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USCG – reporting re CDC barges;  
NFAC – webinar on 7 January;  
USCG – PSC examinations of foreign yachts;  
USCG – out of water survival craft;  
USCG – Cybersecurity Symposium;  
USCG – liquefied gases forum;  
CMTS – actions & accomplishments;  
IMO – BWM Convention update;  
UK – automatic water mist sprinkler systems;  
New Zealand – border clearance levy; and  
Winter Cruising – 22 December 1837.

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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. Plan to be spontaneous.*

### **USCG – reporting re CDC barges**



The US Coast Guard promulgated an interim rule providing administrative changes to the existing reporting requirements under the regulated navigation area (RNA) applicable to barges loaded with certain dangerous cargoes in the Eight Coast Guard District area of responsibility. The interim rule enters into effect on 1 January 2016. Comments on the interim rule must be received by 20 June 2016. [80 Fed. Reg. 79477](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-12-22/pdf/2015-32135.pdf) [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-12-22/pdf/2015-32135.pdf>] (12/22/15).

## NFAC – webinar on 7 January



The National Freight Advisory Committee (NFAC), sponsored by the Department of Transportation (DOT), will conduct a webinar on 7 January 2016 to develop comments on the draft National Freight Strategic Plan. **80 Fed. Reg. 79650** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-12-22/pdf/2015-32090.pdf>] (12/22/15).

## USCG – PSC examinations of foreign yachts



The US Coast Guard posted a policy letter providing guidance on port state control (PSC) examinations of foreign-flagged yachts. **CG-CVC Policy Letter 15-04** [located at [http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgcv/cvc/policy/policy\\_letters/CVC/CG-CVC\\_pol15-04.pdf](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgcv/cvc/policy/policy_letters/CVC/CG-CVC_pol15-04.pdf)] (11/18/15).

## USCG – out of water survival craft



The US Coast Guard posted a policy letter providing guidance regarding out of water survival craft and replacement of life floats and rigid buoyant apparatus. **CG-CVC Policy Letter 15-05** [located at [http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgcv/cvc/policy/policy\\_letters/CVC/CG-CVC\\_pol15-05.pdf](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgcv/cvc/policy/policy_letters/CVC/CG-CVC_pol15-05.pdf)] (12/18/15).

## USCG – Cybersecurity Symposium



The US Coast Guard issued a **notice** stating that the South Texas Area Maritime Security Committee is hosting the 2016 Maritime Awareness Security Terrorism Training Cybersecurity Symposium on 21 January 2016 in Robstown, Texas. The event is not open to the public. (12/21/15)

## USCG – liquefied gases forum



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** [located at <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/184981/coast-guard-industry-navigate-future-liquefied-gas#.VngYvFQrKUF>] stating that senior Coast Guard leaders and liquefied-gas-industry experts from around the country came together the second week of December at Sector Houston-Galveston to prepare for the increased use of liquefied gases throughout the maritime community and gain a deeper

understanding of the intricacies each party faces as they adapt to the rapid growth in this multibillion dollar industry. (12/21/15).

### **CMTS – actions & accomplishments**



The **Committee on the Marine Transportation System** (CMTS) posted the Actions & Accomplishments of the CMTS (1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015) [available at <http://www.cmts.gov>]. Among other things, the CMTS oversaw completion of the 10-Year Projection of Vessel Activity in the US Arctic. (12/18/15).

### **IMO – BWM Convention update**



The IMO issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/56-bwm.aspx>] stating that the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention was recently ratified by Morocco, Indonesia, and Ghana. Based on unverified data regarding the tonnage of the commercial fleets of Member States, the tonnage requirements for entry into force of the BWM Convention may have been met. Unfortunately, verified data will not be available until 31 December. Thus, a final determination regarding entry into force cannot be made until early 2016. If the tonnage is sufficient, the BWM Convention will enter into force on 24 November 2016. (12/21/15).

### **UK – automatic water mist sprinkler systems**



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) issued a **Safety Bulletin** [located at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/487379/Safety\\_Bulletin\\_4\\_Automatic\\_Water\\_Mist\\_Sprinkler\\_Systems.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/487379/Safety_Bulletin_4_Automatic_Water_Mist_Sprinkler_Systems.pdf)] advising owners and operators of automatic water mist sprinkler systems to consult with their original equipment manufacturer to ensure compliance with the applicable IMO revised guidelines. (12/18/15).

### **New Zealand – border clearance levy**



The New Zealand Customs Service issued a **notice** [located at <http://www.customs.govt.nz/news/updates/Pages/new-border-clearance-levy-18122015.aspx>] stating that, effective 1 January 2016, a border Clearance Levy will be paid when passengers purchase air or cruise tickets for travel overseas or on arrival in New Zealand on a private aircraft or yacht. The levy includes GST and is paid by each person arriving and departing New Zealand. The levy is

higher for cruise vessels due to the additional biosecurity risk assessments.  
(12/18/15).

## Winter Cruising – 22 December 1837



On this date in 1837, Congress enacted the so-called ‘Winter Cruising’ statute ([5 Stat. 208](#)), which provided: *“The President of the United States is authorized to cause any suitable number of public vessels, adapted to the purpose, to cruise upon the coast, in the severe portions of the season, when the public service will allow of it, and so afford such aid to distressed navigators as their circumstances and necessities may require; and such public vessels shall go to sea prepared fully to render such assistance.”*

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

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