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USCG – polar icebreaker returns from Antarctic;
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NTSB – Chairmanship change;
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Senate – bill introduced re Chinese sanctions;
Panama Canal – vessel scheduling system;
Somalia – tanker and crew are safe;
Vernal equinox – 20 March 2017; and
St. Patrick’s Day – green beer all around.

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Bryant’s Maritime News

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DHS – budget summary



The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a **news release** summarizing President Trump’s budget proposal as it relates to the Department and its components. It indicates that, among other things, the Coast Guard budget will be sustained at current levels. (3/16/17)

[<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/03/16/administrations-fiscal-years-2017-budget-amendment-and-2018-budget-requests-advance>].

USCG – State of Today’s Coast Guard



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** providing Admiral Paul Zukunft’s view on the State of the Today’s Coast Guard. (3/16/17)
[<http://coastguard.dodlive.mil/2017/03/the-state-of-todays-coast-guard/>].

USCG – polar icebreaker returns from Antarctic



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that the polar icebreaker Polar Star is returning to its Seattle homeport following successful completion of its Antarctic mission, supporting Operation Deep Freeze 2017. (3/16/17)
[<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/18de006>].

USCG – cybersecurity guidance



The Eighth Coast Guard District issued **Cybersecurity Guidance** for FSO/CSO/OGAs to provide further understanding of cybersecurity and how it relates to the maritime nexus. (3/6/17) [http://www.brymarconsulting.com/wp-content/uploads/Misc/FSO_CS0_Cybersecurity_Guide.pdf].

NTSB – conference on managing fatigue



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued a **press release** stating that the agency will participate in the International Conference on Managing Fatigue, to be held on 20-23 March in San Diego. (3/16/17)
[<https://www.nts.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/PR20170316b.aspx>].

NTSB – Chairmanship change



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued a **press release** stating that President Trump has designated Commissioner Bella Dinh-Zarr as Chairman, replacing Commissioner Christopher A. Hart. (3/16/17)
[<https://www.nts.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/PR20170316.aspx>].

MMC – meeting on 5-7 April



The Marine Mammal Commission (MMC) will meet on 5-7 April in North Falmouth, Massachusetts. The agenda will include pinniped and large whale scientific and policy issues in the Northeast. **82 Fed. Reg. 14234** (3/17/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-03-17/pdf/2017-05317.pdf>].

Senate – bill introduced re Chinese sanctions



Senator Rubio (R-FL) introduced a bill (S. 659) to impose sanctions with respect to the People's Republic of China in relation to activities in the South China Sea and the East China Sea, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Senator Rubio issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (3/15/17) [<http://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=643BAF13-9F8D-470D-BB66-86057B828A80>].

Panama Canal – vessel scheduling system



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued a **press release** stating that it will launch a state-of-the-art vessel scheduling and maritime resource management system to further optimize the overall efficiency and reliability of services. (3/15/17) [<https://www.pancanal.com/eng/pr/press-releases/2017/03/15/pr618.html>].

Somalia – tanker and crew are safe



The EU Naval Force issued a **press release** confirming that the armed men who allegedly pirated the oil tanker Aris 13 have departed the vessel, which is now underway to a safe port. The crew is unharmed. (3/17/17) [<http://eunavfor.eu/eu-naval-force-somalia-confirms-fuel-tanker-aris-13-and-crew-are-safe-and-on-their-way-to-safe-port-after-armed-pirates-depart-ship/>].

Vernal equinox – 20 March 2017



If things are sufficiently quiet (specifically at 1029 UTC, 20 March 2017), you may hear the crash when the sun trips over the equator as it slides north. This marks the commencement of spring in the Northern Hemisphere and the commencement of autumn in the Southern Hemisphere.

St. Patrick's Day – green beer all around



Today is celebrated as **St. Patrick's Day**, in memory of the priest **Saint Patrick** (circa AD 385-461) who chased all the lawyers (oops, I meant snakes) out of Ireland. Drink some green beer and be Irish, at least for a day. **Erin Go Bragh!**

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