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Singapore – Maritime Welfare Fee Concession; and
UK – MGO paraffin content.

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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. I finished my 14-day supply of diet food in three hours and twenty minutes.

Jacksonville – LNG export application



The Department of Energy (DOE) issued a notice stating that it received an application from Eagle LNG Partners Jacksonville II LLC for authorization to export domestically produced liquefied natural gas (LNG) in containers from Jacksonville. Comments on the application must be received by 4 August. **82 Fed. Reg. 31050** (7/5/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-07-05/pdf/2017-14061.pdf>].

DOJ – proposed consent decree



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a notice stating that a proposed consent decree regarding Suez Shipping North America and Hoegh Fleet Management has been filed in federal court. The proposal provides for payment by the defendants of \$1.9 million for damages resulting from the 15 December 2009 grounding of gas carrier LNGC Matthew on a coral reef on the south shore of Puerto Rico. Comments on the proposal must be received within 30 days. **82 Fed. Reg. 31077** (7/5/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-07-05/pdf/2017-14020.pdf>].

DOT – INFRA project funding



The Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a notice stating that the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects (INFRA) program provides federal financial assistance to freight and highway projects of national or regional significance. Applications for awards under FY 2017 and FY 2018 funding must be submitted by 2 November. The Grants.gov “Apply” function will open by 1 August. **82 Fed. Reg. 31135** (7/5/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-07-05/pdf/2017-14042.pdf>].

NCCIC – Petya Ransomware



The National Cybersecurity Communication and Integration Center (NCCIC) issued an alert regarding the Petya Ransomware and its impact on Microsoft Windows operating systems. **Alert (TA17-181A)** (7/1/17) [<https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/alerts/TA17-181A>].

DOE – LNG exportation



The Department of Energy (DOE) issued a **news release** announcing approval of two long-term applications to export additional liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the proposed Lake Charles LNG Liquefaction Project. (6/29/17) [<https://www.energy.gov/articles/us-department-energy-authorizes-additional-liquefied-natural-gas-exports-lake-charles>].

DOJ – ro-ro shipping executives indicted



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** stating that three individuals have been indicted for participating in a long-running conspiracy to allocate certain customers and routes, rig bids, and fix prices for the sale of international ocean shipments of roll-on, roll-off cargoes to and from the United States and elsewhere. Including these individuals, eleven executives have been charged in the investigation to date. Of these, four have pleaded guilty and been sentenced to serve prison terms, while some others remain international fugitives. (6/27/17) [<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/international-shipping-executives-indicted-colluding-bids-and-rates>].

Black Sea – GPS interference



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued an **Alert** stating that a maritime incident of GPS interference has been reported in the Black Sea. Vessels operating in these waters should exercise caution. (6/22/17) [<https://www.marad.dot.gov/environment-and-safety/office-of-security/msci/alert/>].

USMMA – accreditation report



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued a **news release** stating that the Middle States Commission on Higher Education found that the US Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) has successfully satisfied four of five deficient standards of accreditation. The Academy retains full accreditation, yet remains in warning status until the final deficiency, related to institutional planning and resource allocation, is resolved. (6/29/17) [https://www.marad.dot.gov/newsroom/news_release/2017/statement-from-maritime-administration-concerning-middle-states-commission-on-higher-education-report-pendingdraftworkflow/].

OFAC – North Korea sanctions



The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued a **notice** stating, among other things, that the Chinese company Dalian Global Unity Shipping Co., Ltd has been placed on the Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) list for apparent violations of the economic sanctions regarding North Korea. (6/29/17) [<https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/OFAC-Enforcement/Pages/20170629.aspx>].

USCG – Arctic Shield 2017



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** announcing the kick off of Arctic Shield 2017 operations in the Arctic. A forward operating location has opened in Kotzebue. Cutters, aircraft, and personnel will be deployed to engage in operations encompassing a variety of Coast Guard missions. (7/1/17) [<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/1a65cb6>].

House – bill introduced to lift Cuban trade embargo



Representative Rush (D-IL) introduced the **United States-Cuba Normalization Act of 2017** (H.R. 2966) to lift the trade embargo on Cuba, and for other purposes. (6/20/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hr2966ih/pdf/BILLS-115hr2966ih.pdf>].

House – bill introduced re aquatic nuisance species report



Representative Kaptur (D-OH) introduced the **Stop the Asian Carp Now Act of 2017** (H.R. 2983) to direct the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, to release an interim report related to aquatic nuisance species control, and for other purposes. Representative Kaptur issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (6/21/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hr2983ih/pdf/BILLS-115hr2983ih.pdf>].

House – bill introduced re number of battle force ships



Representative Wittman (R-VA) introduced the **Securing the Homeland by Increasing our Power on the High Seas Act** (H.R. 2994) to state the policy of the United States on the minimum number of available battle force ships. (6/21/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hr2994ih/pdf/BILLS-115hr2994ih.pdf>].

House – bill introduced re multimodal freight



Representative Lowenthal (D-CA) introduced the **National Multimodal and Sustainable Freight Infrastructure Act** (H.R. 3001) to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a Multimodal Freight Funding Formula Program and a National Freight Infrastructure Competitive Grant Program to improve the efficiency and reliability of freight movement in the United States, and for other purposes. Representative Lowenthal issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (6/22/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hr3001ih/pdf/BILLS-115hr3001ih.pdf>].

