

## Headlines:

USCG – voluntary fuel sampling program;  
USCG – MSC Plan Review Guidelines;  
CMTS & TRB – R&D Conference 21-23 June;  
NOAA – coral bleaching;  
NOAA – program performance evaluations;  
Guam – hazardous waste storage;  
House – bill introduced to improve maritime transportation;  
Senate – bill introduced re marine mammal rescue;  
Panama Canal – trial transit; and  
Panama Canal – new tariffs for neopanamax locks.

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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. Human beings are remarkable for their disinclination to learn from the experience of others.*

## USCG – voluntary fuel sampling program



The US Coast Guard issued a **notice** regarding the USCG/EPA voluntary fuel sampling program. During this program, two samples each were obtained from 47 vessels to assess compliance with the low sulfur fuel requirement of MARPOL Annex VI. Of the 74 samples, all but nine were in full compliance. Eight of the non-compliant samples were only marginally non-compliant and were within a statistical confidence interval that could possibly be the result of error in the analysis itself. The remaining sample, taken from a fuel tank, came back at 0.387% sulfur, while the sample taken from the fuel line of the same vessel tested below 0.1%. Examiners concluded that this sample had been contaminated. The Coast Guard does not intend to extend the voluntary fuel sampling program, but thanks the participants. (6/21/16)

[<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2016/06/21/6212016-update-from-rear-adm-thomas-on-the-voluntary-fuel-sampling-program/>].

## USCG – MSC Plan Review Guidelines



The US Coast Guard issued a **notice** stating that the Marine Safety Center (MSC) has updated its Plan Review Guidelines for: E2-08, “Emergency Generators/Switchboard”; E2-11, “Electrical Plans – Barges”; and H1-15, “Review of Masts and Rigging Systems for Sailing Vessels”. (6/21/16)

[<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2016/06/21/6212016-marine-safety-center-updates/>].

## CMTS & TRB – R&D Conference 21-23 June



The Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) issued a **bulletin** announcing that the Fourth Biennial TRB-CMTS Research and Development Conference, “From Sail to Satellite: Delivering Solutions for Tomorrow’s MTS” is being held on 21-23 June in Washington, DC. (6/21/16) [<http://www.cmts.gov/Bulletin.aspx?id=119>].

## NOAA – coral bleaching



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a **news release** addressing the risk posed to US coral reefs by warming ocean temperatures. This is expected to be the third year in a row of higher-than-normal sea temperatures, and there are no signs that the trend is changing. The higher temperatures lead to coral bleaching and death, adversely impacting the local ecosystem. (6/20/26) [<http://www.noaa.gov/us-coral-reefs-facing-warming-waters-increased-bleaching>].

## NOAA – program performance evaluations



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice stating that it seeks public input on the performance evaluations of the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Mississippi; the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve in New Jersey; and Alabama Coastal Area Management Program. Public meetings will be held in Moss Point, MS (24 August); Tuckerton, NJ (16 August); and Spanish Fort, AL (10 August). Written comments must be received by 19 August. **81 Fed. Reg.**

40676 (6/22/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-06-22/pdf/2016-14607.pdf>].

### Guam – hazardous waste storage



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a **news release** stating that it reached an agreement with the US Navy and Guam Industrial Services for hazardous waste storage issues at the Guam Shipyard at Apra Harbor. Among other things, the agreement calls for removal of an abandoned vessel grounded in the harbor. (6/21/16) [<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/us-epa-requires-proper-hazardous-waste-handling-guam-shipyard>].

### House – bill introduced to improve maritime transportation



Representative Hunter (R-CA) introduced a bill (H.R. 5531) to amend title 46, United States Code, to improve maritime transportation, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (6/20/16).

### Senate – bill introduced re marine mammal rescue



Senator Cantwell (D-WA) introduced the **Marine Mammal Research and Response Act of 2016** (S. 3059) to reauthorize and amend the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue and Response Grant Program and for other purposes. (6/15/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114s3059is/pdf/BILLS-114s3059is.pdf>].

### Panama Canal – trial transit



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued a **press release** stating that it conducted another successful trial transit of the Expanded Canal, maneuvering a vessel through the Pacific-facing Cocoli Locks. Inauguration of the expanded Canal will take place on Sunday, 26 June with the transit of the COSCO Shipping Panama. (6/20/16) [<https://www.pancanal.com/eng/pr/press-releases/2016/06/20/pr594.html>].

## Panama Canal – new tariffs for neopanamax locks



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory announcing new tariffs for tug and line handler services for the neopanamax locks. [Advisory 35-2016](#) (6/20/16)  
[<https://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2016/a-35-2016.pdf>].

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