

## Headlines:

Puerto Rico – passenger/cargo vessel on fire;  
Wisconsin – mysterious container found on beach;  
NTSB – Safer Seas Digest 2015;  
DOJ – fine and probation for second violation;  
BSEE – oil spill response calculators;  
Offshore California – wind energy RFI;  
NOAA – grants for species recovery projects;  
New Zealand – port & harbor marine code; and  
Adoption of OPA 90 – 18 August 1990.

August 18, 2016



# Bryant's Maritime News

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## **Puerto Rico – passenger/cargo vessel on fire**



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that fire broke out in the engine room of the passenger/cargo vessel Caribbean Fantasy enroute from the Dominican Republic to Puerto Rico with 511 persons on board. A major response effort has been initiated.

[<http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2875630/>] An **update** provides of the successful rescue efforts, involving personnel and assets from the Coast Guard, the marine police, fire, pilots, and commercial tugs, as well as the Puerto Rico Joint Forces of Action (FURA), Customs and Border Protection (CBP) marine units, and good Samaritans. The vessel has since grounded near Punta Salinas. A safety zone has been established. There are no reports of pollution. The incident is under investigation.

[<http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2875721/>] (8/17/16).

### **Wisconsin – mysterious container found on beach**



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that a mysterious small metal container, about the size of a deck of cards, was found on the beach at Poplar, Wisconsin. The container had what appeared to be radioactive markings. Following investigation by the Coast Guard and the Superior, Wisconsin Fire Department, it was determined that there was no emission of radioactivity. The container has since been removed for proper disposal. (8/17/16)

[<http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2875910/>].

### **NTSB – Safer Seas Digest 2015**



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued its **Safer Seas Digest 2015**, examining 29 major marine casualty investigations closed by the agency during the year and the lessons learned from each. (8/17/16)

[<http://www.nts.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Reports/SPC1601.pdf>].

### **DOJ – fine and probation for second violation**



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** stating that the operator of the tanker B. Pacific was sentenced to a criminal fine of \$275,000 and a term of three years' probation for failure to maintain an accurate oil record book (ORB). The company had been convicted four months previously of a similar crime. (8/16/16) [<https://www.justice.gov/usao-hi/pr/korean-company-fined-275000-second-violation-act-prevent-pollution-ships>].

## BSEE – oil spill response calculators



The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) issued a **press release** announcing the availability of four new oil spill response calculators in the preparation of spill response plans for offshore facilities. The calculators all spill responders to better assess the oil removal capabilities of different equipment and assist them in selecting the most effective approaches for responding to potential spill scenarios contained within the response plan. (8/17/16) [<https://www.bsee.gov/newsroom/latest-news/statements-and-releases/press-releases/oil-spill-response-planning-aided-by-new>].

## Offshore California – wind energy RFI



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a notice announcing the issuance of a Request for Interest (RFI) in a potential wind energy lease site on the US outer continental shelf (OCS) offshore California. Responses must be sent by 19 September. **81 Fed. Reg. 55228** (8/18/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-08-18/pdf/2016-19349.pdf>].

## NOAA – grants for species recovery projects



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a **media release** announcing the award of \$5.4 million in grants to coastal states and tribes to help in the recovery of endangered and threatened marine species. The calls for proposals for next year's awards are now open. (8/17/16) [<http://www.noaa.gov/media-release/noaa-awards-54-million-in-grants-for-endangered-threatened-species-recovery>].

## New Zealand – port & harbor marine code



Maritime New Zealand issued a **media release** stating that chief executives from New Zealand's port companies, councils, and MNZ are committing to a revised national port and harbor marine code to make shipping in commercial harbors safer. (8/17/16) [<http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/public/news/media-releases-2016/20160817a.asp>].

## Adoption of OPA 90 – 18 August 1990



On 18 August 1990, the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (**OPA 90**) was enacted into law. The measure was adopted by Congress in near-record time (for them)

following the grounding of and oil spill from the tanker Exxon Valdez in Prince William Sound, Alaska and several other high-visibility oil spills. Despite predictions of train wrecks and the threatened halting of oil shipments to US ports, its various remedial measures, including higher liability limits, double hulls on oil tankers, and oil spill response plans entered into effect over the next few years. The amount of oil entering the waters of the United States from vessels has been reduced significantly. The legislation also served as a model for efforts undertaken elsewhere to address the oil spill problem. I had the great honor of supervising an outstanding group of Coast Guard personnel and employees in developing regulations to implement many of its provisions.

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

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