

## Headlines:

St. Lawrence Seaway – bulker aground;  
St Marys River – closed due to ice-bound vessels;  
BSEE – OCS oil & gas production safety systems;  
ITC – subsea telecommunications systems;  
Court – asbestos litigation continues;  
California – marine invasive species issues;  
EMSA – Creation of a European Coastguard Function;  
Australia – cargo transfer operations at sea; and  
Out with the known, in with the unknown.

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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. The Ship of Theseus sails forever.*

## **St. Lawrence Seaway – bulker aground**



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that the 623-foot Pacific Huron, loaded with soybean, has grounded outside the channel of the St. Lawrence Seaway near Wellesley Island. There have been no reports of injury, damage, or pollution. (12/28/17)  
[<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/1cf3cc6>].

## **St. Marys River – closed due to ice-bound vessels**



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that efforts are underway to free two ice-bound vessels in the St. Marys River. One is in the up-bound channel and the other is in the down-bound channel. Until those vessels are freed, the river is closed to navigation. (12/28/17)

[<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/1cf36d1>]. A **subsequent news release** states that the two vessels have been freed of the ice and the channels have reopened. (12/28/17)

[<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/1cf4d86>].

## **BSEE – OCS oil & gas production safety systems**



The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) proposes to amend the regulations regarding oil and natural gas production on the outer continental shelf (OCS) to reduce certain unnecessary regulatory burdens while correcting errors and clarifying current requirements. Comments must be submitted by 29 January 2018. **82 Fed. Reg. 61703** (12/29/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-12-29/pdf/2017-27309.pdf>].

## **ITC – subsea telecommunications systems**



The International Trade Commission (ITC) issued a notice stating that it received a complaint regarding certain subsea telecommunications systems and components thereof. Comments on the complaint must be received within eight days. **82 Fed. Reg. 61791** (12/29/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-12-29/pdf/2017-28197.pdf>].

## **Court – asbestos litigation continues**



The US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit reversed the district court dismissal of actions against various owners and operators of Jones Act vessels brought by former seamen under the Jones Act and general maritime law for liability relating to exposure to asbestos on those vessels. The appellate court found that defendants had waived their personal jurisdiction defenses. **In re Asbestos Products Liability Litigation**, No. 16-4148 (3rd Cir., December 28, 2017) [<http://www2.ca3.uscourts.gov/opinarch/164148np.pdf>].

## **California – marine invasive species issues**



The California State Lands Commission (SLC) sent a **letter** to agents for ocean-going ships that might call in California ports advising of the implementation of biofouling management requirements and reminding them of

existing reporting requirements. (12/28/17)  
[<http://www.slc.ca.gov/Programs/MISP/2018-AgentLetter.pdf>].

### EMSA – Creation of a European Coastguard Function



The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) issued a **press release** announcing the final report “Pilot Project – Creation of a European Coastguard Function”. (12/22/17) [<http://www.emsa.europa.eu/emsa-homepage/2-news-a-press-centre/news/3185-pilot-project-creation-of-a-european-coastguard-function.html>].

### Australia – cargo transfer operations at sea



The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) issued a notice regarding cargo transfer operations at sea and in coastal waters. **Marine Notice 15/2017** (Dec 2017)  
[[https://apps.amsa.gov.au/MOReview/Attachment/ShowAttachmentInline/6364?\\_ga=2.247251654.394037137.1514468459-76401413.1494611420](https://apps.amsa.gov.au/MOReview/Attachment/ShowAttachmentInline/6364?_ga=2.247251654.394037137.1514468459-76401413.1494611420)].

### Out with the known, in with the unknown



Just when we were getting adjusted to significant fluctuations in ship values, charter rates, and fuel costs, we are now face to face with 2018. There is a reason that the ancient Romans named the upcoming month January, in honor of their deity **Janus**, the god of gates, doorways, and beginnings. The image of Janus is usually portrayed as looking both forward and backward. Either way, have a safe New Year’s Eve and a prosperous New Year – and may your apparent cliffs turn out to be low ledges.

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