

Headlines:

USCG – master surrenders license after diver death;
Senate – hearing on USCG’s increasing duties;
Panama Canal – new electronic charts; and
Totoaba – aquatic cocaine.

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Bryant’s Maritime News

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USCG – master surrenders license after diver death



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that the master of a commercial dive boat surrendered her license after the agency brought charges related to a death that occurred during one of her dive trips. She proceeded from one dive location to another without ensuring that all divers had safely returned aboard. It was only after arrival at the second site that one diver was determined to be missing. Despite an extensive search, the individual was never found and is presumed to have drowned. (6/15/16) [<http://coastguardnews.com/coast-guard-concludes-administrative-enforcement-action-against-commercial-passenger-vessel-operator/2016/06/15/>].

Senate – hearing on USCG’s increasing duties



The Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation conducted an oversight hearing on “[Assessing the Coast Guard’s Increasing](#)

Duties: A focus on drug and migrant interdiction". Testimony was received from Admiral Paul Zukunft, Commandant, US Coast Guard. (6/15/16)
[<http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=1399B78C-1A22-4F8B-8961-EA8C135F67BF>].

Panama Canal – new electronic charts



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory stating that a new set of five electronic nautical charts (ENCs) Band 5, covering the entire Panama Canal operational area, has been released to the IC-ENC network of Value Added Resellers (VARs) for distribution and should be available to the international maritime community on 17 June. **Advisory 34-2016** (6/14/16)
[<https://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2016/a-34-2016-Rev.pdf>].

Totoaba – aquatic cocaine



The **totoaba** is a marine fish. With a length of up to six feet, it is the largest member of the drum family. It is found only in the Gulf of California. Previously abundant, it has suffered from overfishing and from habitat loss. The fishery was banned in 1975, but continues illegally. It turns out that the totoaba has a large and unique swim bladder, which is considered a delicacy in Chinese cuisine, used primarily in soups. One totoaba swim bladder (weighing about three-quarters of a pound) sells for approximately \$6,000 on the Hong Kong black market, making it more expensive than cocaine.

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

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