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USCG – hurricane contingency plans;
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OFAC – Cuba sanctions;
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Australia – coastal pilotage;
Panama Canal – Safe Boarding Week; and
Singapore – gas free inspection charges.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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USCG – NMC Live Chat System



The USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) issued a **notice** [located at http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/announcements/pdfs/chat_beta_testing_notice.pdf] announcing the customer beta test of a new online chat service as a time-saving option for interacting with NMC Customer Service Agents regarding all aspects of the credentialing process. Additional information regarding the chat system can be found on the **NMC Live Chat System** webpage [located at <http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/chat/default.asp>]. (6/5/15).

USCG – hurricane contingency plans



I have again updated my list of **US Coast Guard Hurricane & Heavy Weather Contingency Plans**. Many of the Coast Guard Sectors have revised their contingency plans since last season. If any reader learns of a more recent version of a contingency plan for any USCG Sector, please advise so that my list can be kept current. (6/5/15). *Note: Many thanks to Jim McLaughlin of the Jacksonville Marine Transportation Exchange for bringing the updated JAX plan to my attention.*

NTSB – meeting on 9 June



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued a **press release** [located at <http://www.nts.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/PR20150605.aspx>] stating that the Board will meet on 9 June in Washington, DC. Among other things, it will determine the probable cause of the 22 March 2014 collision in the Houston Ship Channel involving the bulk carrier Summer Wind and the towboat Miss Susan and its tow. (6/5/15).

OFAC – Cuba sanctions



The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued a **notice** [located at <http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/OFAC-Enforcement/Pages/20150604.aspx>] removing various Cuban-related individuals and entities, including a number of shipping companies, from the list of specially designated nationals (SDNs). (6/4/15).

Senate – bill introduced re ship recycling



Senator Vitter (R-LA) introduced a bill (S. 1511) to promote the recycling of vessels in the United States and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Senator David Vitter (R-LA) issued a **press release** [located at <http://www.vitter.senate.gov/newsroom/press/vitter-cassidy-graves-introduce-legislation-to-improve-ship-recycling-create-jobs>] explaining the measure. (6/4/15).

House – hearing re border & maritime security



The Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security of the House Committee on Homeland Security conducted a **hearing** on The Outer Ring of

Border Security [located at <http://homeland.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-outer-ring-border-security-dhs-s-international-security-programs>], examining efforts to address threats posed by high-risk travelers and high-risk maritime cargoes. (6/2/15).

Hawaii – Alternate Port Exercise



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2541254/>] stating that the Alternate Port Concept Full Scale Exercise was held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to prepare for a possible major catastrophic event that closes the Port of Honolulu and requires activation of the Alternate Port in Pearl Harbor. Participants in the exercise included the State of Hawaii, the US Navy, the US Coast Guard, and industry response partners. (6/5/15).

IMO – MSC 95 preview



The IMO issued a [news release](#) [located at <http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/22-MS-C-95-preview.aspx#.VXHYSdJVhBc>] previewing the upcoming session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 95). Among other things, the MSC is expected to adopt the draft International Code of Safety for Ships using Gases or other Low-flashpoint Fuels (IGF Code). (6/1/15).

EC – international ocean governance



The European Commission (EC) issued a [press release](#) [located at http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5113_en.htm?locale=en] stating that it seeks public comment on how the EU could contribute to achieving better international governance of oceans and seas to the benefit of sustainable blue growth. The consultation will run until 15 September. (6/4/15).

Paris MOU – CICs for 2015 and 2016



The Paris MOU issued a [press release](#) [located at <https://www.parismou.org/paris-mou-agreed-inspection-campaign-maritime-labour-convention-2016>] stating that, jointly with the Tokyo MOU, its Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) in September-November 2015 will focus on Crew Familiarization with Enclosed Space Entry. In 2016, the CIC will focus on compliance with the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006. (6/5/15).

Australia – coastal pilotage



The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) issued a notice reminding stakeholders about coastal pilotage requirements within the Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait. **Marine Notice 10-2015** [located at <https://apps.amsa.gov.au/MOREview/MarineNoticeExternal.html>] (6/4/15).

Panama Canal – Safe Boarding Week



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory stating that 6-10 July will be Safe Boarding Week, during which period transiting vessels will be examined for compliance with pilot boarding requirements. **Advisory 14-2015** [located at <http://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2015/a-14-2015.pdf>]. The **Safe Boarding Checklist** [located at <http://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2015/a-14-2015-chklist.pdf>] will be utilized during these examinations. (6/2/15).

Singapore – gas free inspection charges



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular announcing revisions to its gas free inspection charges. The revisions will enter into effect on 1 January 2016. **Port Marine Circular 07-2015** [located at http://www.mpa.gov.sg/sites/circulars_and_notices/pdfs/port_marine_circulars/pc15-07.pdf] (6/2/15).

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

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