

Headlines:

Texas – gas pipeline fire;
CMTS – NOAA’s Big Data Project;
Panama Canal – maximum beam increase;
UK – GHG emission reductions; and
MREN – Tugs and VRPs.

April 18, 2018



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. I’m not 40-something. I’m 39.95, plus shipping and handling.

Texas – gas pipeline fire



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that the Intracoastal Waterway at Port O’Connor is closed to navigation. The vessel Jonathan King Boyd is afire after hitting a gas pipeline during dredging operations. The pipeline has been secured. The vessel crewmembers are safe. Response operations are underway. (4/18/18)
[<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/1ea7162>].

CMTS – NOAA’s Big Data Project



The Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) issued a [notice](#) stating that Dr. Ed Kearns, Chief Data Officer, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), will make a presentation on 20 April in Washington, DC on NOAA’s Big Data Project. Those interested may attend in person or via webinar. (4/17/18) [<https://www.cmts.gov/posts/b958bd05-dc9b-4096-8a3c-d59eb50c793a>].

Panama Canal – maximum beam increase



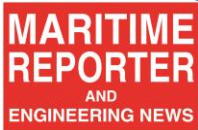
The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory announcing that the maximum beam of vessels transiting the Neopanamax locks has been increased to 51.25 meters (168.14 feet), effective 1 June. **Advisory 11-2018** (4/14/18) [<https://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2018/a-11-2018.pdf>].

UK – GHG emission reductions



The UK Department for Transport (DfT) issued a **news release** discussing the UK government role in negotiating greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions from international shipping. (4/17/18) [<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/greenhouse-gases-from-international-shipping>].

MREN – Tugs and VRPs



In the April 2018 edition of Maritime Reporter and Engineering News, you can find my article entitled "**Tugs and VRPs**". The article discusses the transition of tugs and towboats from being uninspected vessels to inspected vessels of the United States and that transition's impact on vessel response plans (VRPs). VRP plan holders and preparers should carefully review their current plans to ensure that the tugs identified therein will actually be eligible to provide the services stated in the locations called for. (4/17/18) [<http://www.brymarconsulting.com/wp-content/uploads/MREN/MREN180400.pdf>].

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