

Headlines:

Upper Mississippi – closure following barge breakaway;
USCG – 2016 NPREP Guidelines;
USCG – discharge removal equipment;
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DOJ – operator sentenced to pay \$950,000;
TRB & CMTS – R&D Conference;
USN – female recruits issued Dixie cups;
EMSA – dispersant testing and approval;
Panama Canal – lock outage; and
Panama Canal – March operations.

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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. Be the person that your dog thinks you are.

Upper Mississippi – closure following barge breakaway



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that the Upper Mississippi River has been closed to navigation between mile marker 30 and mile marker 44 following a towboat's allision with the Thebes Railroad Bridge. The allision caused the 30 barges that the towboat was pushing to break away. One of those barges reportedly struck another towboat and a barge carrying soybeans is reportedly sinking. The incident is under investigation. [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2806142/>]. A [second news release](#) states that the river closure has been extended to mile marker 20. (4/6/16) [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2806382/>].

USCG – 2016 NPREP Guidelines



The USCG Office of Marine Environmental Response (CG-MER) issued a Marine Safety Information Bulletin announcing release of the 2016 National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (NPREP) Guidelines. The revised guidelines better align policy with existing regulations and improve interagency consistency. The new guidelines incorporate salvage, marine firefighting, and non-tank vessel requirements. **MER-MSIB 2016-002** (4/5/16) [located at http://www.brymar-consulting.com/wp-content/uploads/Misc/MER_MSIB_2016-002.pdf].

USCG – discharge removal equipment



The US Coast Guard promulgated a rule finalizing the 1993 interim rule requiring vessels carrying oil in bulk to carry discharge removal equipment, install spill prevention coamings, and install emergency towing arrangements. The final rule enters into effect on 9 May. **81 Fed. Reg. 20247** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-04-07/pdf/2016-07977.pdf>] (4/7/16). *Note: I had the distinct honor of supervising the dedicated individuals on the Coast Guard's OPA 90 Staff in the development and promulgation of the interim rule.*

USCG – NOAD and AIS information



The US Coast Guard promulgated a final rule implementing, effective immediately, the information collection requirements of its 30 January 2015 rule regarding vessel requirements for notices of arrival and departure (NOAD) and Automatic Identification System (AIS) information. **81 Fed. Reg. 20250** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-04-07/pdf/2016-07958.pdf>] (4/7/16).

DOJ – operator sentenced to pay \$950,000



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** stating that the operator of the tanker B. Sky has been sentenced to a fine of \$750,000, a community service payment of \$200,000, and two years' probation for failing to maintain an accurate oil record book (ORB) and making false statements to the US Coast Guard. The tanker's chief engineer also pled guilty to causing the maintenance of a faulty ORB. (4/5/16) [located at <https://www.justice.gov/usao->

hi/pr/korean-company-fined-750000-and-make-200000-community-service-payment-illegal-discharge].

TRB & CMTS – R&D Conference



The Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) issued a **bulletin** announcing that 13 April is the last day to receive up to a \$100 reduction in the registration rate for the Fourth Biennial TRB-CMTS Research and Development Conference, being held on 21-23 June in Washington, DC. (4/4/16) [located at <http://www.cmts.gov/Bulletin.aspx?id=114>].

USN – female recruits issued Dixie cups



The US Navy issued a **news release** stating that the first female recruits at Recruit Training Command were issued their new enlisted white hats, or Dixie cups, as part of the Navy's efforts for uniformity in service members' uniform. The rest of the enlisted female E1-E6 Sailors have until Oct. 31 to begin wearing their Dixie cups. (4/5/16) [located at http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=94019].

EMSA – dispersant testing and approval



The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) issued a **notice** announcing availability of the paper “Overview of National Dispersant Testing and Approval Policies in the EU”. (4/5/16) [located at <http://www.emsa.europa.eu/emsa-homepage/2-news-a-press-centre/news/2671-overview-of-national-dispersant-testing-and-approval-policies-in-the-eu.html>].

Panama Canal – lock outage



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory stating that the east lane of Gatun Locks will be out of service from 1800, 9 April until 0600, 10 April to perform scheduled dry chamber maintenance work. Transit Reservation System Condition 1.a will be in effect on 10 April. **Advisory 16-2016** (4/5/16) [located at <https://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2016/a-16-2016.pdf>].

Panama Canal – March operations



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory summarizing Canal operations for March. It also includes the schedule of locks maintenance outages for the remainder of the fiscal year. **Advisory 17-2016** (4/6/16) [located at <https://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2016/a-17-2016.pdf>].

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

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