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Canada – removal of abandoned boats;
Singapore – AC electric arc welding equipment; and
ADM John Byng, RN, executed – 14 March 1757.

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Bryant’s Maritime News

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MARAD – National Maritime Day celebration on 22 May



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued a [news release](#) stating that it will host a ceremony in Washington, DC celebrating National Maritime Day on 22 May. (3/12/18)

[<https://www.marad.dot.gov/newsroom/event/2018/2018-national-maritime-day/>].

USCG – activating a VRP



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** clarifying when vessel response plan (VRP) activation occurs and which situations require VRP activation. (3/13/18) [<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2018/03/13/3-13-2018-activating-a-vessel-response-plan/>]. *Note: This new bulletin includes subtle differences from the guidance provided in January.*

USCG – Excellence in Maritime Security



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** announcing the winners of the 2018 Rear Admiral Bennis Awards for Excellence in Maritime Security. (3/13/18) [<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2018/03/13/3-13-2018-winners-of-rear-adm-bennis-award-for-excellence-in-maritime-security-announced/>].

USCG – tenth BWMS type approval request received



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** stating that the Marine Safety Center (MSC) received an application for ballast water management system (BWMS) type approval for the BIO-SEA B BWMS. (3/13/18) [<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2018/03/13/3-13-2018-tenth-application-received-for-bwms-type-approval/>].

Hudson River – safety assessment



The US Coast Guard posted its **Hudson River Ports and Waterways Safety Assessment**. PAWSA workshops were held to provide stakeholders an opportunity to assist the Coast Guard in understanding navigation safety and environmental concerns. The workshops recommended establishment of a Hudson River Safety Committee; an increase in recreational boating safety information; and clarification of current regulations. (3/13/18) [https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pdf/pawsa/WorkshopReports/Hudson_River_PAWSA_Workshop_Report_FINAL_VERSION_03132018.pdf].

FMC – French America Line cruise cancellations



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a **news release** stating that passengers with cancelled cruises on French America Line should have received refunds via credit card, travel insurance, or check from the Key Bank/French America Line escrow account. Payments made for airline tickets, hotel rooms, rental cars, etc. are not covered by the FMC's Passenger Vessel Program. (3/13/18)

[https://www.fmc.gov/french_america_line_cruise_cancellations/].

House – hearing on maritime programs budget



The Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will conduct a **hearing** on 14 March entitled “Review of Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request for Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Programs”. Scheduled witnesses are: Admiral Paul F. Zukunft and Master Chief Steven W. Cantrell, USCG; Rear Admiral Mark H. Buzby, MARAD; and the Honorable Michael A. Khouri, FMC. (3/12/18)

[<https://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=402236>].

Court – passenger’s negligence claim dismissed



In an unpublished decision, the US Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit affirmed the dismissal of plaintiff minor passenger’s claim against defendant cruise line alleging negligence, fraud in the inducement, and fraud by concealment. Plaintiff alleged that she was sexually assaulted by two minor male passengers in their stateroom. **H.S. v. Carnival Corporation**, No. 17-14372 (11th Cir., March 12, 2018)

[<http://media.ca11.uscourts.gov/opinions/unpub/files/201714372.pdf>].

Canada – removal of abandoned boats



Transport Canada issued a **news release** stating that \$1.2 million is being awarded to remove abandoned boats and wrecks nationwide. (3/12/18)

[<https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2018/03/government-of-canada-funds-the-removal-and-disposal-of-abandoned-boats-through-the-oceans-protection-plan.html>].

Singapore – AC electric arc welding equipment



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular recommending the fitting of safety measures, such as a voltage limiting device (VLD) or a low voltage shock preventer (LVSP), on AC electric arc welding equipment onboard ships. [Shipping Circular 05-2018](#) (3/13/18) [file:///C:/Users/User/Videos/Misc/Downloads/sc_no_5_of_2018.pdf].

ADM John Byng, RN, executed – 14 March 1757



On 14 March 1757, Admiral John Byng, Royal Navy, was executed by firing squad while he was kneeling on the fore-castle of *HMS Monarch* in the Solent. Admiral Byng had been court-martialed for personal cowardice, disaffection, and for not having done his utmost to prevent Minorca from falling to the French following the Battle of Minorca on 20 May 1756. He was convicted only of “failing to do his utmost”. The British and French fleets were numerically equal (ten ships each), but the British had scrapped their group together hastily and its ships were in disrepair. The British fleet suffered significant, but not fatal, battle damage. When the French fleet departed at the end of the engagement, Admiral Byng did not order his fleet to follow. Rather, he had the fleet sail to Gibraltar for repairs. It was this departure to Gibraltar that the court-martial interpreted as a failure by the Admiral to do his utmost against the French. The court-martial was highly controversial, with many contending that the Navy panel had found the Admiral guilty to hide their own failure to properly prepare the fleet for the mission. Regardless, the event is said to have instilled a tradition of aggressiveness in Royal Navy officers.

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