

Headlines:

DOJ – chief engineer sentenced to prison;  
Memphis – river reopened with restrictions;  
USCG – Polar Ship Certificates;  
BOEM – OCS oil & gas leasing;  
IMO – small passenger ship safety;  
ReCAAP – abduction of crew;  
Malta – Picasso Project;  
UK – Royal Navy at risk; and  
UK – port freight statistics.

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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** 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. When I was young, I thought nap time was punishment; now I consider it a mini-vacation.*

## DOJ – chief engineer sentenced to prison



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** stating that the former chief engineer of the tanker Cielo di Milano was sentenced to eight months in prison for concealing the deliberate discharge of oily waste into the sea. (11/21/16) [<https://www.justice.gov/usao-nj/pr/senior-officer-italian-oil-tanker-sentenced-eight-months-prison-concealing-discharge-oily>].

## Memphis – river reopened with restrictions



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that the Mississippi River north of Memphis has been partially reopened to traffic following a barge breakaway. Of the 42 barges that broke away from their tow on Saturday, 38 have been secured and four remain grounded. The river, between mile markers 771 and 750 has been reopened to one-way traffic to downbound vessels. (11/21/16) [<http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2902082/>].

## USCG – Polar Ship Certificates



The USCG proposes to add a new Polar Ship Certificate to the list of existing certificates required to be carried on board all US and foreign-flag vessels subject to the SOLAS Convention and operating in Arctic and Antarctic waters, generally above 60° north and 60° south latitude lines. Additionally, the Coast Guard proposes to add this certificate to the list of SOLAS certificates that recognized classification societies are authorized to issue on behalf of the Coast Guard. Comments on this proposal must be submitted by 22 December. **81 Fed. Reg. 83786** (11/22/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-11-22/pdf/2016-27989.pdf>].

## BOEM – OCS oil & gas leasing



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a notice announcing the availability of the 2017-2011 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program. **81 Fed. Reg. 83870** (11/22/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-11-22/pdf/2016-28249.pdf>].

## IMO – small passenger ship safety



The Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) issued a **news release** advising that the upcoming session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 97) will consider, among other things, potential new safety criteria for small passenger ships engaged on international voyages. (11/21/16) [<http://www.dma.dk/news/Sider/PassengershipsafetyleveltobeconsideredbyIMO.aspx>].

## ReCAAP – abduction of crew



The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre issued an **Alert** regarding the increasing incidents of abduction of crew from ships while underway in the Sulu-Celebes Sea and eastern Sabah region. Ships operating in those waters are encouraged to adopt relevant preventative measures. (11/21/16) [[http://www.recaap.org/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/Download.aspx?Command=Core\\_Download&EntryId=463&PortalId=0&TabId=78](http://www.recaap.org/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/Download.aspx?Command=Core_Download&EntryId=463&PortalId=0&TabId=78)].

## Malta – Picasso Project



Transport Malta issued a **press release** stating that it is participating in the EC-funded Picasso Project aimed at preventing incidents and accidents for safer ships at sea. Transport Malta will organize a mass evacuation exercise in the port of Valletta. (11/18/16) [<http://www.transport.gov.mt/news/press-release-18-november-2016-tm-participates-in-picasso-project>].

## UK – Royal Navy at risk



The Defence Select Committee of the UK Parliament issued a **report** stating that the number of active warships in the Royal Navy could fall to a woefully low level unless there is a clear timetable for replacing older vessels. The Navy's surface fleet has fallen from 62 warships in 1985 to 22 warships today. A new aircraft carrier is scheduled for commissioning in 2017. (11/21/16) [<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/defence-committee/>].

## UK – port freight statistics



The UK Department for Transport (DfT) issued a **notice** announcing port freight statistics for 2015. Total tonnage levels decreased by 1% to 496.7 million tonnes. (11/21/16)

[<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/port-freight-statistics-2015-final-figures>].

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