be the person that your dog thinks you are.*

USCG – safety alert re vibration-induced abrasion



The US Coast Guard issued an alert addressing abrasion and chafing of electric wires on marine generators resulting from vibration. **Safety Alert 02-16** (4/4/16) [located at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg545/alerts/0216.pdf>].

USCG – Mariner Safety Week



The **Mariner Safety Week – National Launch Event**, sponsored by the Waterborne Transport Group, Crowley Maritime Corporation, and the US Coast Guard, will be held in Jacksonville on 19 April. (4/4/16) [located at

<http://www.cvent.com/events/mariner-safety-week-national-launch-event/event-summary-150a26c9adae4a99a1c59d6488ddd905.aspx>].

OMB – TWIC card reader requirements



The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a **notice** stating that it has received for review the USCG draft final rule regarding Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) reader requirements. (4/2/16) [located at

<http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=201510&RIN=1625-AB21>]. *Note: OMB usually takes four months or longer.*

OSHA – alliance to protect shipyard workers



The Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) issued a **news release** stating that it has formed an alliance with the Shipbuilding Group to develop training and identify best practices that promote safety and health in shipbuilding and repair. (3/31/16) [located at https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=30648].

House – hearing on maritime transportation safety



On 14 April, the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation of the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure will conduct a **hearing** entitled “Maritime Transportation Safety and Stewardship Programs”. (4/4/16) [located at <http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=400008>].

Court – DWH consent decree approved



The US District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana has approved the consent decree among defendant BP Exploration & Production Inc. and the United States, and the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. Among other things, the decree calls for payment of a \$5.5 billion civil penalty and \$7.1 billion in natural resource damages. This is the largest civil penalty settlement in history against a single defendant. **In re MODU Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill**, MDL No. 2179 (E.D. La., April 4, 2016) [located at http://www.brymar-consulting.com/wp-content/uploads/Misc/Consent_Decree_160404.pdf]. *Note: The consent decree is 90 pages in length.*

Court – choice of law and maritime lien



The US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled that, in a bunker supply contract, a choice of law provision for the “General Maritime Law of the United States” includes coverage of a vessel lien created under the Federal Maritime Lien Act. **World Fuel Services v. MV Bulk Juliana**, No. 15-30239 (5th Cir., April 1, 2016) [located at <http://www.ca5.uscourts.gov/opinions/pub/15/15-30239-CVo.pdf>].

New Zealand – RENA statutory notices withdrawn



Maritime New Zealand issued a **media release** stating that the statutory notices relating to the wreck of the container ship RENA that grounded on Astrolabe Reef on 5 October 2011 have been withdrawn. Salvage efforts since the grounding have substantially removed the hazardous material and reasonable efforts have been made to remove entanglement hazards and wreckage. (4/4/416) [located at <http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/news/media-releases-2016/20160404a.asp>].

Panama Canal – draft restrictions



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory announcing that, effective 29 April, the maximum authorized transit draft will be 11.74m (38.5 feet) Tropical Fresh Water (TFW). Vessels arriving with drafts in excess of the limits may be allowed to transit subject to safety considerations. **Advisory 14-2016** (4/1/16) [located at <https://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2016/a-14-2016.pdf>].

Panama Canal – BAPLIE filing requirements for container vessels



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory modifying the BAPLIE filing requirements for full container vessels. **Advisory 15-2016** (4/1/16) [located at <https://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2016/a-15-2016.pdf>].

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

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