

Headlines:

DOJ - \$4 million fine for dumping oily water;
NTSB – meeting on 11 December;
House – CG Authorization Act adopted;
California – ballast water treatment technologies;
India – ships blacklisted for mistreatment of seafarers;
UK – GLF Annual Report and Accounts;
UK – INMARSAT changes; and
Australia’s first major oil spill – 28 November 1903.

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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. Why make the same mistake twice when there are so many possibilities?*

DOJ – \$4 million fine for dumping oily water



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** stating that a tanker owner and operator have each pleaded guilty to illegally discharging oil into the water from the tanker’s ballast tanks. The vessel’s master and chief officer pleaded guilty to making false statements to the Coast Guard. The companies will pay a \$4 million fine and their vessels are required to implement an environmental compliance program. The master and chief officer will be sentenced later. (11/27/18) [<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/two-greek-shipping-companies-plead-guilty-illegally-discharging-oil-texas-port-waters>].

NTSB – meeting on 11 December



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued a notice stating that it will meet on 11 December in Washington, DC to consider the report of the fire onboard the small passenger vessel *Island Lady* near Port Richey, Florida on 14 January 2018. **83 Fed. Reg. 60905** (11/27/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-11-27/pdf/2018-25912.pdf>]. *Note: My previous item on this meeting misstated the date thereof. Oops!*

House – CG Authorization Act adopted



The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure issued a **news release** stating that the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018 (**S. 140**) has been approved and will be sent to the President for signature. Among its numerous provisions there is a major overhaul of the ballast water management system program, providing for increased federal uniformity and modified testing standards. (11/27/18) [<https://transportation.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=402931>].

California – ballast water treatment technologies



The California State Lands Commission (SLC) will meet on 3 December in San Diego to consider, among other things, a **draft legislative report** on the assessment of ballast water treatment technologies. (11/26/18) [http://www.slc.ca.gov/Meetings/12-03-18/Items_and_Exhibits/77.pdf].

India – ships blacklisted for mistreatment of seafarers



The Indian Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) issued a **Circular** stating that three ships and their related owners and recruiting agencies have been blacklisted for their lackadaisical response to Indian seafarers stranded in Iran for the past twelve months, not paid wages, and not repatriated after completion of their contracts. (11/26/18) [http://dgshipping.gov.in/writereaddata/News/201811271134345731746Circular_Crew_261118.pdf].

UK – GLF Annual Report and Accounts



The UK General Lighthouse Fund (GLF), the funding body for the three General Lighthouse Authorities (GLAs), posted its **Annual Report and Accounts** for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2018. (11/27/18)
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/759371/glf-accounts-2017-18-print.pdf].

UK – INMARSAT changes



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) issued a Marine Information Note stating that changes are being made to the INMARSAT Satellite services including GMDSS as they migrate to a different satellite constellation. This may impact vessels utilizing those services, particularly vessels operating within the coverage of the Atlantic Ocean Region East (AORE) or the India Ocean Region (IOR). **MIN 582 (M+F)** (11/27/18)
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/759275/MIN_582__M_F___Amendment_1__Change_to_Inmarsat_Satellite_Services_including_GMDSS.pdf].

Australia's first major oil spill – 28 November 1903



The first recorded major oil spill in Australia (1,300 tons) occurred on 28 November 1903 when the tanker **Petriana** grounded on Portsea Back Beach in Port Phillip Bay. The tanker was carrying 1,330 tons of bulk oil from Borneo to Melbourne, as well as an unrecorded quantity of naphtha and benzene. The pilot decided to bring the ship into port in poor visibility, expecting the fog to lift before the ship reached the notorious Rip at the bay's entrance. The fog did not lift and the ship grounded hard. When salvage attempts failed, the bulk oil was pumped overboard to lighten the ship. This too failed and the wreck was finally abandoned. Illustrating how times have changed, the press reports of the oil jettison described "a film of great beauty, radiating all the colours of the rainbow." There were also difficulties when the crew of Chinese and Malay descent abandoned the ship. They were prohibited from landing ashore by Australian law of that era.

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