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NTSB – additions to El Faro docket;
USCG – El Faro MBI;
USCG – Polar Code guidance;
USCG – seeking marine inspector (towing vessels);
NOAA – massive decline in Arctic sea ice;
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DOS – meeting re IMO SDC 4;
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EPA - \$63 million in clean diesel grants;
USN – ballast water research laboratory;
Denmark – security for abandoned seafarers;
New Zealand – Port & Harbour Marine Safety Code; and
Singapore – radio regulations.

December 14, 2016



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. The biggest lie I tell myself is: "I don't need to write that down – I'll remember it."

NTSB – additions to El Faro docket

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued a **press release** announcing that five factual reports have been added to the El Faro investigation docket. These consist of the voyage data recorder (VDR) transcript and factual reports from the Electronic Data Group, the Meteorology Group, the Survival Factors Group, and the Engineering Group. (12/13/16)
[<http://www.nts.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/PR20161213.aspx>].

USCG – El Faro MBI



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** stating that it intends to conduct a third round of Marine Board of Investigation (MBI) public hearings into the loss of the S.S. El Faro in Jacksonville in February at a date to be announced. The USCG Research and Development Center (RDC) conducted immersion suit tests to study immersion suit endurance. A free-floating mannequin in such a suit remained afloat for a two-week period. The USCG marine casualty investigation hearings are available on the USCG LiveStream channel. (12/13/16)

[<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2016/12/13/release-vdr-transcripts-upcoming-hearing-el-faro-marine-board-investigation-mbi/>].

USCG – Polar Code guidance



The US Coast Guard issued a policy letter providing guidance regarding implementation of the Polar Code, which enters into effect on 1 January 2017 as regards SOLAS and MARPOL requirements. The STCW requirements enter into force on 1 January 2018. **CG-CVC Policy Letter 16-06** (12/12/16) [https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgcvc/cvc/policy/policy_letters/CVC/CG-CVC_pol16-06.pdf].

USCG – seeking marine inspector (towing vessels)



The US Coast Guard posted a **job announcement** stating that it seeks qualified applicants for the position of Marine Inspector (Towing Vessels) at the Towing Vessel National Center of Expertise (TVNCOE) at Paducah. The application deadline has been extended to 17 December. (12/12/16)

[<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/457155500/>].

NOAA – massive decline in Arctic sea ice



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a **news release** stating that unprecedented Arctic warmth during 2016 has triggered a massive decline in sea ice and snow. (12/13/16)

[<http://www.noaa.gov/media-release/unprecedented-arctic-warmth-in-2016-triggers-massive-decline-in-sea-ice-snow>].

DOS – meeting re IMO PPR 4



The Department of State (DOS) will hold a meeting on 11 January 2017 in Washington, DC to prepare for the upcoming session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR 4). Topics on the agenda include: cargo residues and tank washings; transport of HNS liquids in bulk on OSVs; ballast water sampling and analysis; guidelines for approval of ballast water management systems. **81 Fed. Reg. 90404** (12/14/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-14/pdf/2016-29942.pdf>].

DOS – meeting re IMO SDC 4



The Department of State (DOS) will hold a meeting on 19 January 2017 in Washington, DC to prepare for the upcoming session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Construction (SDC 4). Topics on the agenda include: computerized stability support re passenger ships; second generation intact stability criteria; evacuation analysis; and safe mooring operations. **81 Fed. Reg. 90404** (12/14/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-14/pdf/2016-29943.pdf>].

USACE – East Pearl River danger zone



The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) proposes to revise the regulations for the existing danger zone at the Naval Special Warfare Center N31 Branch on the East Pearl River in Mississippi by restricting access during training events. Comments on the proposal must be submitted by 13 January 2017. **81 Fed. Reg. 90292** (12/14/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-14/pdf/2016-30013.pdf>].

CBP – quarterly interest rates



The US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issued a notice stating that, for the quarter beginning 1 October 2016, the interest rate for overpayments will be 3% for corporations and 4% for non-corporations and the interest rate for underpayments will be 4% for both. **81 Fed. Reg. 90370** (12/14/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-14/pdf/2016-30057.pdf>].

EPA – \$63 million in clean diesel grants



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a **news release** stating that it has awarded grants totaling \$63 million to reduce diesel emission in the Pacific Southwest Region, including for projects in the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. (12/13/16) [<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/us-epa-awards-63-million-reduce-diesel-emissions-pacific-southwest>].

USN – ballast water research laboratory



The US Navy issued a **news release** announcing the commissioning of its new ballast water research laboratory at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division in Maryland. (12/13/16) [http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=98106].

Denmark – security for abandoned seafarers



The Danish Maritime Authority issued a **news release** reminding owners and operators that the requirement for insurance or other guarantee securing abandoned seafarers' repatriation and subsistence as well as outstanding wage claims and other remuneration enters into force on 1 January 2017. (12/13/16) [<http://www.dma.dk/news/Sider/Bettereconomicsecurityforabandonedseafarers.aspx>].

New Zealand – Port & Harbour Marine Safety Code



Maritime New Zealand issued a notice explaining the revised **Port and Harbour Marine Safety Code**. (12/13/16) [<http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/commercial/ports-and-harbours/port-and-harbour-safety-code.asp>].

Singapore – radio regulations



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular providing guidance on implementation of amendments to radio regulations concerning the revised maritime frequencies and channeling arrangements for radiocommunications equipment installed on ships. **Shipping Circular 29-2016** (12/12/16) [<http://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/port-of->

singapore/circulars-and-notices/detail/c6ddd528-257f-4368-90bc-5a736683055c].

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