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USCG – Sector Houston-Galveston office relocation;  
USCG – air draft petition;  
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Ireland – vATON;  
New Zealand – oil spill contingency plan;  
Singapore – SAR operation; and  
Togo – Indian seafarers released;

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# Bryant's Maritime News

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*Note: This newsletter is one section of the [Bryant's Maritime Consulting](http://brymar-consulting.com) website. Visit the site for more extensive maritime regulatory information. Individual concerns may be addressed by retaining [Dennis Bryant](mailto:dennis.l.bryant@gmail.com) directly. Much of the highlighted text in this newsletter constitutes links to Internet sites providing more detailed information. Links on this page may be in PDF format, requiring use of Adobe Acrobat Reader. Comments on these postings are encouraged and may be made by email to the editor or by going to the blog page on the website and clicking the envelope that appears at the end of each posting. Be aware that the daily newsletter is a single posting, even though it contains a number of individual items. May all your mistakes be original.*

## **USCG – NTVRP reminder and IOA option**



The US Coast Guard issued a Marine Safety Information Bulletin reminding stakeholders that the regulation requiring owners and operators of nontank vessels 400 gross tons and above to prepare and submit oil spill response plans enters into effect on 30 January 2014. Due to the time constraints, the Coast Guard will issue 6-month Interim Operating Authorization (IOA) letters to owners and operators who submit plans meeting certain basic requirements and identifying those plan elements that are incomplete. Early submittal is encouraged. **MSIB 42-13** (12/19/13).

## USCG – MARPOL reception facility inadequacies



The USCG Sector Houston-Galveston issued a Marine Safety Information Bulletin stating that it has received complaints alleging that certain waterfront facilities are charging an unreasonable price to remove MARPOL residues and waste from vessels. Some of those allegations have been substantiated. Additionally, it has received complaints that certain waterfront facilities are not allowing ships unloading noxious liquid substances (NLS) to drain NLS residues from cargo hoses and piping systems back to the terminal or facility. These actions, when they occur, are contrary to the MARPOL Convention, which is enforced by the US Coast Guard. Violations can result in civil penalties of up to \$25,000 per day per violation. Knowing violations can result in criminal penalties, including imprisonment. [MSIB 11-13](#) (12/18/13).

## USCG – Sector Houston-Galveston office relocation



The USCG Sector Houston-Galveston issued a Marine Safety Information Bulletin stating that, on 27 January 2014, the Sector Office is relocating to Ellington Field. The new address will be USCG Sector Houston-Galveston, 13411 Hillard Street, Houston, TX 77034. The main telephone number will be 1-281-464-4800. [MSIB 12-13](#) (12/18/13).

## USCG – air draft petition



The US Coast Guard seeks public comment on a petition it received requesting the Coast Guard to initiate a rulemaking to address the problem of air draft (overhead clearance) accidents. Comments should be submitted by 20 March 2014. [78 Fed. Reg. 77027](#) (December 20, 2013).

## Oregon – coastal nonpoint pollution control



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a notice stating that the agencies intend to find that Oregon has failed to submit an approvable Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, as required by the Coastal Zone Act. Failure to submit an approval program may lead to adverse financial consequences for the state in terms of federal grant funding. Individuals and organizations wishing to submit comments on the draft findings should do so by 20 March 2014. [78 Fed. Reg. 77104](#) (December 20, 2013). NOAA also issued a [news release](#) providing further information.

## CBP – trade symposium



The US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issued a notice stating that its trade symposium “Increasing Economic Competitiveness through Global Partnership and Innovation” will be held on 6-7 March 2014 in Washington, DC. This will be the only CBP trade symposium of 2014. **78 Fed. Reg. 77141** (December 20, 2013). CBP issued a **news release** providing further information.

## North Carolina – grounded ferry refloated



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that the Bald Head Island ferry that grounded on 17 December with 53 passengers on board has been refloated. The incident is under investigation. (12/19/13).

## Canada – LNG export license applications approved



The National Energy Board of Canada issued a **news release** stating that it approved four applications for export of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Issuance of the licenses to export LNG is subject to the approval of the Governor in Council. (12/16/13).

## China – VAT clarification



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a **news release** stating that the Peoples’ Republic of China issued Circular 106 to clarify its recently implemented value added tax (VAT) measures. The circular provides, among other things, that shipping transportation is exempt from the VAT law, retroactive to 1 August 2013. (12/19/13).

## Ireland – vATON



The Irish Commissioner of Lights issued a **news release** stating that a port hand virtual buoy has been established at the Rigg Bank, south of Mew Island at the entrance to Belfast Lough. (12/19/13). *Note: This news release is not significant of itself, but points up the growing use of virtual aids to navigation (vATON) worldwide. These are of value to all mariners, except those not utilizing modern electronics.*

## New Zealand – oil spill contingency plan



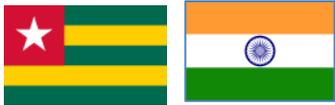
Maritime New Zealand posted the latest edition of the **National Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plan**. The plan sets out how Tier 3 or national level oil spill responses are run. (12/19/13).

## Singapore – SAR operation



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a **news release** stating that six seafarers have been rescued from a liferaft near Horsburgh Light. They reported that another five seafarers are missing. They were all on a barge that capsized in Singapore waters. A search and rescue (SAR) operation is underway. (12/19/13).

## Togo – Indian seafarers released



The Indian Ministry of Shipping issued a **press release** stating that two Indian seafarers held by the West African country of Togo have been released following intervention by the Indian Prime Minister. (12/19/13).

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