

## Headlines:

USCG – AIS reminder;

USCG – NVIC 02-16;

USCG – safety management systems;

FMC – summary of recent meeting;

Middle East – merchant ships participate in IMCMEX;

UK – loss of cement carrier and 8 crew;

Germany – message in a bottle recovered;

Earth Day – 22 April 2016; and

MREN – verified gross mass.

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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 – AIS reminder**



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** reminding stakeholders that the expanded Automatic Identification System (AIS) requirements entered into effect on 7 April. Most commercial vessels operating on US waterways are now required to have and utilize AIS while underway. (4/21/16) [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2812058/>]. *Note: The final rule was promulgated on 30 January 2015, but final approval by OMB for the recordkeeping and reporting requirements was delayed until 7 April 2016.*

## USCG – NVIC 02-16



The US Coast Guard posted its long-awaited Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NIC) entitled “Inspection Guidance for Sail Rigging and Masts on Inspected Sailing Vessels”. The NVIC also provides guidance regarding preventive maintenance. **NVIC 02-16** (4/13/16) [located at [http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/nvic/pdf/2016/NVIC\\_02-16\\_sail\\_rigging.pdf](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/nvic/pdf/2016/NVIC_02-16_sail_rigging.pdf)].

## USCG – safety management systems



The **Spring 2016** edition of the Proceedings of the USCG Marine Safety and Security Council has been published. This issue focuses on safety management systems. (4/21/16) [located at <http://www.uscg.mil/proceedings/archive/2016/>].

## FMC – summary of recent meeting



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a **news release** summarizing the Commissioners’ meeting. They were briefed on the work of the Supply Chain Innovation Team. The FMC also seeks comments on two of its current rulemakings: Optional Method for Filing Carrier and MTO Agreements and Modernizing Rules of Practice and Procedure. (4/20/16) [located at <http://www.fmc.gov/NR16-06/>].

## Middle East – merchant ships participate in IMCMEX



The US Navy issued a **news release** stating that more than 30 merchant vessels and cruise ships are participating with warships from more than thirty nations in the international Mine Countermeasures Exercise (IMCMEX) in waterways of the Middle East. (4/21/16) [located at [http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story\\_id=94318](http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=94318)].

## UK – loss of cement carrier and 8 crew



The UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) issued the report of its investigation of the capsizing and sinking of the cement carrier

Cemfjord in the Pentland Firth, Scotland on 2-3 January 2015 with the loss of all eight crew members. Investigation revealed that the vessel capsized in extraordinarily violent sea conditions caused by gale force winds and a strong opposing tidal stream. Such conditions are commonly experienced within Pentland Firth, were predictable, and could have been avoided by effective passage planning. The master's decision to proceed at that time was probably influenced by actual or perceived commercial pressures and his personal determination to succeed. **Report 8-2016** (4/21/16) [located at <https://www.gov.uk/maib-reports/capsize-and-sinking-of-cement-carrier-cemfjord-with-loss-of-8-lives>].

### Germany – message in a bottle recovered



Discovery News issued a **news release** stating that the oldest known message in a bottle has been recovered. The bottle with a postcard was released by a marine research institute in Plymouth, England 108 years ago. It was found on a beach in the North Friesen islands of Germany. (4/20/16) [located at <http://news.discovery.com/history/oldest-message-in-a-bottle-discovered-160420.htm>].

### Earth Day – 22 April 2016



Today marks the forty-sixth anniversary of the recognition of **Earth Day**, intended to increase our awareness of the complexity and interdependence of life. A lot has changed in those 46 years. There have been a number of ecological success stories, such as the increase in the number of bald eagles. Other species, such as the North Atlantic right whale, remain at risk. Do your part today. And, if you are aware of another Earth nearby, please share.

### MREN – Verified gross mass



In the April 2016 edition of Maritime Reporter and Engineering News, you can find my article entitled "**Verified gross mass**". In the article, I discuss prior marine casualties in which significant disparities between the declared mass of shipping containers and their actual mass was a factor; the 2014 amendment to the SOLAS Convention requiring shippers to provide to the master (prior to loading) the verified gross mass of each container; and the currently unresolved process issues required for completion of this upcoming task. (4/20/16). *Note: The link in yesterday's newsletter was erroneous. My bad!*

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