

Headlines:

USCG – Nav Rules & Regulations Handbook;
USCG – recreational boating safety grants;
DOT – antidiscrimination and whistleblower protections;
USCG – NVMC eNOAD update;
NOAA, NASA & BOEM – monitoring marine biodiversity; and
Hijacking of Achille Lauro – 7 October 1985.

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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. Drink coffee – make mistakes faster and with more energy.

USCG – Nav Rules & Regulations Handbook



The US Coast Guard issued a message announcing promulgation of the Navigation Rules and Regulations Handbook. The Handbook includes the International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) and the Inland Navigation Rules. Other laws and regulations pertinent for mariners and waterway users are also included (e.g., Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephone Act and Vessel Traffic Services). [ALCOAST 411/14](http://www.uscg.mil/announcements/ALCOAST/411-14_ALCOAST.txt) [found at http://www.uscg.mil/announcements/ALCOAST/411-14_ALCOAST.txt] (10/3/14).

USCG – recreational boating safety grants



The US Coast Guard published a notice announcing several possible “areas of interest” for which fiscal year 2015 national nonprofit grants could be awarded and requests public comments on which areas should be selected.

Comments must be received by 28 October. [79 Fed. Reg. 60486](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-07/pdf/2014-23807.pdf) [found at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-07/pdf/2014-23807.pdf>] (10/7/14).

DOT – antidiscrimination and whistleblower protections



The Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a notice reminding employees, former employees, and applicants for federal employment of the rights and protections available under the federal antidiscrimination and whistleblower protection laws. [79 Fed. Reg. 60571](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-07/pdf/2014-23886.pdf) [found at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-07/pdf/2014-23886.pdf>] (10/7/14).

USCG – NVMC eNOAD update



The USCG National Vessel Movement Center (NVMC) issued a notice stating, in part, that on 12 November 2014, an updated package of picklist XML files for use by third-party developers will be released that incorporates various country, port, agency, and RSO changes. These changes will also be reflected in updated versions of the online eNOAD application (<https://enoad.nvmc.uscg.gov>) as well as the NOAD InfoPath Template and Excel Workbooks available from the NVMC Web site (<http://www.nvmc.uscg.gov>). Please note that at the time of this notice there are no planned updates to the NOAD schema itself, and support for both Schema 3.3 and Schema 3.4 will remain in effect. (10/6/14).

NOAA, NASA & BOEM – monitoring marine biodiversity



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a [news release](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2014/20141006_boem.html) [found at http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2014/20141006_boem.html] stating that it, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) have joined together to support three demonstration projects intended to lay the foundation for the first national network to monitor marine biodiversity at scales ranging from microbes to whales. The projects, to be funded at approximately \$17 million over the next five years, will demonstrate how a national operational marine biodiversity observation network could be developed. Such a network would serve as a marine resource management tool to conserve existing biodiversity and enhance U.S. biosecurity against threats such as invasive species and infectious agents. The three demonstration marine biological observation networks will be established in four locations: the Florida Keys; Monterey Bay and the Santa Barbara Channel in California; and on the continental shelf in the Chukchi Sea in Alaska. (10/6/14).

Hijacking of *Achille Lauro* – 7 October 1985



On 7 October 1985, four members of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) hijacked the Italian cruise ship *Achille Lauro* when it was in the Mediterranean Sea en route from Alexandria, Egypt to Port Said. After the Israeli Government refused their demand for release of 50 imprisoned Palestinians, they killed disabled American passenger Leon Klinghoffer and threw him and his wheelchair overboard. The terrorists surrendered to Egyptian officials and boarded a flight to Tunisia. The flight was intercepted by US Navy fighter aircraft and was forced to land in Italy. The four hijackers were arrested by the Italian Government but their alleged leader, Abu Abbas, was allowed to depart. He later died in Bagdad. This incident awakened governments around the world and the IMO to the security threats faced by passenger vessels.

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If you have questions regarding the above items, please contact the editor:

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