

Headlines:

White House – reorganizing the Executive Branch;
DOJ – retired USN flag officer and others indicted;
USCG – Great Lakes Pilotage rates;
TSAC – meeting on 11-12 April;
DOT – GPS adjacent band compatibility;
St. Lawrence Seaway – SLSMC billing process;
California – SLC meeting on 23 March;
Indian Ocean – hijacking by pirates; and
MREN – Cabotage rule change proposed.

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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. Common sense is a flower that doesn't grow in everyone's garden.*

White House – reorganizing the Executive Branch



President Trump issued an **Executive Order** ordering the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to propose a plan to reorganize governmental functions and eliminate unnecessary agencies, components of agencies, and agency programs. (3/13/17) [<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/03/13/presidential-executive-order-comprehensive-plan-reorganizing-executive>].

DOJ – retired USN flag officer and others indicted



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** stating that a retired US Navy rear admiral and eight other naval officers have been indicted for trading classified information for bribes, including the services of prostitutes. (3/14/17) [<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/us-navy-admiral-and-eight-other-officers-indicted-trading-classified-information-massive>].

USCG – Great Lakes Pilotage rates



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** stating that the 2016 rates for Great Lakes Pilotage (GLP) will remain in effect while the agency works to finalize the 19 October 2016 notice of proposed rulemaking. (3/14/17) [<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2017/03/14/3142017-update-on-annual-glp-rates/>].

TSAC – meeting on 11-12 April



The Towing Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 11-12 April in Memphis. Topics on the agenda include: articulated tug/barge operations and manning; electronic charting systems; Subchapter M implementation; inland firefighting; and towing LNG barges. **82 Fed. Reg. 13828** (3/15/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-03-15/pdf/2017-05179.pdf>].

DOT – GPS adjacent band compatibility



The Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a notice stating that Global Positioning System Adjacent Band Compatibility Assessment Workshop VI will be held on 30 March in Washington, DC. The purpose of the workshop is to discuss the results from testing of various categories of GPS/Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) receivers. **82 Fed. Reg. 13924** (3/15/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-03-15/pdf/2017-05121.pdf>].

St. Lawrence Seaway – SLSMC billing process



The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System issued an **Advisory** stating with the opening of the 2017 navigation season the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation of Canada (SLSMC) has implemented a new process for billing and pre-clearance. All pre-clearance and transit declaration forms must be completed and submitted using online forms. (3/13/17)

[<http://www.greatlakes-seaway.com/en/news/customer-advisories/advisories/ca20170313.html>].

California – SLC meeting on 23 March



The California State Lands Commission (SLC) issued a **notice** stating that on 23 March in Wilmington it will conduct a Customer Service Meeting and a Marine Invasive Species Program Workshop. (3/9/17)
[<http://www.slc.ca.gov/Programs/MISP/SoCalCustSvcMtgLtrandAgenda.pdf>].

Indian Ocean – hijacking by pirates



The UK Maritime Trade Operations (MTO) issued an **advisory** stating that a motor vessel has been hijacked in position 1158N 05045E, off the North East coast of Puntland Somalia. (3/14/17)
[<https://www.ukmto.org/indian-ocean>]. *Note: Unofficial reports indicate that the vessel is the small oil tanker Aris 13 en route from Djibouti to Mogadishu.*

MREN – Cabotage rule change proposed



In the March 2017 edition of Maritime Reporter and Engineering News, you can find my article entitled **Cabotage rule change proposed**. The article discusses the change proposed by the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in the 18 January edition of its Customs Bulletin & Decision newsletter. Reversing a 40-year practice, the change would prohibit use of non-coastwise-qualified vessels in the transportation of pipeline repair material; anodes; pipeline connectors; wellhead equipment; valves and valve guards; damaged pipelines; platform repair material; and similar items from a US point to another US point. Comments on the proposal must be submitted by 18 April. I am disturbed by the use of the CBP newsletter to announce this significant proposed change rather than the Federal Register, which is the official method for an agency to communicate with the public and the regulated community. (3/14/17)
[<http://www.brymar-consulting.com/wp-content/uploads/MREN/MREN170300.pdf>].

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