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FMC - \$840,000 in compromise payments;
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Malta – not keeping the watch;
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UK – girting and capsize of mooring launch; and
Blog – algorithm-free zone.

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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. A website recently asked if I accept cookies; I replied chocolate chip.

NOAA – US Coast Pilot warning



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a **notice** warning that incomplete and otherwise inaccurate reproductions of the US Coast Pilot are being sold commercially. Mariners should avoid purchasing or using these reproductions. The reproductions are generally incomplete or inaccurate, with the result that the mariner may not learn of dangers that could be avoided with a complete and accurate Coast Pilot. Additionally, federal regulations require carriage of official US Coast Pilots. Failure to comply with that requirement subjects the mariner to civil penalties.

(5/12/16) [<http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/documents/Incomplete-or-inaccurate-USCP-reproductions.pdf>].

Gulf of Mexico – offshore oil discharge



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that an estimated 88,200 gallons of crude oil has reportedly been discharged from a subsea well-head flow line in the Gulf of Mexico approximately 90 miles south of Timbalier Island, Louisiana. The source of the discharge has been secured. Clean-up and containment operations have begun. The incident is under investigation. (5/12/16) [<http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2821046/>].

USCG – lessons learned on the OCS



The USCG Outer Continental Shelf National Center of Expertise (OCSNCOE) posted two **Lessons Learned** on the outer continental shelf (OCS). The first concerns the proper use of the Well Specific Operating Guide (WSOG) to drive operational decision making. The second convers and inadvertent button-push and risk identification in the Job Safety Analysis. (5/12/16) [<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/ocsncoe/LessonsLearned.asp>].

FMC – meeting on 19 May



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a **news release** stating that the Commissioners will meet on 19 May in Washington, DC. During the open session, there will be an update of existing and addition of new user fees. During the closed session, there will be staff briefings on the COSCON/KL/YMUK/Hanjin/ELISA Slot Allocation and Sailing Agreement and on the West Coast MTO Discussion Agreement. (5/12/16) [http://www.fmc.gov/Meeting_5-19-2016/].

FMC – \$840,000 in compromise payments



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a **news release** stating that it has completed compromise agreements recovering a total of \$840,000 in civil penalties from five ocean transportation intermediaries. (5/12/16) [<http://www.fmc.gov/NR16-09/>].

DHS – Protected Critical Infrastructure Information Program



The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) seeks comment on its plans to update its regulations concerning Procedures for Handling Critical Infrastructure Information. Listening sessions will be held in Arlington, Virginia on 12 May, 17 May, and 19 May. Written comments must be submitted by 20 July. **81 Fed. Reg. 29799** [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-05-13/pdf/2016-11338.pdf>] (5/13/16).

CBP – quarterly interest rates



The US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issued a notice stating that the interest rates for the quarter beginning on 1 April 2016 for overpayments will be 3% for corporations and 4% for non-corporations and the interest rate for underpayments will be 4% for both. **81 Fed. Reg. 29879** [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-05-13/pdf/2016-11376.pdf>] (5/13/16).

CMTS – Infrastructure Week



The Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) issued a **bulletin** stating that Infrastructure Week will be held on 16-23 May 2016. It is a collaborative effort by businesses, civic groups, organizations, and other infrastructure stakeholders to bring awareness to the importance of infrastructure in the nation. (5/11/16) [<http://www.cmts.gov/Bulletin.aspx?id=117>].

Australia – aircraft debris examination



The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) issued the report of its examination of two items of debris recovered from beaches in South Africa and Mauritius. The segment of aircraft engine cowling and the segment of aircraft interior panel were both found to be consistent with segments utilized on Malaysian Airlines Berhad Boeing 777 aircraft. The debris were almost certainly from the aircraft registered 9M-MRO, which was declared missing on 8 March 2014 and may have crashed in the Indian Ocean. **AE-2014-054** (5/12/16) [http://www.atSB.gov.au/media/5770425/debris-examination-mh370_12may2016no2.pdf].

Malta – not keeping the watch



Transport Malta released the report of its investigation into the collision between the vehicle carrier Tongala and the general cargo ship Bo Spring off the Philippines on 7 May 2015. The officer of the watch (OOW) on the vehicle carrier, who was the sole lookout, spent an extended amount of time prior to the collision in the chart room preparing for the vessel's next voyage. The vessel's radars were all set for an off-center display and their collision alarms were turned off. The OOW was unaware of the Bo Spring's approach until the collision. The owner of the Bo Spring did not cooperate with the investigation. **Report 07-2016** (5/11/16)

[https://mti.gov.mt/en/Document%20Repository/MSIU%20Documents/Investigations%202015/MV%20Tongala_Final%20Safety%20Investigation%20Report.pdf].

Panama Canal – third draft restriction postponed



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory announcing that the Canal's third draft restriction has been further postponed until 6 June. Through 5 June, the maximum authorized transit draft will remain at 11.74m (38.5 feet). Effective 6 June, the maximum authorized transit draft will be 11.59m (38.0 feet). **Advisory 25-2016** (5/11/16)

[<https://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2016/a-25-2016.pdf>].

UK – girting and capsizing of mooring launch



The UK Marine Accident Investigation Board (MAIB) issued the report of its investigation into the girting and capsizing of the mooring launch Asterix in Southampton on 30 March 2015. Asterix was assisting a small chemical tanker to maneuver from berth, when it girted and capsized. The deckhand and coxswain survived, but it was a near thing for the coxswain. Investigation revealed that the coxswain had not been advised that the tanker was about to come ahead and thus was unable to maneuver appropriately. The tanker's master, the pilot, and the coxswain did not share a common understanding of the plan. The launch crew was not sufficiently trained in the use of the manually operated towing hook emergency release under load conditions. **Report 10-2016** (5/12/16) [https://assets.digital.cabinet-office.gov.uk/media/5732fa7440f0b614a1000008/MAIBInvReport10_2016.pdf]

Blog – algorithm-free zone



The general press is reporting that Facebook may not be exclusively utilizing an algorithm to select the news articles included in its “What’s Trending” section, a report that Facebook will not confirm. Not only do I not use an algorithm to select the items for my blog, I had to use Spellcheck for the spelling. I looked on the internet and learned that the algorithm was invented by Al Gore to count votes in Florida. Rest assured that I have not hired Al Gore. Rather, I personally select each and every item in my blog – which revelation should cause many subscribers to reconsider!

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

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