

Headlines:

FMC – VGM agreement approved;
SLSDC – civil penalty adjustment;
DOE – authorization to export LNG;
NOAA – Maui and Kona reef manta ray;
NOAA – smooth hammerhead shark;
USN – Panama Canal Expansion ceremony; and
UK – approved VGM weighers.

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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.

FMC – VGM agreement approved



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a [news release](#) stating that the Commissioners voted unanimously to allow the Port Operations and Safety Discussion Agreement to go into effect on 1 July. The Agreement, between six operating port authorities on the US Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, permits them to take the weight of a container determined at the terminal gate and report it to an ocean carrier as the verified gross mass (VGM) for purposes of the recent change to the SOLAS Convention. (6/27/16)
[<http://www.fmc.gov/NR16-10/>].

SLSDC – civil penalty adjustment



The Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) promulgated an interim final rule updating the maximum civil penalty amounts for violations of Seaway statutes and regulations in order to account for inflation. The changes enter into effect on 28 July. **81 Fed. Reg. 41817** (6/28/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-06-28/pdf/2016-15118.pdf>].

DOE – authorization to export LNG



The Department of Energy (DOE) issued a notice listing its most recent orders granting and denying authority to import and export natural gas and LNG. **81 Fed. Reg. 41965** (6/28/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-06-28/pdf/2016-15314.pdf>].

NOAA – Maui and Kona reef manta ray



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice announcing that a recently received petition to list the Maui and Kona reef manta ray populations as threatened distinct population segments does not present substantial scientific evidence that either group may qualify as a distinct population segment. **81 Fed. Reg. 41958** (6/28/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-06-28/pdf/2016-15201.pdf>].

NOAA – smooth hammerhead shark



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice stating its 12-month finding on a petition to list the smooth hammerhead shark as threatened or endangered. Based on the best scientific and commercial information available, NOAA has concluded that the smooth hammerhead shark is not currently in danger of extinction and is not likely to become so within the foreseeable future. **81 Fed. Reg. 41934** (6/28/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-06-28/pdf/2016-15200.pdf>].

USN – Panama Canal Expansion ceremony



The US Navy issued a **news release** stating that a Panama Canal Expansion ceremony was conducted on board the dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51) in port in Balboa, Panama. The ceremony was attended by Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden, the US Ambassador to Panama, and the Commander, US Southern Command, among others. (6/27/16)

[http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=95407].

UK – approved VGM weighers



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) issued a **notice** listing the organizations whose method for determining the verified gross mass (VGM) of a packed container has been approved by the MCA for method 2 under the applicable SOLAS standard. (6/27/16)

[<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/solas-container-weight-method-2-mca-approved-weighing>].

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

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