

Headlines:

USCG – GPS HDOP advisory;
GLPAC – meeting on 14 June;
NTSB – meeting on 7 June;
DOE – LNG export authorization;
DOJ – proposed consent decree;
FCC – Class D VHF-DSC equipment waiver request;
House – bill introduced re Working Waterfront Task Force;
Senate – bill introduced re spills from foreign offshore units;
IMO – temporary pragmatic approach to VGM rule;
IMO – Day of the Seafarer; and
Canada – VGM reminder.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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USCG – GPS HDOP advisory



The USCG Navigation Center (NAVCEN) issued a **notice** stating that users of the Global Positioning System (GPS) in the vicinity of southern Chile, southern Argentina, and the Falkland Islands may experience short periods of high horizontal dilution of precision (HDOP) at various times between 262300Z and 271100Z due to satellite maintenance. (5/23/16)
[http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=HDOP_Event_May2016].

GLPAC – meeting on 14 June



The Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee (GLPAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 14 June in Romulus, Michigan. Topics on the agenda include: status of rulemakings; weighing factors; pilot compensation; and applicant pilot requirements. **81 Fed. Reg. 32767** (5/24/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-05-24/pdf/2016-12153.pdf>].

NTSB – meeting on 7 June



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) will meet in Washington, DC on 7 June. Among the items on the agenda will be the marine accident report for the collision between the bulk carrier Conti Peridot and the tanker Carla Maersk in the Houston Ship Channel on 9 March 2015. **81 Fed. Reg. 32791** (5/24/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-05-24/pdf/2016-12263.pdf>].

DOE – LNG export authorization



The Department of Energy (DOE) issued a notice concerning various orders granting authority to import and export natural gas. **81 Fed. Reg. 32742** (5/24/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-05-24/pdf/2016-12281.pdf>].

DOJ – proposed consent decree



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a notice stating that comment is sought on a proposed consent decree involving various defendants for payment of \$880,000 for damages arising from discharges of oil from former marine oil terminals in Hampton, Maine. Comments must be received within 30 days. **81 Fed. Reg. 32777** (5/24/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-05-24/pdf/2016-12170.pdf>].

FCC – Class D VHF-DSC equipment waiver request



The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a **Public Notice** seeking comment on a request of the US Coast Guard for a blanket waiver to permit all US-flag Subpart S and W passenger-carrying vessels that do not travel internationally to use Class D equipment to satisfy the VHF-DSC carriage requirement, provided that the radio contains integral Global Positioning System capabilities or is connected to an electronic position-fixing device. Comment is also sought on whether such a waiver should be extended to Subpart W fishing vessels. Comments must be received by 20 June. (5/19/16)

[http://www.brymar-consulting.com/wp-content/uploads/Misc/VHF-DSC_waiver_160519.pdf]. *Note: This item was brought to my attention by my good friend Richard Hiscock of **Off Soundings**.*

House – bill introduced re Working Waterfront Task Force



Representative Pingree (D-ME) introduced the **Keep America's Waterfront Working Act** (H.R. 5277) to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to establish a Working Waterfront Task Force and a working waterfronts grant program, and for other purposes. Representative Pingree issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (5/18/16)

[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114hr5277ih/pdf/BILLS-114hr5277ih.pdf>].

Senate – bill introduced re spills from foreign offshore units



Senator Murkowski (R-AK) introduced the **Foreign Spill Protection act of 2016** (S. 2951) to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to impose penalties and provide for the recovery of removal costs and damages in connection with certain discharges of oil from foreign offshore units, and for other purposes. Senator Murkowski issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (5/18/16)

[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114s2951is/pdf/BILLS-114s2951is.pdf>].

IMO – temporary pragmatic approach to VGM rule



The IMO issued a **news release** stating that the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 96) approved a new circular (to be posted soon) providing

further guidance on the verified gross mass (VGM) requirement for shipment of loaded containers. In particular, it recommends that port state control (PSC) officers take a ‘practical and pragmatic approach’ when enforcing the VGM requirement for a period of three months immediately following the 1 July effective date of the regulation to allow time for refinement of procedures for documenting, communicating, and sharing electronic VGM data. (5/23/16) [<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/14-VGM.aspx>].

IMO – Day of the Seafarer



Each year, June 25 is celebrated globally as the Day of the Seafarer. One focus of this year’s official United Nations observance day is “**A Career at Sea**”. (5/23/16) [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ol81XTnHBz8&feature=youtu.be>].

Canada – VGM reminder



Transport Canada issued a ship safety bulletin (SSB) reminding stakeholders that, effective 1 July, packed shipping containers may not be loaded on ships for international transport without the master being provided the container’s verified gross mass (VGM). **SSB 04-2016** (5/15/16) [<http://www.tc.gc.ca/media/documents/marinesafety/SSB-04-2016E.pdf>].

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

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