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Gulf of Mexico – drillship fatality; and  
Court – legal defense costs.

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# Bryant's Maritime News

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## **USCG – PSC program EIS**



The US Coast Guard issued a notice stating that the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Polar Security Cutter Program design, build, and operation of up to six polar security cutters (PSCs). **84 Fed.**

Reg. 4508 (2/15/19) [<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-15/pdf/2019-02550.pdf>].

### CTAC – meeting on 20-21 March



The Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 20-21 March in Houston. Topics on the agenda include safety standards for the design of vessels carrying liquefied gas as cargo. 84 Fed. Reg. 4507 (2/15/19) [<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-15/pdf/2019-02488.pdf>].

### TSAC – meeting on 12-13 March



The Towing Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 12-13 March in Miami rather than the previously announced 20-21 February schedule. 84 Fed. Reg. 4505 (2/15/19) [<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-15/pdf/2019-02462.pdf>].

### USCG – OCS units in Gulf of Mexico



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** stating that two new CCGD8 Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIBs) are available concerning OCS units operating in the Gulf of Mexico. (2/14/19) [<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2019/02/14/2-14-2019-two-new-marine-safety-information-bulletins-for-ocs-vessels-now-available/>].

### USCG – Cameron LNG facility inspection



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that it recently conducted a facility safety inspection at the Cameron Liquefied Natural Gas facility in Lake Charles in preparation for the facility to load its first LNG cargo for global export. (2/14/19) [<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/22fa227>].

## USCG – Proceedings magazine



The US Coast Guard published the Winter 2018-19 edition of the **Proceedings** magazine, highlighting the Subchapter M towing vessel inspection and certification program. (2/14/19) [[https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/Proceedings%20Magazine/Archive/2018/Vol75\\_No3\\_Wint2018.pdf?ver=2019-02-07-154504-133](https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/Proceedings%20Magazine/Archive/2018/Vol75_No3_Wint2018.pdf?ver=2019-02-07-154504-133)].

## USACE – danger zone south of Chesapeake Bay



The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) proposes to amend regulations to, among other things, reduce the extent of the danger zone in the Atlantic Ocean south of the entrance to Chesapeake Bay to reflect that live fire exercises are no longer conducted. Comments must be received by 15 March. **84 Fed. Reg. 3739** (2/13/19) [<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-13/pdf/2019-02157.pdf>].

## SLSDC – Advisory Board meeting on 25 March



The Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) Advisory Board will meet on 25 March in Washington, DC. **84 Fed. Reg. 3548** (2/12/19) [<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-12/pdf/2019-01975.pdf>].

## FERC – Gulf LNG Energy draft EIS



The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a notice stating that it has reopened, until 25 February, the period within which to submit comments regarding the draft Gulf LNG Energy LLC environmental impact statement (EIS). **84 Fed. Reg. 3773** (2/13/19) [<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-13/pdf/2019-02142.pdf>].

## Brownsville – Annova LNG draft EIS



The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a notice stating that it has reopened, until 13 March, the period within which to submit comments regarding the draft Annova LNG Brownsville LLC environmental impact statement (EIS). **84 Fed. Reg. 3773** (2/13/19) [<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-13/pdf/2019-02140.pdf>].

## Jacksonville – Eagle LNG Partners draft EIS



The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a notice stating that it has reopened, until 25 February, the period within which to submit comments regarding the draft Eagle LNG Partners Jacksonville LLC environmental impact statement (EIS). **84 Fed. Reg. 3771** (2/13/19) [<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-13/pdf/2019-02141.pdf>].

## USACE & EPA – ‘waters of the United States’



The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) propose to establish a revised definition of the term ‘waters of the United States’. Comments must be received by 15 April. **84 Fed. Reg. 4154** (2/14/19) [<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-14/pdf/2019-00791.pdf>].

## South Pacific – USS Hornet wreck located

The US Navy issued a **news release** stating that the wreck of the aircraft carrier USS Hornet (CV 8) has been located by the research vessel Petrel on the seabed of the South Pacific offshore Solomon Islands. (2/12/19) [[https://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story\\_id=108589](https://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=108589)].

## NTSB – fatal towing vessel sinking



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued the report of its investigation of the 8 December 2017 capsizing and sinking of the uninspected towing vessel Ricky Robinson on the Lower Mississippi River at mile 732.8 near Memphis, Tennessee, with two crewmembers on board, after the

towing vessel began taking on water. The pilot made a distress call just before the sinking; neither crewmember was found during the search and rescue operations that followed. When the vessel was recovered 9 days later, the deckhand's body was discovered inside the wreckage; the pilot is presumed to be dead. Approximately 200 gallons of diesel oil were released into the river. Damage to the vessel was estimated at \$1.5 million. The probable cause of the sinking was the pilot's decision to proceed with unsecured deck hatches at a speed that resulted in water on deck and flooding of the aft voids. Contributing to the sinking was the company's inadequate oversight to ensure that crews kept hatches closed while the vessel was under way and that ongoing watertight issues with the voids were addressed. **MAB 18-27** (2/14/19) [<https://www.nts.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Reports/MAB1827.pdf>].

### **NTSB – towing vessel engine room fire**



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued the report of its investigation of the 13 December 2017 engine room fire on the uninspected towing vessel J.W. Herron while shifting barge on Big Bayou Canot near Twelvemile Island, approximately 8 miles north of Mobile, Alabama. After the crew of three partially secured the engines and fuel supply, heavy smoke and fire prevented them from attempting to extinguish the fire, forcing an immediate evacuation of the vessel to the barges. No pollution or injuries were reported. The estimated damage to the vessel was \$1.5 million. The probable cause of the engine room fire aboard the vessel was leaking lube oil from a propulsion diesel engine hose or tubing fitting that was ignited off an exposed hot engine surface or slipping clutch. Contributing to the severity of the fire was the location of the emergency engine shutdowns and fuel supply shutoffs near the exterior engine room doors, which proved to be inaccessible. Contributing to the spread of the fire was the inability to secure ventilation to the engine room. **MAB 18-28** (2/14/19) [<https://www.nts.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Reports/MAB1828.pdf>].

### **BOEM – Marine Minerals Information System**



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a **news release** announcing that its new Marine Minerals Information System (MMIS) enhances coastal recovery and resilience planning by mapping offshore sand information for managing physical sediment resources in the OCS. (2/14/19) [<https://www.boem.gov/note02142019/>].

## Gulf of Mexico – drillship fatality



The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) issued the report of its **Panel Investigation**, conducted in cooperation with the US Coast Guard, into the 2 December 2017 fatality aboard the Petrobras 10000 drillship working in the Walker Ridge 469 area of the Gulf of Mexico, about 240 miles southwest of New Orleans. (2/13/19)  
[<https://www.bsee.gov/sites/bsee.gov/files/panel-investigation//wr469-panel-report.pdf>].

## Court – legal defense costs



The Texas Supreme Court ruled that a negotiated provision of the casualty insurance policy of an oil company involved in the Deepwater Horizon oil spill casualty was vague, entitling the oil company to reimbursement of legal defense costs incurred in the oil spill litigation. **Anadarko Petroleum v Houston Casualty Company**, No. 16-1013 (Texas, January 25, 2019)  
[<http://www.txcourts.gov/media/1443391/161013.pdf>]. *Note: This item was brought to my attention by my good friend Keith Heard of **Lennon, Murphy & Phillips LLC**.*

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