

Headlines:

White House – Memorial Day proclamation;
White House – alarm re missile strike against cargo ship;
NOAA – hurricane season forecast;
USCG – hurricane and heavy weather contingency plans;
Senate – bill introduced to improve drug testing;
Bering Strait – ship routing measures approved;
IMO – Maritime Autonomous Surface Ship;
EU NAVFOR – piracy threat assessment;
Australia – fire during hot work; and
Sinking of RMS Empress of Ireland – 29 May 1914.

May 29, 2018



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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. Common sense is a flower that doesn't grow in everyone's garden.

White House – Memorial Day proclamation



President Trump issued a **Proclamation** designating Memorial Day, May 28, 2018, as a day of prayer for permanent peace. (5/25/18)

[<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/president-donald-j-trump-proclaims-memorial-day-may-28-2018-day-prayer-permanent-peace/>].

White House – alarm re missile strike against cargo ship



The White House issued a **news release** stating that the United States is alarmed by the recent missile strike against a Turkish cargo ship that was attempting to deliver what to Yemen. (5/25/18)

[<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/statement-press-secretary-houthi-missile-strike-turkish-wheat-ship/>].

NOAA – hurricane season forecast



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a **news release** containing its forecast for the 2018 North Atlantic hurricane season. NOAA predicts a near- or above-normal season with 10-16 named storms, 5-9 hurricanes, and 1-4 major hurricanes. (5/24/18)

[<http://www.noaa.gov/media-release/forecasters-predict-near-or-above-normal-2018-atlantic-hurricane-season>].

USCG – hurricane & heavy weather contingency plans



In anticipation of the North Atlantic hurricane season, my compilation of USCG **Hurricane & Heavy Weather Contingency Plans** has been updated to include the latest plans that I could locate. Please advise if you become aware of new or revised contingency plans that should be included in the compilation. (5/25/18) [http://www.brymar-consulting.com/wp-content/uploads/HCP/HCP_180525.pdf].

Senate – bill introduced to improve drug testing



Senator Thune (R-SD) introduced the **Fighting Opioid Abuse in Transportation Act** (S. 2848) to improve Department of Transportation controlled substances and alcohol testing, and for other purposes. (5/15/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s2848is/pdf/BILLS-115s2848is.pdf>].

Bering Strait – ship routing measures approved



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that the IMO has approved the US-Russia proposed Bering Strait and Bering Sea ship routing measures. (5/25/18)
[<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/1f2a833>].

IMO – Maritime Autonomous Surface Ship



The IMO issued a [news release](#) stating that the recent session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 99) agreed on a definition of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ship (MASS) and on a framework for analyzing the applicable IMO regulations. MASS is defined as a ship which, to a varying degree, can operate independently of human interaction. (5/25/18)
[<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/08-MSC-99-MASS-scoping.aspx>].

EU NAVFOR – piracy threat assessment



The EU NAVFOR issued a [press release](#) assessing the piracy threat. (5/25/18) [<http://eunavfor.eu/eu-navfor-delivers-piracy-threat-assessment-at-launch-of-the-2017-obp-report/>].

Australia – fire during hot work



The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) released the report of its investigation of the 11 December 2017 fire on the general cargo ships BBC Xingang in port in Newcastle. The fire started during the oxy-acetylene cutting and gouging removal of sea fastenings. Molten metal and other hot material produced by this work burned through protective fire blankets in place around the site, and fell onto unprotected cargo below. The cargo stowed below the work site was covered with flammable polyester material which had not been adequately identified and protected prior to the work commencing. A fire watch was present in the lower hold but had not been directed to closely monitor immediately below the work site so was not in position to quickly react when the molten metal fell from above. [MO-2017-011](#) (5/25/18)
[http://www.atsb.gov.au/media/5774333/mo-2017-011_final.pdf].

Sinking of RMS Empress of Ireland – 29 May 1914



One hundred and one years ago, on 29 May 1914, the passenger ship RMS Empress of Ireland collided with the coal ship Storstad in the St. Lawrence River in heavy fog. The passenger ship sank within 15 minutes. Of the 1,477 passengers and crew on board, 1,012 perished, making it Canada's worst peacetime marine disaster. The subsequent investigation into the incident was largely inconclusive due to the conflicting testimony of the witnesses, but Canadian Pacific Railway, the owner of the passenger ship, ultimately won an award of \$2 million damages from the owner of the coal ship.

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