

Headlines:

Alaska – murder on cruise ship;
Hawaii – Kamokuna Lava Delta Safety Zone;
NOAA – national marine sanctuaries;
NOAA – cancer fighting deep-sea sponge;
Senate- bill introduced to repeal Jones Act;
CRS – Coast Guard safeguarding maritime transportation;
Court – state antidiscrimination provision; and
Collection of Duties Act – 31 July 1789.

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Bryant's Maritime Blog

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Alaska – murder on cruise ship



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** stating that a former passenger on the cruise ship Emerald Princess has been charged with the murder of his wife while the ship was in US waters. (7/27/17)
[<https://www.justice.gov/usao-ak/pr/utah-man-charged-murdering-wife-cruise-ship-southeast-alaska>].

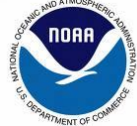
Hawaii – Kamokuna Lava Delta Safety Zone



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that it continues to enforce the temporary Kamokuna Lava Delta Safety Zone for the navigable waters surrounding the Kilauea Volcano active lava flow entry into the Pacific

Ocean on the southeast side of the Big Island, Hawai'i. According to the U.S. Geologic Survey, several large cracks have developed in the lava delta, running parallel to the coastline and spanning the width of the delta. These cracks increase the likelihood of a large delta collapse. (7/29/17) [<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/1ad695c>].

NOAA – national marine sanctuaries



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reopened, until 15 August, the period within which to submit comments on national marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments designated or expanded since 28 April 2007. **82 Fed. Reg. 35509** (7/31/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-07-31/pdf/2017-16012.pdf>].

NOAA – cancer fighting deep-sea sponge



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a **news release** stating that a species of sponge it discovered in deep waters of the Gulf of Alaska in 2005 shows promise to selectively targeting and killing pancreatic cancer cells. (7/26/17) [<http://www.noaa.gov/news/noaa-discovery-of-green-deep-sea-sponge-shows-promise-for-cancer-research>].

Senate – bill introduced to repeal Jones Act



Senator McCain (R-AZ) introduced the **Open America's Waters Act of 2017** (S. 1561) to repeal the Jones Act restrictions on coastwise trade, and for other purposes. Senator McCain issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (7/13/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s1561is/pdf/BILLS-115s1561is.pdf>].

CRS – USCG safeguarding maritime transportation



The Congressional Research Service (CRS) issued a report on the Coast Guard's role in safeguarding maritime transportation. Among other things, the report notes that the fleet of vessels the coast Guard inspects for safety reasons recently doubled because the agency is now responsible for inspecting towboats. **R44566** (6/28/17) [<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/homesec/R44566.pdf>].

Court – state antidiscrimination provision



In an unpublished decision, the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed the district court's grant of partial summary judgment in favor of defendant marine employer in a suit brought by a former crewmember harassment, discrimination, retaliation, wrongful termination, and unseaworthiness. Among other things, the court found no indication that the antidiscrimination provision in the California constitution was intended to apply to employment that occurred predominantly outside the state on the high seas.

Russo v. APL Marine Services, No. 15-56816 (9th Cir., July 28, 2017)

[<http://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/memoranda/2017/07/28/15-56816.pdf>].

Collection of Duties Act – 31 July 1789



Getting a new nation started is a complex operation. After the adoption of the Constitution by the various states of the United States, there were elections for President and for the House of Representatives, as well as appointments to the Senate. Then, these august gentlemen (august gentlewomen were not invited) got together and began enacting legislation. On 4 July 1789, in one of their first official actions, they assessed duties on arriving vessels. It then occurred to someone that they had failed to provide for the payment of those duties. Therefore, on 31 July 1789, Congress adopted the **Collection of Duties Act**, which required vessels arriving in ports of the United States to actually pay the previously imposed duties. President George Washington appointed the various Collectors of Customs in August 1789. A year later, Congress authorized a 'system of cutters' to enforce the collection of duties.

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