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Panama Canal – draft reduction;
General Order on Port & Starboard – 18 February 1846; and
Motor Lifeboat CG 36500 – rescue of 18 February 1952.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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White House – appropriations bill signed



The White House issued a **news release** stating that President Trump signed into law **H.J. Res. 31**, appropriating funds to numerous departments and agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security and all the agencies therein, for the remainder of the fiscal year. (2/15/19) [<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BILLS-116hjres31enr/pdf/BILLS-116hjres31enr.pdf>].

Toledo – laker fire



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that a laker docked for winter repairs in the area of Toledo, Ohio suffered a fire, which has since been extinguished. There were no reports of injuries or pollution. The incident is under investigation. (2/17/19) [<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/23062aa>].

EPA – Hazardous Substances Survey



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a notice stating that it seeks comments on the data received from respondents of the voluntary 2018 Clean Water Act Hazardous Substances Survey. Comments must be received by 5 March. **84 Fed. Reg. 4741** (2/19/19) [<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-19/pdf/2019-02696.pdf>].

HSRP – meeting on 5-7 March



The Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP), sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), will meet in Washington, DC on 5-7 March. Topics on the agenda include navigation services data and sea level rise. **84 Fed. Reg. 4790** (2/19/19) [<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-19/pdf/2019-02571.pdf>].

DOJ – tanker operator fined \$2 million



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** stating that a tank vessel operating company has been convicted and sentenced to a fine of \$2

million and to four years of probation for failure to maintain an accurate oil record book. The vessel's master was charged with circumvention of the vessel's pollution prevention equipment, falsification of records, obstruction of justice, making false statements, and conspiracy. (2/14/19)

[<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/tank-vessel-operator-convicted-and-sentenced-oil-discharge-offense-vessel-captain-indicted>].

MARAD – Persian Gulf advisory



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) posted an advisory providing guidance for commercial vessels transiting the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, and Arabian Sea that encounter non-US or non-coalition naval forces that seek to board the vessel. **Advisory 004-2019** (2/14/19)

[<https://www.maritime.dot.gov/content/2019-004-persian-gulf-strait-hormuz-gulf-oman-and-arabian-sea-naval-activity>].

Senate – bill introduced to mint USCG coin



Senator Murphy (D-CT) introduced a bill (S. 509) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the United States Coast Guard. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (2/14/19).

House – bill introduced re port revenue metric



Representative Brownley (D-CA) introduced the **National Multimodal Freight Network Improvement Act** (H.R. 839) to amend title 49, United States Code, to include a revenue metric in the port network components to better achieve the policy goals of the National Multimodal Freight Network.

Representative Brownley issued a **press release** explaining the measure (1/29/19)

[<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BILLS-116hr839ih/pdf/BILLS-116hr839ih.pdf>].

House – bill introduced re USCG survivor benefits



Representative Green (R-TN) introduced the **Protecting Gold Star Spouses Act of 2019** (H.R. 847) to provide interim appropriations for the Coast Guard Retired Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plans for each fiscal year after fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes. (1/29/19)

[<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BILLS-116hr847ih/pdf/BILLS-116hr847ih.pdf>].

House – bill introduced to study ocean acidification



Representative Posey (R-FL) introduced the **National Estuaries and Acidification Research Act of 2019** (H.R. 988) to provide for a study by the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies of Science examining the impact of ocean acidification and other stressors in estuarine environments. (2/6/19) [<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BILLS-116hr988ih/pdf/BILLS-116hr988ih.pdf>].

House – bill introduced re OCS exploration prohibition



Representative Van Drew (D-NJ) introduced a bill (H.R. 1149) to prohibit the Department of the Interior from issuing certain geological and geophysical exploration permits under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Representative Van Drew issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (2/11/19) [<https://vandrew.house.gov/media/press-releases/congressmen-van-drew-and-rutherford-introduce-acepa>].

House – bill introduced re ocean acidification



Representative Bonamici (D-OR) introduced a bill (H.R. 1237) to amend the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009 to establish an Ocean Acidification Advisory Board, to expand and improve the research on Ocean Acidification and Coastal Acidification, to establish and maintain a data archive system for Ocean Acidification data and Coastal Acidification data, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Representative Bonamici issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (2/14/19) [<https://bonamici.house.gov/media/press-releases/representatives-young-and-bonamici-introduce-legislation-improve-ocean-data>].

House – bill introduced re double-crested cormorants



Representative Bergman (R-MI) introduced a bill (H.R. 1242) to enact as law certain regulations relating to the taking of double-crested cormorants. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (2/14/19).

House – bill introduced to mint USCG coin



Representative Courtney (D-CT) introduced a bill (H.R. 1257) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the United States Coast Guard. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (2/14/19).

