

Headlines:

Atlantic – explosion and fire on bulker;
USCG – credentialing officers of towing vessels;
NOAA – Pacific corals' slow recovery;
Senate – DOT cybersecurity; and
Somalia – unsuccessful piratical attack.

April 25, 2017



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.

Atlantic – explosion and fire on bulker



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that it is working with the New York Air National Guard, the Canadian Coast Guard, and the Portuguese Coast Guard to respond to an explosion and fire on the bulk carrier Tamar about 1,300 nautical miles off Cape Cod. The explosion killed one crew member and three others suffered massive burns. An Air National Guard HC-130 with pararescuers is en route. The Canadian Coast Guard has diverted two warships. The fire resulting from the explosion has been extinguished. The cause of the explosion, which occurred in a forward storeroom, is unknown. (4/24/17) [<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/1964c63>]. In an [update](#), the Coast Guard reports that a second crew member has died. The pararescuers have arrived on board. The bulker will be within helicopter range of the Azores within 24 hours. (4/25/17) [<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/1966ec7>].

USCG – credentialing officers of towing vessels



The US Coast Guard issued **guidance** reminding stakeholders of the process for credentialing officers of towing vessels. (4/24/17) [<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2017/04/24/4242017-guidance-for-credentialing-officers-of-towing-vessels/>].

NOAA – Pacific corals’ slow recovery



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a **news release** stating that some of the corals in the Pacific Remote Islands National Monument are showing signs of slow recovery from the widespread die-off and bleaching caused by the 2015-2016 El Nino event which heated the surrounding ocean. (4/21/17) [<http://www.noaa.gov/media-release/scientists-document-coral-loss-and-slow-signs-of-recovery-in-central-pacific>].

Senate – DOT cybersecurity



The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation sent a **letter** to Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao asking her to prioritize the security of the Department’s information systems. The letter notes that inspections have found the Department’s cybersecurity program remains ineffective and many of its information security controls deficient. (3/23/17) [https://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/b05bf03e-d477-48dc-adf9-855862odb583/877E3CD2A40D81E74FD07F7737762F4C.chao.pdf].

Somalia – unsuccessful piratical attack



The EU NAVFOR issued a **press release** stating that the tanker Costina was attacked by pirates off the coast of Somali. The pirates fired on the tanker while the master issued a distress call. The Spanish warship ESPS Galicia responded. The pirates fled without boarding the tanker. There were no injuries. The EU NAVFOR recommends adherence to the Best Management Practices (BMP) 4. (4/24/17) [<http://eunavfor.eu/eu-navfor-spanish-flagship-esps-galicia-prevents-merchant-ship-mt-costina-from-being-pirated-by-armed-men-off-east-coast-of-somalia/>].

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