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USCG – CRADA re robotic aircraft; and
TORREY CANYON grounding – 18 March 1967.

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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. Gravity waves were found to be hiding behind the dark matter.

USCG – new MMC booklets



The USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) issued a **notice** announcing revisions to the Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) booklet. All currently active credentials will remain valid until their printed expiration dates. [located at http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/announcements/pdfs/new_mmc_announcement.pdf] (3/15/16).

USCG – planned NAVCEN updates



The US Coast Guard issued a **notice** providing updates planned by the Navigation Center (NAVCEN) in the areas of information dissemination, the Automatic Identification System (AIS), and GPS. [located at <http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2016/03/16/3162016-updates-from-the-coast-guards-navigation-center/>] (3/16/16).

USCG – SMFF requirements



The US Coast Guard issued a **notice** reminding vessel owners and operators of the vessel response plan (VRP) requirements relating to salvage and marine firefighting (SMFF). [located at <http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2016/03/17/3172016-u-s-regulations-salvage-and-marine-firefighting-verification-and-improving-capability/>] (3/17/16).

USCG – voluntary cyber reviews



The US Coast Guard issued a **notice** advising stakeholders of its collaboration with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on voluntary cyber reviews for MTSA-regulated liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities. [located at <http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2016/03/17/3142016-coast-guard-and-federal-energy-regulatory-commission-voluntary-cyber-reviews/>] (3/17/16).

IOOS Advisory Committee – meeting on 5-6 April



The Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Advisory Committee, sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), will meet in Washington, DC on 5-6 April. **81 Fed. Reg. 13775** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-15/pdf/2016-05782.pdf>] (3/15/16).

SLSDC – Seaway Rules and Regulations



The Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) promulgated a final rule revising the Seaway Rules and Regulations. The

amendments enter into effect on 21 March. **81 Fed. Reg. 13744** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-15/pdf/2016-05798.pdf>] (3/15/16).

NOAA – noise affecting marine mammals



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) seeks comments on proposed changes to its draft Guidance for Assessing the Effects of Anthropogenic Sound on Marine Mammal Hearing. Comments must be received by 30 March. **81 Fed. Reg. 14095** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-16/pdf/2016-05886.pdf>] (3/16/16).

OFAC – revisions of Cuban sanctions



The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) promulgated a final rule revising the Cuban Assets Control Regulations in order to, among other things, facilitate travel to Cuba and expand the range of authorized financial transactions. The changes enter into effect immediately. **81 Fed. Reg. 13989** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-16/pdf/2016-06018.pdf>] (3/16/16).

BIS – policy revisions re Cuba



The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) promulgated a final rule revising, among other things, license requirements allowing vessels departing the United States on a temporary sojourn to Cuba under a license exception rather than having to obtain a license. The revisions enter into effect immediately. **81 Fed. Reg. 13972** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-16/pdf/2016-06019.pdf>] (3/16/16).

SLSDC – tariff of tolls



The Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) promulgated a final rule revising the tariff of tolls for vessels transiting the Seaway. The revisions enter into effect on 21 March. **81 Fed. Reg. 14390** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-17/pdf/2016-05950.pdf>] (3/17/16).

SHC – meeting on 4 May



The Shipping Coordinating Committee (SHC), sponsored by the Department of State (DOS), will meet on 4 May in Washington, DC to prepare for the upcoming session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 96). Topics on the agenda include: carriage of industrial personnel on vessels engaged on international voyages; search and rescue; and unsafe mixed migration by sea. **81 Fed. Reg. 14514** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-17/pdf/2016-06058.pdf>] (3/17/16).

USCG – NOSAC members sought



The US Coast Guard seeks applicants for membership on the National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee (NOSAC). Applications should reach the Coast Guard by 17 May. **81 Fed. Reg. 14872** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-18/pdf/2016-06207.pdf>] (3/18/16).

USCG – CRADA re robotic aircraft



The US Coast Guard issued a notice announcing that it intends to enter into a cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA) with several companies to evaluate small unmanned aircraft systems (SUAS) [drones] and their airborne sensors to determine their potential for use in a maritime environment by a first responder and DHS operational components. Comments must be received by 18 April. **81 Fed. Reg. 14869** [located at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-18/pdf/2016-06208.pdf>] (3/18/16).

TORREY CANYON grounding – 18 March 1967



On the world stage, the grounding of the supertanker **TORREY CANYON** on Pollard's Rock in the Seven Stones reef between Cornwall and the Scilly Isles is more significant than the 1989 **EXXON VALDEZ** oil spill. The **TORREY CANYON** was one of the first tankers large enough (120,000 tons capacity) to be designated a supertanker. It was also the first loaded supertanker

to spill its entire cargo. After salvage efforts failed and the oil flow increased, the British Government decided to bomb the ship in an attempt to burn the oil. This was a radical decision because the wreck was outside the three-mile territorial sea limit prevalent at that time. The Royal Air Force had difficulty hitting the ship, so the Royal Navy sent its planes in. They succeeded in striking the ship, but the bombs did not ignite the oil, which washed up on beaches throughout the British Isles and France. The actions of the British Government were subsequently ratified with the adoption of the International Convention relating to Intervention on the High Seas in cases of Oil Pollution Casualties, 1969. Liability of ship owners for such events was codified in the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1969. By raising the awareness of both the industry and the public concerning the threat of maritime pollution, the disaster was also a major factor in development of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973.

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

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