

Headlines:

USCG – Pacific seacoast waterways study;
USCG – BWMS contingency planning;
NOAA – Northwest Atlantic leatherback turtle;
Court – permanent total disability;
India – Hong Kong Convention considered; and
SS Mont Blanc explosion in Halifax – 6 December 1917.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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USCG – Pacific seacoast waterways study



The US Coast Guard issued a **new release** stating that it is conducting a Waterways Analysis and Management System (WAMS) study of short range aids to navigation for American waterways of California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Hawaii, and the Marianas Islands. Input from mariners and maritime stakeholders is sought. Comments should be submitted by 31 March 2018. (12/5/17)

[<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/1c9cc09>].

USCG – BWMS contingency planning



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** reminding owners, operators, and masters of the necessity for contingency planning with respect to a vessel's

ballast water management system (BWMS) to address situations where the system is inoperable or the vessel's intended compliance method is unexpectedly not available. (12/1/17)

[<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2017/12/01/1212017-ballast-water-series-part-5-contingency-planning-for-ballast-water-management/>].

NOAA – Northwest Atlantic leatherback turtle



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice stating that it is considering a petition to identify the Northwest Atlantic leatherback turtle as a distinct population segment and list it as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Comments must be submitted by 5 February 2018. [82 Fed. Reg. 57565](#) (12/6/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-12-06/pdf/2017-26276.pdf>].

Court – permanent total disability



In a brief and unpublished decision, the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that an employer is not entitled to partial relief from a ruling that it is financial responsible for the permanent total disability of an employee where the employer did not show that the employee's current disability is not due solely to his workplace injury. His other ailments just create a greater disability than would have the workplace injury alone. [Jones Stevedoring v. Popovich](#), No. 16-70549 (9th Cir., December 4, 2017) [<https://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/memoranda/2017/12/04/16-70549.pdf>].

India – Hong Kong Convention considered



The Indian Ministry of Shipping issued a **notice** announcing that it seeks comments on a proposal to give effect to provisions of the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships. Comments must be submitted within 30 days. (12/5/17) [<http://shipping.nic.in/showfile.php?lid=2615>].

***SS Mont Blanc* explosion in Halifax – 6 December 1917**



The *SS Mont Blanc* exploded in the Halifax Narrows on 6 December 1917, following its collision with the *SS Imo*. The *Mont Blanc* was carrying military explosives and ammunition from New York to France. The crew abandoned ship after the collision, but a fire caused by the collision detonated 20 minutes later. The entire crew survived, except for one individual killed by falling debris. The explosion, though, was so powerful that it destroyed major parts of the nearby buildings and houses, killing approximately 2,000 residents in Halifax and Dartmouth. The incident is explored in depth in the book [Curse of the Narrows](#) by Laura MacDonald.

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