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USCG – BWM extended compliance dates;
NSIDC – Arctic sea ice at record low;
NOAA – nominations sought for HSRP;
Senate – bill introduced re Chinese sanctions;
Senate – bill introduced re labor slowdowns at ports;
Australia – PSC report 2016;
Denmark – historical AIS data;
India – prohibition of deep sea fishing;
Singapore – BWMC reminder; and
Exxon Valdez oil spill – 24 March 1989.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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USCG – BWM extended compliance dates



The US Coast Guard posted **revised highlights and tips for application** concerning extended compliance dates under its Ballast Water Management regulations (3/6/17) [[https://homeport.uscg.mil/cgi-bin/st/portal/uscg_docs/MyCG/Editorial/20170306/USCG%20BWM%20Extensions%20-%20Highlights%20and%20Tips%20for%20Application%20\(06March2017\).pdf?id=68672fd1046e359107841db93247d84ed29d2305&user_id=2a47d4dbfd24ce2da39438e736cab2d6](https://homeport.uscg.mil/cgi-bin/st/portal/uscg_docs/MyCG/Editorial/20170306/USCG%20BWM%20Extensions%20-%20Highlights%20and%20Tips%20for%20Application%20(06March2017).pdf?id=68672fd1046e359107841db93247d84ed29d2305&user_id=2a47d4dbfd24ce2da39438e736cab2d6)].

NSIDC – Arctic sea ice maximum at record low



The National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) issued a [news release](#) stating that Arctic sea ice appears to have reached its annual maximum extent on 7 March at 14.42 million square kilometers (5.57 million square miles). This is the lowest maximum in the 38-year satellite record. Data also indicates that this winter's ice was slightly thinner than previous years. (3/22/17) [<http://nsidc.org/arcticseaicenews/2017/03/arctic-sea-ice-maximum-at-record-low/>].

NOAA – nominations sought for HSRP



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice stating that it seeks nominations for membership on the Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP). Nominations must be submitted by 30 May. [82 Fed. Reg. 15044](#) (3/24/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-03-24/pdf/2017-05639.pdf>].

Senate – bill introduced re Chinese sanctions



Senator Rubio (R-FL) introduced the [South China Sea and East China Sea Sanctions Act of 2017](#) (S. 659) to impose sanctions with respect to the People's Republic of China in relation to activities in the South China Sea and the East China Sea, and for other purposes. Senator Rubio issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure. (3/15/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s659is/pdf/BILLS-115s659is.pdf>].

Senate – bill introduced re labor slowdowns at ports



Senator Risch (R-ID) introduced a bill (S. 702) to amend the National Labor Relations Act and the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947 to deter labor slowdowns at ports of the United States, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (3/22/17).

Australia – PSC report 2016



The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) posted its [Port State Control Report 2016](#). (3/23/17) [<http://www.amsa.gov.au/forms-and->

publications/international/publications/Ship-Safety/PSC-Annual-Reports/PSCREPORT-2016.pdf].

Denmark – historical AIS data



The Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) is making available **historical AIS data** from 2006-2014. (3/23/17) [].

India – prohibition of deep sea fishing



The Government of India issued an **order** establishing temporary prohibitions on deep sea fishing in waters off the east and west coasts of India outside the territorial sea. (3/23/17) [<http://dgshipping.gov.in/WriteReadData/News/201703230400247097932uniformbanonfishing23032017.pdf>].

Singapore – BWMC reminder



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular reminding stakeholders of pertinent provisions of the Ballast Water Management Convention 2004, which enters into force on 8 September 2017. **Shipping Circular 8-2017** (3/23/17) [<http://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/port-of-singapore/circulars-and-notice/detail/8424b965-c3b3-4192-98bc-a7ef9c5587da>].

EXXON VALDEZ oil spill – 24 March 1989



On 24 March 1989, the single-hull tanker **EXXON VALDEZ** was departing the Port of Valdez, Alaska with a full load of North Slope crude oil (approximately 1.26 million barrels) destined for Long Beach when it grounded on Bligh Reef in Prince William Sound. The resulting **oil spill** (approximately 258,000 barrels), while not the largest in US history, was clearly the most important. It engendered much litigation. Public concern over the spill led directly to enactment of the **Oil Pollution Act of 1990** (OPA 90), which mandated double hulls for new tankers, response plans, and a number of other remedial measures. OPA 90 also significantly changed the liability and compensation scheme for oil spills in US waters. The amount of oil entering waters of the United States from ships drastically decreased following implementation of OPA 90. *Note: On a personal note, I was directly involved in development and promulgation of regulations implementing OPA 90 for the US Coast Guard,*

supervising a large staff of dedicated individuals. A lot has changed in the succeeding 28 years, most significantly the commitment of the maritime industry to minimize the risk of oil pollution from ships. One can only hope that oil discharges from point sources and non-point sources ashore demonstrate similar reductions.

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