

Headlines:

DOJ – ocean carrier to pay \$98.9 million fine;
USCG – BWMS denial letters;
Great Lakes – tall ships safety zones;
Marina del Rey – anchorage regulations;
House – bill introduced re maritime security assistance;
Senate – bill introduced re taxation and oil spills;
Senate – bill introduced re oil spill costs;
GAO – USCG Arctic capability gaps;
CRS – Navy’s new weapons systems;
South China Sea – Chinese lighthouses; and
UK – master & first officer convicted of drug smuggling.

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Bryant’s Maritime News

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DOJ – ocean carrier to pay \$98.9 million fine



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** announcing that the ocean carrier Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics (WVL) has agreed to

plead guilty in federal court and pay a \$98.9 million criminal fine for its involvement in a conspiracy to fix prices for international ocean shipments of ro-ro cargo. (7/13/16) [<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/wwl-pay-989-million-fixing-prices-ocean-shipping-services-cars-and-trucks>].

USCG – BWMS denial letters



The US Coast Guard posted its **denial letters** in the appeals of four ballast water management system (BWMS) manufacturers who sought USCG type approval of their technological approaches, contending that they were equivalent to the approach provided for in the applicable regulations. In addition to the four virtually identical denial letters, the 211-page document includes a 64-page test report from the Naval Research Laboratory. (7/12/16) [<https://www.uscg.mil/foia/docs/FINAL-AG.pdf>].

Great Lakes – tall ships safety zones



The US Coast Guard promulgated a rule establishing, through 12 September, temporary safety zones around each tall ship visiting the Great Lakes during the Tall Ships Challenge 2016 race series. **81 Fed. Reg. 45414** (7/14/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-07-14/pdf/2016-16711.pdf>].

Marina del Rey – anchorage regulations



The US Coast Guard has clarified some language regarding its proposed changes to the anchorage regulations for Marina del Rey Harbor. Comments on the proposal must be received by 15 August. **81 Fed. Reg. 45428** (7/14/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-07-14/pdf/2016-16713.pdf>].

House – bill introduced re maritime security assistance



Representative Ruiz (D-CA) introduced the **Stop Iran From Smuggling Weapons to Terrorists Act** (H.R. 5678) to authorize assistance and training to increase maritime security and domain awareness of foreign countries bordering the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, or the Mediterranean Sea in order to deter and counter illicit smuggling and related maritime activity by Iran, including illicit Iranian weapons shipments. (7/7/16)

[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114hr5678ih/pdf/BILLS-114hr5678ih.pdf>].

Senate – bill introduced re taxation and oil spills



Senator Menendez (D-NJ) introduced a bill (S. 3163) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require oil polluters to pay the full cost of oil spills, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (7/12/16).

Senate – bill introduced re oil spill costs



Senator Menendez (D-NJ) introduced a bill (S. 3165) to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to require oil polluters to pay the full cost of oil spills, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (7/12/16).

GAO – USCG Arctic capability gaps



The Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report on the Coast Guard's Arctic Strategy. It recommended that the agency take action to better assess how its actions could mitigate known Arctic capability gaps. **GAO-16-453** (7/12/16) [<http://www.gao.gov/assets/680/677855.pdf>].

CRS – Navy's new weapons systems



The Congressional Research Service (CRS) issued a report on Navy lasers, railguns, and hypervelocity projectiles. **R44175** (6/17/16) [<http://fas.org/sgp/crs/weapons/R44175.pdf>].

South China Sea – Chinese lighthouses



The Chinese Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) issued a **press release** stating that four of its five planned lighthouses in the South China Sea are now operational. (7/13/16) [<http://en.msa.gov.cn/index.php?m=content&c=index&a=show&catid=343&id=188>].

UK – master & first officer convicted of drug smuggling



The UK National Crime Agency (NCA) issued a **news release** stating that, after a jury trial, the master and first mate of an ocean-going tug were convicted of attempting to smuggle 3.2 tonnes of cocaine into the UK. The tug had been intercepted by a Royal Navy destroyer and a Border Force cutter in the North Sea in April 2015. After an extensive search, the cocaine was found in a hidden compartment in the ballast tank. (7/11/16)

[<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/885-guilty-verdicts-after-uk-s-biggest-ever-cocaine-seizure>].

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

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