

Headlines:

OMB – Government Reform Plan;
USCG – STCW endorsements for Polar Code operations;
EPA – hazardous substance discharges;
DOE – import/export of natural gas;
FERC – Calcasieu Pass LNG Project;
Senate – DHS appropriations bill introduced;
Senate – bill introduced re taking of sea lions;
House – bill introduced to enhance maritime safety;
House – bill introduced re coastwise endorsement;
Court – genuine dispute as to a material fact;
Australia – search for lost containers; and
Denmark – loss of tow.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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OMB – Government Reform Plan



The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released its **Government Reform Plan**. Among other things, it calls for transferring the maritime aids to navigation (ATON) mission and the navigation dredging mission from, respectively, the US Coast Guard and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to the Department of Transportation. (6/22/18)
[<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Government-Reform-and-Reorg-Plan.pdf>].

USCG – STCW endorsements for Polar Code operations



The USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) issued a **bulletin** regarding the submittal of applications for STCW endorsements for Polar Code operations in accordance with **CG-MMC Policy Letter 02-18**. (6/22/18) [https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/announcements/2018/polar_code_notice_06222018.pdf].

EPA – hazardous substance discharges



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a notice stating that it does not intend to establish new requirements to prevent discharges of hazardous substances from onshore and offshore facilities under the Clean Water Act (CWA). Comments on this proposal must be submitted by 24 August. **83 Fed. Reg. 29499** (6/25/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-06-25/pdf/2018-13470.pdf>].

DOE – import/export of natural gas



The Department of Energy (DOE) issued a notice of its recent orders regarding applications for authorization to import and export natural gas. **83 Fed. Reg. 29550** (6/25/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-06-25/pdf/2018-13476.pdf>].

FERC – Calcasieu Pass LNG Project



The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a **news release** stating that it seeks comments on the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Calcasieu Pass LNG Project. The comment period closes on 13 August. (6/22/18) [<https://www.ferc.gov/industries/gas/enviro/eis/2018/06-22-18-DEIS.asp>].

Senate – DHS appropriations bill introduced



Senator Capito (R-WV) introduced an original bill (**S. 3109**) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes. (6/21/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s3109pcs/pdf/BILLS-115s3109pcs.pdf>].

Senate – bill introduced re taking of sea lions



Senator Risch (R-ID) introduced a bill (S. 3119) to allow for the taking of sea lions on the Columbia River and its tributaries to protect endangered and threatened species of salmon and other nonlisted fish species. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (6/21/18).

House – bill introduced to enhance maritime safety



Representative Hunter (R-CA) introduced a bill (H.R. 6175) to enhance maritime safety, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (6/21/18).

House – bill introduced re coastwise endorsement



Representative Cicilline (D-RI) introduced a bill (**H.R. 6171**) to authorize the Coast Guard to issue a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorsement for the vessel Oliver Hazard Perry, and for other purposes. (6/20/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hr6171ih/pdf/BILLS-115hr6171ih.pdf>].

Court – genuine dispute as to a material fact



In an unpublished decision, the US Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit vacated the district court grant of a summary judgment motion due to a genuine dispute as to a material fact. Plaintiff passenger was injured in a slip-

and-fall on one of defendant's ships. There was evidence in the record from which a reasonable person might conclude that a crewmember knew or should have known of the slippery condition. *Aponte v Royal Caribbean*, No. 16-16580 (11th Cir., June 22, 2018)
[<http://media.ca11.uscourts.gov/opinions/unpub/files/201616580.pdf>].

Australia – search for lost containers



The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) issued a **news release** stating that the search for the missing containers lost from YM Efficiency is about to commence. On 1 June, 81 containers fell into the sea from the ship during heavy weather about 30 km off Newcastle. (6/22/18)
[<https://www.amsa.gov.au/marine-environment/incidents-and-exercises/locating-containers-lost-ym-efficiency>].

Denmark – loss of tow



The Danish Maritime Accident Investigation Board (DMAIB) issued the **report** of its investigation of the loss by the Maersk Battler of its tow of Maersk Searcher and Maersk Shipper in the Bay of Biscay on 21-22 December 2016. The root cause of the casualty was the decision to tow the two vessels side-by-side in prevailing weather conditions. (6/22/18)
[<http://www.dmaib.com/Ulykkesrapporter/Marine%20accident%20oreport%20-%20Loss%20of%20tow%20-%20MAERSK%20BATTLEL.pdf>].

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