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NTSB – second El Faro search mission;
FMC & USCG – container weight listening session;
White House – enhancing national cybersecurity;
NIST – improving critical infrastructure cybersecurity;
DOC – Thoma-Sea Marine Constructors;
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FWS & NOAA – critical habitat designation;
IMO – BWM Convention just short of tonnage;
India – verifying gross mass of containers;
New Zealand – coastal navigation review;
Nigeria – container ship hijacked, released;
UK – safety bulletin re mooring ropes; and
Sinking of SS Marine Electric – 12 February 1983.

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Bryant's Maritime News



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*Note: This newsletter is one section of the **Bryant's Maritime Consulting** website. Visit the site for more extensive maritime regulatory information. Individual concerns may be addressed by retaining **Dennis Bryant** 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. Planck's Constant isn't.*

USCG – live-streaming of El Faro MBI



The US Coast Guard issued a **notice** stating that the El Faro Marine Board of Investigation (MBI), which starts on Tuesday, 16 February, will be live-streamed. (2/11/16).

NTSB – second El Faro search mission



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issue a [press release](http://www.nts.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/PR20160211.aspx) [located at <http://www.nts.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/PR20160211.aspx>] announcing that it will launch a second expedition to search for evidence of the loss of the cargo ship El Faro, which sank in the Atlantic during a hurricane on 1 October 2015, with the loss of all on board. The primary objective of the upcoming mission is to locate the ship's voyage data recorder (VDR). The mission will also provide investigators with a more extensive and detailed survey of the shipwreck. (2/11/16).

FMC & USCG – container weight listening session



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a [news release](http://www.fmc.gov/listening_session_solas_amendments/) [located at http://www.fmc.gov/listening_session_solas_amendments/] stating that, on behalf of the US Coast Guard, it will host a public listening session on 18 February regarding amendments to the SOLAS Convention that require container weight verification before cargo is loaded on container ships. (2/10/16).

White House – enhancing national cybersecurity



President Obama issued Executive Order 13718, establishing the Commission on Enhancing National Cybersecurity. [81 Fed. Reg. 7441](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-02-12/pdf/2016-03038.pdf) [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-02-12/pdf/2016-03038.pdf>] (2/12/16).

NIST – improving critical infrastructure cybersecurity



The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has extended, through 23 February, the period within which to submit comments and views regarding the Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity. [81 Fed. Reg. 7506](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-02-12/pdf/2016-03038.pdf) [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-02-12/pdf/2016-03038.pdf>] (2/12/16).

DOC– Thoma-Sea Marine Constructors



The Department of Commerce (DOC) issued a notice stating that it received notification of proposed production activity at the Thoma-Sea Marine

Constructors, LLC foreign-trade zone (FTZ) shipbuilding facility in Houma, Louisiana. Comments must be received by 25 March. **81 Fed. Reg. 7500** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-02-12/pdf/2016-02993.pdf>] (2/12/16).

USCG – deck officer training re Polar Code



The US Coast Guard issued a notice stating that it has published a **policy letter** providing guidance for training of deck officers on vessels subject to the Polar Code. The policy enters into effect immediately. **81 Fed. Reg. 7552** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-02-12/pdf/2016-02890.pdf>] (2/12/16).

NOSAC – meeting on 29-30 March



The National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee (NOSAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 29-30 March in New Orleans. Topics on the agenda include: cyber security; towing of MODUs; well intervention; and DP Assurance. **81 Fed. Reg. 7360** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-02-11/pdf/2016-02779.pdf>] (2/11/16).

FERC – Elba Liquefaction EA



The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a notice stating that it has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) of the proposed Elba Liquefaction Project in Chatham County, Georgia. Comments on the EA must be received by 7 March. **81 Fed. Reg. 7336** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-02-11/pdf/2016-02680.pdf>] (2/11/16).

FWS & NOAA – critical habitat destruction



The Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are amending their regulations for defining destruction or adverse modification of critical habitats under the Endangered Species Act. The amendments enter into effect on 14 March. **81 Fed. Reg. 7214** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-02-11/pdf/2016-02675.pdf>] (2/11/16).

FWS & NOAA – critical habitat designation



The Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are amending their regulations for designating critical habitats under the Endangered Species Act. The amendments enter into effect on 14 March. **81 Fed. Reg. 7413** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-02-11/pdf/2016-02680.pdf>] (2/11/16).

IMO – BWM Convention just short of tonnage



The IMO issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/06-BWM-.aspx>] stating that further ratifications are needed before the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention can enter into force. A sufficient number of nations have completed ratification, but their combined fleet tonnage is only 34.35% of global tonnage, whereas the Convention requires a minimum of 35% for entry into force. (2/10/16).

India – verifying gross mass of containers



The Indian Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) issued a **notice** [located at <http://dgshipping.gov.in/WriteReadData/News/201602110614316910179letter11022016.PDF>] providing guidance on implementing the requirement for the verified gross mass of containers, which enters into effect on 1 July. (2/5/16).

New Zealand – coastal navigation review



Maritime New Zealand posted its **Coastal Navigation Safety Review Report** [located at <http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/Consultation/Coastal-navigation/Coastal-navigational-safety-review-2015.pdf>], which identified potential enhancements to the current framework, including a recommendation for expanded use of virtual aids to navigation. (2/11/16).

Nigeria – container ship hijacked, released



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a **news release** [located at http://www.mpa.gov.sg/sites/global_navigation/news_center/mpa_news/mpa_

news_detail.page?filename=nr160210.xml] stating that on 05 February 2016 the Singapore-registered container vessel, SAFMARINE KURAMO (24488 GT), was hijacked off the Nigerian Coast. At that time of the incident, the vessel was proceeding from Pointe Noire, Congo to Port Onne, Nigeria. There are 25 crew, comprising nationals from the Philippines, South Africa, India, United Kingdom, and Thailand. At 0120 hrs (Singapore time), 06 February, it was reported that the Nigerian authorities have secured the release of all the crew and the vessel. All crew members are reported to be safe. (2/6/16).

UK – safety bulletin re mooring ropes



The UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) issued a safety bulletin following a mooring line failure resulting in serious injury to a deck officer on board the LNG carrier Zarga at Milford Haven on 2 March 2015. It was found that close-fitting jacketed synthetic fiber ropes with low twist constructions are more prone to failure under normal operating conditions than other mooring rope constructions. This is especially the case where the diameter to diameter ration between a ship's deck fitting and its mooring ropes is less than that recommended by the rope's manufacturer. The nature of the close-fitting jacket precludes visual inspection of the rope's core for signs of deterioration.

Safety Bulletin 1-2016 [located at https://assets.digital.cabinet-office.gov.uk/media/56b8c217e5274a0369000013/MAIBSafetyBulletin_1-2016.pdf]

Sinking of SS Marine Electric – 12 February 1983



The SS Marine Electric sank during a storm in the North Atlantic on 12 February 1983. Of the 34 crew members on board, three survived, but only after enduring 90 minutes in extremely cold water. The ship had passed all required inspections and surveys, but the subsequent **USCG Marine Casualty Report** revealed the inspections and surveys to have been perfunctory. As a result, inspection standards were drastically improved. In addition, carriage of survival suits became mandatory for ships on winter routes and the Coast Guard rescue swimmer program was initiated. The circumstances are detailed in Robert Frump's book "Until the Sea Shall Free Them".

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

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