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USCG & NTSB – MV Caribbean Fantasy formal investigation;
Jacksonville – RNA established;
USCG – to present at oil spill conference;
Senate – bill introduced re Maritime Washington Heritage Area;
Australia – exploding headphone;
Somalia – tanker pirated;
UK – maritime & shipping statistics;
AMOCO CADIZ oil spill – 16 March 1978; 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.

USCG & NTSB – MV Caribbean Fantasy formal investigation

The US Coast Guard issued a news release stating that a District Formal Investigation Hearing will be held in San Juan on 20-28 March to examine the circumstances surrounding the marine casualty involving the passenger/cargo ship Caribbean Fantasy on 17 August 2016 and the rescue of its 511 passengers and crew. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has joined the hearing to avoid duplicating the development of facts. (3/15/17) [https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/18da1ae].

Jacksonville – RNA established

The US Coast Guard promulgated a final rule establishing a regulated navigation area (RNA) covering the St. Marys Entrance Channel, portions of the Cumberland Sound, and the Atlantic Ocean out to twelve nautical miles that will be in effect whenever any Navy submarine (foreign or domestic) is escorted by the Coast Guard within the Sector Jacksonville Captain of the Port (COTP) Zone. The rule enters into effect on 17 April. 82 Fed. Reg. 13965 (3/16/17) [https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-03-16/pdf/2017-05229.pdf].

USCG – to present at oil spill conference

The US Coast Guard posted a bulletin stating that it will present on a number of topics related to oil spill response at the upcoming International Oil Spill Conference in Long Beach on 15-18 May. (3/15/17) [http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2017/03/15/3152017-coast-guard-to-present-at-iosc/].

Senate – bill introduced re Maritime Washington Heritage Area

Senator Cantwell (D-WA) introduced a bill (S. 627) to establish the Maritime Washington Heritage Area in the State of Washington, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (3/14/17).

Australia – exploding headphone

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) issued a news release stating that, on a recent flight from Beijing to Melbourne, a passenger was listening to music using a pair of her own battery-operated headphones. One of the batteries apparently exploded and the passenger suffered ear, face, and hair burns. (3/14/17) [http://www.atsb.gov.au/newsroom/news-items/2017/battery-explosion-mid-flight/]. *Note: While not maritime, this type of incident could also occur at sea. There is no mention of what song the passenger was listening to - probably heavy metal.*

Somalia – tanker pirated

The EU Naval Force issued a press release confirming that the oil tanker Aris 13 has been pirated off the north coast of Somalia. The tanker's

master confirmed that armed men are on the vessel and are demanding a ransom for release of the tanker and its crew. (3/14/17) [].

UK – maritime & shipping statistics

The UK Department for Transport (DfT) posted its collection of maritime and shipping statistics. (3/15/17) [https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/maritime-and-shipping-statistics].

AMOCO CADIZ oil spill – 16 March 1978

On 16 March 1978, the very large crude carrier (VLCC) AMOCO CADIZ lost steering in a Force 10 storm and grounded on Portsall Rocks off the coast of Brittany, France. As it broke up, the tanker lost its entire cargo of 1.6 million barrels of crude oil. The coastal areas in the vicinity were heavily impacted by the spill. After receiving limited compensation under the Civil Liability Compensation (CLC) and Funds Conventions, the Government of France brought suit in the United States against Amoco Oil Company, the parent company (twice removed) of the ship owner. The federal court awarded damages in favor of France, holding that the liability allocation and channeling provisions in the conventions were not applicable since the US was not party thereto. The CLC compensation limits were subsequently raised.

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]. *Note: At the request of a long-suffering reader, I am reporting this item with a link to the proposed CBP ruling. [http://www.brymar-consulting.com/wp-content/uploads/Misc/Proposed_ruling_170118.pdf].*

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