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Bryant's Maritime News

Bryant's Maritime Consulting - 4845 SW 91st Way - Gainesville, FL 32608-8135 - USA

Tel: 1-352-692-5493 – Email: dennis.l.bryant@gmail.com – Internet: <http://brymar-consulting.com>

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DOJ – duck boat captain indicted



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a [news release](#) stating that the captain of the duck boat that sank last summer on Table Rock Lake in Missouri resulting in the deaths of 17 passengers has been indicted by a federal grand jury for misconduct and negligence resulting in death. (11/8/17) [<https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdmo/pr/duck-boat-captain-indicted-misconduct-negligence-resulting-17-deaths-table-rock-lake>]. *Note: The charges are based in part on what is known as the 1838 seaman's manslaughter statute.*

USCG – lessons learned from SS Princess Sophia sinking



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** discussing lessons learned from the tragic sinking of the passenger vessel **Princess Sophia** in 1918 in Alaska waters with the loss of all 353 persons on board. (11/8/18)
[<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2018/11/08/11-8-2018-avoiding-tragedy-100-years-after-princess-sophia-sinking/>].

Louisiana – formal investigation re bridge collision



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that it is convening a formal investigation into an incident that resulted in damage to the Sunshine Bridge in St. James Parish, Louisiana on 12 October. On that date, a crane barge allided with the bridge, smashing a major load-bearing beam on the steel cantilever-truss bridge and resulting in the closure of the bridge to vehicular traffic. (11/8/18)
[<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/21a1b1c>].

NTSB – Safer Seas Digest 2017



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) posted its **Safer Seas Digest 2017** summarizing lessons learned from marine accident investigations in the past year. (11/8/18)
[<https://www.nts.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Reports/SPC1802.pdf>].

California – USCG activities within NMSs



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) promulgated a final rule allowing the US Coast Guard to carry out certain otherwise prohibited activities within waters of the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries (NMSs) beyond approximately three nautical miles from the shores thereof. The rule enters into effect on 10 December. **83 Fed. Reg. 55956** (11/9/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-11-09/pdf/2018-24200.pdf>].

NOAA – \$8.3 million for coral reef conservation



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a **media release** announcing that it has awarded \$8.3 million for coral reef conservation and management. (11/8/18) [<https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/noaa-awards-over-83-million-to-advance-coral-reef-conservation-science-and-management>].

GAO – inland waterways budget



The Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report on the inland waterways. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) maintains the nation's inland waterways, including locks and dams. Its inland waterways construction projects have often seen delays and cost overruns. The USACE reports and academic studies say that the agency faces higher costs and delays because it receives funding for only a part of a project each year, so it must contract for projects in pieces. USACE officials estimate that this inefficient approach will add \$229 million to the cost of one project alone. The report recommends that the USACE seek ways to use construction funds more efficiently. **GAO-19-20** (11/7/18) [<https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/695255.pdf>].

Canada – \$25 million for Prince Rupert



Transport Canada issued a **news release** announcing the investment of \$25 million in improved transportation infrastructure in the Port of Prince Rupert. (11/7/18) [<https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2018/11/the-government-of-canada-invests-in-transportation-infrastructure-improvements-at-the-port-of-prince-rupert-to-help-move-canadian-goods-to-market.html>].

Great Lakes storm of 1913



In early November, 1913, a blizzard struck the US Midwest and the Canadian province of Ontario. The **Great Lakes storm of 1913** reached its highest intensity on November 9. A total of 19 ships were sunk and another 19 were stranded on Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, and Erie. Cargo losses were in excess of 68,300 tons and were valued at over a million dollars. More than 280 mariners lost their lives in the most destructive natural disaster to ever strike the Great Lakes.

SS Edmund Fitzgerald – 10 November 1975



On 10 November 1975, the laker **Edmund Fitzgerald** sank in Lake Superior with a loss of all 29 hands. It was one of the largest ships on the Great Lakes, carrying over 26,000 tons of taconite ore between Duluth/Superior and the steel mills to the south. The “Fitz” had departed on 9 November in tandem with another laker, but sailed directly into an early winter storm. It sank suddenly, without making a distress call, at about 7:30 p.m., in heavy snow with winds gusting to hurricane force and seas exceeding 30 feet in height. Gordon Lightfoot memorialized the casualty in his hit song “**The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald**”.

USMC – 243rd birthday



The **United States Marine Corps** (USMC) began when two battalions of Continental Marines were formed by the Continental Congress on November 10, 1775 as a service branch of infantry troops capable of fighting both at sea and on shore. It has been a component of the US Navy since June 30, 1834. The Marine Corps are now responsible for expeditionary and amphibious operations with the other military services. Oorah!

Veterans Day/Remembrance Day/Armistice Day



Sunday, November 11, will be marked as the centennial anniversary of the signing of the armistice ending World War I - the war to end all wars, as it was proclaimed at the time. The day is commemorated as **Veterans Day** in the United States; as **Remembrance Day** in the Commonwealth nations; and as **Armistice Day** in France and Belgium. On this day, we also should remember the sacrifices of our military personnel, as well as those of the merchant marine who deliver vital supplies across dangerous seas in time of war.

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Dennis L. Bryant

Bryant's Maritime Consulting
4845 SW 91st Way
Gainesville, FL 32608-8135
USA

1-352-692-5493
dennis.l.bryant@gmail.com
<http://brymar-consulting.com>

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