

Headlines:

USCG – QA requirements updated;
USCG – MEDMAC members sought;
FMC – schedule and witnesses for P4-16 hearings;
USN – Law of Naval Operations Handbook;
DOJ – Keppel Offshore pleads guilty to bribery;
Senate – bill introduced re incidental discharges;
Court – LHWCA attorneys’ fees and costs;
UNSC – sanctions re North Korea;
EC – Maltese tonnage tax scheme approved; and
India – Mumbai shipping safety fairways.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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USCG – QA requirements updated



The USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) issued a **bulletin** stating that the Qualified Assessor (QA) requirements have been updated to incorporate the 2010 amendments to the STCW Convention that entered into effect on 1 January 2017. (12/21/17)
[http://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/announcements/2017/qa_requirements_2017_notice.pdf].

USCG – MEDMAC members sought



The US Coast Guard issued a notice stating that it seeks applicants for membership on the Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee (MEDMAC). Applications should be submitted by 26 February 2018. **82 Fed. Reg. 61017** (12/26/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-12-26/pdf/2017-27711.pdf>].

FMC – schedule and witnesses for P4-16 hearings



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a notice stating that the hearings on the petition filed by the Coalition for Fair Port Practices (Petition P4-16) concerning detention, demurrage, and per diem charges are tentatively scheduled for 16 and 17 January 2018. The tentative witness list for the six panels have is also included. **82 Fed. Reg. 60996** (12/26/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-12-26/pdf/2017-27763.pdf>].

USN – Law of Naval Operations Handbook



The US Navy issued a **news release** stating that the Naval War College Stockton Center **Law of Naval Operations Handbook** has been revised and expanded. (12/22/17) [http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=103856].

DOJ – Keppel Offshore pleads guilty to bribery



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** stating that Keppel Offshore & Marine Ltd and its US subsidiary Keppel Offshore & Marine USA Inc. have agreed to pay a combined total penalty of more than \$422 million to resolve charges arising out of a scheme to pay millions of dollars in bribes to officials in Brazil. (12/22/17) [<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/keppel-offshore-marine-ltd-and-us-based-subsiary-agree-pay-422-million-global-penalties>].

Senate – bill introduced re incidental discharges



Senator Sullivan (R-AK) introduced a bill ([S. 2273](#)) to extend until 19 January 2018 the period during which vessels that are shorter than 79 feet in length and fishing vessels are not required to have a permit for discharges incidental to the normal operation of the vessel. (12/21/17)
[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s2273es/pdf/BILLS-115s2273es.pdf>].

Court – LHWCA attorneys' fees and costs



The US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed the award of \$32,280 for attorneys' fees and costs for a petition for review in a matter before the Longshore and Harbor Workers Compensation Act (LHWCA) Benefits Review Board in favor of petitioner. It also upheld the Appellate Commission's order awarding attorneys' fees and costs for the fee litigation in the amount of \$20,060 in favor of petitioner. [Vortex Marine Construction v Grimm](#), No. 15-72258 (9th Cir., December 22, 2017)
[<http://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2017/12/22/15-72258.pdf>].

UNSC – sanctions re North Korea



The UN Security Council adopted a resolution imposing additional sanctions regarding the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea (North Korea). Among other things, it directs member states to impound any vessel in its waters if there are reasonable grounds to believe that the vessel was involved in activities or the transport of items prohibited by other UNSC resolutions regarding North Korea. [Resolution 2397 \(2017\)](#) (12/22/17)
[<http://www.un.org/en/sc/inc/pages/pdf/scr2397.pdf>].

EC – Maltese tonnage tax scheme approved



The European Commission (EC) issued a [press release](#) stating that it has conditionally approved the Maltese tonnage tax scheme. (12/19/17)
[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-5361_en.htm].

India – Mumbai shipping safety fairways



The Indian Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) issued a notice announcing that the shipping safety fairways, recommended routes, and traffic separation scheme (TSS) at approaches to Mumbai (off Mumbai High) have been revised. The revisions enter into effect on 1 February 2018. **Merchant Shipping Notice 11-2017** (12/20/17)
[http://dgshipping.gov.in/WriteReadData/News/201712220543079910184ms_notice_11of2017_nt.pdf].

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