

## Headlines:

DOS – meeting on 20 March re IMO LEG 106;  
CBP – quarterly interest rates;  
EPA – fishing company to reduce GHG emissions;  
NOAA – paper and raster nautical charts;  
House – Joint Explanatory Statement;  
Australia – for lack of a tug; and  
Gibraltar – alleged incursion by Spanish naval vessel.

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# Bryant's Maritime News

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

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

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## **DOS – meeting on 20 March re IMO LEG 106**



The Department of State (DOS) issued a notice stating that an open meeting will be held on 20 March in Washington, DC to prepare for the upcoming session of the IMO Legal Committee (LEG 106). Topics on the agenda include financial security in case of abandonment of seafarers; treatment of seafarers in the event of a marine casualty; and measures to prevent fraudulent registration and fraudulent registries of ships. **84 Fed. Reg. 5179** (2/20/19) [<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-20/pdf/2019-02822.pdf>].

## **CBP – quarterly interest rates**



The US Customs & Border Protection (CPB) issued a notice stating that for the quarter beginning on 1 January 2019, the interest rate for

overpayments will be 5% for corporations and 6% for noncorporations. The interest rate for underpayments will be 6% for both. **84 Fed. Reg. 5099** (2/20/19) [<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-20/pdf/2019-02834.pdf>].

### **EPA – fishing company to reduce GHG emissions**



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a **news release** stating that the federal government has settled with a major US fishing company to reduce ozone-depleting emissions of its vessels. The company will spend \$23 million to coolant leaks and take other steps. It will also pay a \$900,000 civil penalty. (2/19/19) [<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/u-s-settles-trident-seafoods-corporation-reduce-ozone-depleting-emissions>].

### **NOAA – paper and raster nautical charts**



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a **news release** announcing that its paper and digital raster nautical charts will henceforth utilize the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) maintained channel depth values rather than minimum or controlling depths in order to improve data consistency. Electronic navigational charts (ENC) will not be affected. (2/6/19) [<https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/updates/?p=171708>].

### **House – Joint Explanatory Statement**



The House of Representatives posted the **Joint Explanatory Statement** providing additional details regarding how the funds in the Continuing Resolution (H.J. Res. 31) are to be expended. Specific funding in the amount of \$655 million for the first Polar Security Cutter (PSC), otherwise known as a new polar heavy icebreaker, is found on pages 23 and 64 of this 609-page document. (2/11/19) [<https://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20190211/116hrpt9-JointExplanatoryStatement.pdf>].

### **Australia – for lack of a tug**



The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) issued the report of its investigation of the contact made by a bulker with the wharf and another vessel in the port of Townsville, Queensland on 16 November 2015. The bulker was entering port with a pilot. Unbeknownst to the master, the shipping agent

requested a tug reduction. A bow spring line was put ashore and two turns were made around the first post of the bitt. The spring line went slack as the bulker continued to move forward. The bow made contact with the shore and the berth. The port quarter made contact with the ship on the opposite berth. **MO-2015-007** (2/19/19) [[http://www.atsb.gov.au/media/5775586/mo-2015-007\\_final.pdf](http://www.atsb.gov.au/media/5775586/mo-2015-007_final.pdf)].

## Gibraltar – alleged incursion by Spanish naval vessel



The Government of Gibraltar issued a **news release** stating that it condemns the alleged incursion of a Spanish naval vessels into British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW) (2/18/19) [<https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/press/2019/Press%20Releases/109-2019.pdf>].

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## Dennis L. Bryant

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

1-352-692-5493  
[dennis.l.bryant@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.l.bryant@gmail.com)  
<http://brymar-consulting.com>