

Headlines:

USCG – NVIC 07-14 Change 1;
USCG – Alternative Planning Criteria update;
DOC – US port competitiveness initiative;
FMC – user fee update proposal;
House – bill introduced re innocent passage;
Senate – bill introduced re innocent passage;
Senate – bill introduced to honor WWII merchant mariners;
Senate – funding for polar icebreaker;
China – caution re Zhejiang Coast area;
UK – CoC and CEC verification; and
Sinking of RMS Empress of Ireland – 29 May 1914.

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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.

USCG – NVIC 07-14 Change 1



The US Coast Guard issued a change to its Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) providing guidelines for qualification for STCW endorsements as Rating Forming Part of an Engineering Watch (RFPEW).

NVIC 07-14 CH-1 (5/4/16)

[http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/announcements/pdfs/nvic_07-14_rfpew_final_with_change_1_20160504.pdf].

USCG – Alternative Planning Criteria update



The US Coast Guard seeks comments on its draft update to the Alternative Planning Criteria (APC) National Guidelines. Comments must be submitted by 25 August. **81 Fed. Reg. 33685** (5/27/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-05-27/pdf/2016-12624.pdf>].

DOC – US port competitiveness initiative



The Department of Commerce (DOC) seeks input on US seaport efficiency and competitiveness issues for its 21st Century US Port Competitiveness Initiative. It is particularly interested in views regarding the most important challenges and opportunities facing US port-related operations and efficiencies and best practices. Comments should be submitted by 11 July. **81 Fed. Reg. 33657** (5/27/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-05-27/pdf/2016-12551.pdf>].

FMC – user fee update proposal



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) proposes to amend its user fees. Comments on the proposal are due by 27 June. **81 Fed. Reg. 33637** (5/27/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-05-27/pdf/2016-12326.pdf>].

House – bill introduced re innocent passage



Representative Pompeo (R-KS) introduced a bill (H.R. 5333) to impose sanctions in relation to violations by Iran of the Geneva Convention (III) or the right under international law to conduct innocent passage, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (5/25/16).

Senate – bill introduced re innocent passage



Senator Cornyn (R-TX) introduced a bill (S. 2984) to impose sanctions in relation to violations by Iran of the Geneva Convention (III) or the

right under international law to conduct innocent passage, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (5/25/16).

Senate – bill introduced to honor WWII merchant mariners



Senator Murkowski (R-AK) introduced a bill (S. 2989) to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (5/25/16).

Senate – funding for polar icebreaker



Senator Murkowski (R-AK) issued a [press release](#) stating that the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee added \$1 billion to the draft Defense Appropriations Act to fully fund construction of a new polar icebreaker. The bill now goes to the full Senate Appropriations Committee for consideration. (5/24/16)

[<http://www.murkowski.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=967B271A-18B7-4201-B9FB-90F1F1BEA121>].

China – caution re Zhejiang Coast area



The Chinese Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) issued a [safety notification](#) reminding mariners operating off the Zhejiang Coast (central part of mainland China) that this area is heavily trafficked by a wide variety of vessels and experiences adverse weather and sea conditions. Mariners should exercise caution when operating in this area. (5/26/16)

[<http://en.msa.gov.cn/index.php?m=content&c=index&a=show&catid=343&id=186>].

UK – CoC and CEC verification



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) established a [website](#) that enables national administrations, shipping companies, and crewing agents to verify the validity and authenticity of UK Certificates of Competency (CoC) and Certificates of Equivalent Competency (CEC). (5/26/16)

[<https://mcanet.mcga.gov.uk/public/coc-2007-2/index.asp>].

Sinking of RMS Empress of Ireland – 29 May 1914



On 29 May 1914, the passenger ship RMS Empress of Ireland collided with the coal ship Storstad in the St. Lawrence River in heavy fog. The passenger ship sank within 15 minutes. Of the 1,477 passengers and crew on board, 1,012 perished, making it Canada's worst peacetime marine disaster. The subsequent investigation into the incident was largely inconclusive due to the conflicting testimony of the witnesses, but Canadian Pacific Railway, the owner of the passenger ship, ultimately won an award of \$2 million damages from the owner of the coal ship.

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

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