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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** 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. Sometimes I roll my eyes out loud.*

South Florida – Port Condition X-ray



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that Port Condition Whiskey has been set for Port Miami, Miami River, Port Everglades, Port of Palm Beach, Port of Ft. Pierce, and all other South Florida terminals and facilities due to the forecast that Hurricane Matthew will track near southeast Florida. (10/4/16) [<http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2889190/>].

Key West – Port Condition X-ray



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that Port Condition X-ray has been set for the Port of Key West due to the approach of Hurricane Matthew. (10/4/16) [<http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2889210/>].

USCG – Alert re towing of large rigs



The US Coast Guard issued a **Safety Alert** reminding stakeholders associated with the towing of large drilling rigs of the importance of planning for such significant towing operations. The Towing Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) assembled a **report** providing valuable information regarding such operations. (10/4/16) [<https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/TVNCOE/Documents/SafetyAlerts/1416.pdf>].

USCG – BWM system type-approval summary



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** summarizing the differences between the US and IMO ballast water standards and the process for US type approval of a BWM system. (10/4/16) [<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2016/10/04/bwmtech-north-america-2016-us-type-approval-process-us-vs-imo-standards/>].

Red Sea – special warning



The **National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency** (NGA) issued Special Warning 134 stating: “Commercial vessels in the region of the Red Sea, Bab El Mandeb Strait, and the Gulf of Aden should operate under a heightened state of alert as increasing tensions in the region escalate the potential for direct or

collateral damage to vessels transiting the region. These threats may come from a variety of different sources such as missiles, projectiles, or waterborne improvised explosive devices. Houthi rebels claimed responsibility for an 01 Oct attack on a UAE vessel. Vessels in the region should report hostile activities immediately and contact Coalition naval forces via VHF bridge-to-bridge radio, e-mail: catleader@me.navy.mil, phone: 973-1785-3879.” (10/3/16). *Note: This item was first brought to my attention by my friend Rolf Pedersen of Rolf Pedersen Enterprises.*

MTSNAC – meeting on 18-19 October



The Maritime Transportation System National Advisory Committee (MTSNAC), sponsored by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), will meet on 18-19 October in St. Louis. Topics on the agenda include: impediments to short sea transportation and modernizing the maritime workforce. **81 Fed. Reg. 69189** (10/5/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-10-05/pdf/2016-23989.pdf>].

DOT – USMMA cultural assessment



The Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a **news digest** stating that a contractor has been selected to perform an independent cultural assessment of the United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) in order to address the root causes of the sexual assault and harassment and other inappropriate behaviors that have persisted both on campus and during Sea Year. (10/3/16) [<https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/news-digest-dot-120-16>].

House – National Freight Mobility Infrastructure Fund



Representative Smith (D-WA) introduced the **Freight Infrastructure Reinvestment Act of 2016** (H.R. 6193) to establish the National Freight Mobility Infrastructure Fund, and for other purposes. (9/27/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114hr6193ih/pdf/BILLS-114hr6193ih.pdf>].

California – ballast water fee proposal



The California State Lands issued a **notice** stating that it is proposing to amend the regulations of Article 4.5, Marine Invasive Species Control Fund Fee. Comments on the proposal must be received by 7 November. (9/23/16) [<http://www.slc.ca.gov/Laws-Regs/Proposed-MISP4-5.html>].

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