House – resolution introduced re ‘Port Chicago mutiny’



Representative DeSaulnier (D-CA) introduced a resolution (H.Res. 126) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the necessity to publicly exonerate the African-American sailors of the United States Navy who were tried and convicted of mutiny in connection with their service at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in Concord, California, during World War II in order to further aid in healing the racial divide that continues to exist in the United States. Official text of the resolution is not yet available, but Representative DeSaulnier issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure. (2/13/19) [<https://desaulnier.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/honor-black-history-month-representatives-desaulnier-and-lee-renew>].

Court – no involvement = no indemnity owed



In an unpublished decision, the US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit affirmed the grant of summary judgment in favor of defendant insurers of a chase boat in a claim for indemnity brought by the owners and operators of a seismic survey vessel after the towfish cable of the survey vessel allided with the mooring line of a MODU. The court found that the chase boat had no involvement in the allision, a precondition for insurance coverage. [International Marine v Atlantic Specialty Insurance](#), No. 18-30392 (5th Cir., February 12, 2019) [<http://www.ca5.uscourts.gov/opinions/unpub/18/18-30392.o.pdf>].

Canada – iceberg theft



The media in Canada is reporting the theft of 30,000 liters of iceberg from Port Union, Newfoundland & Labrador. The ice, when melted, was intended for the production of 150,000 bottles of Iceberg vodka. The company is offering a case of vodka for information leading to its return. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) have begun an investigation. One could say that they have opened a case. (2/15/19).

Suez Canal – toll reduction for dry bulk vessels



The Suez Canal Authority (SCA) issued a **news release** stating that the toll reduction for dry bulk vessels transiting the Canal between ports in the Americas and Asia will remain in effect through the end of 2019. (2/14/19) [https://www.suezcanal.gov.eg/English/MediaCenter/News/Pages/nav_14_2_2019.aspx].

India – piracy & maritime security update



The Indian Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) issued a **Circular** providing an update on piracy and maritime security worldwide. (2/13/19) [http://dgshipping.gov.in/WriteReadData/News/201902130419539542124DGS_cir_01of2019_piracy_r.pdf].

Panama Canal – draft reduction



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an update stating that, effective 13 March, the maximum draft for vessels transiting the neopanamax locks will be reduced to 14.33 m (47.0 feet) Tropical Fresh Water (TFW). **Advisory 05-2019** (2/12/19) [<https://www.panacanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2019/a-05-2019.pdf>].

General Order on Port and Starboard – 18 February 1846



On 18 February 1846, Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft issued the following General Order: “It having been repeatedly represented to

the Department, that confusion arises from the use of the words 'Larboard' and 'Starboard', in consequence of the similarity of sound, the word 'Port' is hereafter to be substituted for 'Larboard'."

Motor lifeboat CG 36500 – rescue of 18 February 1952



The US Coast Guard motor lifeboat 36500 is the only one of the many hundreds of that class of lifeboat that were built between the 1930s and the 1950s to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. On 18 February 1952, during a severe winter storm off Cape Cod, two T-2 tankers, SS Fort Mercer and SS Pendleton, suffered separate massive material failures and both broke in half. The Coast Guard learned of the SS Fort Mercer casualty and dispatched a cutter and a motor lifeboat. Several hours later, the two halves of the hull of SS Pendleton were observed. The CG 36500 was dispatched with a crew of four volunteers: BM1 Bernard "Bernie" Webber, ENG3 Andrew "Andy" Fitzgerald, SN Irving "Ervin" Maske, and SN Richard Livesey. The survivors of SS Fort Mercer were rescued and brought ashore in trying conditions, but in typical Coast Guard fashion. The bow section of SS Pendleton, with the master and seven crewmembers, eventually sank with no survivors. The stern section, with 32 crewmembers, remained afloat. BM1 Webber maneuvered the CG 36500 alongside and took the crewmembers on board, despite the horrendous seas and the fact that the motor lifeboat was rated for a maximum of twelve persons. The stern section of SS Pendleton sank minutes after the last crewmember got off, but then grounded on a shoal where it remained for many years. BM1 Webber returned slowly and carefully to the Chatham Station, delivering the survivors to an amazed group of local residents, fishermen, and fellow Coast Guardsmen on the pier. Later that year, BM1 Webber and the other three Coast Guardsmen from the CG 36500 were awarded the Coast Guard Gold Lifesaving Medal, the service's highest award. Motor lifeboat CG 36500 continued on active duty until stricken from the rolls in 1968. All of the four brave men have crossed the bar for the last time. The lifeboat, though, has been fully restored and is lovingly maintained by the Orleans Historical Society at Rock Harbor in Orleans, Massachusetts, not far from where it served in Chatham in 1952. Several books and numerous articles have been published about the incident and the motion picture "The Finest Hours" has now been released dramatizing this heroic event.

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