Senate – bill introduced re aquatic nuisance species report



Senator Stabenow (D-MI) introduced the **Stop the Asian Carp Now act of 2017** (S. 1398) to direct the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, to release an interim report related to aquatic nuisance species control, and for other purposes. Senator Stabenow issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (6/21/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s1398is/pdf/BILLS-115s1398is.pdf>].

Senate – bill introduced re natural gas exports



Senator Cruz (R-TX) introduced the **Natural Gas Export Expansion Act** (S. 1404) to amend the Natural Gas Act to provide for expanded natural gas exports. (6/21/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s1404is/pdf/BILLS-115s1404is.pdf>].

Senate – bill introduced re natural gas import/export



Senator Cassidy (R-LA) introduced a bill (S. 1465) to terminate the prohibitions on the exportation and importation of natural gas, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Senator Cassidy issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (6/28/17) [<https://www.cassidy.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cassidy-introduces-ling-now-act-to-remove-unnecessary-restrictions-on-ling-exports>].

House – bill introduced re port cybersecurity



Representative Torres (D-CA) introduced a bill (H.R. 3101) to enhance cybersecurity information sharing and coordination at ports in the United States, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (6/28/17).

Senate – bill introduced re Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund



Senator Murray (D-WA) introduced a bill (S. 1488) to require full spending of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, to provide for expanded uses of the Fund, and to prevent cargo diversion, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Senator Murray issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (6/29/17) [<https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/newsreleases?ID=F2F3206A-A962-49BC-915C-6813320BDFD1>].

Senate – bill introduced re passenger vessel security



Senator Blumenthal (D-CT) introduced a bill (S. 1502) to improve passenger vessel security and safety, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (6/29/17).

Senate – bill introduced re USMMA sexual harassment reporting



Senator Gillibrand (D-NY) introduced a bill (S. 1506) to improve the handling of instances of sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (6/29/17).

House – bill introduced re Marine Mammal Protection Act



Representative Johnson (R-LA) introduced a bill (H.R. 3133) to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to reduce unnecessary permitting delays by clarifying associated procedures to increase economic development and support coastal restoration programs, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Representative Johnson issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure. (6/29/17)
[<https://mikejohnson.house.gov/media/press-releases/rep-johnson-introduces-bill-streamline-environmental-approvals>].

House – bill introduced re Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund



Representative Reichert (R-WA) introduced a bill (H.R. 3152) to require full spending of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, to provide for expanded uses of the Fund, and to prevent cargo diversion, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Representative Reichert issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure. (6/29/17)
[<http://reichert.house.gov/press-release/members-wa-and-ca-introduce-bill-support-jobs-and-help-us-ports-compete>].

House – bill introduced re USMMA sexual harassment reporting



Representative Suozzi (D-NY) introduced a bill (H.R. 3157) to improve the handling of instances of sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking at the United States Merchant Marine Academy and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (6/29/17).

Court – commencement address



The Supreme Court of the United States posted a video of the **Commencement Address** delivered by Chief Justice John Roberts. I commend it to your attention. (6/3/17)
[<http://www.scotusblog.com/media/commencement-address-chief-justice-john-roberts/>].

Court – known loss is uninsurable



In an unpublished decision, the US Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit ruled that a known loss is uninsurable. In the instant case, plaintiff shipper purchased marine insurance for a shipment of cargo after it knew that the cargo had been hijacked. In the litigation that followed, plaintiff argued that the insurance contract was consummated because defendant insurer accepted payment of the insurance premium after it knew or should have known of the loss. In ruling for the insurer, the court found that it is contrary to public policy to allow enforcement of such an agreement. **ITN Consolidators v. Northern Marine Underwriters**, No. 15-14439 (11th Cir., June 28, 2017)
[<http://media.ca11.uscourts.gov/opinions/unpub/files/201514439.pdf>].

Court – prejudgment interest and DOHSA



In a brief unpublished decision, the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit held that a trial court may award prejudgment interest under the Death on the High Seas Act (DOHSA), even when the question of damages has been submitted to a jury **Hill v. Majestic Blue Fisheries**, No. 15-16507 (9th Cir., June 29, 2017) [<http://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/memoranda/2017/06/29/15-16507.pdf>].

IMO – Global Industry Alliance



The IMO issued a **news release** stating that the Global Industry Alliance (GIA) has been launched to support transitioning shipping and its related industries toward a low carbon future. (7/3/17)
[<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/17-GIA-GloMeep-launch.aspx>].

ReCAAP – Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference



The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre posted the **Report** of the Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2017, which highlighted changing trends in maritime piracy and armed robbery in Asia. (7/3/17)
[http://www.recaap.org/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/Download.aspx?Command=Core_Download&EntryId=526&PortalId=0&TabId=78].

Singapore – Maritime Welfare Fee Concession



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular announcing that the Maritime Welfare Fee Concession of 100% waiver for vessels with port stays of not more than five (5) days is being extended through 31 December 2019. **Port Maritime Circular 7-2017** (7/3/17)
[<http://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/port-of-singapore/circulars-and-notices/detail/da133667-e9e4-496a-9f99-51230eed63b>].

UK – MGO paraffin content



The UK Maritime Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) issued a safety bulletin regarding the danger of high paraffin content in some low sulphur marine gas oils (MGOs). This can lead to waxing in the fuel lines in cold weather conditions causing fuel blockages and combustion problems. **Safety Bulletin 1-2017** (6/30/17)
[<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5953cb3a40f0b60a40000072/MAIBSafetyBulletinSB1-2017.pdf>].

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