

Headlines:

Gulf of Mexico – oil platform fire;
USCG – Regulations & Standards newsletter;
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SLSDC – Seaway Regulations and Rules;
SLSDC – Tariff of Tolls;
DOC – FTZ activity approved;
Court – marijuana possession;
Singapore – compulsory financial security re seafarers;
Singapore – updated MLC certification requirements; and
Singapore Strait – collision and oil spill.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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*Note: This newsletter is one section of the **Bryant's Maritime Consulting** 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. Save the Earth – it's the only planet with chocolate!*

Gulf of Mexico – oil platform fire



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that it is responding to a fire on an oil production platform in the Gulf of Mexico 80 miles south of Grand Isle. The four people on board evacuated into the water and were recovered by an offshore supply vessel. Firefighting efforts are underway. (1/5/17) [<http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2910798/>].

USCG – Regulations & Standards newsletter



The US Coast Guard posted the **Fall 2016 Newsletter** of the Commercial Regulations and Standards Division. This issue is focused on marine environmental protection with articles on lithium-ion batteries and ballast water management systems. (1/4/17)
[<https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg52/docs/2016fall.pdf>].

NOAA – buffer zone weakens hurricanes



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a **news release** stating that during periods of greater Atlantic hurricane activity, a protective barrier of vertical wind shear and cooler ocean temperatures forms along the US east coast, weakening storms as they approach land. (1/4/17)
[<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/news/periods-greater-atlantic-hurricane-activity-linked-weaker-us-landfalls>].

SLSDC – Seaway Regulations and Rules



The Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) proposes to amend the Seaway Regulations and Rules. Comments must be received by 6 February. **82 Fed. Reg. 1285** (1/5/17)
[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-01-05/pdf/2016-32000.pdf>].

SLSDC – Tariff of Tolls



The Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) proposes to amend the Tariff of Tolls. Comments must be received by 6 February. **82 Fed. Reg. 1287** (1/5/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-01-05/pdf/2016-32001.pdf>].

DOC – FTZ activity approved



The Department of Commerce (DOC) issued a notice stating that it has conditionally authorized the requested production activity of TopShip LLC in

the foreign trade zone (FTZ) at Gulfport. **82 Fed. Reg. 1316** (1/5/17)
[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-01-05/pdf/2016-32031.pdf>].

Court – marijuana possession



The US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld the decision of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) concerning the revocation of petitioner's aircraft registration certificate. The certificate was revoked after he was caught using his aircraft to transport marijuana, which he does not deny. On technical grounds, though, the evidence was suppressed at his criminal trial in state court. He contested the certificate revocation because he was never convicted of the offense. The court held that his actions were punishable under state and federal law. The aircraft registration statute does not require that the aircraft owner actually be punished for the offense. **Connors v. NTSB**, No. 15-70333 (9th Cir., January 4, 2017)

[<http://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2017/01/04/15-70333.pdf>].

Note: While this is not a maritime case, it highlights the tricky situation of possessing marijuana on a vessel in waters of a state where such possession is legal, but is illegal under federal law. Be careful out there!

Singapore – compulsory financial security re seafarers



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular reminding stakeholders of the requirement to provide compulsory financial security relating to repatriation of abandoned seafarers and work injury compensation. **Shipping Circular 03-2017** (1/4/17)

[<http://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/port-of-singapore/circulars-and-notices/detail/f634b481-cofe-4965-8cc5-e7d7adb9ed7a>].

Singapore – updated MLC certification requirements



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular reminding stakeholders of the requirement of the updated requirements for MLC 2006 certification. **Shipping Circular 04-2017** (1/4/17)

[<http://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/port-of-singapore/circulars-and-notices/detail/e31ebe6b-2850-4b09-9a36-bc6d5c60c78a>].

Singapore Strait – collision and oil spill



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a **news release** stating that the container vessels Wan Hai 301 and APL Denver collided in waters Pasir Gudang Port, Johor, Malaysia. Bunker fuel is reported spilling from APL Denver (1/4/17) [<http://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/media-centre/news-releases/detail/aba4760d-8e0e-430d-b632-8b05054ec797>]. A **second news release** states that the vessels are now berthed in port in stable condition. Response efforts to the oil spill are underway. The incident is under investigation. (1/5/17) [<http://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/media-centre/news-releases/detail/1ad47e86-a3c3-4b0b-8f86-42b242e8987d>]. A **third news release** states that the oil spill is impacting the western coastline of Singapore. Response efforts continue. [<http://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/media-centre/news-releases/detail/408c2e02-bb89-430a-a3d5-047007650ec5>].

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