

Headlines:

USCG – NMC mitigation efforts;
LMR – closed due to grounding;
Atlantic – container vessel fire;
Great Lakes – Operation Taconite;
IMO – bunker delivery notes;
IMO – World Maritime Day 2019; and
Panama Canal – maximum allowable draft.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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Note: This newsletter is one section of the [Bryant's Maritime Consulting](http://brymar-consulting.com) website. Visit the site for more extensive maritime regulatory information. Individual concerns may be addressed by retaining [Dennis Bryant](mailto:dennis.l.bryant@gmail.com) 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. Due to the current economic conditions, the light at the end of the tunnel has been turned off.

USCG – NMC mitigation efforts



The USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) issued a **bulletin** announcing that it has taken steps to mitigate the impact caused by the partial lapse in appropriations. National endorsements for merchant marine credentials (MMCs) that expire between 22 December 2018 and 31 January 2019 are extended as valid until 31 March. Additional Information (AI) letters, sent to mariners, that expire in December 2018 or January 2019 are extended until 31 March. Approval to Test (ATT) letter and mariner testing course certificates that expire in December 2018 or January 2019 are extended until 31 March. For mariners whose 90-day testing cycles were interrupted by Regional Exam Center (REC) closures (starting on 24 December 2018), the days the RECs were closed will not count against the 90-day period. (1/4/19)
[https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/announcements/2018/fiscal_year_appropriations_mitigation.pdf].

LMR – closed due to grounding



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that a deep-draft vessel grounded in the Lower Mississippi River (LMR) at mile marker 3.5. The navigation channel is blocked. A tug is on-scene. There are currently 50 vessels in the queue to transit in or out of the river. There are no reports of injury or pollution. The incident is under investigation. (1/4/19)
[<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/2264947>]. A [second news release](#) states that the river at that location has been reopened to vessels with a draft of 30 feet or less. (1/4/19)
[<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/2265c8c>].

Atlantic – container vessel fire



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that a container ship approximately 860 miles northeast of Bermuda reported a container fire onboard and requested assistance. An AMVER-participating vessel diverted to standby. A commercial tug is enroute. (1/4/19)
[<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/2264d95>]. A [second news release](#) states that the commercial tug arrived on scene and safely evacuated the crew as the cargo fire intensified. (1/7/19)
[<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/226b018>].

Great Lakes – Operation Taconite



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that icebreaking operations have commenced in the western Great Lakes. (1/7/19)
[<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/226b437>].

IMO – bunker delivery notes



The IMO issued a [news release](#) stating that amendments to the bunker delivery note relating to the supply of marine fuel oil to ships which have fitted alternative mechanisms to address sulphur emission requirements entered into force on 1 January. (1/7/19)
[<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/01-MARPOLamendments01012019.aspx>].

IMO – World Maritime Day 2019



The IMO issued a [news release](#) announcing that World Maritime Day 2019 will be celebrated at IMO Headquarters on 26 September. The theme for this year's events is 'Empowering Women in the Maritime Community'. (1/7/19) [<http://www.imo.org/en/About/Events/WorldMaritimeDay/Pages/WMD-2019.aspx>].

Panama Canal – maximum allowable draft



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory stating that, effective 11 February, the maximum allowable transit draft for the neopanamax locks will be 14.94 meters (49.0 feet) TFW. [Advisory 01-2019](#) (1/4/19) [[https://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2019/a-01-2019-Rev.pdf](https://www.pan canal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2019/a-01-2019-Rev.pdf)].

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