

Headlines:

Court – dead judges can't judge;
ICJ – Chagos Archipelago belongs to Mauritius;
EC – support for French offshore wind farms;
Denmark – IMO PPR subcommittee meeting summary; and
HMS Birkenhead – 26 February 1852.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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Court – dead judges can't judge



In a per curium decision, the US Supreme Court ruled that dead judges can't author judicial opinions. [Yovino v Rizo](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/18pdf/18-272_4hdj.pdf), No. 18-272 (2/25/19) [https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/18pdf/18-272_4hdj.pdf]. *Note: While not a maritime case, it is a burning issue among sea lawyers, now laid to rest.*

ICJ – Chagos Archipelago belongs to Mauritius



The International Court of Justice ruled that the process of decolonization of Mauritius was not lawfully completed when that country acceded to independence and that the United Kingdom is under an obligation to bring to an end its administration of the Chagos Archipelago as rapidly as possible. [No. 2019/9](https://www.icj-cij.org/files/case-related/169/169-20190225-PRE-01-00-EN.pdf) (2/25/19) [<https://www.icj-cij.org/files/case-related/169/169-20190225-PRE-01-00-EN.pdf>]. *Note: The archipelago is*

currently administered by the UK and is home to the US military base at Diego Garcia.

EC – support for French offshore wind farms



The European Commission (EC) issued a **press release** stating that it has approved French Government support for four floating demonstration projects promoting floating offshore wind farms. (2/25/19)
[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1412_en.htm].

Denmark – IMO PPR subcommittee meeting summary



The Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) issued a **news release** summarizing the results of the recent session of the IMO Sub-committee on Pollution Prevention and Response. (2/22/19)
[<https://www.dma.dk/Presse/Nyheder/Sider/Preparations-for-the-global-Sulphur-limit-on-track-in-IMO.aspx>].

HMS Birkenhead – 26 February 1852



On 26 February 1852, the troopship HMS BIRKENHEAD grounded at Danger Point, near Cape Town, South Africa. It was carrying about 400 British soldiers to fight in the Kaffir War in South Africa. Also on board were about 200 civilians, mostly women and children. There were not sufficient lifeboats for everyone. The senior British Army officer onboard ordered the troops to stand fast as the women and children boarded the lifeboats. None of the soldiers broke ranks. The BIRKENHEAD sank soon afterwards. Only 193 of the approximately 643 people originally on board survived. From this event, the maritime tradition of “women and children first” is derived. Rudyard Kipling later wrote the poem “**Solder an’ Sailor too**”, dedicated to the Royal Regiment of Marines. The poem includes the lines:

To take your chance in the thick of a rush, with firing all about,
Is nothing so bad when you’ve cover to ‘and, an’ leave an’ likin’ to shout;
But to stand an’ be still to the Birken’ead drill is a damn tough bullet to chew,
An’ they done it, the Jollies - ‘Er Majesty’s Jollies – soldier an’ sailor too!

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