

Headlines:

USCG – updated BWMS type approval certificate issued;
USCG – CGSIC meeting on 25-26 September;
DOJ - \$1.9 million fine for dumping and cover-up;
Gulf of Mexico – TS Cindy activity statistics;
USCRTF – meeting on 11 August;
FWS – polar bear stock assessment reports;
House – bill introduced to lift Cuban trade embargo;
Court – vessel not in navigation; and
ILO – financial security for seafarers.

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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. 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. Respect your parents – they passed school without Google!*

USCG – updated BWMS type approval certificate issued



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** stating that an updated Ballast Water Management System (BWMS) type approval certificate has been issued to Sunrui Environmental Engineering Co., Ltd to clarify the hazardous location installation requirements onboard foreign flag vessels. (6/21/17)
[<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2017/06/21/6212017-marine-safety-center-issues-updated-ballast-water-management-system-type-approval-certificate/>].

USCG – CGSIC meeting on 25-26 September



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** announcing that the 57th meeting of the Civil GPS Service Interface Committee (CGSIC) will be held in Portland, Oregon on 25-26 September. (6/21/17)
[<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2017/06/21/6212017-57th-meeting-of-the-u-s-civil-gps-service-interface-committee/>].

DOJ – \$1.9 million fine for dumping and cover-up



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** stating that the owner and operator of the tanker ETC Mena pleaded guilty in federal court to violating the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (APPS) and obstruction of justice for covering up the illegal dumping of oil-contaminated bilge water and garbage from the tanker. They have agreed to pay a fine totaling \$1.9 million. (6/21/17) [<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/two-international-shipping-companies-pay-19-million-covering-vessel-pollution>].

Gulf of Mexico – TS Cindy activity statistics



The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) issued a **press release** providing offshore Gulf of Mexico oil and gas operations statistics regarding Tropical Storm Cindy. (6/21/17)
[<https://www.bsee.gov/newsroom/latest-news/statements-and-releases/press-releases/bsee-tropical-storm-cindy-activity>].

USCRTF – meeting on 11 August



The US Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF), sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), will meet in Fort Lauderdale on 11 August. **82 Fed. Reg. 28479** (6/22/17)
[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-06-22/pdf/2017-13029.pdf>].

FWS – polar bear stock assessment reports



The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) issued a notice stating that it seeks comments on two draft revised marine mammal stock assessment reports for each of the two polar bear stocks in Alaska. Comments must be received by 20 September. **82 Fed. Reg. 28526** (6/22/17)
[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-06-22/pdf/2017-13060.pdf>].

House – bill introduced to lift Cuban trade embargo



Representative Rush (D-IL) introduced a bill (H.R. 2966) to lift the trade embargo on Cuba, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (6/20/17).

Court – vessel not in navigation



Over a vigorous **dissent**, the Texas Supreme Court ruled that a vessel taken out of service, subjected to a 20-month conversion process, and unable to engage in transportation for the entirety of the claimant's onboard employment is not a 'vessel in navigation' for purposes of the Jones Act. Thus, claimant's cause of action for personal injury is not cognizable under that law. **Helix Energy Solutions Group v. Gold**, No. 16-0075 (6/16/17)
[<http://www.search.txcourts.gov/SearchMedia.aspx?MediaVersionID=7eacfo9e-2d61-4782-bb60-b04753581a85&coa=cossup&DT=OPINION&MediaID=533c273d-cb46-4a48-9914-35a79726dec9>]. *Note: This item was brought to my attention by my friend Robert Vining of **Bland & Partners**.*

ILO – financial security for seafarers



The IMO issued a **news release** welcoming into force the MLC 2006 provisions regarding financial security for seafarers, requiring shipowners to have compulsory insurance to cover abandonment of seafarers, as well as claims for death or long-term disability of seafarers. (6/18/17)
[<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/06-MLC-amendments-EIF.aspx>].

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