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USCG – ballast water and MARPOL enforcement;
USCG – Drill Down newsletter;
USCG – OCS NCOE;
NMHSAC – meeting on 25-26 April;
DOJ – National Shipbuilding Research Program;
House – hearing on maritime transportation programs;
GAO – USCG cutter operational availability;
Somalia – pirates seize dhow;
UK – MAIB safety digest; and
TSA – TWIC replacement.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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*Note: This newsletter is one section of the **Bryant's Maritime Consulting** 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. 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. Time passes because it consistently gets good marks.*

USCG – ballast water and MARPOL enforcement



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** summarizing the remarks of Jeffrey Lantz, Director of Commercial Regulations and Standards, delivered at the recent Connecticut Maritime Association conference. Among other things, he discussed US ballast water regulations and MARPOL enforcement. (4/3/17) [<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2017/04/03/432017-connecticut-maritime-associations-2017-shipping-conference-remarks-from-jeffrey-lantz-office-of-regs-standards/>].

USCG – Drill Down newsletter



The USCG Outer Continental Shelf National Center of Expertise (OCS NCOE) posted the **inaugural issue** of its Drill Down newsletter. This issue provides an overview of goals of the newsletter. (3/27/17) [<https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/ocsncoe/docs/Drill%20Down/DRILL%20DOWN%20-%20Welcome%20to%20the%20Drill%20Down%2003.27.2017.pdf>].

USCG – OCS NCOE



The **second issue** of the Drill Down newsletter provides an introduction to the Outer Continental Shelf National Center of Expertise (OCS NCOE), focusing on its mission areas. (3/31/17) [<https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/ocsncoe/docs/Drill%20Down/DRILL%20DOWN%20-%20Introduction%20to%20the%20OCS%20NCOE%2003.31.2017.pdf>].

NMHSAC – meeting on 25-26 April



The National Maritime Homeland Security Advisory Council (NMHSAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 25-26 April in Norfolk. Topics on the agenda include non-intrusive inspection/radiation portal monitors; unmanned aerial vehicles; and seafarer access. **82 Fed. Reg. 16407** (4/4/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-04-04/pdf/2017-06656.pdf>].

DOJ – National Shipbuilding Research Program



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a notice stating that Conrad Industries, Inc. has joined the National Shipbuilding Research Program (NSRP). **82 Fed. Reg. 16418** (4/4/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-04-04/pdf/2017-06589.pdf>].

House – hearing on maritime transportation programs



The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure issued a **notice** stating that, on 4 April, the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation will conduct a hearing on Authorization for Coast Guard and

Maritime Transportation Programs. (4/3/17)
[<http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=401288>].

GAO – USCG cutter operational availability



The Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report determining that depot maintenance is affecting the operational availability of US Coast Guard cutters. The Fast Response Cutter (FRC) and the National Security Cutter are two of the newest and most vital cutters in the Coast Guard's fleet—but both have had engine trouble. Both cutters have required a lot of maintenance, making them less available to conduct critical missions than the Coast Guard had planned. However, due to the FRC warranty, as well as how the Coast Guard calculates its average maintenance needs for both cutters, the agency's maintenance cost estimates are much higher than recent actual costs. **GAO-17-218** (4/3/17) [<http://www.gao.gov/assets/690/683101.pdf>].

Somalia – pirates seize dhow



The EU Naval Force issued a **notice** stating that an Indian registered cargo dhow was seized by suspected pirates on 01 April and is now in the vicinity of Hobyo, Somalia. (4/3/17) [<http://eunavfor.eu/eu-naval-force-confirms-indian-dhow-seized-by-pirates-off-coast-of-somalia/>].

UK – MAIB Safety Digest



The UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) posted its **Safety Digest**. A common theme of many of the incidents reported is unnecessary risk taking. (4/3/17)
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/605510/MAIBSafetyDigest1-17.pdf].

TSA – TWIC replacement



The **Transportation Security Administration** (TSA) has begun development of a pilot program to replace its Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) card with an implantable microchip. The microchip, about the size of a grain of rice, would be inserted into the individual's hand, between the thumb and the forefinger, by hypodermic syringe. To gain entry into a secure area, the individual would merely hold his or her hand near the sensor. Using near field communication (NFC) technology, the sensor would read the microchip, grant the individual access (or egress), and record the

transaction. Similar technology is currently used for contactless credit cards and mobile payments. (4/3/17) [<https://www.tsa.gov/>].

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