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USCG – BWMS type-approvals;
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USACE – New Haven Harbor;
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Paris MOU – STCW certification requirements;
Australia – sulphur emissions in Sydney Harbour;
Panama Canal – PPU on neopanamax vessels;
UK – collision due to lone watchkeepers; and
UK – carriage of dangerous goods & marine pollutants;

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Bryant's Maritime News

Bryant's Maritime Consulting - 4845 SW 91st Way - Gainesville, FL 32608-8135 - USA

Tel: 1-352-692-5493 – Email: dennis.l.bryant@gmail.com – Internet: <http://brymar-consulting.com>

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USCG – extension of MMC expiration dates



The US Coast Guard issued a [notice](#) to US merchant mariners stating that due to a greater-than-usual volume of mariner credential applications being received,

the Coast Guard National Maritime Center (NMC) may be unable to process all Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) applications prior to the expiration of current documents. In an effort to address this issue, the Coast Guard is exercising its authority under 46 USC § 7507, and is granting an extension of national endorsements for any mariner whose MMC expires on or after December 1, 2016. This extension is effective immediately and will be valid until September 30, 2017. (12/223/16) [https://www.uscg.mil/nmc/announcements/pdfs/2016_national_extension_authorization_letter.pdf].

USCG – BWMS type-approvals



The US Coast Guard issued a notice stating that it issued the second and third US type-approval certificates for a ballast water management system (BWMS). The certificates have been issued to Alfa Laval Tumba AB and to OceanSaver AS after their systems were determined to meet the requirements of federal regulations. Other systems are also being evaluated.

TSAC – meeting on 18 January



The Towing Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 18 January 2017, via teleconference. Topics on the agenda include: electronic charting systems carriage for towing vessels and implementation of Subchapter M. **81 Fed. Reg. 94398** (12/23/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-23/pdf/2016-30952.pdf>].

DOS – meeting re HTW 4 on 24 January



The Department of State (DOS) will hold a meeting in Washington, DC on 24 January 2017 to prepare for the upcoming session of the IMO Sub-committee on Human Element, Training, and Watchkeeping (HTW 4). Topics on the agenda include: implementation of 2010 Manila Amendments; human element; and guidelines for low-flashpoint fuels. **81 Fed. Reg. 95264** (12/27/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-27/pdf/2016-31056.pdf>].

USACE – Matagorda Ship Channel



The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued a notice stating that it intends to prepare a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (DIFR-EIS) regarding the widening and deepening of the Matagorda Ship Channel. Comments must be received by 13 February 2017. **81 Fed. Reg. 94352** (11/4/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-23/pdf/2016-30986.pdf>].

USACE – New Haven Harbor



The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued a notice stating that it intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to examine navigational improvements in News Haven Harbor. A public scoping meeting will be held in New Haven on 24 January 2017. **81 Fed. Reg. 95122** (12/27/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-27/pdf/2016-31210.pdf>].

DOE – wave energy testing facility



The Energy Department issued a [news release](#) announcing the award of up to \$40 million, subject to appropriations, to design, permit, and construct an open-water, grid-connected national wave energy testing facility. The facility will be constructed in Newport, Oregon, by the Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center at Oregon State University and will support innovations in wave energy technologies capable of harnessing the significant wave energy resources along United States coastlines. (12/21/16) [<https://www.energy.gov/articles/energy-department-announces-investment-wave-energy-test-facility>].

BOEM – Cook Inlet EIS



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a [press release](#) announcing the availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzing the possible environmental impacts of oil and gas development in the federal

submerged lands of Cook Inlet, off Alaska's southcentral coast. (12/22/16)
[<https://www.boem.gov/press12222016/>].

Paris MOU – STCW certification requirements



The Paris MOU issued a [press release](#) stating that it is encouraging member states to take a pragmatic and practical approach to enforcement of the new STCW certification requirements for seafarers that enter into effect on 1 January 2017. (12/22/16) [<https://www.parismou.org/inspection-certification-seafarers-under-stcw-after-1-january-2017>].

Australia – sulphur emissions in Sydney Harbour



The Australian Marine Safety Authority (AMSA) issued a marine notice requiring cruise vessels to limit sulphur emissions while at berth in Sydney Harbour. [Notice 21-2016](#) (12/22/16)
[<https://apps.amsa.gov.au/MOReview/MarineNoticeExternal.html>].

Panama Canal – PPUs on neopanamax vessels



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory providing updated information on the requirement for Pilot Portable Units (PPUs) on neopanamax vessels transiting the Canal. [Advisory 62-2016](#) (12/20/16)
[<https://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2016/a-62-2016.pdf>].

UK – collision due to lone watchkeepers



The UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) issued the report of its investigation of the collision between the general cargo ship Daroja and the oil bunker barge Erin Wood, east of Peterhead on 29 August 2015. At 1658 on 29 August 2015, the Cyprus registered cargo ship Daroja and the St Kitts and Nevis registered oil bunker barge Erin Wood collided 4 nautical miles south-east of Peterhead, Scotland. Minor damage was caused to Daroja but damage to Erin Wood included breaches of the hull, resulting in flooding of the vessel and pollution from leaking fuel cargo. At the time of the accident, both vessels were manned by watchkeepers not keeping a lookout

and therefore unaware of the risk of collision. [Report 27-2016](#) (12/22/16)
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/585a70e9ed915d0aeb0000ea/MAIBIn vReport27_2016.pdf].

UK – carriage of dangerous goods & marine pollutants



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) issued a merchant shipping notice regarding carriage of dangerous goods and marine pollutants in packaged form. [MSN 1875 \(M\)](#) (12/22/16)
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/580291/MSN_1875.pdf].

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Dennis L. Bryant

Bryant's Maritime Consulting

4845 SW 91st Way
Gainesville, FL 32608-8135

USA

1-352-692-5493
dennis.l.bryant@gmail.com

<http://brymar-consulting.com>

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