

Headlines:

USCG – Great Lakes Pilotage rates;
USCG – outboard engine weights;
USCG – Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study;
FWS – West Indian manatee;
DOJ – company to pay \$10 million for Jones Act violation;
House – hearing re maritime transportation programs;
Senate – bill introduced re marine debris;
House – bill introduced to ban Arctic Ocean drilling;
Senate – hearing re USMMA;
Australia – grounding due to sand accumulation; and
TSA – TWIC replacement revisited.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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USCG – Great Lakes Pilotage rates



The US Coast Guard proposes to modify its calculations for hourly pilotage rates on the Great Lakes by accounting for the “weighting factor”, which is a multiplier that can increase pilotage costs for larger vessels traversing the Great Lakes by a factor of up to 1.45. Comments on the proposal must be submitted by 5 May. **82 Fed. Reg. 16542** (4/5/17)
[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-04-05/pdf/2017-06662.pdf>].

USCG – outboard engine weights



The US Coast Guard promulgated an interim rule updating the table of outboard engine weights used in calculating safe loading capacities and required amounts of flotation material. The update enters into effect on 1 June 2018. Comments must be submitted by 5 July. **82 Fed. Reg. 16512** (4/5/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-04-05/pdf/2017-06733.pdf>].

USCG – Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study



The US Coast Guard issued a notice stating that its **Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study** (ACPARS), announced on 14 March 2016, is considered complete as published. **82 Fed. Reg. 16510** (4/5/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-04-05/pdf/2017-06738.pdf>].

FWS – West Indian manatee



The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) promulgated a final rule reclassifying the West Indian manatee from endangered to threatened under the Endangered Species Act. This action enters into effect on 5 May. **82 Fed. Reg. 16668** (4/5/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-04-05/pdf/2017-06657.pdf>].

DOJ – company to pay \$10 million for Jones Act violation



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** stating that an oil and gas exploration and production company agreed to pay \$10 million to satisfy a civil penalty assessed for violation of the Jones Act. In 2011, the company used a foreign flag vessel to transport a drill rig from the Gulf of Mexico to Alaska without obtaining a waiver. (4/4/17) [<https://www.justice.gov/usao-ak/pr/alaska-oil-company-agrees-pay-10-million-penalties-settle-federal-claims-violating-jones>].

House – hearing re maritime transportation programs



The Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure conducted a hearing concerning [Authorization of Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Programs](#). Testimony was heard from [Admiral Paul F. Zukunft](#), USCG; [Mr. Michael A. Khouri](#), FMC; and [Mr. Joel Szabat](#), MARAD. (4/4/17) [<http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=401288>].

Senate – bill introduced re marine debris



Senator Sullivan (R-AK) introduced the [Save Our Seas Act of 2017](#) (S. 756) to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris, and for other purposes. Senator Sullivan issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure. (3/29/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s756is/pdf/BILLS-115s756is.pdf>].

House – bill introduced to ban Arctic Ocean drilling



Representative Huffman (D-CA) introduced the [Stop Arctic Ocean Drilling Act of 2017](#) (H.R. 1784) to prohibit drilling in the Arctic Ocean. Representative Huffman issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure. (3/29/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hr1784ih/pdf/BILLS-115hr1784ih.pdf>].

Senate – hearing re USMMA



The Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies of the Senate Committee on Appropriations will hold a [hearing](#) on 5 April to examine protecting our midshipmen, focusing on preventing sexual assault and sexual harassment at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. (4/4/17) [<https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/news/hearing-schedule-for-the-week-of-april-3-2017>].

Australia – grounding due to sand accumulation



The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) issued the report of its investigation into the brief grounding of the general cargo ship Searoad Mersey at Grassy Harbour, King Island on 30 April 2016. The ship had just begun its departure from the port when it grounded on the sandy bottom. There was no damage other than minor paint scuffing. Investigation revealed that sand had accumulated at the end of the pier, reducing the depth to well less than that shown on the chart. Since the last hydrographic survey in 2015, it is probable that silting had occurred near the inner breakwater. It is likely that the reduction in water depth to the charted depths were the result of the predominant westerly winds blowing sand from the nearby beach into the channel together with the movement of sand within the harbour. Masters, harbour masters and others responsible for ships calling safely at ports need to assure themselves of the reliability of charted depths, particularly in some small, remote ports. A possible reduction in charted depths due to local conditions, reference to the charted zone of confidence diagrams and the date of the last hydrographic survey are among the factors that should be taken into account. [MO-2016-04](http://www.atsb.gov.au/media/5772614/mo-2016-004-final-report.pdf) (4/5/17) [http://www.atsb.gov.au/media/5772614/mo-2016-004-final-report.pdf].

TSA – TWIC replacement revisited



In yesterday's newsletter, I included an item concerning a TSA pilot program to insert microchips into the hands of individuals to replace TWIC cards. There is no such program to the best of my knowledge. I extrapolated from an existing program being utilized by a company in Sweden to insert exactly such microchips into the hands of their employees, on a voluntary basis. The microchips replace access cards (similar to TWIC cards) allowing entry into the building, use of the elevator, activation of work stations, etc. It is only a matter of time before such technology is used in humans on this side of the pond. (4/5/17).

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