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US Navy – USS Fitzgerald accountability determinations;
US Navy – USS Lewis B. Puller commissioned;
USCG – questions re BWMS type-approval certificate;
Coos Bay – channel modification draft EIS;
Beaufort Sea – Liberty draft EIS;
Senate – bill introduced to lift Cuban trade embargo;
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Singapore – Wreck Removal Convention;
MREN – balancing efficiency and security; and
Adoption of OPA 90 – 18 August 1990.

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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. 'Getting lucky' means walking into a room and remembering why I'm there.*

US Navy – USS Fitzgerald accountability determinations



The US Navy issued a **news release** stating that accountability determinations have been made with respect to the USS Fitzgerald relating to the 17 June collision with the containership ACX Crystal. Both vessels were at fault and the collision was avoidable. The Navy has relieved the destroyer's commanding officer, executive officer, and command master chief of their duties. Additionally, a number of watch standers have been held accountable. (8/17/17) [http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=102002].

USN – USS Lewis B. Puller commissioned



The US Navy issued a **news release** stating that USNS Lewis B. Puller (T-ESB 3) has been converted to a US naval warship, commissioning the Expeditionary Sea Bas USS Lewis B. Puller (ESB 3) during a ceremony in Bahrain. Captain Adam G. Cruz is the ship's first commanding officer. (8/17/17) [http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=102004].

USCG – questions re BWMS type-approval certificate



The US Coast Guard posted a **bulletin** responding to questions regarding the Ballast Water Management System (BWMS) type-approval certificate issued to Ecochlor Ltd. (8/17/17) [<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2017/08/17/8162017-responses-to-questions-about-latest-ballast-water-management-system-type-approval-certificate/>].

Coos Bay – channel modification draft EIS



The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued a notice stating that it intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze potential environmental effects of approving the proposed Coos Bay Channel Modification Project. Comments must be submitted by 3 October. **82 Fed. Reg. 39417** (8/18/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-08-18/pdf/2017-17483.pdf>].

Beaufort Sea – Liberty draft EIS



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a notice announcing completion of the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Liberty Development and Production Plan in the Beaufort Sea Planning Area. Public meetings will be held in Nuiqsut (October 2); Fairbanks (October 3); Kaktovik (October 4); Utqiagvik [Barrow] (October 5); and Anchorage (October 10). Comments must be submitted by 16 November. **82 Fed. Reg. 39453** (8/18/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-08-18/pdf/2017-17481.pdf>].

Senate – bill introduced to lift Cuban trade embargo



Senator Wyden (D-OR) introduced the **United States-Cuba Trade Act of 2017** (S. 1699) to lift the trade embargo on Cuba, and for other purposes. (8/1/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s1699is/pdf/BILLS-115s1699is.pdf>].

Court – LHWCA and suicide attempt



In an unpublished decision, the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld the ruling of the Administrative Law Judge awarding compensation under the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act for injuries resulting from a suicide attempt where there was substantial evidence that the petitioner's on-the-job injury directly contributed to his loss of normal judgment. **Leeward Marine v. Kealoha**, No. 16-72242 (9th Cir., August 16, 2017) [<http://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/memoranda/2017/08/16/16-72242.pdf>].

Singapore – Wreck Removal Convention



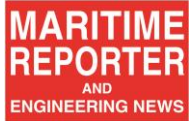
The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular announcing that the Wreck Removal Convention, 2007 (WRC) enters into effect for Singapore on 8 September. As of that date, Singapore-flagged vessels are required to have on board a WRC State certificate to attest that insurance or other financial security to cover liability for wrecks is in place. **Shipping Circular 13-2017** (8/16/17) [<http://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/port-of-singapore/circulars-and-notices/detail/4672936a-edb2-4f4b-987d-de278725f7b6>].

UK – National Contingency Plan



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) posted an updated **National Contingency Plan** (NCP). The NCP provides a strategic overview for responses to marine pollution from shipping and offshore installations. (8/17/17) [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638623/170817_NCP.pdf].

MREN – balancing efficiency and security



In the August edition of Maritime Reporter and Engineering News (MREN) you can find my article “[Balancing Efficiency and Security](http://www.brymarconsulting.com/wp-content/uploads/MREN/MREN170800.pdf)”. We live in an increasingly complex society. Electronics and computers have greatly increased our efficiency, but have also created security risks previously unknown. To operate in our modern world we must balance these two elements. Otherwise, we run the risk of losing both. (8/17/17) [<http://www.brymarconsulting.com/wp-content/uploads/MREN/MREN170800.pdf>].

Adoption of OPA 90 – 18 August 1990



On 18 August 1990, the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 ([OPA 90](#)) was enacted into law. The measure was adopted by Congress in near-record time (for them) following the grounding of and oil spill from the tanker Exxon Valdez in Prince William Sound, Alaska and several other high-visibility oil spills. Despite predictions of train wrecks and the threatened halting of oil shipments to US ports, its various remedial measures, including higher liability limits, double hulls on oil tankers, and oil spill response plans entered into effect over the next few years. The amount of oil entering the waters of the United States from vessels has been reduced significantly. The legislation also served as a model for efforts undertaken elsewhere to address the oil spill problem. I had the great honor of supervising an outstanding group of Coast Guard personnel and employees in developing regulations to implement many of its provisions.

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