Headlines:
USCG – Seafarers’ Access to Maritime Facilities FAQ;
USCG – NOAD administrative changes;
CISA – cyberattack against natural gas facility;
Canada – ban on heavy fuel oil in Arctic;
Ireland – ghost ship aground;
New Zealand - $2,500 for being asleep at the wheel;
Singapore – port dues concession due to COVID-19; and
MREN – Marijuana and Maritime – What Next?

February 19, 2020

USCG – Seafarers’ Access to Maritime Facilities FAQ

The US Coast Guard posted an update to its Seafarers’ Access to Maritime Facilities Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). (2/18/20) [https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/02/18/update-to-seafarers-access-to-maritime-facilities-frequently-asked-questions/].

USCG – NOAD administrative changes

The USCG National Vessel Movement Center (NVMC) issued a notice stating that as part of ongoing efforts to enhance maritime domain awareness, it continues to improve handling of essential data contained within Notices of Arrival and Departure (NOAD). On Thursday, 7 May 2020, an updated DHS
Account Management electronic submission form, removal of CARICOM Voyage Types, Workbook Processing updates, and a colorized version of the NOAD Workbook will be released. As more details become available they will be made available via the NVMC Web Site and additional communication channels. (2/7/20)

https://www.nvmc.uscg.gov/(S(acs0f2vpit2x0qrwyezxyw0r))/News.aspx?newsId=ec76dad-485d-4f0f-9cb4-77dadc0c1e97].

CISA – cyberattack against natural gas facility

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) issued an Activity Alert concerning a recent spearphishing cyberattack affecting control and communication assets on the operational technology network of a natural gas compression facility. The maritime sector is no stranger to cyberattacks. This alert serves as a reminder of the continuing need for cybersecurity. (2/18/20) [https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/alerts/aa20-049a]. Note: This item was brought to my attention by my good friend Steve Jevnisek of Great Lakes Dredge and Dock.

Canada – ban on heavy fuel oil in Arctic


Ireland – ghost ship aground

The Irish Coast Guard issued a posting stating that the abandoned general cargo vessel Alta is aground on the coast of County Cork with no one onboard. The vessel became disabled south of Bermuda in 2018 and the US Coast Guard rescued the crew. The owner was tasked with arranging a tow, but this apparently did not occur. In 2019, a Royal Navy vessel observed Alta adrift further south. There were no further reported sightings until it grounded during the recent storm. (2/17/20) [https://twitter.com/IrishCoastGuard/status/1229147225365848064].
New Zealand – $2,500 for being asleep at the wheel

Maritime New Zealand issued a media release stating that the master of a commercial catamaran was fined $2,500 for being asleep at the wheel when the vessel collided with a wharf in Port Howard. (2/17/20) [https://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/public/news/media-releases-2020/20200217a.asp].

Singapore – port dues concession due to COVID-19

The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a news release stating that, through 31 August, a 50% concession on port dues will be provided to passenger vessels to provide relief from the drop in passenger volumes due to COVID-19. (2/18/20) [https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/media-centre/news-releases/detail/52c9c4d2-9fcd-42f3-9940-08046c8426f6].

MREN – Marijuana and Maritime – What Next?

In the February edition of Maritime Reporter & Engineering News (MREN), you will find my article “Marijuana and Maritime – What Next?” The article contends that the time has come for society and the federal government to reexamine attitudes toward marijuana. Criminalizing a substance in wide use did not work during Prohibition and doesn’t work today. Those laws and attitudes needlessly make criminals out of respectful citizens and discourage faith in the system. Further, it discourages people from becoming mariners and encourages some mariners to leave the industry. (2/18/20) [https://www.brymarconsulting.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/MREN200200.pdf].

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